

The Outpost

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

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CRTC automotive test track shines all year long

By Mark Schauer

U.S. Army Cold Regions Test Center (CRTC) is the Department of Defense's lone extreme cold test facility.

Tasked with testing virtually everything in the ground combat arsenal in a natural environment where winter lows drop far below zero, CRTC is in the middle of a busy test season right now.

Among other platforms, the test center has conducted rigorous tests of the Stryker combat vehicle and M109A7 Paladin self-propelled howitzer, both of which utilized CRTC's Mobility Test Complex as part of their testing. Concurrent with this military testing, the track accommodates multiple customers from private industry, something it has done since its inception in 2004.



U.S. Army Cold Regions Test Center is the Department of Defense's lone extreme cold test facility. Among other platforms, the test center has conducted rigorous tests of the Stryker combat vehicle and M109A7 Paladin self-propelled howitzer, pictured here coming to an abrupt stop. (Photo by Sebastian Saarloos)

"When we have low military workload, being able to do commercial testing allows us to

maintain capabilities and upkeep equipment that is used for these types of test, as well as the expertise

for doing those things," said Jeff Lipscomb, technical director. "That way, when a military test does come, we're not scrambling to figure out how to support it. To me, the biggest benefit of the commercial automotive workload is that it keeps us on the cutting edge of automotive testing."

In addition to keeping CRTC's cold-weather automotive testing knowledge razor sharp, hosting commercial testing means the test center's mobile snow-making machines and other specialized track grooming equipment not found elsewhere in the Department of Defense keeps moving, which saves maintenance costs in the long run. Further, continuous use means the skill the test center's equipment

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YPG 2020 open house extravaganza coming February 15th



By Mark Schauer

Two years ago, more than 12,000 people visited U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) in the biggest open house of the proving ground's history.

In the wake of the successful YPG 75th Anniversary extravaganza in February 2018, YPG will once again

open its doors to the public for a fun-filled day. The bash will take place February 15th, with opening ceremonies kicking off at 10:00 a.m. Admission is free.

"I want to show people what we do here and break down some of the mystery of our operations," said Col. Ross Poppenberger, YPG

Commander. "It's important for the public to see the equipment we test and how technologically advanced it is. It's also an opportunity for our veterans to see the latest and greatest."

U.S. Army Yuma Proving

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YPG recognized
for environmental
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Millions of veterans
granted access to
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Tourgoers look behind the curtain



YPG's subject matter experts enjoy educating the community during the Behind the Big Guns tours coordinated by Visit Yuma. Visitors learn about testing conducted at YPG and tour testing sites. (Photos by Casey Garcia)

YPG Commander keynotes 1847 Reenactment



YPG Commander Col. Ross Poppenberger participated in a ceremony, on Jan. 11, commemorating the anniversary of the U.S. Army of the West Mormon Battalion's 1847 crossing of the Colorado River in Yuma. Part of a nearly 2,000 mile march from Council Bluffs, Iowa to San Diego, California, the southern wagon route the battalion blazed was an important milestone in the United States' westward expansion. "They fulfilled a huge Army modernization goal of their era," said Poppenberger in remarks at the ceremony. "Today, testing at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground is at the forefront of current Army modernization efforts." (Photos by Mark Schauer)

THE OUTPOST

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New year, new goals

By Casey Garcia

According to U.S. News, less than 80% of New Year's resolutions are fulfilled. It is day 20 in the New Year so ask yourself, have you stayed on track to reach your goals or are you part of the 80%? A resolution is simply a firm decision to do or not to do something. A goal is the object of a person's ambition or effort; an aim or desired result. With that said when a person makes a New Year's resolution they are essentially setting a goal. Top level athletes, businesses, entrepreneurs, all set goals in order to give themselves long-term vision and short-term motivation.

