

The Outpost

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

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New commander ready to take reins

By Mark Schauer

Amidst a global pandemic, incoming YPG Commander Col. Patrick McFall is poised to take command of the Army's premier test center in a virtual ceremony on July 8.

With 23 years in uniform, McFall says he sees the posting as a new opportunity for service to the nation, and pledged to continue the post's extensive support of Army modernization priorities.

"The only change right now will be the one between Col. Poppenberger and I," he said. "This is a high-performing organization that is doing really well."

Commissioned in 1997, McFall spent the early years of his career as an infantryman, deploying to Bosnia as an infantry platoon leader. As a Capt. in the early days of Operation Iraqi Freedom, he commanded a mechanized infantry company. He joined the Army Acquisition Corps in 2006, in which he served as assistant product manager for PM Armored Security Vehicle and in the Pentagon, among other assignments. He knew of YPG's reputation well before he was



Incoming Yuma Proving Ground Command Col. Patrick McFall received a comprehensive tour of YPG before officially taking post. One of those stops was at an environmental chamber. Metrology and Simulation Branch Chief Michael Schwitzing explains the purpose of the chamber to McFall as Ground Combat Systems Director Eddy Patchet looks on. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

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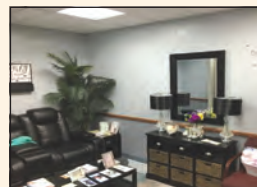
3D printing at YPG
creates innovated pieces
to enhance testing

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EEO office instrumental
in creating new
Lactation Room

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celebrates
June Birthdays

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COMMANDER

FROM PAGE 1

tapped to lead it.

"I had never been to YPG, but I knew it was an excellent organization and responsible for

ensuring that our service members receive the proper equipment to complete their mission," he said. "Our country has charged Yuma with ensuring that the men and women we send to war have the right equipment to perform their mission with distinction."



McFall arrived on post in mid-June, and spent the two full weeks leading up to the change of command touring the vast ranges and engaging with members of the workforce. YTC Commander Lt. Col. Alicia Johnson and Ground Combat Systems Director Eddy Patchet joined McFall on a portion of the tour. (Photos by Mark Schauer)

THE OUTPOST

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Aviation Systems Branch Chief Robyn Tiaden gives Col. McFall a brief on YPG's aviation capabilities. Branch Chief of the Aviation Systems and Electronic Test Division Ross Gwynn looks on as he prepares to brief.

McFall arrived on post in mid-June, and spent the two full weeks leading up to the change of command touring the vast ranges and engaging with members of the workforce. He reports being impressed with what he saw and heard.

"I think the workforce is very motivated and passionate about their job," he said. "It energizes me. I am probably here today because

of work YPG did back when I was an infantryman."

McFall is excited about the next three years, and looks forward to his tenure in command.

"I believe in empowering people and letting them do their job. I think it is important to communicate with the workforce and the community. I live the Army Values, and value family very highly."



U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground Change of Command

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COL Ben Patrick McFall III
assumes command of
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**The Outpost is going on summer break.
The next issue will be published August 3.**

COL Poppenberger gives Mayor Nicholls in depth tour of YPG



YPG Commander Col. Ross Poppenberger hosted Yuma Mayor Douglas Nicholls for a visit at the proving ground on June 17. Accompanied by Technical Director Larry Bracamonte, the Commander and Mayor visited a gun position, YPG's ammunition plant, a weapons maintenance shop, and a physical test facility. "Every time I go to YPG I think, 'Wow, I didn't know we did that world-class activity here,'" Nicholls said. "The men and women who work out here impress me every time I come out. It's an amazing set of capabilities we have right here in our community." (Photos by Mark Schauer)

YPG Garrison hosts virtual employee awards ceremony

U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground Garrison hosted the Garrison Employee Recognition awards on June 25. This year's event was unique because it was hosted virtually on Facebook live. Deputy Garrison Manager, Ronnie James presented the awards while the names and certificates of employees were shown on a jumbo screen. Turn to page 12 for a list of employee awards. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

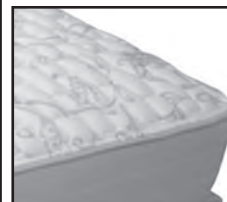


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The life of an Army wife: one spouse's perspective

By Ana Henderson

Being part of the armed forces and deploying seem to go hand and hand. One of the many distinctions Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) holds is it is a non-deployable base meaning the Soldiers who are stationed here work on base providing services for the community. For example, the Soldiers working at the Veterinary Clinic provide care for the Military working dogs training at YPG and the Medical Clinic Soldiers provide services to the Soldiers and their families. The instructors for the Military Free Fall School train service members from almost every branch of the armed forces and the Soldiers who are part of the Airborne Test Force for Yuma Test Center.

