

The Outpost

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

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T-11 parachute test in progress at YPG



Now long-fielded, the T-11 parachute is still returning to YPG for further refinements and improvements. In addition to testing a new pack tray, testers are currently testing improvements to the T-11's reserve parachute. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

By Mark Schauer

Useful for seizing isolated air fields deep behind enemy lines, which can then be used to receive and deploy more troops and armaments, the tactic of mass parachute jumps was used successfully by American forces in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

The T-11 personnel parachute offers jumpers a slow and stable descent, especially in high winds, and can support more weight than previous parachutes, a crucial advantage for warfighters who carry robust, heavy gear. Also, since the T-11's canopy deploys slowly and further away from the aircraft than preceding parachutes, the Army was able to increase the gross cargo weight of a C-17 aircraft by 15,000 pounds, which allows the aircraft to safely carry more fuel or cargo.

During developmental testing at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) in the early years of the 2000s, the T-11 proved to be a remarkably robust system, able to compensate for multiple kinds of malfunctions that testers intentionally rigged into it: When they tied the hem shut, the T-11 still inflated through corner vents. Even when testers put different reefing lines throughout the canopy and

SEE **PARACHUTE** page 5



YPG's Soldiers from the Airborne Test Force usually take part in two Memorial Day ceremonies. They are pictured here in 2019 serving as Color Guards but this year due to COVID-19 that will not happen. There are still other actions families can do on their own to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

Memorial Day: paying tribute without a ceremony

By Ana Henderson

The last Monday in May is when the military community and their loved ones come together to pay tribute to the men and women who lost

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Pinning ceremony for ATF Soldier /Page 2



First comes the rain...then comes the weeds /Page 8



FOCUS program helps military families build bonds /Page 11



Pinning Ceremony for Staff Sgt. Lehoux



In a pinning ceremony on May 5, YPG Commander Col. Ross Poppenberger presented Sgt. Steven Lehoux with the rank of Staff Sgt. Lehoux was joined by his wife Hannah and daughter Emily. After the pinning ceremony his daughter is seen admiring her father's new rank insignia. Lehoux has served in the Army for seven years and is currently the Aerial Delivery NCO. (Photos by Mark Schauer)



THEOUTPOST

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ATEC Commander awards ATF Soldiers



During the same May 5 ceremony, YPG Commander Col. Ross
Poppenberger presented members of the Airborne Test Force an
Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC) coin and star note from
ATEC Commanding General Maj. Gen. Joel K. Tyler for their efforts
with mask production for the Yuma, Aberdeen and Electronic Proving
Ground's workforce. Master Sgt. Loreto Rivera is pictured receiving
his award from Col. Poppenberger. (Photos by Mark Schauer)



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Andrew Swick is in critical condition after a head-on collision. Swick is pictured here with his wife and two young daughters. (Loaned photo)

YPG firefighter involved in head-on collision

By Ana Henderson

Tragedy has struck Yuma Proving Ground (YPG)'s firefighter Andrew Swick.

YPG Fire Chief Gerald Ball says Swick was involved in the head-on collision with a wrong way driver on westbound Interstate 8 on Sunday May 17. Swick was driving back to Yuma for his shift from his home in Prescott Valley.

"He didn't show up for work so they knew something happened."

Swick suffered severe injuries in the accident and was flown to a Trauma Center in Phoenix where he remains in critical condition in the Intensive Care Unit.

"He's going to have a long road to recovery."

Ball says Swick is a young firefighter and has a wife and two

daughters at home in Prescott Valley, making the situation even more difficult for his loved one is the current pandemic.

"Under normal circumstances I would have gone to see him but because of COVID-19 they are not even letting his wife in to see him."

Ball knows YPG is a tightknit community and he know he can count of them.

"I would like ask them for their thoughts, prayers and support."

If any YPG Civilian employee would like to help Ball asks that they consider donating leave through the voluntary leave transfer program. The community can also help by donating to his Go Fund me account at https://www.gofundme.com/f/a-swick-recovery-fund.

