

The Outpost

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

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Extended Range Cannon Artillery testing continues at YPG



The COVID-19 pandemic hasn't stopped U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground's (YPG) support of Army modernization efforts. Currently YPG is testing the XM1113 projectile, a component used for the Extended Range Cannon Artillery. (Photos by Mark Schauer)



By Mark Schauer

The COVID-19 pandemic hasn't stopped U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground's (YPG) support of Army modernization efforts.

The proving ground actively supports six of the Army Futures Command's Cross Functional Teams (CFTs) building the Army's future force, which seeks to retain overmatch with near-peer adversaries in a high intensity conflict while maintaining the competency in

SEE **ARTILLERY** page 2

Denim Day: taking a stand against sexual assault

By Ana Henderson

A pair of denim jeans have become a symbol of support for victims of sexual assault. With April being Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention month Yuma Proving Ground's (YPG) and Marine Corps' Air Station's (MCAS) Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARC) teamed up to host a virtual Denim Day event via Facebook on April 29.

YPG's SARC Arlene Gentry explains the history behind the day: "The campaign began after a 1998 ruling by the Italian Supreme Court where a rape conviction was overturned because the justices

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Agent Shopping programs seeks volunteers

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YPG testing critical to development of GPS

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ICE comments allow community to make a change

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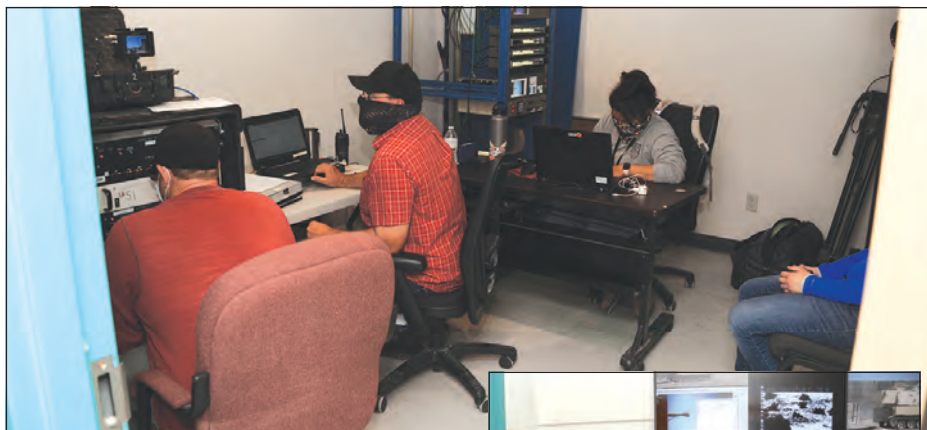
ARTILLERY

FROM PAGE 1

waging irregular warfare that has been achieved since the 9/11 attacks.

Chief among these priorities is the CFT concerned with long-range precision fires of artillery and the Extended Range Cannon Artillery (ERCA) program, which aims to field systems capable of accurately firing at targets more than 70 kilometers away, a dramatic increase over the 30 kilometers a currently-fielded 155mm howitzer shell is capable of when fired at top zone with rocket assistance. YPG conducts developmental testing of multiple facets of it, from the artillery shells to the longer cannon tube and larger firing chamber the improved howitzer will need to accommodate them. YPG's ammunition plant has been instrumental in building multiple experimental formulations, shapes, and configurations for new propelling charges to accommodate the improved projectiles.

One aspect of ERCA currently



Personnel unable to maintain six feet of separation were required to wear cloth face coverings at all times, and each work section at the gun position was required to thoroughly clean their areas multiple times per day.

being tested at the proving ground is the XM1113 projectile.

"This is one in a series of engineering tests we have been conducting to improve the reliability of the projectile," said Anthony Austria, test officer. "We're testing a large sample across a range of temperatures and firing zones."

Though capable of substantially longer ranges, the new projectile is remarkably similar to currently-fielded 155mm rounds. The most



significant difference is in the round's much-larger rocket, which testers want to ensure functions properly even when fired under extreme conditions.

