

The Outpost

U.S. ARMY YUMA PROVING GROUND, YUMA, ARIZONA 85365

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Embraer and Brazilian Airforce return for second round of testing

By Ana Henderson

Embraer, a Brazilian aerospace manufacturer, is back at Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) continuing the aircraft certification of the KC-390. The Embraer KC-390 is a twin-engine jet-powered military transport aircraft with multi-functional use.

The Brazilian Air Force is looking to use the KC-390 aircraft in 2020, but first it needs to undergo some final testing, explains Roberto Becker, the chief flight test engineer for Embraer. "This is the final test. We have already certified the CDS and the LVAD to a certain weight and extraction chutes. Now we are going for the final and more critical tests."

Those critical tests consist of airdropping two types of cargo. This is where YPG comes into play. The CDS and LVAD Becker refers to are the container deliver system (CDS) which are 48 by 48 inches and can weight up to 2,200 pounds and the low-velocity airdrop (LVAD) system which are platforms that can carry up to 42,000 pounds.

Air Delivery Test Officer Carlos Anaya explains that in the real world a CDS could be, "Small items, food, ammo, water," or other supplies the Warfighter would need. The LVADS



Embraer, a Brazilian aerospace manufacturer, is back at YPG continuing the aircraft certification of the KC-390. The Embraer KC-390 is a twin-engine jet-powered military transport aircraft with multi-functional use. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

are significantly larger, made for bigger items like vehicles.

Those test items are assembled at YPG. "The Airborne Test Force and civilian parachute riggers build the loads and pack the parachutes and then rig the loads and the parachutes together," explains Anaya.

Yuma Test Center (YTC) is the



Army's premier test center for air delivery testing due its facilities, manpower, instrumentation, and weather in addition to the dedicated Airborne Test Force jumpers.

Representatives from the Brazilian Airforce has been present throughout the process. "They are following and witnessing the test and the development. They are here and not only training, but also verifying the process," says Becker.

Certifying an aircraft is not a task that comes along very often, and for that reason everyone involved is soaking up every bit of information from this process.

Anaya says, "It's a good experience for YPG engineers because we are gaining experience on aircraft certification. We don't get to do them often. It takes years for another new aircraft to come along. We are gaining good experience."

Becker adds, "It's really awesome to be here again. YPG personnel are really professional and are helping us a lot to do this."

The KC-390 should soon be ready to turn over to the Brazilian Air Force so they can being training their soldiers to use the operational features.

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Soldier spotlight



Sgt. Tamlyn Geronimo has served in the Army for going on six years and is originally from Clarksville, TN. At Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) she works in the Veterinary clinic which serves YPG and MCAS-Yuma. Aside from caring for the pets of active duty service members and retirees, the clinic also supports the Military Working Dogs at MCAS – Yuma and the YPG Military Working Dog Team Deployment Training Course. Geronimo joined the Army to gain experience in the veterinary field as well as help pay for veterinary school. Her goal is to become a large animal veterinarian and a personal trainer. She has two small children with her husband fellow Soldier, Sgt. Arthur Geronimo. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

THE OUTPOST

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CSM thanks MCC volunteers



YPG Command Sgt. Maj. Jamathon Nelson met with volunteers for Yuma International Airport's Military Comfort Center (MCC) during a ceremony honoring their service in mid-December. The MCC's nearly 40 volunteers have served more than 43,000 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines and their families since opening in July 2010. "For an active duty Soldier, having a place to go and be by yourself to reflect at the airport is much appreciated," he said in remarks to the volunteers. "Thank you for what you do." (Photo by Mark Schauer)

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Breakfast



YPG Heritage Center Curator Bill Heidner served as keynote speaker at American Legion Post #19's annual Pearl Harbor Remembrance Breakfast. In addition to discussing the tremendous loss of American life and destruction from the attack by Imperial Japanese forces 78 years ago, Heidner stressed the resilience of the American people in rapidly rebuilding the Pacific fleet and prosecuting World War II to victory. "America has a long tradition of defending what is ours," he said. "It's because of our veterans and families of our veterans like those who have come here today." (Photo by Mark Schauer)

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YPG takes part in Tamale Fest