—— Chaplain's Corner —— Enjoy the present moment

By Chaplain Maj. Ronald Beltz

Those of us that are baseball fans and are missing America's favorite pastime may remember when Roger Maris broke the great Babe Ruth's home run record of 60 trips across home plate?

It was a monumental feat. Maris' former teammate, Tony Kubek, remembers that Maris was an unusually calm man on the playing field. He tells about a time when they were playing in Detroit. Kubek was on second base and Roger was at bat. Suddenly Maris stepped out of the batter's box and seemed to be staring at the upper deck in right field. A flock of about 250 Canada geese appeared on the horizon.

Maris took off his cap and just watched the geese. It couldn't have been more than a minute, but it seemed like 10 to Kubek before Maris got back into the batter's box. Finally he was ready to hit. He pulled a 400 foot homer into the upper deck in right field, just where the geese had flown.

Kubek said that the last time he talked to Maris was two months before he died. "Tony," Maris said, "I can still see those geese. Watching them was so peaceful."

Whatever other problems Roger Maris may have had, he had learned one of the great secrets of life to enjoy the present moment. To be sensitive to the beauty that lies all around us. What are those things that are troubling you? Are they really worth the drain on your psychological and physical resources? As one man says, "If it ain't fatal, don't sweat it!" That's a pretty good philosophy.



National Heat Awareness Day: take precautions to avoid heat injuries

By Ronald Van Why, Installation Safety Office

National Heat Awareness Day is observed on the last Friday of May, every year. The day's purpose is to make ourselves alarmed regarding the drastic rise of temperature in recent decades.

Every year in the United States, people suffer from heat-induced illness especially senior adults and children eventually resulting in considerable loss of lives. High demand for awareness is required to overcome the prevailing situation. Therefore, this day was also created to spread awareness to overcome the high-temperature related issues and to encourage the consumption of water to avoid heat-related illness.

How we observe National Heat Awareness Day

The day can be observed by taking precautions to safeguard from the heat. Drink more water and stay hydrated since dehydration leads to various consequences. Drink at least eight glasses of water per day to prevent dehydration plus it further helps to remove toxic substances in our body.

When the heat starts to crank up, avoid drinking alcohol, reducing your intake of sugar and caffeine, and avoid physical exertion. Find a place to cool off and increase how much water you're drinking on those hot days.

The elderly and babies are most at risk, as their bodies cannot adjust to temperature fluctuations as well. Here are some other tips on how to avoid heat induced health problems.

• Keep your air conditioning tuned up regularly so it's ready to turn on



ABOVE: National Heat Awareness Day was created to promote heat safety. With a large population the of YPG workforce working outdoors year around, YPG leadership stresses heat safety daily. (Photo by Mark Schauer) RIGHT: The Army provides this hydration chart as a tool for Soldiers and the civilian workforce to check if they are drinking enough water. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

when the weather gets hot.

- Use fans in areas where air conditioning isn't an option.
- Wear hats and sunblock to avoid direct sun exposure.
 - Wear loose and light clothing.
- Increase your intake of cold water.
- Stay in the shade as much as possible.
- Talk with your doctor about illnesses that can increase your risk of heat-induced reactions or illnesses.

Don't forget to take care of your pets when the heat strikes. Keep them indoors and as cool as possible. Keep fresh, cold water available for them at all times and if they do need to be outside, provide a cool place of shelter where they can get out of the heat.

On average, extreme heat has killed more people in the last 10 years than any other weather phenomena. Remember these tips for staying safe in extreme heat:

ydrate. Whether you feel thirsty or not, drink plenty of water to avoid becoming dehydrated, especially when you're working or exercising outside.

ducate yourself. Keep up with the latest temperature and heat index forecasts and current readings (take actions to stay cool and safe when the temperatures hits 85 degrees or the heat index hits 90 degrees). Know the warning signs of a heat illness, and how you can stay cool.