For a military family being stationed

at YPG can be a welcomed time of stability.

"We were really excited to come to YPG because with his previous duty station he was gone nine months out of the year, minimum" remarks Hannah an Army wife of five years who currently lives at YPG with her husband. This is the couple's second duty station. They have been at YPG for about a year and a half and recently added a baby to the family.

"When our son was born we didn't have to worry about 'are you going to be deployed or if you are home will you have to leave in like two weeks?' Which has happened to so many of my friends."

The stability of a military career at YPG plus the tight knit small

community (think kids riding their bikes to a school with a student population of less 100) is ideal for families,

"Having a baby here and having a family here...you get that time with them and I am so incredibly blessed and happy to be here in that sense."

The YPG community is small because the installation is situated in the desert area outside the city of Yuma to accommodate for experimental testing such as long-range firing and test road courses for armored vehicles.

While all the elements together might sound like the perfect combination for military and family life... sometimes that togetherness, which some families have never experienced, can bring forward problems.

"I know spouses who were really excited to be here and have their families together really struggle. They don't have many connections here and what was something they looked forward to now become another struggle because they feel isolated."

Hannah she worked as a therapist and a mental health worker specializing in sex, love and relationship addiction and is a military spouse so she clearly sees the cycles families go through.

"There is a honeymoon phase when

they come back from deployment, then reality starts setting in, you start getting resentful because you lived the last six months to a year without them, now they are doing things and you are like 'that's not how I want it done' then they deploy again. So all the issues that were unresolved stay unresolved."

When families who have lived this cycle over and over then come here there is no break. "You go from family members who have never spend more than a few months together to seeing each other all the time." Hannah feels there needs to be a way to help family members cope.

At YPG there are programs families can turn to for help. The Families Over Coming Under Stress (FOCUS) program aims to help families better communicate and solve problems. The program offers its services via telecommunications.

The Family Advocacy Program a branch of the Army Community Service provides parenting classes and other services for those dealing with family turmoil and classes for new parents.

For more details on the FOCUS program call (928) 920-6738. For the Family Advocacy Program call (928) 328-3224.

Chaplain's Corner

God's perfect plan for our lives

By Chaplain Maj. Ronald Beltz

Captain Gordon Sparks of the Salvation Army led a mission team that provided aid to the workers at Ground Zero in New York in the days following the Sept. 11th attacks. He recalls mounds of paper littering the site around the bombed-out buildings. Out of curiosity, Capt. Sparks picked up one piece of paper. It was obviously a to-do list compiled by one of the executives who had been in the World Trade Center Towers. Capt. Sparks writes, "Fourteen hours earlier, [this to-do list] plotted the day for a successful executive in the finance sector; now it was a mere memorial for plans of a career, a life."

Have you ever been in a situation where your world was turned upside-down? Your marriage fell apart, you lost your job, someone you love died, your security was shattered in some way. And deep in your heart you cried out, "It's not fair! I had plans!

I had plans to grow old with my spouse. I had plans to retire with that company. I had plans to be healthy and vital in my old age. Now what's happened to my life? It's all fallen apart. This wasn't part of the plan!"

One of the greatest benefits of reading the Bible through from beginning to end is that you start to see the plan, the perfect Plan God has for redeeming our Creation and bridging the gap that separates us from God. We may not be able to see the bigger picture now, while we are going through our pain. Can we trust that God is working actively for our best?

Have you had your world turned upside-down? Do you know the pain of letting go of the life you had planned? Take the step of faith and offer your old life as a sacrifice to God. Let God redeem your mess. Only when we die to our self can we come alive to God's perfect plan for our lives.

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Personal responsibility will help stem the COVID tide

By Mark Schauer,
YPG Public Affairs Officer

The United States has just seen a record number of new COVID cases.

Arizona has been in the news as the COVID “hotspot,” but as of the last week of June, 35 other states were currently seeing increasing numbers—only 12 states were stable, and only two (Rhode Island and Connecticut) were reporting declines. Michigan, Texas, and Florida were seeing increases that rival Arizona’s, and California was also seeing a significant rise.

