

# The Outpost

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

VOLUME 69 NO. 4 FEBRUARY 17, 2020

## Landmark long-range firing demonstration takes place at YPG

By Ana Henderson

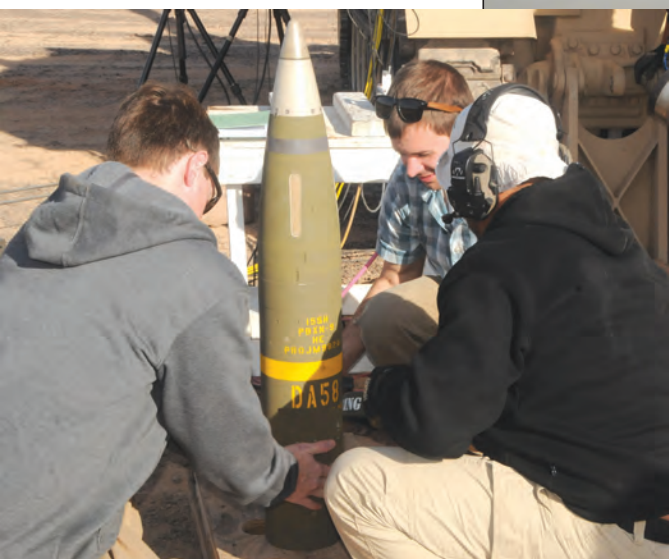
On a clear sunny Saturday morning at U.S. Yuma Proving Ground (YPG), a group of very invested individuals gathered to witness a landmark test event.

The mission at hand – to fire at a range of 65 kilometers. It would be the farthest shot in terms of long-range precision fires from the Extended-Range Cannon Artillery (ERCA), which is tested at YPG.

In 2018 YPG used ERCA to fire 62 kilometers, nearly doubling the



ABOVE: Crews run out to inspect the firing systems as the dust settles after the landmark firing event. LEFT: Prior to firing the projectile from the Extended-Range Cannon Artillery members of the team inspect the test item. (Photos by Ana Henderson)



current standard at the time. One year later that range was extended by three kilometers.

With the Army's shift in focus to modernization and fighting the enemy of the future, Long Range

Precision Fires is one of eight top priorities. For this particular test, individuals from test centers across the country participated.

"Over the last year we continued to mature the propellant design and incorporate software changes in the Excalibur projectile to build upon last year's 62 kilometer shot," said Col. Will McDonough, Project Manager-Combat Ammunitions Systems Indirect Fire. "Propellant is really the focus this year because it helps build the muzzle velocity, and how fast the projectile goes directly determines how far the projectile goes."

"The Excalibur is one of the few munitions that can penetrate buildings and its extended range," added Lt. Col. Thomas Jagielski, Product Manager for Precision Attack Cannon Munitions. "It provides an overmatch capability that hadn't existed for a long time."

Surprisingly, the time-trusted Excalibur round, which underwent developmental testing at YPG, did not need to be modified.

"We have done small changes, but

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St. Michael Award  
presented at  
surprise ceremony  
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Pronghorn gather  
helps revitalize  
the population  
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History  
Month  
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## St. Michael Award presented at surprise ceremony



Walter "Johnny" Lopez received the surprise of his life when he walked into a secret award ceremony meant for him. Lopez was awarded the Honorable Order of St. Michael for aviation. YPG Commander Col. Ross Poppenberger, YTC Commander Lt. Col. Alicia Johnson, Technical Director Larry Bracamonte and Air Combat Systems Director, Jeff Rogers awarded Lopez with plaques and bronze medals as part of the presentation. Lopez is now the Chief of the Investments Division for the Technology & Investments Directorate, but he earned the award for the work he did during the 15 years in the Aviation System Division. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

## YTC Commander gives keynote at Camp Bouse ceremony



YTC Commander Lt. Col. Alicia Johnson served as keynote speaker at the 24th annual Camp Bouse Commemoration Ceremony in La Paz County's Bouse, Arizona on Feb. 8. As the last active Army installation within the World War II-era California-Arizona Desert Maneuver Area, YPG has a direct lineage with the Greatest Generation Soldiers of Camp Bouse, who in the 1940s tested the 'Canal Defense Light,' a 13 million candlepower electric arc searchlight mounted in the turret of a M3 tank. "I am very touched that the Bouse community honors the service of these Soldiers even after many generations," said Johnson in her remarks. "I hope that the people of the future will remember the sacrifices of our men and women in uniform today with as much devotion as the people of Bouse display toward the veterans of World War II." (Photos by Mark Schauer)