Act quickly when a heat illness is suspected. Seek medical attention immediately for any of these warning signs: cramping, rapid pulse, heavy sweating, hot red skin, dizziness, confusion, nausea, vomiting.

Take it easy. Anyone working or exercising outdoors should avoid overexertion, especially between the hours of 11 am and 6 pm. Take hourly breaks in the shade or in air conditioning.

Tris coior chart is not for clinical use

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National Heat Awareness Day is founded by the National Weather Service, an agency of Federal Government of the United States that is formed to provide details to the public regarding the weather Forecast and related issues like hazardous Weather, Thunderstorm, Cyclones, etc.

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PARACHUTE

FROM PAGE 1

tried to restrict airflow inside, it still inflated.

Now long-fielded, the T-11 is still returning to YPG for further refinements and improvements. In addition to testing a new pack tray, testers are currently testing improvements to the T-11's reserve parachute, which Soldiers count on in the unlikely event the T-11's main parachute didn't deploy.

"If a jumper exited the aircraft, did his six-second count and had no main above his head, he would pull the reserve parachute," said Martin Gilbert, test officer.

The test doesn't utilize live jumpers, instead using torso mannequins with stubs for arms to simulate jumpers. The mannequins were ballasted with weight, then loaded onto an aluminum deployment rack specially designed and constructed by YPG engineers that is loaded into the cargo bay of a C-17. The deployment rack allows the air crew to move and deploy the mannequins by means of a large crank, ensuring a safe and uniform drop from the aircraft.

"We did low speed reserve deployment with the main parachute

fully inflated to check that the reserve uprights don't entangle with the mains on deployment," said Gilbert.





The air crew loads the parachutes on aluminum deployment racks specially designed and constructed by YPG engineers. (Photos by Mark Schauer)

physical instrumentation on the parachutes themselves during these tests, evaluators depend on GoPro cameras in the aircraft and ground-based tracking instruments for video and data of each parachute's deployment, particularly the critically important first seconds of flight. Once each airdrop is

complete, testers recover the landed parachutes, after which they undergo a meticulous inspection of the parachute systems for rips and tears.

YPG is home to all manner of parachute testing, with spacious and instrumented ranges large enough to accommodate even the world's largest cargo parachutes.



MEMORIAL DAY

FROM PAGE 1

their lives in battle during military service.

Countless families have suffered this immense loss include families at Yuma Proving Ground (YPG). Because of the nature of the work, testing equipment for the warfighter, many of the YPG workforce are former military themselves and some come from a long line of Soldiers.

Explosive Technician Michael Henderson served four years in the Marines during Operation Iraqi Freedom, his father Gary served in the National Guard, and his grandfather Paul Henderson served in 1944 during World War II (WWII). Tragically the elder Henderson did not make it home from war. The newlywed left for Foreign Service just a month after marrying and three months later was killed in action on February 10, 1945 in an air raid over Mindoro. Henderson was a bombardier on a B-29.

Henderson knows very little about his grandfather's time in service... his father never spoke of it. He only

learned about his grandfather's service when his father sent him a newspaper clipping.

Ordnance Technical Operator Terry Fisher's family also felt the pain of family members not returning home from war. In total more than a dozen of his family members have served in the Armed Forces, four of which served in WWII.

"All four of them entered into the National Guard and within a six month period, they are engulfed in war."

Three of the men, Adam, Percy and Candelario (Candy) Cano where brothers and the fourth was their nephew Orland Cano. Candy and Percy were both wounded in battle: Candy received three Bronze Stars and a Silver Star, Percy received a Silver Star for his actions as well. Both brothers returned home: tragically their brother Adam and nephew Orland did not.