COVID-19 is not merely an Arizona problem, and shouldn’t be seen as such.

Alex Azar, the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, said in a TV interview on June 28 that hospitalizations and deaths would likely be rising nationally in the weeks ahead. Azar attributed the rise not to ending stay-at-home orders across the country, but to a sense of

complacency among the citizens.

“That’s not so much about what the law says on the reopening than what our behaviors are within that. If we act irresponsibly, if we don’t social distance, if we don’t use face coverings... we’re going to see spread of disease.”

The positive news is that the United States is better off than we were at the beginning of the crisis in terms of test capability, the availability of PPE, and contact tracing ability. Some modest gains in therapeutics and treatment have decreased the COVID death rate from nearly 6% to 5%.

But the virus has not gone away and will not be going away. There is still no COVID vaccine, and there isn’t likely to be one for some time to come. The only means of defending ourselves is through wearing a face covering in public, practicing social distancing, and sustaining increased hygiene measures. Personal

responsibility and sacrifice are vital to protect yourself, your family, and our country.

Though most of the country is currently struggling with rising COVID-19 infection rates, the situation in Arizona was more challenging than most at the end of June. Arizona set new records for number of COVID patients on ventilators (475) and number of acute care and ICU beds in use—nearly 90% of the state’s current capacity. Locally, Yuma Regional Medical Center set new records for COVID hospitalizations (130) and COVID patients in the ICU (27). Yuma Regional Medical Center has publicly reported that they have 50 ventilators on hand, and in a pinch could convert 20 anesthesia machines into ventilators. Yet all frontline health workers in the country have been expected to work burn-out hours for months, and are

oftentimes experiencing the same anxieties and economic stresses at home that most other Americans are feeling in these trying times. Now more than ever, an ounce of COVID prevention is worth so much more than a pound of cure from a stressed healthcare system.

Healthy people have a particularly important role to play during this global pandemic—namely, to make small sacrifices that will give them and their families the best chance of staying healthy. Wearing a face cover when out in public is a simple, but significant contribution everyone can make to help stop the spread of the coronavirus. Yuma County, Arizona has established a face covering hotline at (928) 373-1180, available Monday through Friday from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. All of the latest information regarding COVID-19 can be found at www.yuma.army.mil/corona.



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YPG EM Lab uses 3D printers to create unique items in support of testing

By Ana Henderson

3D printers have become a creator's magic wand. If they design it, the 3D printer will make it come to life in a matter of hours.

Yuma Proving Ground's (YPG) Electro-Optical Mechanical (EM) Lab has been using 3D printers for years to create custom parts. While the lab's overall purpose is maintaining equipment for the Instrumentation and Optics Divisions they are also the go to place for modifying equipment.

"When a piece of equipment arrives the EM Lab will check it out and we will make it field compatible. A lot of the COTS (commercial of the shelf) are not rated to handle our temperatures so we'll take something apart and figure out how to add heat sinks or extra fans or whatever it takes to keep it cool," explains EM Lab Supervisor Andrew Trujillo.

Many times because of the nature of testing durable enclosures are needed to protect, batteries or cameras. Bob Bieser has been instrumental in creating those pieces. He's worked closely with the Airborne Test Force in the Air Delivery Systems Branch, he recently created an enclosure for a GoPro camera, "It slides in the case and they clamp this on the webbing of the parachute so the camera looks down at the load or up at the parachute. They needed something for a different perspective."

He's also created items for moving parts inside the vehicle, "They needed something to hold an encoder to measure the rotation of the turret so we built the whole enclosure in about 12 hours." He explains, "I climbed inside the vehicle and took some dimension and modeled it up and printed it...it was a huge time

saver."

Optical Engineer and Quality Assurance Evaluator for the EM Lab, Steve Taylor agrees, "We can create a prototype. We don't have to have anyone else do it, we can do it here at YPG" adding, "The turnaround could be 24 hours. If the part broke we would just go into our CAD files and reprint."

Plus, the 3D printers can work after hours and on weekends without supervision. Another benefit YPG has seen is the printers have allowed the proving ground to continue using legacy items,

"YPG continues to work with the legacy systems that we know work. It's hard to get the parts and sometimes the gears or other parts,

once one of the techs or engineers draws it up, we can just reproduce it using the 3D printer. We have done that with items because there is no way to get them. It's been pretty handy."