Members of the Airborne Test Force along with the YPG Public Affairs Office mingled with the crowd at the Somerton Tamale Festival. YPG enjoys attending community events and educating the public on YPG's contributions to the community and to the Department of Defense. (Photos by Mark Schauer and Casey Garcia)

Chamber Leadership visit YPG



Chamber Members of the Yuma County Chamber Leadership visited YPG on 19 December. YPG Commander Col. Ross Poppenberger presented the command overview and the group was brief on the anatomy of a test before heading out to see a test in progress. One lucky member had the opportunity to pull the lanyard to fire a round. (Photos by Casey Garcia)

Mrs. Claus reads stories to YPG families



Mrs. Claus made a stop at the YPG Library. Families gathered around while Mrs. Claus read stories to the children. Afterwards she posed for pictures with the kids, the families enjoyed snacks and worked on making reindeer ornaments. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

Happy New Year

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midnight	memories	new
old	Resolution	Party

Chaplain's Corner

Make a change that comes from God

By Chaplain Maj. Ronald Beltz

The New Year is traditionally a time for reflection. We look back over the year and assess our successes and failures. We gain some satisfaction over our successes, and we experience some grief and guilt over our failures. Each time we face a new beginning. We have hopes that things will be different and hopefully better.

The good news is that God doesn't want our lives to be hum-drum, meaningless, depressing routines. God wants something better for us than that. That is why there are some things we need to recognize as we begin this New Year. Gods says through the prophet Isaiah, "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing" (Isaiah 43:18-19).

That is the exciting thing about knowing God. God loves doing a new thing. You and I are often afraid of change. We long to be able to cling to the status quo. Someone has said that status quo is Latin for "the mess we're in." It's dangerous to stick to the status quo.

Let me give you an example. Something happened in 1906 that dramatically changed the game of football. Before that year, football had been a low-scoring game of running and kicking. Guys in leather helmets plodded down the field methodically seeking to overpower the other team. Ever hear the expression "three yards and a cloud of dust?" This was the strategy

employed throughout football before 1906.

Then something revolutionary happened. The forward pass was legalized, making it possible to gain forty yards with one throw. During that first season, however, most teams stayed with the tried-and-true way of playing the game "three yards and a cloud of dust."

One team, however, took another approach. Coaches at St. Louis

University decided to switch to an offense that used the forward pass. That first season they outscored their opponents 402 to 11! Sometimes change is for the better.

God loves change, especially changed lives.

Resolutions are hard to keep, wouldn't you agree? How many of you have ever been determined to drop an old habit and begin a new one? How many of you have seen a resolution shattered the same day you made it? Turning over a new leaf is hard.

What we need is not inspiration, but a transformation. Not a resolution, but a revolution. We need a change in our lives that comes from God. What every person needs is something that will permanently affect their life situation. What we need is something that will truly satisfy our longings something that will bring true and lasting change. What we need is for God to do a new thing within us. And that can happen. God loves doing a new thing.

Blessings for a healthy and happy New Year!!!



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Jungle Combat Boots were tested to extreme by TRTC

By Mark Schauer

U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground and its constituent test centers test virtually every piece of equipment in the ground combat arsenal in extreme environments to ensure it will work wherever in the world American forces are serving.

Just as important to Soldiers, however, is knowing that their gear will work whenever they need it, even if it has been in theater for long periods of time in less-than-ideal conditions.

Earlier this year, testers at YPG's Tropic Regions Test Center (TRTC) completed a test of five different versions of the latest iteration of the Army's improved Jungle Combat Boot (JCB), subjecting them to all of the environmental stresses that the jungle can dish out, from high humidity and precipitation to thick mud and vegetation.

"We were looking for durability, weather-resistance, flexibility, water drainage and dry out time, along with ease of cleaning," said Ivett Gutierrez, test team lead. "We were watching for incidents in each participant."

The completed six-month long user test saw test participants utilizing the boot as one would in the extreme environment, with testers waiting to see whether the outsole would

separate or how long the boots' treads could withstand the rigors of use in the jungle. Any such incidents were meticulously measured and recorded as they occurred.

"We were looking for participants using the boots in the jungle for accurate results," said Gutierrez. "We performed a biweekly survey of each participant where we collected information on how they felt with the boots, where they used it, and how many hours they used it. All of the participants wore the boots in the actual environment."