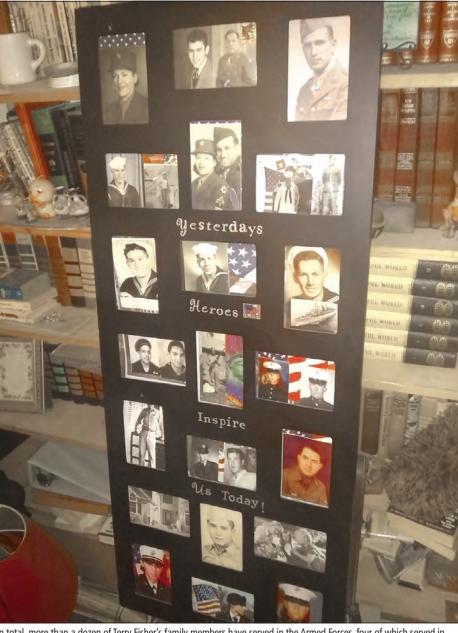
"Those are uncles you will never know who were men of valor. They just never came back. They are buried over there."

Adam was killed in France and Orland ended up joining Merrill's Marauders and was killed in Burma.

Fisher's Aunt Diana has preserved



LEFT: Adam Cano was one of three brothers who enlisted in the National Guard and ended up in WWII. Cano was killed in France and never returned home. ABOVE: Fisher's Aunt Diana has preserved the family's military history with photos that were passed down to by her mother. While Fisher was at her home recently trying to learn more about the men his aunt came across something very special, "She came back and said 'You are not going to believe this... I found one of his (Adam's) dog tags."



In total, more than a dozen of Terry Fisher's family members have served in the Armed Forces, four of which served in www!

the family's military history with photos that were passed down to her by her mother. While Fisher was at her home recently trying to learn more about the the men, his aunt came across something she had never seen before. "She came back and said 'You are not going to believe this... I found one of his (Adam's) dog tags."

Throughout the generations
Fisher's family has sacrificed so
much for this county. "When I think
of Memorial Day, I think of my
relatives and the sacrifices they paid

and I understand why the people that came back, they are still kind of living in the past."

Each year Memorial Day gives families such as Henderson's and Fisher's a formal opportunity to pay tribute. Unfortunately, Memorial Day 2020 will be unlike the years before: Ceremonies have been cancelled due to social distancing orders to stop the spread of COVID-19. Soldiers from YPG's Airborne Test Force usually take part in two ceremonies on Memorial Day serving as Color Guard, but

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this year that did not happen. Although the annual pomp and ceremony did not happen there are things families can do on their own to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice. The Military Benefits site has some suggestions.

- Visit cemeteries and memorials
- Volunteer to place an American Flag on each grave in national cemeteries
- Observe a minute of silence at 3:00 PM, local time
- Donate to veterans and military support groups

Ceremony or not the most important gesture one can make is to never forget the sacrifices made to gain our freedom...and to keep our freedom.

"I used to see my uncle Candy, he used to take all the crosses on Memorial Day and take them to the cemetery and

he used to park them all outside of my aunt's porch. I would see 30, 40, 50 crosses, two to three feet high

Paul Henderson Reported Killed

Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Williams, Big Cove road, were notified this morning that their son-in-law, Sgt. Paul Charles Henderson, had been killed in action in the Pacific.

Mr. Henderson was killed Feb. 10 in air raid over Mindoro.

The message was sent here by their daughter, the former Lucille Williams, who is now employed in San Bernardino, Cal.

No details were included.

Sergeant Henderson and Miss Williams were married in November. 1944, and shortly after, Sergeant Henderson left for foreign service. He is a native of Bowling Green, Ky., and was a bombardier on a B-29.

Michael Henderson knows very little about his grandfather Paul Henderson's time in service... his father never spoke of it. He only learned about it when his father sent him this newspaper clipping.

and I thought 'what is he doing' I couldn't get a grip. Until I saw how many friends he had lost."