Bieser adds, "It just never ends, there are all kinds of little widgets that they will always need."

3D printers have the capability to print with different materials. The printers YPG currently owns uses ABS and PLA thermoplastics which Taylor describes as a "limiting factor."

The recently purchased Stratsys F170 printer can

print different materials including a rubberized material (TPU 92A) which opens up the possibilities... they will not be limited to rigid items.

"We will be looking at making gasket and items that can flex a little bit" explains Taylor.

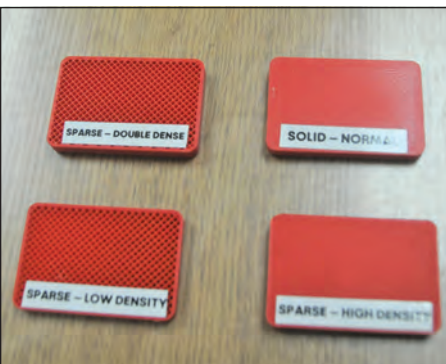
The EM Lab team have helped tests stay on track, they have designed one of a kind items to meet the test's needs.



YPG recently purchased a Stratsys F170 printer that can print different materials including a rubberized material (TPU 92A) which opens up the possibilities for printing non-ridged designs. (Photo by EM Lab)



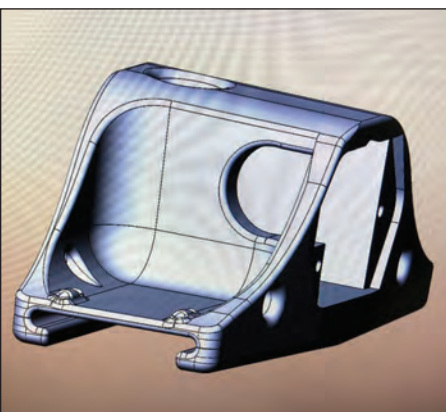
YPG's Electro-Optical Mechanical (EM) Lab has been using 3D printers for years to create custom parts. The EM Lab team is looking forward to the newest printer and looking ahead in hopes YPG will purchase a 3D printer that can print metal which will complete the triad. (Photo by Ana Henderson)



Printing time depends on the density of the design. The EM Lab uses these blocks to display the different density capabilities. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

"The customer will come in with the test officer" because they heard about the EM Lab "Sometimes it's something small and there is no other way to fix it," says Taylor.

The EM Lab team is looking forward to the newest printer and looking ahead hopes YPG will purchase a 3D printer that can print metal which will complete the triad.



Bob Bieser worked closely with the Airborne Test Force to create an enclosure for a GoPro camera. ABOVE: This image shows the rendering of the design and BELOW: here is the printed product. (Photos by EM Lab)



YPG team volunteers for national STEM competition

By Ana Henderson

Yuma Proving Ground's (YPG) Science, technology, engineering and mathematics' (STEM) team volunteered for the National Judging & Educational Event (NJ&EE) eCyber competition.

YPG's team consisted of Ashely Lochetto, Iris Espinoza, Paula Rickleff and Savanna Silva. Each member served the team in a different capacity. Yuma Test Center Commander Alicia Johnson took part in the introduction and motivated the students for

the competition.