"The majority of this test is being fired at top zone plus excess, which means it is a little bit more than what you would normally see in the field," said Austria.

Methodical test fires of the new round are vitally important, and recovering the fired rounds for careful analysis even more so. At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, a stop movement order implemented by the Department of Defense prevented visiting personnel from traveling from other installations. Rather than halt the critically-important and time sensitive testing for the duration of the crisis, YPG personnel found innovative uses for existing technology to allow for remote oversight.

"We are using three different means: video; screen-sharing where customers can see real-time test data; and teleconferencing," said Kermit Okamura, Munitions and Weapons Division chief. "We've been doing this for several weeks and are still

refining the process. We move out and get it done."

At the gun position, the personnel were most impressed by how seamlessly the new electronic oversight was integrated into the daily rhythm of testing.

"The remote oversight hasn't changed our normal procedures much," said Austria. "It does require a little more set-up in the morning, but it doesn't impact our firing operations very much."

More noticeable were the social distancing policies and increased hygiene measures that were implemented across the proving ground. Personnel unable to maintain six feet of separation were required to wear cloth face coverings at all times, and each work section at the gun position was required to thoroughly clean their areas multiple times per day. A cleaning station with supplies was prominently situated in a central location within the gun position, with a checklist schedule on a clipboard.

"Every station cleans twice per day," said Austria. "We get enough free time at lunchtime to do it."

YPG is essential to Army modernization efforts because natural environments testing cannot be duplicated in a laboratory, conditioning chamber, or computer simulation. The COVID-19 pandemic has not stopped the proving ground's vital work, and modernization testing will continue apace into the long-term future.



"We are using three different means: video; screen-sharing where customers can see real-time test data; and teleconferencing," said Kermit Okamura, Munitions and Weapons Division chief. (Photos by Mark Schauer)

THE OUTPOST

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Shootin' the Breeze

Our New Normal

By David J. Horn

April 2020. For all the folks out there who are too young to remember 9/11, this virus thing will be your moment in history when the world changed. Work and social life aside, I'm just talking about life back at your house.

I almost hate to bring it up, but it wasn't all that long ago when you, your spouse, and your kids could sort of do what anybody wanted to do, go to...no wait, I'm not going to bring it up. WOW...what happened? As this hunkering down in the house together thing just keeps dragging on,

"virus fatigue" seems to be popping up all over the place.

But, life is not what it used to be, and everybody's getting stressed out. It's gotten to the point where...the fact that somebody in your family has been putting their dirty dishes in the sink and not in the dishwasher... is really starting to irk you. You're really getting sick of watching the TV shows that everybody else wants to watch. Your kids are constantly asking, "What can we do now?" You're starting to realize that you've never liked your spouse's...shoes. Your family is not happy with you either, over that make-shift telework



In early April Soldiers from YPG's Airborne Test Force and also General Service employees began stitching masks for the workforce because wearing masks at work has become our new normal, Horn says, "A big THANK YOU" to all the folks over at the parachute shop that made all those masks for so many people." (Photo by Mark Schauer)

office you've created at the end of their Internet cable.

Other areas in the house have changed, too. Since you can't dine out and you've been doing a lot more cooking at home, have you noticed how much more often you need to clean your stove top? Or, the countertops? Or, the sink? I'm sure that there are a lot of kitchens out there at the moment that can only be described as just "guy clean."

And getting back to your dishwasher, it's been working overtime to keep up with all the extra loads of plates, pots, and pans that weren't getting dirty two months ago.

On the other hand, especially for the folks out there teleworking, since you've been wearing that same old t-shirt all week, maybe the size of the weekly dirty laundry pile has actually gone down.

Anyway, it's time to just regroup, get through this, and rebuild our new normal. While things are going to change, we can do this! Mother Nature is still out there. And even if they're at least six feet away, our friends are still out there. So if for a while we have to wash our hands dozens of times a day and take a mask with us when we head out the door, we'll get through this. While I'm on the subject of masks, a big "THANK YOU" to all the folks over at the parachute shop that made all those masks for so many people.