In addition to evaluating the boot's endurance during daily use in the extreme jungle environment, the testers also conducted an exposure test where two pairs of each variant of the boot were placed in locked double fence exposure cages set within a triple canopy jungle, where they laid in the ankle-deep leaf and biomass-strewn ground for four months. The security fencing kept out large animals, but not the natural environment: Broad ferns grew in places on the ground, and other branches, fronds, and vines poked through portions of the chain links. Insect life was vibrant in the vicinity, and it showed: termite debris, cockroach nesting, and the droppings of various insects were all observed.

"At the end of the exposure phase, we collected samples and sent them back to a lab in the United States to see if they accumulated mold or other microbiological growth on the various materials of the boot," said Gutierrez.

The test was important because the JCBs are literally where the rubber meets the road for Soldiers serving in a jungle environment.

"Boots are a critical piece of protection for Soldiers," said Gutierrez. "It is important for the Army to know that the boots they acquire for Soldiers are the best ones."

Testing in extreme environments

always presents difficult obstacles. Added to this is the necessity that TRTC officials be cognizant of the mores and political climate of the nations that host the facilities the testers utilize.

Unlike other Army test centers, TRTC owns no land, and thus relies on the goodwill of host nations to permit testing. The American embassies and associated military groups within each delegation assist TRTC in securing the necessary permissions to conduct testing in a variety of countries.

"We work closely with the United States embassies in all of the host nations in which we conduct tests," said Ernest Hugh, TRTC director. "This provides customers with many advantages: All test-related communications can be delivered through a secure diplomatic pouch and classified storage is available at the embassy if need be."



The testers conducted an exposure test where two pairs of each variant of the boot were placed in locked double fence exposure cages set within a triple canopy jungle, where they laid in the ankle-deep leaf and biomass-strewn ground for four months. (Photos by Mark Schauer)



"Boots are a critical piece of protection for Soldiers," said Ivett Gutierrez, test team lead. "It is important for the Army to know that the boots they acquire for Soldiers are the best ones."

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YPG employee gets prestigious award from the Secretary of the Army

By Ana Henderson

Teresa Dinwiddie a Contracting Officer for the Mission and Installation Contracting Command-Yuma Proving Ground (MICC-YPG), who provides contracting support for the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC) and Installation Management Command (IMCOM) recently traveled to Virginia to accept a very prestigious award from the Secretary of the Army.

Dinwiddie is the winner of the 2019 Secretary of the Army Award for Excellence in Contracting for Outstanding Contracting Officer in Specialized Services and Construction Contracting.

Dinwiddie spent a work week in Arlington, Virginia in mid-December. The first two days she attended the National Contract Management Association's 38th annual Government Contract Management Symposium to learn more about intellectual property, innovation, and nontraditional methods in contracting. On the third day, Dinwiddie along with 13 other Army personnel received their awards surrounded by family and senior Army leaders.

"To find out that I won was actually surprising because the award is at the Secretary of the Army level." Dinwiddie added, "It was quite the honor."

During the ceremony the speech by Honorable Dr. Bruce Jetta, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology made a real impression on Dinwiddie. The anecdote was about obstacles within the complex career field and those obstacles can be overcome through perseverance. "That was encouraging."



Dinwiddie is the winner of the 2019 Secretary of the Army for Excellence in Contracting – in the category of specialized services and construction contracting. Dinwiddie traveled to Virginia to attend the National Contract Management Association's 38th annual Government Contract Management Symposium and to receive her award. (Loaned photos)

Dinwiddie works in the contracting department in the MICC located at YPG. When the customer, YPG Garrison and Mission Commands, submit a request for a job or end item, whether it be a pool pump or vegetation removal it's up to Dinwiddie to go through the process of executing the procurement of that product or service. The process can take anywhere from days to months and there is a long list of steps needed to get the job done.

Dinwiddie was nominated for the award by her supervisor Tejae Craig because of her wiliness to take on a difficult tasks, "Ms. Dinwiddie

volunteered to be the Contracting Officer for the Job Order Contract valued at 75 million dollars and the Installation Support Services Contract valued at 35 million dollars. Both contracts were migrated to MICC-YPG on 7 November 2018 and she obtained a 75 million warrant on 16 November 2018."