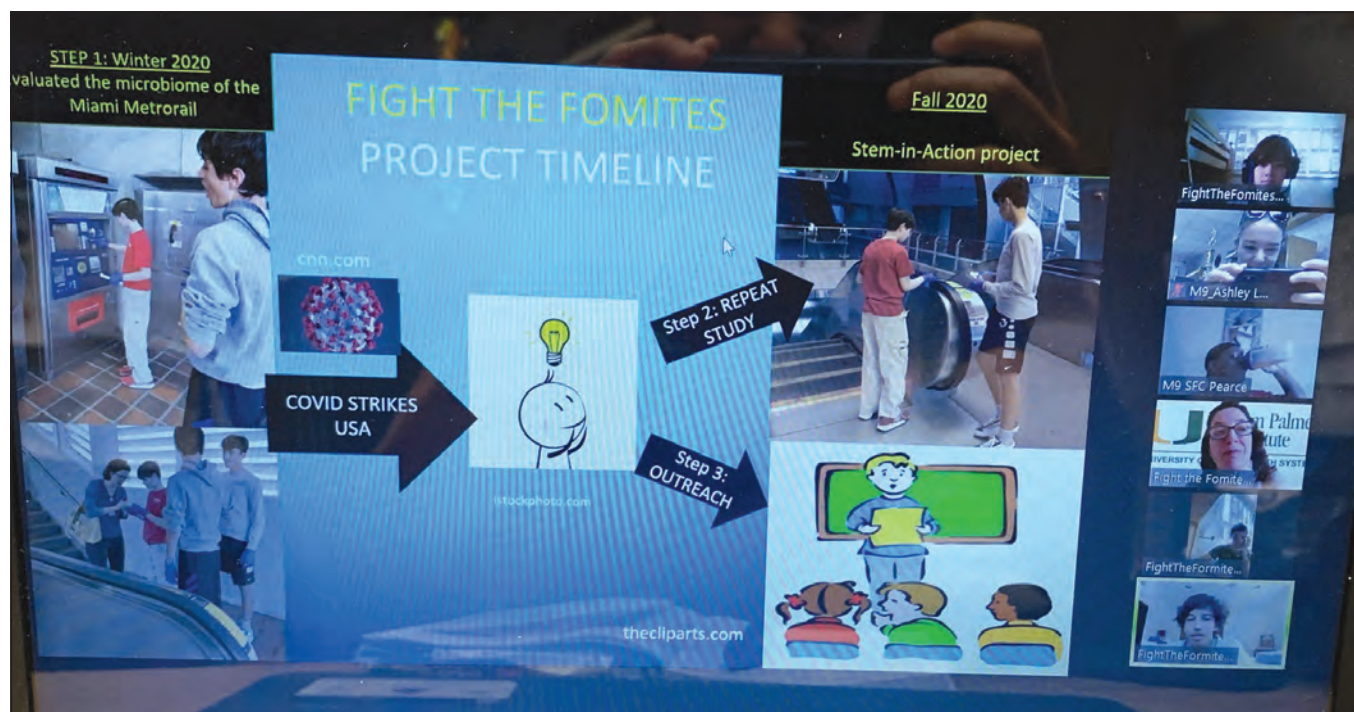
The student teams consisted of three to four students from grades sixth through ninth grade, plus an advisor. They had a mission to solve a real community problem. All the work was done virtually this year.

Silva says, "Their work makes it evident that our future is bright as it is bursting with a generation who will step up to bring about the next series of technological advancements."

The competition

SEE **STEM** page 12

YPG's STEM team volunteered for the National Judging & Educational Event eCyber competition. The event was held virtually and broadcast on YouTube this year. Congratulations to the YPG team for placing third in the Volunteer Incentive category. (Photos by Ashley Lochetto)



YPG's EEO opens first official Mother's Lactation Room

By Joann Bailey, EEO Director,
Yuma Proving Ground

Women today are more likely to work while pregnant. Data collected by the Pew Research Center indicates that not only are a higher share of women who are pregnant continuing to work, but they also are working longer into their pregnancies and returning to work much sooner after. While pregnancy can be a joyous and exciting time, it can also present challenges at work for some women who experience limitations or complications associated with pregnancy. One of those complications can be finding a clean, private place to express milk while at work.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) in 2010 requires that employees provide lactation rooms in workplaces and reasonable break time for employees to express breast milk also that the location be 'a place, other than a bathroom, that is shielded from view and free from intrusion from coworkers and the public.' These



YPG's Lactation room is equipped with all the amenities needed to make a nursing mother comfortable including seating, electrical outlets for breast pumps, a sink with hot and cold water, a refrigerator for storing milk, curtains for privacy, and storage for pumping supplies. (Photos by Kelly Merritt)



requirements became effective in March 2010, and apply to all employers with more than 50 employees.

Since their inception, lactation rooms have been recognized as a building amenity with advantages for both employer and employee. Benefits include increased workplace diversity, improved children's health, reduced absenteeism, and increased productivity.


As the nation's largest employer, the federal government strives to be a leader in the promotion of wellness programs and progressive workforce policies. While in the process of

construction an official Lactation Room with all the amenities required Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) provided mother's with make-shift nursing rooms. The Lactation Room under went construction in December of 2019 and opened for use later that month.