The way it looks now, we might have to spend the entire summer hunkered down in our houses with our families. Keep your family safe, focus on the things that really matter in life, and just maybe your kids might remember it as one of the best summers they ever had.

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Chaplain's Corner

Strike a match in the darkness

By Chaplain Maj. Ronald Beltz

There is a story of a British soldier in the First World War who lost heart for the battle and deserted. Trying to reach the coast for a boat to England that night, he ended up wandering in the pitch-black night, hopelessly lost. In the darkness, he came across what he thought was a signpost. It was so dark that he began to climb the post so that he could read it. As he reached the top of the pole, he struck a match to see and found himself looking squarely into the face of Jesus Christ. He realized that, rather than running into a signpost, he had climbed a roadside crucifix. Then he remembered the One who had

died for him . . . who had endured . . . who had never turned back. The next morning the soldier was back in the trenches.

That's what you and I need to remember especially in such uncertain and stressful times that in the moments of our distress and darkness strike a match in the darkness and look on the face of God. For God is here. God comes to us just as he came to the disciples even though we may not recognize him. God is faithful put your trust in him.

Deuteronomy 31:6 reminds us: Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.

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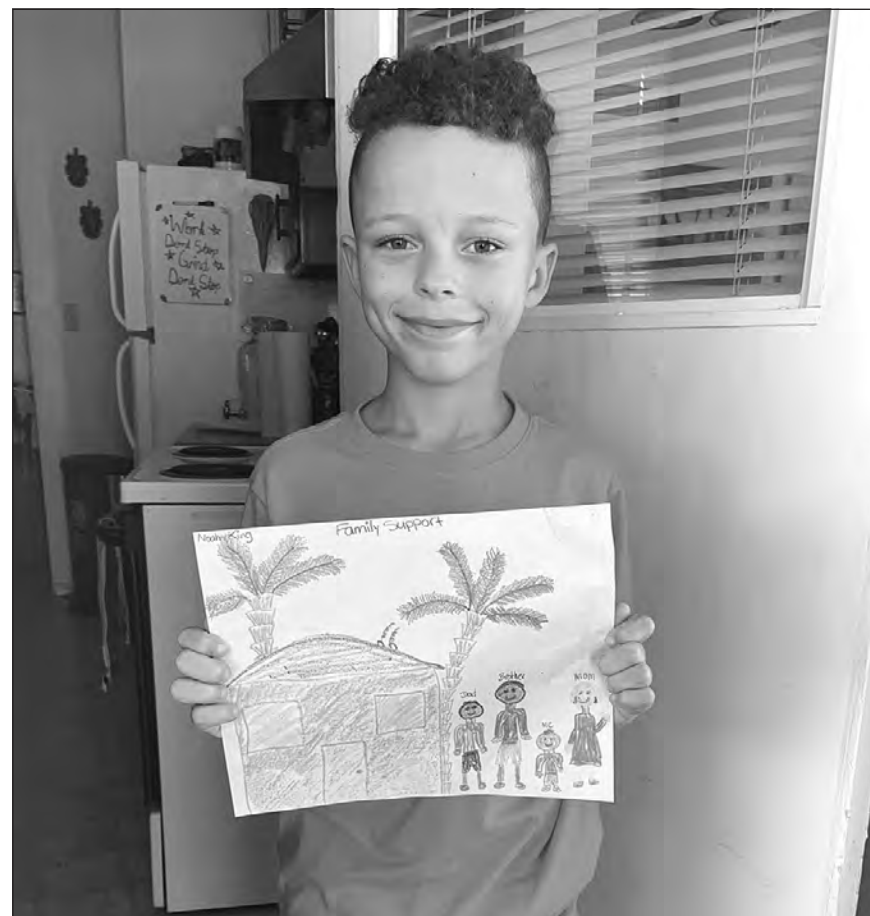