Orland Cano, (top row fourth from the left) ended up joining Merrill's Marauders and was killed in Burma. Fisher says, "Those are uncles you will never know who were men of valor. They just never came back. They are buried over there." (Loaned photos)





FACTS

The Department of Defense joins the nation in paying tribute to the Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and Native Hawaiians who demonstrated selfless service and sacrifice in the U.S. Army, Army Air Forces, Marine Corps, Navy, Coast Guard, and National Guard during World War II.

During WWII, Chinese and Japanese American men and women enlisted for military service in great numbers. More than 20,000 Chinese Americans, or one out of every five in the United States, served in the U.S. Armed Forces. Chinese American Hazel Ying Lee was one of the 38 Women Air Force Service Pilots who died in the line of duty.

Although barred from the naval service, Japanese Americans fought in some of the Army's most decorated units. The 442nd Regiment "Go for Broke" was one such unit. The 4,000 men who initially made up the unit in April 1943 had to be replaced nearly 2.5 times. In total, about 14,000 men served, earning 9,486 Purple Hearts.

Filipino Americans and Korean Americans also participated in the nation's war effort. More than 260,000 Filipino and Filipino American soldiers served during the war. One of California's first Korean immigrant families, the Ahn's, saw all three siblings, Ralph, Philip and Susan, enlist in 1942. Lieutenant Susan Ahn Cuddy became the first Korean American woman in the U.S. military and the first female Navy gunnery officer.

The service of Asians, Pacific Islanders and Native Hawaiians before and during World War II, paved the way for future generations of men and women to join what would become in 1948, a desegregated U.S. military.



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After the rains...comes the weeds

By Ana Henderson

Back in March, Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) leadership temporarily suspended testing for part of a day due to heavy rains. That downpour flooded roadways that provide access to the installation, caused washes to run leaving debris scattered, and caused some dirt and asphalt roads to concave.

Following that storm, a few more storms showered the YPG area. Since then Shearwater Mission Support (SMS) crews have been dealing with the aftermath. The work first began with repairing damage, and now it's transitioned into trying

to control weeds and brush around the installation.

"The more rain we get, the more weeds pop up," remarks Gus Luzanilla, SMS grounds lead. SMS grounds crews have been working to get a handle of those pesky weeds: weeding includes pulling the weeds and spraying them with herbicide. "You are never going to get rid of the weeds, but you can control them."

The weeds and brush are not only unsightly, they cause a multitude of issues. One is giving critters a place to hide. Landscape Specialist Louie Aguilar says that ground crews mow the grass on the playgrounds on the

Howard Cantonment weekly, which helps keeps the children who live in base housing safe. Knowing they are helping brings the crew pride. "It's kind of like we are giving back."

That brush can also be a fire hazard when it's combined with our extreme heat. Removing brush near buildings is another high priority area, says Luzanilla, especially with the triple digit heat already upon us. In fact on May 6 the YPG Meteorology team announced a new record high was set for the day with a temperature of 107, beating the record set in 2018.

Recently on the Kofa Firing Range, ground crews responded to another kind of hazard. "There was a big tree and when drivers were pulling out of the parking lot they couldn't see north because of the branch," explains Luzanilla.

Removing hazards such as these are all in a day's for the SMS ground team. They are also responsible for maintaining the gun positions where test firing occurs. "There are weeds, trees and shrubs that we need to take care of. If we don't take care of that, then they can't do their testing."

YPG's gun positions are scattered throughout the proving ground which reaches as for north as Quartzite and east near Dateland-- in all approximately 1,300 square miles.

"The military depends on us, too. It doesn't' matter that we cut grass. It's all one circle and we are in that circle at YPG."