Craig also praised Dinwiddie's leadership, "She has provided good customer service throughout Yuma Proving Ground. Her leadership, guidance, and mentoring has resulted in 2 Contract Specialists progressing at an exceptional pace in learning construction for pre-award and post-



award contracting."

Dinwiddie who has worked at YPG for 14 years admits her job is complicated but she wouldn't have it any other way, "I am blessed to love what I do."

YPG 2020 open house and celebration is right around the corner

By Ana Henderson

Happy New Year! We are finally in 2020 which means we are closer to Yuma Proving Ground's (YPG) open house and community celebration.

The YPG 2020 celebration is taking place on the YPG installation on the Howard Cantonment. The gates open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., on Saturday, Feb. 15, and is free to attend.

The legendary band Grand Funk Railroad will be the headlining entertainment for the YPG 2020 event, the crowd-pleasing Manhattan Dolls are the opening act. YPG's Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation (FMWR) Community Outreach Coordinator/Marketing Director, David Willett gives us a hint about the daytime band selected, "It's a local band who plays an eclectic mix of music from Old School, R&B, Funk, Soul. It's an array that will appeal to all ages."

FMWR Director Rick Bessett enlisted Army Entertainment for

their services, "They are doing all the staging and all the lighting. It's going to be absolutely fantastic."

Army Entertainment produces shows around the world at large installations and now they are bringing those top of the line services to Yuma.

Many might be wondering what else is in store for that day and what static displays will be available for viewing. To answer those questions FMWR created the official website is www.YPG2020.com and a hotline, 928-328-2020.

Events slated for YPG 2020 are an open house showcasing the static displays of testing equipment, a K-9 stunt show, demonstrations with the Predator drone, and local marching bands. This kids' zone will return along with the zip line. The Military Free Fall School, a tenant of YPG, will support by jumping in the flag during the opening ceremony.

There will also be a variety of food and non-food vendors. There

are still vendor and sponsorship opportunities available. The contacts for those can be found on the YPG 2020 website. FMWR is also looking for volunteers like all the wonderful people who lent a hand during the YPG 75th anniversary, "We had people from the Yuma community and Marines from MCAS-Yuma. It was a big help," said Willett.

Bessett gives a huge thank you for MGM Design out of Yuma, whose team has worked closely with the YPG Marketing team to create a website and also other sponsors who have already pledged their support: The Yuma International Airport, TRAX Test Services, Shearwater Mission Support, IHG Army Hotel, Michael's Military Housing, General Atomics and Corona Optique.



This photo from the YPG 75th Anniversary gives a glimpse of one of the displays event goers will see during the YPG 2020 event on 15 Feb. 2020. Keep an eye on YPG2020.com for more details. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

YPG community enjoys Christmas tree lighting



The YPG community gathered for the annual Christmas tree lighting at Cox Field hosted by the Family Morale, Welfare, and Recreation department. Eventgoers of all ages were thrilled by the sight of Santa Claus jumping onto Cox Field with some help from his friends at the Military Free Fall School. The event was fantastic, from musical performances to a chance to meet Mrs. Claus and even the Grinch. (Photos by Casey Garcia)



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Sonoran pronghorn recovery efforts continue

By Daniel Steward, Wildlife Biologist, YPG Environmental Sciences Division

Our Sonoran pronghorn recovery efforts continue this year. In December, Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) participated with Arizona Game and Fish Department, U.S. Fish and Wildlife and several other agencies in gathering pronghorn from captive breeding pens at Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge. Together we captured 83 pronghorn and transported 31 pronghorn for release back into the wild at Barry M. Goldwater Range East, Organ Pipe National Monument and Cabeza Prieta. This effort

will continue in January at Kofa National Wildlife Refuge with the next group scheduled for release onto YPG's East Arm. Through these efforts we now have a population of over 120 pronghorn in the wild between Kofa, and YPG.



In December, YPG participated with Arizona Game and Fish Department, U.S. Fish and Wildlife and several other agencies in gathering pronghorn from captive breeding pens at Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge. (Photos by George Andrejco, AZGFD)

Instrumentation Division showcase



The Instrumentation Division hosted a showcase in mid-December. The goal of the event was to demonstrate the data collection capabilities to the YPG workforce. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

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