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Child Abuse Prevention Month poster winner



Congratulations to third grader, Noah King for being named the winner of the child abuse prevention month poster contest. King's poster illustrated a strong thriving family. He won a free game of bowling and a medium pizza donated by MWR and a water bottle and coloring book. YPG's Army Community Service Family Advocacy Program hosted the contest as way to bring awareness to the subject of child abuse. April is Child Abuse Prevention month. (Loaned photos)

YPG Commissary looking for volunteers to shop for those that cannot

By Ana Henderson

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed life as we know it for just about everyone around the world. Our normal daily activities are being restricted to help flatten the curve of the virus.

One positive result from this pandemic...it has brought to light the generosity of our community. People reaching out to help their neighbors from donating food to cleaning and protective supplies. The support for each other has been good to witness.

Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) now has another way to help your neighbor, the program is called the Agent Shopping Volunteer. The program involves volunteers shopping at YPG commissary for those who cannot shop for themselves due to the pandemic. Here at YPG volunteer shoppers and one Garrison volunteer point of contact

(POC) are needed. "If we do not have a Commissary POC then the program cannot run," explained Arlene Gentry, YPG Sexual Assault Response Coordinator.

Once a Garrison POC volunteers for the position that person will coordinate the volunteer shoppers. The volunteer shoppers will receive a shopping list, do their shopping at the commissary and when it's time to check out the cashier will call the customer for their credit card information.

While is program is new the YPG Commissary has welcomed volunteers in the past, Commissary

Store Manager Randy Kreiser praises their help. "I have recently had the opportunity to be able to use voluntary help here at the YPG Commissary and I am very appreciative and thankful for the outstanding work that they provided by stocking groceries while we were very short-handed. Kudos to these three volunteers who gave so freely of their time to insure that we had replenished shelves for our Patrons to purchase."

Those volunteers helped stock shelves after the stay at home order was announced. The Agent Shopping Volunteer program is also a result

of COVID-19. It is kicking off at all Department of Defense (DOD) installations. "This program will be available while DOD is in HPCON C or D, but may be terminated at HPCON A or B," said Rogers E. Campbell, SES Executive Director,

Store Operations Group in a memo announcing the program.

While the program may be around temporarily it could make a big impact while it is in service.

"Volunteers are a very important asset during the HPCON-C to be able to assist the ones who don't have the choice to be able to shop for themselves or our resident families that don't have childcare as an alternative," explains Kreiser.

Again, this program will not get off the ground without volunteers. "If you're looking to help out your YPG family during this time, now is your opportunity," said Gentry.

If you are interested in volunteering contact, Arlene Gentry at 928-328-2501 for details.

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YPG testing critical to development of GPS

By Mark Schauer

Technological change alters the world and becomes so common that radically transformative inventions eventually are taken for granted.

The Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) system, tested extensively at Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) in its infancy in the 1970s, is at such a point.

Currently comprised of 31 satellites in orbit around the Earth, the GPS system allows anyone with a handheld receiver to pinpoint their exact geographic location with astonishing accuracy. Today, the technology is used not only by military personnel and testers at YPG, but by millions of civilian consumers around the world as a navigational aid

in automobiles, aircraft, and boats, and even by owners as a means of tracking lost pets wearing a GPS-enabled collar. Few, if any of these users realize YPG tested GPS from the earliest days of its existence.

"It was the biggest single project the proving ground was ever involved in," Bob Mai, then Associate Director of the Range Support Directorate, said in a 1994 interview. "It paid a lot of bills for YPG for a long time."