# THE OUTPOST

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## YPG and MCAS leadership show united front at Jacycee's parade



YPG Commander Col. Ross Poppenberger joined by MCAS Commander Col. David Suggs and MCAS leadership rode alongside YPG Command Sgt. Maj. Jamathon Nelson and the YPG Airborne Test Force during the Yuma Jaycee's Parade on Feb. 8.

## Garrison earns Army Accident Prevention Award of Accomplishment



U.S. Army Garrison Yuma Proving Ground earned an Army Accident Prevention Award of Accomplishment. The award was presented by Jim Lee from IMCOM Sustainment Directorate on Jan. 30 to Ronald Van Why, Director of Installation Safety and Gordon Rogers, Garrison General Manager. Rogers said, "At YPG, we have instilled a Safety Culture as a way of life, not only at work but also in personal lives."

## YPG Commander supports a variety of community events

YPG Commander Col. Ross Poppenberger had a busy week of public engagement, visiting with well over 100 members of the Yuma Valley Rod and Gun Club on the evening of Feb. 5 and more than 60 members of the public in a YPG overview presentation at the Foothills Branch of the Yuma County Library. The next morning he supported the the 28th annual Yuma Area Prayer Breakfast (Photos by Mark Schauer).



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# Shootin' the Breeze

## A horse out to pasture?

By David J. Horn

Imagine the year is 1900. You and a friend are sitting on a couple of horses at an intersection in New York City. Suddenly, to your amazement, a car puts by. You turn to your friend and say, "Wow. I think we just saw the future." Your friend replies, "That thing might just change the way we live our lives."

Many of the employees of U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground have those "modernization" experiences regularly, as we test state-of-the-art systems and new technologies. As the old saying goes, "change is not optional." Our soldiers are constantly facing enemies that are using different weapons, different tactics, in different environments. While it's easy to have 20/20 hindsight on what it took to win the last armed struggle, being prepared for the future fight is another battle altogether.

thing to realize. Especially if they're strongly connected to the old ways.

That gets us back to our old friend, the horse. In the year 1900, the horse had been a valuable asset on the battlefield for a long time. Air Force guys like to point out that there are B-52 pilots flying the same plane their grandfather flew. While that's impressive, horses have been

serving the soldier for at least 5000 years!

While soldiers were very familiar with the needs of their horses, that didn't mean that there weren't... issues.

There were the exciting issues, like the risk of getting kicked, or bit, or bucked off. There were the awkward moments, like when the saddle cinch might be less than tight, resulting in the saddle and rider suddenly being under the horse. Horses eat a lot, from 15-20 pounds of fodder per day. Horses drink a lot of water, up to 25 gallons per day, even more here in the desert. And, what goes in one end, comes out the other end and has to be cleaned up. They might need new shoes every couple of months. When a soldier spent the day on his horse, he might

spend several hours back at the stable brushing it down, cleaning and storing the saddle, before he could

prepare himself for the end of the day.

But, in spite of all the work, how can you not like a horse?

But around the year 1900 and into WWI,

with the advent of the internal combustion engine, vehicles built with protective armor, and machine guns, most military planners to include the likes of George Patton, Douglas MacArthur, and George Marshall, could easily see the day when the cavalry horse would be replaced by the new armored tanks.

One notable exception was Major General (Maj. Gen.) John Herr. Maj. Gen. Herr had not only been in the horse cavalry for 40 years, he also served as the U.S. Army Chief of Cavalry. Needless to say, he was one fierce advocate of traditional horse cavalry troops. In the early days when the first tanks moved along at about five miles per hour, had really unreliable internal workings, and were dependent on a newfangled fuel called gasoline, it was easy for the supporters of the horse cavalry to scoff at these new contraptions. Maj. Gen. Herr argued so intently that horse formations

should be maintained even as the new armored divisions were being formed, that he became the symbol of "military resistance to change."