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That brush can be a fire hazard when it's combined with our extreme heat. Removing brush near buildings is a high priority. This building was freshly landscaped by ground crews. (Loaned photos)

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FOCUS program helps military families build bonds

By Ana Henderson

Prevention and preparation can go a long way in deterring negative outcomes. Just like people take preventative steps to protect their health such as brushing their teeth, wearing sunblock, and getting a physical, they should take preventative steps for coping with family issues. Military life can have added stress when you throw in deployments, moving to new cities and loneliness. So you ask how can families or couples deal with the conflicts? This is where the Families Over Coming Under Stress (FOCUS) program can help,

"FOCUS families learn skills to prevent conflict and stress. while enhancing family unit communication and cohesion. FOCUS is also proactive, teaching couples and families to stay ahead of problems," explains FOCUS Site Director Beth FitzGerald.

Sometimes even when people try to resolve a problem they don't go about it in a healthy manner and could end up worse than when they started. FOCUS aims to get families to the point where they can face the issues together,

"FOCUS helps families build their own narrative story that recognizes their unique strengths. Families are then ready to build on their strengths and learn how to clearly define problems and collaborate on effective solutions, as well as ways to handle day-to-day challenges. Families often also have an idea of how they want to interact with each other especially during times of stress or frustration."

Traditionally this program would be held in person but like many things because of COVID-19's social distancing orders the program is taking advantage of the TeleFOCUS feature that was started in 2018. All participants need is a computer with a webcam. One the

advantages of using TeleFOCUS is that couples or families that are geographically separated can still participate. Since Yuma Proving Ground's location is a bit remote from FitzGerald's office at Marine Corps Air Station-Yuma, even after social distancing rules ease up participants can still use this service.

FitzGerald stresses that FOCUS is very flexible and is catered to the needs of the family or couple "FOCUS helps families to identify specific goals and the path towards achieving them."

She remarks that participants have been satisfied with the skills they have learned while attending the six to eight sessions. Even after the sessions are over representatives follow up with the family over the year to make sure they stay on track.

"FOCUS training is confidential, free and available to active duty and activated guard and reserve service members and their families."

For more details on the program call FitzGerald at 928-920-6738

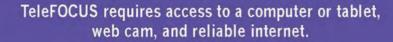
FOCUS Family Resilience Training is available at a distance!

TeleFOCUS helps the entire family. Active Duty families and couples "meet" with a FOCUS Resilience Trainer in videoconferences to learn core resilience skills.

Families and couples learn to:

- Identify individual and family strengths and challenges
- Improve family communication
- Practice skills to manage transitions
- Discover additional support services in the local community
- Deal with visible or invisible injuries







To set up an appointment or to learn more about the program, please contact TeleFOCUS Referrals at:

Site Location: MCAS Yuma

Site Address: Bldg 645, 1st Floor, Narr Ave & Quilter St.

Phone: 928-920-6738

Email; yuma@focusproject.org

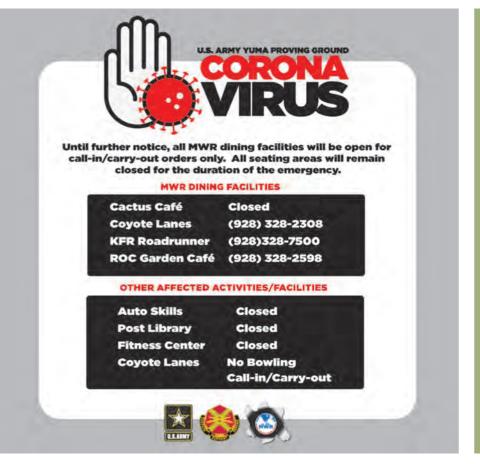
www.focusproject.org/TeleFOCUS







TeleFOCUS is provided free of charge to Active Duty Service Members and thei families. Charges for internet access from your carrier may apply.





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.

and non-formulary drug requests

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

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.

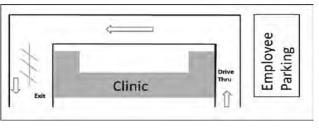
You will remain in your car while

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.



IMCOM SOLDIERS - FAMILIES - CIVILIANS

USAHC Yuma Proving Ground

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 alater date. All appointments will be triaged to determine if patient needs can beaddressed 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