YPG was the home of GPS testing from 1974 through 1990. YPG testers attracted the program by demonstrating their ability to collect more data at a lower price than other test ranges. Whereas other test ranges of the period gathered position, acceleration, and trajectory data of



GPS testing started with bulky equipment in the 1970's by the early 1980s, GPS technology had been miniaturized to the point that a man portable backpack weighing a mere 25 pounds began testing with Soldiers at the proving ground. (U.S. Army photo)



Testing at YPG was critical to the development of the GPS technology so commonly used today for everything from directions on a cell phone map to collecting GPS coordinates at a testing impact site. Just as YPG's testing prowess was put to good use then, it continues in support of current Army modernization priorities today—and will continue to do so well into the future. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

test items with electro-optical trackers called Cinetheodolites, recently completed testing of the AH-56 Cheyenne attack helicopter had given YPG an edge. The proving ground owned and used a then-state-of-the-art laser tracker that had a far greater range and comparable accuracy to a battery of Cinetheodolites. Further, engineers at the proving ground had adapted room-sized 1960s vintage IBM computers with specialized software that allowed them to collect test data from range instruments and onboard telemetry devices in real time, a groundbreaking advancement that dramatically reduced the time and cost of testing.

"YPG didn't have supercomputers," said Bill Heidner, curator of YPG's Heritage Center. "We had sharp people writing algorithms for hand-me-down computers that made real-time data reduction possible."

"We pushed the state of the art," added retired Air Force Maj. Jim Bybee, who worked on the GPS program from 1975 to 1982 and retired as officer in charge of GPS testing at YPG. "YPG was already

ahead of the state of the art, which is why the Air Force came here. That they had laser trackers integrated into real time was a tremendous cost savings."

When the evaluations began in March 1977, the launch of the first GPS satellite was more than a year away, and, like today, a GPS user needs coordinates from four satellites to get an accurate location reading. YPG testers coped with this by creating an 'inverted range' made up of satellite simulators located in ground-based shelters at four different places. Ground tests of the infant technology were conducted from modified two-and-a-half ton trucks, and aircraft used for testing were outfitted with antennas on the bottom of aircraft to pick up simulated signals from the ground receivers. The earliest GPS systems were so large that a UH-1 helicopter, which carried as many as 14 troops at a time when used in Vietnam, could only accommodate a pilot and two passengers when carrying a GPS device. By September 1977 more than 70 test flights with UH-1 helicopters



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and F-4, P-3, and C-141 airplanes had been conducted.

"The UH-1 and the C-141 were real workhorses for us," said Bybee. "But the C-141 cargo plane was large enough to fit three different contractor systems inside, so we got a lot of bang for the buck with them."

As the Air Force began to launch GPS satellites, evaluators took their positions from the satellites instead of the inverted range receivers. This created new challenges for testers, however.

"The satellites gradually change position," said Bybee. "As they launched more satellites, we had a pretty good test period for three or four hours per day. But every two weeks we had to move back our testing by half an hour. We went around the clock at least three times in the time I was here."

Though the continual changing of work hours was difficult for the scores of range workers involved with the testing, YPG's vaunted flexibility in range scheduling always gave testers the opportunity to make the most of the situation. This was accomplished even as another monumental program, the Apache Longbow attack helicopter, began testing at the proving ground in the

late 1970s.

"The satellites being available for only a few hours a day gave us an urgent requirement to test whenever we could," said Bybee. "We also didn't have to compete for range space at YPG. The ranges at other locations were consistently tied up, but at YPG we always had top priority."

By the early 1980s, GPS technology had been miniaturized to the point that a man portable backpack weighing a mere 25 pounds began testing with Soldiers at the proving ground. This testing was conducted in addition to that involving aircraft, all at a fast pace despite the fact there wasn't an active war in progress.

"We had a good group of people at YPG and in the program office," said Bybee. "There was a lot of high level interest in the program and everyone was pretty attuned to how important the project was."

Testing at YPG was critical to the development of the GPS technology so commonly used today. Just as YPG's testing prowess was put to good use then, it continues in support of current Army modernization priorities today—and will continue to do so well into the future.