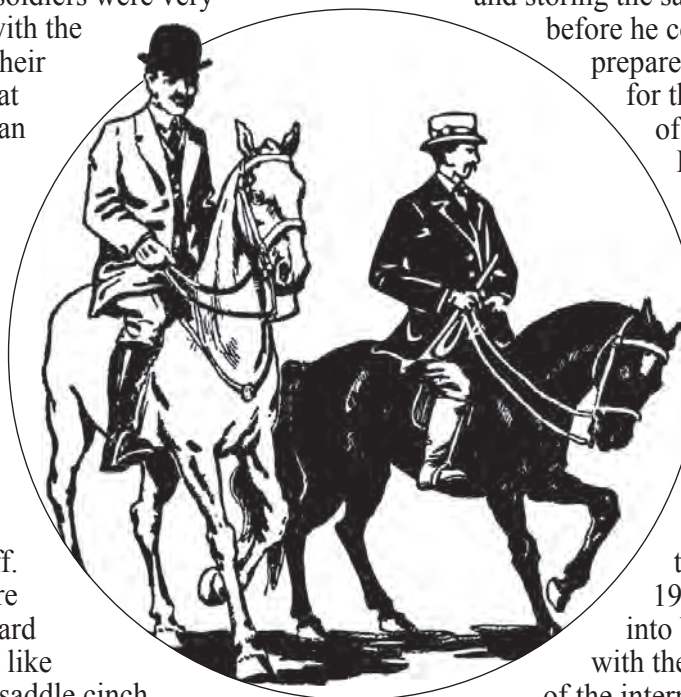
All that changed abruptly in 1939, with the German blitzkrieg through Poland. Almost immediately, over Maj. Gen. Herr's objections, his cavalry troops were converted to armor. The Army not only retired its horses, it also retired Maj. Gen. Herr.

Today, as the Army moves through the 21st century, the Army is again undergoing another much needed modernization effort. While not all encompassing, these efforts include:

- Long Range Precision Fires, to increase artillery range and accuracy
- Next Generation Combat Vehicles, to improve the firepower, speed, and survivability of land forces
- Future Vertical Lift, to increase maneuverability, endurance, lethality, and survivability of Army aircraft
- Network Technologies, to improve battlefield command and control
- Air and Missile Defense, to improve the defenses of ground troops from air threats
- Soldier Lethality, to improve the capabilities and survivability of the soldier

All these initiatives are focused on the Army's efforts to provide the American soldier whatever they need to be successful on the battlefield.

That's not to say however, that sometimes the effort to provide soldiers whatever they need, comes full circle. Among the biggest events that started off the 21st century, were the attacks on September 11th, 2001. It's interesting to note that some of the first US Special Operations forces to enter Afghanistan to meet with local tribesmen, due to the rocky mountainous terrain, rode in on horses.



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# DEMONSTRATION

FROM PAGE 1

they were changes we were going to do anyway to the flight software,” said Jagielski. “We did testing to make sure it was structurally sound, but it’s the Excalibur we have been shooting for about 10 years.”

When it was time to fire, everyone took cover behind bomb shields and inside connex boxes. While those on site could hear the boom, the naked eye could not see the projectile while it made its journey. Once the projectile hit the target’s bullseye there were many cheers and



ERCA Test Officer, Casey Scharenbroich stands behind the bomb-proof enclosure as he gets ready to call the countdown for firing the weapon system.



A large test crew worked on the firing event, here the crew is pictured checking every measurement and detail before firing. Safety is paramount at YPG.



Long Range Precision Fires is one of eight top priorities for the Army. Individuals from test centers across the country participated, Colonels and Lieutenant Colonels from the respective test centers all gathered at YPG to witness the firing event. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

high-fives-- the round reached the intended range.

“Just as important as the range we got was the angle of fall that we achieved,” said Jagielski. “This is a big first step for not only my program but for the Army as a whole.”

In July of 2018 the Army Futures Command (AFC) was created. In 2019, the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC), YPG’s superior command, was put in direct support of AFC.

Col. Ross Poppenberger, YPG commander, observed the

test and reflected on the day’s accomplishment. “All the senior leaders in the Department of Defense are looking at Yuma Proving Ground today. I myself

was sending reports back as we had a successful shot. It really shows that YPG is on the cutting edge of modernization and development, and quite successful at it.”