If you have no idea where to begin start by thinking of the overall "big picture" of what you want to do with your life say over the course of the next 10 years and identify goals you want to achieve. For example earn my bachelor's degree. Next break the goal down into smaller and smaller more attainable pieces. This month I will research a school that suits my needs and enroll. Next month I start one class. This week I complete this homework and turn it all in. Today I will read the chapter on due for next week's assignment. Before you know it you are on your way to achieving your goal.

Setting goals gives you overall perspective that shapes other aspects of your life and your decision making process. To balance all the important things in life you should try to set goals in categories like your career, finances, education, family, attitude, physical fitness, and even pleasure. What do I mean?

- Career-What level do you want to try in reach in your career or what is the ultimate goal you want to achieve by retirement?

- Finances-What is your financial goal for earnings and by what stage? Is this related to your career or maybe education goals?

- Education-Do you want to concentrate on specific knowledge? Will the education you receive improve your career decisions or finances?

- Family-Is marriage and children a goal?

- Attitude-Are you holding yourself back? Is there part of your own behavior or mindset part of a problem that is stalling attaining your goals?

Can you change the way you think and behave in order to find a solution?

- Physical fitness-Are there any athletic goals you want to attain or is there a health reason you should set these goals?

- Pleasure-Doing something in life that is just for you and makes you happy is and always should be something you strive for. Doing everything for everyone will eventually wear on you. What do you enjoy in life?

Do you have the information you need to attain your goals? What steps have you put in place to achieve these goals? A tool to help improve the chances of success and achieving the goals you have set is using the SMART goals outline created by George T. Doran in 1981.

SMART is an acronym for Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Time-Based. The military loves acronyms so let me break it down for you just in case you haven't heard of these before.

- Specific-Focus on the who, what and where of your goal and try to remove the vagueness. For example the most common resolution is usually lose weight. Instead try I want to lose 15 pounds.

- Measurable-We measure what matters in life right? Make sure your goals are linked to objective indicators of success. This makes a goal more tangible, because it provides a way to measure progress. For weight loss, you could use

weight, body mass index, or percent of body fat.

Each can be measured, allowing you to track your progress and stay focused. The gym at YPG has all

the tools to help.

- Attainable-Losing 15 pounds wouldn't make sense if you only weigh 100 pounds; it would simply be too much and too unhealthy. Since I am 165 pounds, losing 15 pounds is not only attainable but reasonable since it is less than 10% of my body weight. Think about how to accomplish your goal and whether you have the tools and skills needed. If you don't currently possess those tools or skills, consider what it would take to attain them.

- Relevant-Are your goals personal to your and where you are at in your life? Why are your goals impactful? The reason weight loss is on so many resolution lists is

that weight can impact a person's quality of life in many ways not just physically but mentally and socially as well.

- Time-Based-You must set a deadline to work toward, a target date if you will. Ask yourself specific questions about the deadline in order to be sure it is reasonable and attainable.

Here are some examples of SMART goals:

- By June 30, 2020 I will plan and execute two Lean Six Sigma green belt courses with 15-plus attendees per course and 80 percent or higher satisfaction rates.

- During the next 90 days, we will increase our Outpost readership by 10 percent by focusing on our existing employees and making a concerted effort to earn 10 high-quality constructive feedback comments per issue.

Now that you have the wheels in motion ensure you revisit your goals regularly. Life changes, you evolve and mature and so should your goals. Make changes as necessary if things didn't go the way you planned and correct or adjust your course of action.

So before you beat yourself up for failing to keep your New Year's resolutions, replace them with SMART goals and set yourself up for success, because in the words of Lt. Gen. Murray "winning matters."



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Chaplain's Corner

The good of every person on this earth is our concern

By Chaplain Maj. Ronald Beltz

I want to share with you a story told by author W. B. Freeman:

A man was walking down a dimly lit street late one evening when he heard muffled screams coming from behind a clump of bushes. Alarmed, he slowed down to listen and panicked when he realized that what he was hearing was the unmistakable sounds of a struggle heavy grunting, frantic scuffling, and tearing of fabric.

Only yards from where he stood, a woman was being attacked. He froze in his steps, hardly daring to breathe lest the attacker should notice his presence. But then a strange thought occurred to him: Should he get involved?