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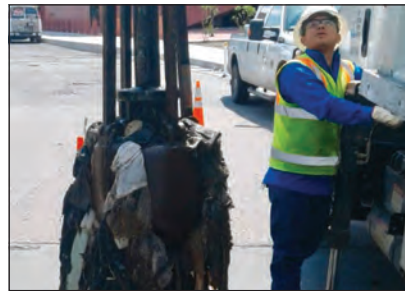


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DENIM

FROM PAGE 1

felt that since the victim was wearing tight jeans she must have helped the person who raped her removes her jeans, thereby implying consent. The following day, the women in the Italian Parliament came to work wearing jeans in solidarity with the victim."

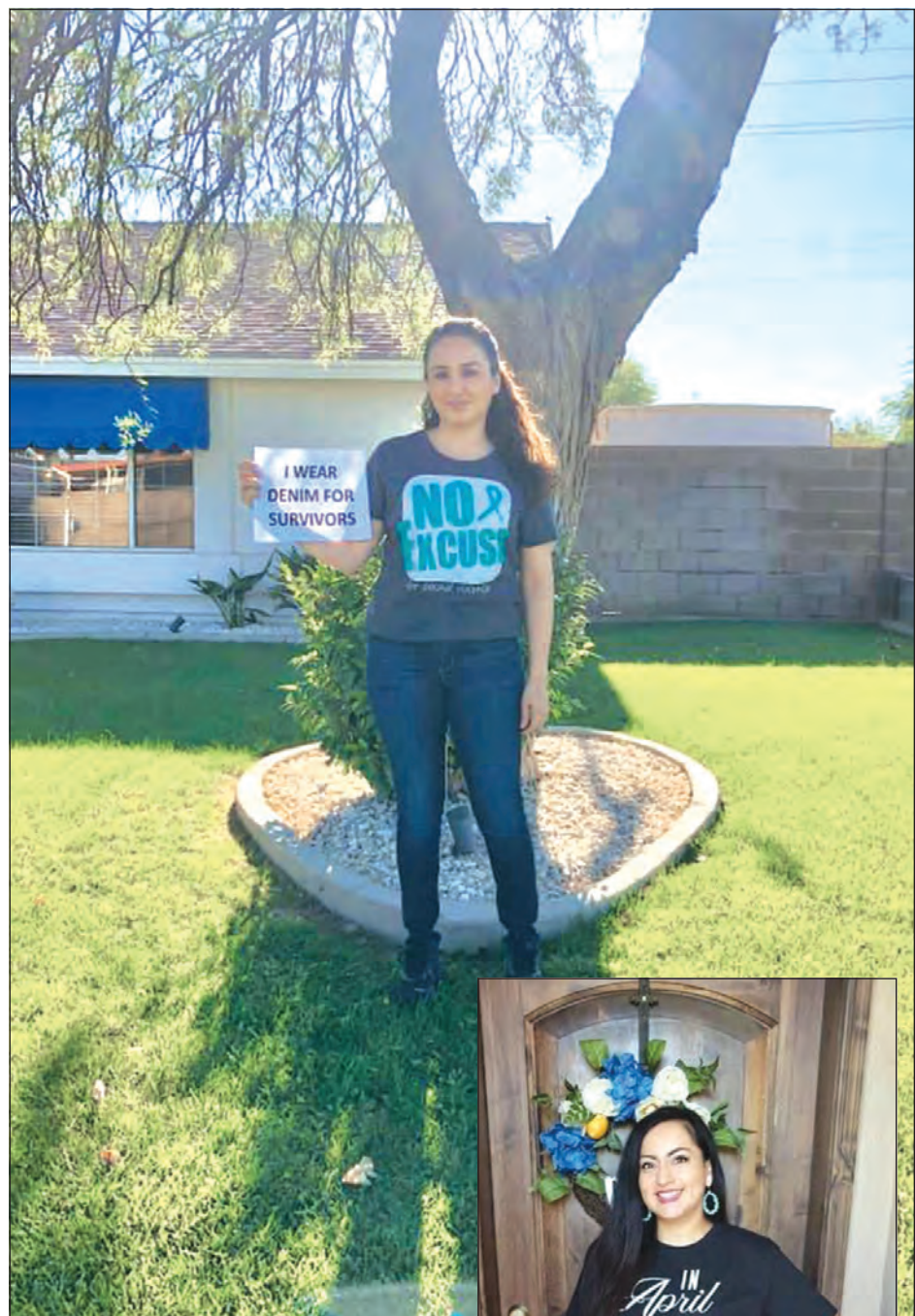
Before the COVID-19 pandemic employees were encouraged to wear jeans to work but since most are teleworking the ladies had the idea to use social media to mark the day. "We wanted to find a way to include the community even while in quarantine, this was a great way to show support either by posting a picture wearing denim or acknowledging that you were wearing denim."