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# Pronghorn gather helps revitalize the population

By Ana Henderson

At one time the Sonoran pronghorn population was on the brink of extinction. The dry summer of 2002 wiped out 75% of the pronghorn population. With no measureable rainfall for 13 months the – populations could not survive.

“The summer rainfall is critical on fawns trying to survive,” explains Daniel Steward, Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) wildlife biologist.

Since that time, the efforts to revive the pronghorn population on the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and Cabeza Prieta NWR are basically bringing them back to their historic range.

After the summer of 2002, only about 25 pronghorn existed in the U.S. Today, about 280 pronghorn live on the Cabeza Prieta NWR and another 130 in the Kofa area. This brings the numbers very close to the goal of 150 pronghorn at Kofa.

“We are supposed to maintain that number five to seven years and show a trend of stable and increasing populations,” explains Steward adding, “It’s not just about putting more pronghorn out there... the trick is to promote the habitat and reduce the threats. To let pronghorn survive without our intervention.”

Currently several agencies are

managing semi-captive breeding pens on Kofa and Cabeza Prieta NWRs. These pens are approximately 300 acres in size and allow pronghorn to live in their natural environment with supplemental food water and predator exclusion to maximize fawn survival. The agencies then capture animals from the pen annually for release into the wild.

Every federal agency in southwest Arizona has played a part in bringing back the species yet Steward credits Arizona Game and Fish and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for being the technical experts and the leaders.

Members from each agency camp on the refuge to start their day early. They need to prepare the tents where veterinarians will examine the pronghorns.

Leading up to the capture, a multi-chambered pen, or boma, is constructed inside the massive breeding pens. The pronghorn are conditioned over a period of weeks to enter a boma for food and water. When the team is ready to capture the pronghorn, an observer will watch for the maximum number of pronghorn to enter the boma, then they close the door. The boma is made up of three circular pins so the pronghorn can be gently herded



To capture the pronghorn, a capture crew will run in with a net to slow the animals down.

between chambers so only two or three pronghorn are in the capture chamber.

To capture the pronghorn, a capture crew will run in with a net to slow the animals down and the “muggers” grab and subdue to the pronghorn to load them on stretchers. YPG personnel helped with the net crew, stretcher transport and mugging.

“The muggers have a special skill set because safety is paramount for both the crew and the animals,”

Steward adds, “Everybody gets kicked.” Reed Rider, YPG natural resource specialist has the mugging job for the YPG crew.

At this point the stretcher team of about four people come in and transport the pronghorn to the vet tents.

Once at the examination tent veterinarians administer vitamins, antibiotics and oxygen, to the pronghorn, to reduce stress. The vets check the animal for any injuries. The targeted pronghorn that are



Leading up to the capture, a multi-chambered pen, or boma, is constructed inside the massive breeding pens. The boma is made up of three circular pins so the pronghorn can be gently herded between chambers so only two or three pronghorn are in the capture chamber. (Photos by Ana Henderson)





After using the net, the “muggers” grab and subdue the pronghorn to load them on stretchers. YPG personnel helped with the net crew, stretcher transport and mugging.

being transported to YPG’s East Arm get a sedative so they can sleep during the trip. The pronghorn who are staying in the Kofa pen are let to run free.

During the recent gather in early January, the teams transported two bucks and seven does. They were equipped with GPS and radio frequency trackers. The hope is that they meet up with the existing heard.

Steward says, “Basically they are lost until they find one another so it’s good to have animals already on the range that know where the food and water is, that know where the safe

places are.”

The ultimate the goal of this effort and also habitat improvements is to build a strong and self-sustaining pronghorn population.

“Our role as a Federal agency under the endangered species act is to promote ecosystems where endangered animals can recover and thrive.”

Taking the Sonoran Pronghorn off the endangered species list is the eventual goal.

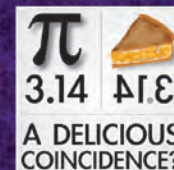
“Once we can meet these recovery criteria then we can take a good hard look at delisting the species.”