Frightened for his own safety, he cursed himself for having

suddenly decided to take a new route home that night.

He had family responsibilities; what if he became another statistic? He instantly had the urge to run to a safe place and use his cell phone to call the police. But he could hear the struggle becoming more desperate.

An eternity seemed to pass as he argued with himself. The deliberations in his head had taken

only seconds, but already the girl's cries were growing weaker. He had to decide and fast. How could he sleep at night if he walked away from this?

So he finally resolved that he could not turn his back on the fate of this unknown woman, even if it meant risking his life.

Known neither for his bravery nor for his athletic abilities, he nonetheless summoned up all the moral courage and physical strength he could muster. And once he had finally determined to help the girl, he became strangely transformed. He ran behind the bushes and pulled the assailant off the woman and wrestled with the attacker for a few minutes

until the man fled.

Panting hard, he scrambled upright and approached the girl, who was crouched behind a tree, sobbing. In the darkness, he could barely see her outline, but he could certainly sense her trembling shock. Not wanting to frighten her further, he first spoke to her from a distance. 'It's okay,' he said soothingly. 'The man ran away. You're safe now.'

There was a long pause, and then he heard these words, uttered in wonder, in amazement. 'Dad, is that you?' Out from behind the tree stepped his youngest daughter.

What if he had passed by that night? What if he had decided not to get involved?

What we need to understand is that every child on this earth is ultimately our son, our daughter, our brother, our sister. It's good that we take care of those we love. However, as people of faith, we must expand those borders, to understand that the good of every person on this earth is our concern.





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The Martin Luther King Jr. holiday on Jan. 20, 2020, marks the 25th anniversary of the day of service that celebrates the Civil Rights leader's life and legacy. Observed each year on the third Monday in January as "a day on, not a day off," MLK Day is the only federal holiday designated as a national day of service to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities. The Corporation for National and Community Service has been charged to lead this effort for the last quarter century.

Remember! Celebrate Act!
A Day on, Not a Day Off!!



EXTRAVAGANZA

FROM PAGE 1

Ground's impact on the national defense is even more significant than ever given that it directly supports six of the Army Future Command's eight cross-functional teams undertaking a significant Army modernization program. In addition to giving visitors the chance to get up close and personal with the equipment tested at the proving ground, the upcoming open house will feature live entertainment from legendary headlining musical act Grand Funk Railroad, along with local favorites Side Hustle and 2019 Yuma Battle of the Bands winners THP. The Manhattan Dolls, crowd-pleasers during the YPG 75th Anniversary, will be back for an encore, and the Gila Ridge High School Marching Band will also be on hand. Military skydivers, high performance jet flyovers, military working dog demonstrations, historic exhibits, food and drink, a massive, fun-filled play area for kids, and a closing fireworks show are also on tap for the event.

"It's an opportunity to thank the

Yuma community for the strong support they have always given us," said Poppenberger. "But, at the end of the day, the event is a party and a chance for everyone to have a fun time."

New traffic and parking plan

The biggest impediment to folks participating in the YPG 75th Anniversary celebration was a major traffic tie-up on U.S. Highway 95, which throughout the year has the highest traffic volume of any two lane road in the state—it is estimated upwards of 5,000 discouraged people missed the fun rather than wait in the traffic. YPG 2020 planners have done their best to mitigate Highway 95's inadequacy by utilizing runways at one of YPG's airfields for event parking, which should significantly reduce the number of chokepoints in between the event-going traffic and the parking areas, thus easing traffic congestion on the highway. To accommodate the new parking and traffic plan, eastbound traffic from the California state line on Imperial Dam Road will be prohibited throughout the day, as will westbound traffic on Martinez Lake Road in the final hours of the event.

The event's parking area is several miles away from the event venue, and pedestrian

traffic will be prohibited on the road between the two. Instead, eventgoers will be shuttled from the parking area to the event venue following a security screening by YPG Police prior to boarding the shuttles. A full list of prohibited items can be found at www.ypg2020.com.