Between the two installation's SARC representatives their joint message reached far and wide. "We

received lots of messages and posts of support for this event."

Events such as this one need to continue. The Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network reports that every 73 seconds an American is sexually assaulted and every year 18,900 military members experience unwanted sexual contact. These statistics show there is a lot of work to be done to stop the abuse and to help victims. "We notice that a lot of victims do not come forward or do not talk about it because they may not be aware of what services they can get or who is there to help them. So it is important to educate everyone on what resources are available to them through these awareness events. We are here and ready to help in any capacity we can," explains Gentry.

The collaboration between advocates sends a message of a united front against sexual violence. "Working together with MCAS and local agencies has been vital to



Sexual Assault Response Coordinators Arlene Gentry (Yuma Proving Ground) and Sara Guerra (Marine Corps Air Station's) teamed up to host a virtual Denim Day event via Facebook on April 29. (Loaned photos)



ensure we are supporting our entire military community especially during this time."

For more information on resources call the 24/7 SHARP Helpline at (928) 920-3104. To reach Gentry's office the YPG community can call (928) 328-2501. There is also an YPG SHARP Facebook page and a SHARP Sharepoint site.

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ICE system allows community to provide feedback on services

By Ana Henderson

One of the best ways to make a change is to speak up. Although sometimes speaking up can feel awkward if the topic is not positive. Or perhaps the experience is positive and you want to make sure it's heard up the chain of command. This is where the Interactive Customer Evaluation (ICE) program can be a valuable tool.

The ICE program can be accessed from the Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Sharepoint site and the Morale, Welfare and Recreation website and is intended to provide feedback to service providers at military installations and related facilities around the world.

"Filling out an ICE comment is a fast and easy way to provide

welcomed feedback to service providers that will help them improve and provide better services to the YPG community," remarks ICE Manager, Benjamin Rix.

Once a comment is submitted it gives the organization a starting point for improvement, "Every comment submitted is delivered to the Service Manager who can directly address any issues or concerns a customer raises. The comment is also visible to upper-level management to ensure appropriate measures are taken to correct and improve, or maintain and praise as necessary."

Between March 2019 and March 2020 the YPG community submitted 173 ICE comments and during that same time frame YPG had nearly 80% satisfaction rating. While most think of ICE as an anonymous way to air their grievance, and it is, the tool is also a way to submit praise.

"Numerous positive comments have been submitted that recognized employees in the Cactus Café, ROC

Garden Café, Military Personnel/CAC/ID Cards, Visitor Control Center, NEC Help Desk and our Law Enforcement Services," said ICE Manager, Lorra Greene adding, "The best comment recognizing someone through an ICE submission was for a Soldier assigned to YPG who performed the Heimlich maneuver on a lady choking during a function at the Yuma Civic Center."

Customers can simply use the tool to make suggestions, examples of this are customers using the system to request different equipment in the Fitness Center and different menu items to choose from in their favorite eating establishments; those changes were accomplished.

When submitting an ICE comment one of the most important

steps to remember is to identify the organization correctly. They can be found by using the search function or from the menu. Being accurate with this step is important, "A negative comment was given to 'Official Mail and Distributions Center' when the customer was really complaining about service from the Post Office, a service not under the ICE Program. In this case, the comment could not be transferred to the appropriate service under ICE and the negative comment affected the rating of the Official Mail and Distributions Center Service Provider," explained Rix.