Once at the examination tent veterinarians administer vitamins, antibiotics and oxygen, to the pronghorn, to reduce stress. Here Steward is seen helping hold and calm the pronghorn.



The targeted pronghorn that are being transported to YPG’s East Arm get a sedative so they can sleep during the trip. The pronghorn who are staying in the Kofa pen are left to run free.



## PI Day Celebration

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# Black History Month honors the contributions of African Americans

**By Joeann Bailey, Equal Employment Opportunity, Director**

February is Black History month, which means that every year we remember the African Americans who have made history — and made America what it is today.

**Black History Month:** The celebration of Black History Month began as “Negro History Week,” which was created in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson, a noted African American historian, scholar, educator and publisher. It became a month-long celebration in 1976. The month of February was chosen to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. Read on for more black history facts.

**First Self-Made Millionaire:** Madam C.J. Walker, was the first U.S. woman to become a self-made millionaire.

**First Lawyer:** John Mercer Langston was the first black man to become a lawyer when he passed the bar in Ohio in 1854. When he was elected to the

post of Town Clerk for Brownhelm, Ohio, in 1855 Langston became one of the first African Americans ever elected to public office in America.

**Supreme Court Justice:** Thurgood Marshall was the first African American appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court. He was appointed by President Lyndon B. Johnson and served on the court from 1967 to 1991.

**Eminent Scientist:** George Washington Carver developed 300 derivative products from peanuts among them cheese, milk, coffee, flour, ink, dyes, plastics, wood stains, soap, linoleum, medicinal oils and cosmetics.

**First Woman Representative:** Shirley Chisholm was the first African American woman elected to the House of Representatives. She was elected in 1968 and represented the state of New York. She broke ground again four years later in 1972 when she was the first major party African American candidate and the first female

candidate for president of the United States.

**First Black Billionaire:** Robert Johnson became the first African American billionaire when he sold the cable station he founded, Black Entertainment Television (BET) in 2001.

**Jesse Ernest Wilkins Jr.,** a physicist, mathematician and engineer, earned a Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Chicago in 1942, at age 19.

**Dr. Mae Jemison** became the first African American woman to go into space aboard the space shuttle

Endeavor in 1992.