YPG's Lactation room is easy to find and identified as part of the facility's signage and wayfinding system. It is equipped with a lockable door (accessible by emergency personnel), counter, comfortable seating with adjustable armrest, trash can, paper towels, cleansers, electrical outlets for breast

pumps. A sink with hot and cold water to clean up after expressing breastmilk., a refrigerator for storing milk, curtains for privacy, a mirror, storage for pumping supplies, bulletin board for messages, and education materials. The room also includes, comfortable, non-glaring lights and a palette of soft colors, patterns, and textures conducive to relaxation.

The Lactation Room is available for use during working hours. For entry code or questions regarding the room call 928-210-2245 or email the EEO staff at usarmy.ypg.atec.list.eeo.



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YPG celebrates June birthdays with a parade



Since the COVID-19 pandemic is causing the cancellation of birthday parties, YPG's Child and Youth Services decided to host a birthday parade. Youth Services Director Sommer Cloinger asked the community to submit names and addresses of those with June birthdays. Cathy Robinson with the Family Advocacy Program created gift bags for graduating students. On June 27, the team hopped on the party bus, the YPG Police Department gave McGruff the Crime Dog got a ride and YPG Fire Department also took part in the parade. Together they drove around base housing presenting the goodies. Cloinger says, "This couldn't have been possible without some major YPG community support and my Youth Service team! They assisted with the coordination and execution of the parade for the community, and to make this event memorable for our kiddos on post!" (Photos by CYS staff)



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U.S. Army Garrison Yuma Proving Ground Employee Recognition Ceremony



Civilian of the Year Award
Angie Howden-Berry



Civilian of the Quarter Awards

Katherine Hirth – 3rd Quarter



Alfonzo Brown – 4th Quarter

Meritorious Civilian Service Medal

Ronald Van Why

Civilian Service Commendation Medal

Martin E. Clark

Iselle Oquendo

Ronald Rodriguez

Civilian Service Achievement Medals

Kassandra Bedoya

Leonel Cordova

Sgt. Rosemary Cortez

Alfonzo Brown

Length of Service Awards

5 years of Service

Kassandra Bedoya

Amanda Brooks

Julie Shields

10 years of Service

Brad Gray

Efran Huerta

Jairo Magana

Melissa Pham

Barry Wise

15 years of service

Mary Beebe

20 Years of Service

Mary Beebe

Rick Bessett

Michael Darr

Carolyn Lauzon

Sonia May

25 Years of Service

Robert Barocio

Benjamin Rix

Arron Welch

30 Years of Service

Gerald Ball

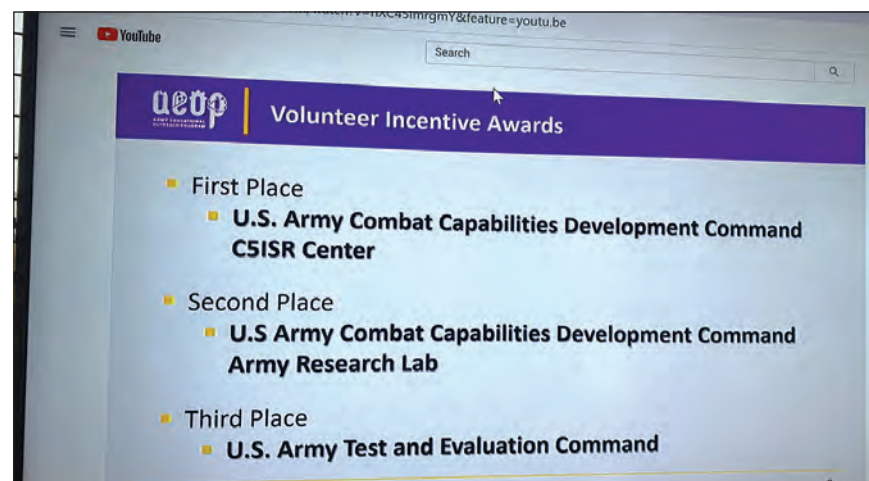
Deborah Campbell

Alfonzo Brown

35 Years of Service

Gary Jones

Ronny James



STEM

FROM PAGE 7

website states, “The U.S. Army Educational Outreach Program is committed to answering the Nation’s need for increased national STEM literacy and to expanding STEM education

opportunities across the country to open doors to new career paths for American students that lead to a brighter tomorrow.”

YPG’s volunteer team placed third in the Volunteer Incentive category. The team was the only representing Army Test and Evaluation Command. Congratulations!

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