If you are unsure of which organization to select Greene says, "They can always submit it in the 'General Site Comment' or 'Missing Service Provider' selections and the ICE Managers will forward it to the correct Service Manager within the ICE system."

Whether you are submitting your comment anonymously or including your name, all customers are encouraged to provide feedback.



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Until further notice, all MWR dining facilities will be open for call-in/carry-out orders only. All seating areas will remain closed for the duration of the emergency.

MWR DINING FACILITIES

Cactus Café	Closed
Coyote Lanes	(928) 328-2308
KFR Roadrunner	(928) 328-7500
ROC Garden Café	(928) 328-2598

OTHER AFFECTED ACTIVITIES/FACILITIES

Auto Skills	Closed
Post Library	Closed
Fitness Center	Closed
Coyote Lanes	No Bowling
	Call-in/Carry-out



YPG Health Clinic Pharmacy Changes

Clinic Phone:
928-328-2666

Refill Phone:
760-380-3127

Pharmacy Hours of Operation
0800-1600
Closed for Lunch
1200-1300

**301 C Street,
Bldg. 990**
Howard Cantonment
Yuma Proving Ground

Please be aware that Yuma Proving Ground will be implementing medical screening at all access gates on 30 March. Please anticipate delays.

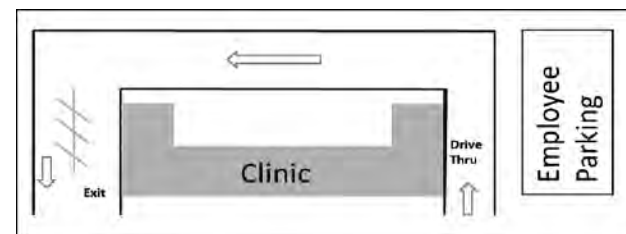
Pharmacy Operations During COVID-19 Pandemic

▶ **Pharmacy operations are being modified to allow for social distancing and minimize the spread of COVID-19.**

- Starting 1 April, all routine medication pick-ups such as refills will be done outside of the clinic in a drive-through lane.
- Medication requests should be requested in advance so that they can be prepared and ready prior to pick-up.
- Controlled medications and injectable medications must now be scheduled as appointments.
- Transfers of multiple medications
- and non-formulary drug requests must be dropped off in advance and will be scheduled into virtual appointments. These requests will take 3-5 business days.
- Recommend dropping off paper prescriptions in advance as medications may need to be ordered.
- Call the clinic to request a renewal of an annual prescription. These requests will take 3-5 business days.

▶ Drive Through Lane Ops:

- Enter the drive through lane on the far side of the clinic; typically our gated fire lane.
- Either press the call button or call the front desk at 928-328-2666.
- Please know which medications you need from the pharmacy.
- A medic will come outside and verify your ID and medications you are requesting.
- You will remain in your car while the medic takes your information inside to the pharmacy.
- The medic will return to your car with the medications in a paper bag.
- Continue driving around the clinic through the fire lane and exit through the parking lot on the other side.
- If there are any questions or delays, you may be asked to pull around the building and park.



USAHC Yuma Proving Ground



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Clinic phone number: (928) 328-2666

Hours of Operation:

Mon-Fri: 0730-1630 • LABS: 0730-1430 • X-RAY/IMMS/PHARM: 0730-1630

CLOSED FOR LUNCH: 1200-1300 • Federal/Training Holidays: CLOSED

Per new Defense Health Agency guidance regarding social distancing and COVID-19, routine care such as well child and adult physicals will now be deferred to a later date. All appointments will be triaged to determine if patient needs can be addressed virtually. Virtual appointments can be booked with the clinic directly at (928) 328-2666.



If you have any questions regarding COVID-19 please call the Army COVID-19 information hotline:
1-800-984-8523

If you have a medical emergency, dial 911