**Alexa Canady** became the first female African-American neurosurgeon in the U.S.

**Scientist and mathematician Benjamin Banneker** is credited with helping to design the blueprints for Washington, D.C

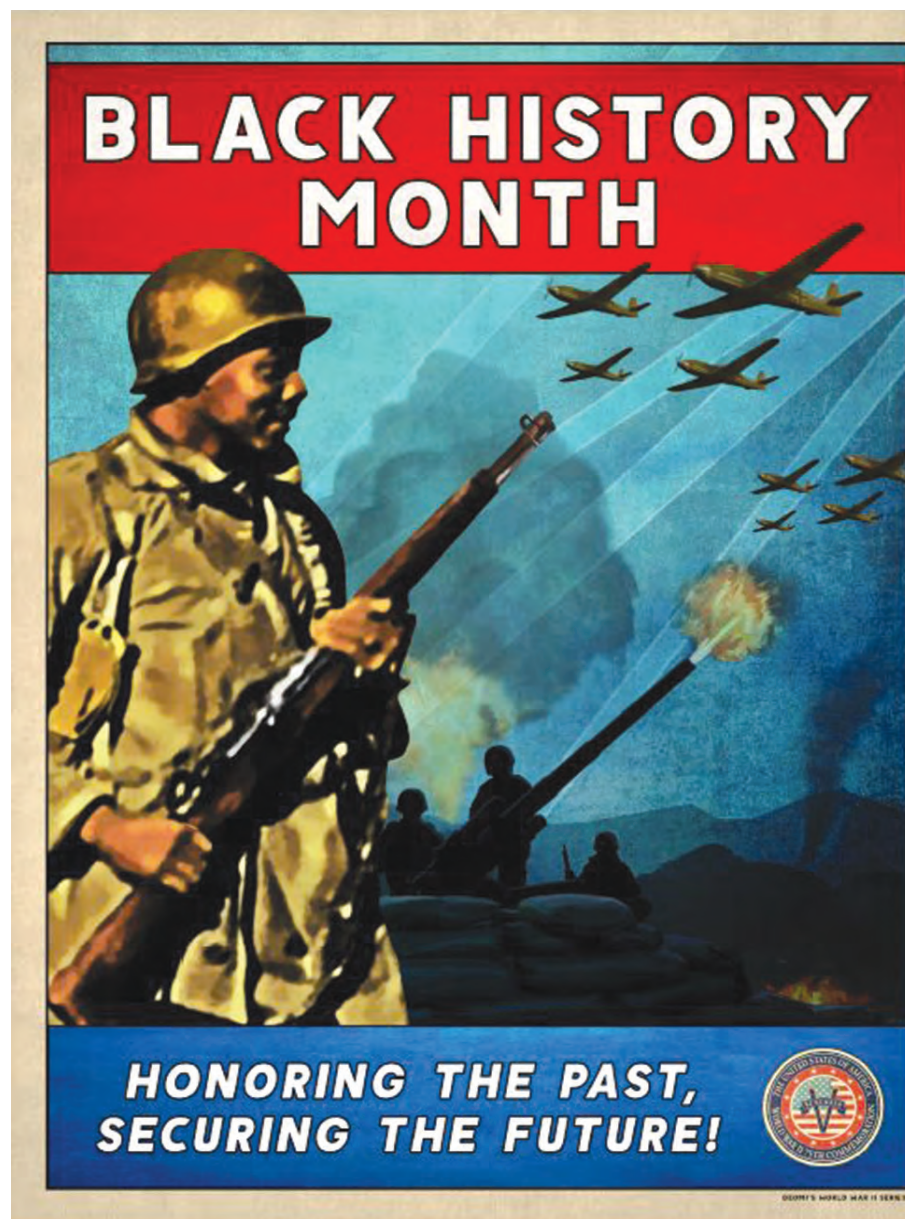
**First Professional Black Baseball Player:** On April 5, 1947, Jackie Robinson became the first African American to play Major League Baseball when he joined the Brooklyn Dodgers. He led the league in stolen bases that season and was named Rookie of the Year.



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# Chaplain's Corner

## Never let the sun set on your anger

By Chaplain Maj. Ronald Beltz

Some time ago I heard about two unmarried sisters who inherited the old family homestead when their parents died. They lived together in peace for several years, but one day they had a disagreement that soon led to a heated dispute. The dispute was so sharp that they refused to speak to each other, but even this barrier did not satisfy them. They decided to build a dividing wall through the house. Each sister had her own separate bedroom already, but the living room, dining room, and kitchen were divided in half by a wall.

Then one day tragedy struck. One of the sisters had a stroke that left her paralyzed and speechless. She had no way of summoning help from her sister who was only a few feet away on the other side of the wall, and in a few hours she died. The living sister, realizing that her stubbornness had contributed to her sister's death, was so guilt ridden that within a few weeks she also died.

Tragedy so often results from unresolved anger and resentment. Remember the old adage never let the sun set on your anger. It is a good principle for everyone concerned. It's good for your marriage, your family, your heart, your health, your business, and your relationships.

## New Hours at YPG Commissary Beginning on February 16, 2020

Sunday	0900-1600
Monday	Closed
Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday	1000 - 1900
Thursday	1000 - 1900
Friday	1000 - 1900
Saturday	0900 - 1700



## YPG hosts Safety Awareness Week



YPG kicked off its annual Safety Awareness Week, Feb. 3 with opening remarks from YPG Commander Col. Ross Poppenberger and a comprehensive course on First Aid techniques given by Spc. Richard Rivera and Spc. Cody Taylor of the YPG Health Clinic. The annual training event keeps YPG employees current on safety procedures. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

## Free YPG GEMS Camp

(Gains in the Education of Mathematics and Science)



Yuma Proving Ground  
will be hosting two  
1 week S.T.E.M. Camps  
Week 1: June 1-4, 2020  
Week 2: June 8-11, 2020



- Applicants must be entering 6th – 8th grade in 2020-2021 school year
  - Hands on S.T.E.M. Labs taught by YPG Engineers and Scientists
- Bus Pick up/drop off at Gila Vista Middle School and Desert Mesa Elementary
- Student Application deadline is 10 April / Only 70 applicants will be accepted

Info Page: <https://www.usaeop.com/program/yuma/>



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