"Make sure you don't have any weapons, illegal drugs, outside food or drink, or big coolers," said Sgt. Cheryl Avery of the YPG Police Department. "Small lawn chairs without footrests and blankets will be permitted."

Returning to your parked vehicle after attending the event will also involve waiting for a shuttle. To

ensure plenty of parking for all throughout the day, Recreational Vehicles of all types will be prohibited from entering YPG and the parking area.

Bus service also available

As an alternative to driving, Yuma County Area Transit (YCAT) will offer express bus service to the event from bus stops at Target in Yuma Palms Mall and outside of the old Fry's location, at the Pioneer Village Shopping Center, in the Yuma Foothills. Bus passengers will disembark at YPG's Heritage Center museum, a short walking distance from the event site, and undergo security screening there.



ABOVE: The Manhattan Dolls are returning to the stage at the YPG 2020 celebration and open house. LEFT: The Military Free Fall School will play an important role at the celebration. They will support by jumping in the flag during the opening ceremony at the YPG 2020. They were a crowd favorite during YPG's 75th anniversary celebration. (Photos by Mark Schauer)



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YPG recognized for outstanding environmental stewardship

By Mark Schauer

As a natural laboratory for testing virtually every piece of equipment in the U.S. Army's ground combat arsenal, YPG has an existential interest in responsible ecological stewardship.

Located within North America's most diverse desert, the proving ground is home to a wide array of wildlife, from desert tortoises to one of Arizona's healthiest and most genetically-diverse populations of bighorn sheep.

More than 100 unique bird species pass through or call YPG home.

The Mojave Fringe-toed Lizard, imperiled in much of the Western United States, thrives in dunes here. The Sonoran Pronghorn was brought back from the verge of extinction in the past 20 years by Arizona Game and Fish officials in part due to utilizing YPG as a protected habitat for it to regenerate.

Later this month, YPG will receive the Arizona Game and Fish Commission Award of Excellence recognizing the proving ground's efforts in wildlife and natural resource conservation.

"I think it shows the strong partnership and stakeholder relations between both organizations," said Col. Ross Poppenberger, YPG commander. "We do a lot to facilitate access to our range while still maintaining our test mission."

Though YPG boasts the longest overland artillery range in the United States, a relatively small portion of the proving ground's vast ranges are subject to the impact of artillery projectiles. As such, the proving ground is a safe haven for wildlife, including conservation-dependent species that the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) assist.

"We have a lot of cooperative



Later this month, YPG will receive the Arizona Game and Fish Commission Award of Excellence recognizing the proving ground's efforts in wildlife and natural resource conservation. The proving ground is home to a wide array of wildlife, from desert tortoises, wild horses, to one of Arizona's healthiest and most genetically-diverse populations of bighorn sheep. (Photo by Mark Schauer)



Though the proving ground is the nation's largest artillery tester, it also encompasses the best preserved and protected Sonoran desert landscape in the American Southwest. (U.S. Army photo)

agreements and work joint projects together a lot," said Daniel Steward, YPG wildlife biologist. "Pretty much all of our wildlife monitoring is conducted hand in hand with Arizona Game and Fish. We

prioritize our resources to best fit what we need for wildlife in the region."

YPG's wildlife biology program coordinates access for AZGFD to conduct regular monitoring of the

pronghorn population, including regular overflights of the range to track pronghorn, bighorn sheep, and other conservation-dependent species equipped with GPS and telemetry collars. Both organizations also utilize trail cameras at manmade water stations across the proving ground and the wildlife refuge to monitor wildlife activities. YPG's range control section helps accomplish access to the range efficiently and safely on a continuing basis whenever the need arises.

"It's facilitating working around our schedule so both parties can meet their goals and missions," said Darrell Williams, range operations lead. "You need to ensure they aren't encroaching on YPG test activities or danger zones. Our test schedule is very robust and dynamic and does not always allow entities to easily gain range access in either the airspace or land space during a standard work week."

"We have very unique hazards here," added Steward. "When we're doing wildlife conservation work on the range, it's not just a matter of hopping into a truck and going out in the desert to do your work. A lot of times we have to thread our way through the range and ensure we have appropriate demolition support and range clearances to make sure we aren't going into somewhere dangerous or that will interfere with YPG mission activities."

Though the proving ground is the nation's largest artillery tester, it also encompasses the best preserved and protected Sonoran desert landscape in the American Southwest. The healthy proliferation of a diversity of desert creatures under careful stewardship is, undoubtedly, one of the positive results of this.

TEST TRACK

FROM PAGE 1

operators have gained operating the esoteric machines doesn't degrade: for instance, in unskilled hands a mobile track dryer could ruin the track's asphalt while melting snow and ice.

Both military and commercial customers have access to a desirable facility that boasts a 1000 foot by 800 foot lateral acceleration pad, a 200 foot by 1200 foot skid pad, and grades ranging in steepness from 20% to 60%, a dramatic difference from the 6% or less grades an American motorist finds on an interstate highway in the lower 48. No taxpayer money is used to subsidize commercial testing, however.

"We make sure we are meeting their requirements without doing something with government money for private industry," said Lipscomb. "They pay the whole bill for everything they use and do here."

The track, three and a quarter miles

long, can accommodate as many as 35 vehicles simultaneously, though typically there are no more than 20-25 at a given time. Though military customers take priority, there has never been a scheduling conflict in more than 15 years of operation.

Virtually every major commercial automotive manufacturer known to the average American motorist has conducted testing at CRTC's automotive track at some point during its existence, though usually with specialized testing that doesn't require running laps on the oval. Commercial car companies are eager to maintain trade secrecy with their competitors, and CRTC is happy to accommodate this desire, going so far as to carry an opaque screen alongside personnel if it becomes necessary to walk past another company's activities. Scheduling time at the track is relatively simple, too.

Though summertime maintenance following CRTC's extreme winters can be rigorous, the track itself was constructed with care to prevent frost heaves, a ruinous road condition



caused by thawing permafrost under a road surface causes the ground to soften and sink, ensuring its viability for many years to come.

"The track was built to a standard of far more compaction than a

highway," said Lipscomb. "We wanted to make sure we didn't get a frost heave. It was dug deep down and re-filled with gravel to ensure there was no permafrost that would affect the track."



The track, three and a quarter miles long, can accommodate as many as 35 vehicles simultaneously, though typically there are no more than 20-25 at a given time. (Photos by Sebastian Saarloos)

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By Franklin Fisher

FORT BENNING, Ga. -- Purple Heart recipients, disabled veterans, former prisoners of war and those designated as caregivers for veterans are now allowed to use Department of Defense commissaries, exchanges, and recreation facilities, under new rules that took effect on the first day of the new year.

Those privileges come about under the Purple Heart and Disabled Veteran Equal Access Act of 2018, which also allows access to Coast Guard facilities. The act is a provision of the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act, which became law in August.

Caregivers covered under the new rules are those approved and designated as the primary family

caregivers of eligible veterans under the Department of Veterans Affairs Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers.

The new rules do not apply to family members of the eligible veterans and caregivers.

Prior to the new access rules, those allowed to use commissaries and exchanges were service members, their dependents, veterans with 100 percent VA disability ratings, military retirees, and in certain cases, government civilian employees.

Those newly eligible patrons have the same privileges as those who already use the commissaries and exchanges.

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sent by mail.

For caregivers to have access to the post and use the facilities, they will have to have with them a memo from the Department of Veterans Affairs, which the VA began sending to caregivers in November. Along with the memo, caregivers will have to have a REAL-ID-compliant driver's license or other approved government-issued photo ID.

Veterans who fall within any of the new categories but who are also government employees and who normally use their CAC identification to enter post may continue to use them for access. The same applies to military retirees, who use their retiree identification card to enter post.

More information on the new expanded access is available online at: www.militaryonesource.mil/expanding-access.

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