

# The Outpost

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

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## Change of command season

Tis' the season of change. The Army Test and Evaluation Command, Yuma Proving Ground and Cold Regions Test Center all welcomed a new commander in July.

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(Photo by Lindsey Monger)



(Photo by Ana Henderson)



(Photo by Sebastian Saarloos)

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# Private company tests ballistic orbital space access, new propellant at YPG

By Mark Schauer

The world record for the highest altitude artillery shot—which reached past the Karman Line into space-- was set at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground in 1966.

The test fire more than 50 years ago proved the concept of ballistic suborbital space access, but funding for the program was cancelled the following year.

Yet the idea of using artillery as a low-cost alternative to rockets to launch payloads into Earth orbit lives on. Currently, a private industry customer called Green Launch is conducting testing here to launch a projectile into space with an innovative new propellant technology.

Using a hydrogen and oxygen gas propellant whose only byproduct is water vapor, the company has achieved four mega joules of energy



A private industry customer called Green Launch is conducting testing at Yuma Proving Ground to launch a projectile into space with an innovative new propellant technology. They plan to use this weapon system to test launch the theory on land. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

with horizontal fires at YPG, and approached the velocities reached in

the vertical shot that set the world record in 1966.

“Last year, we launched a three kilogram test projectile at about 1.6 kilometers per second,” said Brad Tower, Green Launch CEO. “It proved our ignition system and we discovered some challenges with our release mechanism.”

The successful shot that propelled the payload at nearly Mach Five resulted in more venture capital, and the team believes that later this year it will achieve the same velocities as the record-breaking shot. At present the team is firing horizontally into a newly-constructed catch box, and preparations are underway to fire vertically at YPG later this year. For these shots, the team will utilize their newly-constructed hydraulic gun mount, which will allow them to elevate the barrel to the necessary 87 degree angle.

“We are getting ready to test where we can go up to 20 to 22 mega joules, which will build up enough energy to get our vehicle to 105 to

110 kilometers of altitude.”

The projectile will land about 20 kilometers downrange from its firing point, which is easily accomplished within YPG’s 1,200 square miles of land area and 2,000 square miles of restricted airspace that in places reaches to outer space.

The test fires at YPG are meant to serve as a technology demonstration, said Tower. The final device will achieve 160 mega joules of energy, roughly eight times more powerful than what is being fired now. Eventually, the company’s ambitions for the technology will force than to test elsewhere.

“Ultimately we want to go orbital, so that will require getting away from a landlocked facility like YPG. YPG has the unlimited vertical air space and a large enough range to get us into space and back down with a very, very high level of certitude that we would land back on the range, but if you want to get orbital, you

## THEOUTPOST

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# YPG's NEC instrumental in making mass teleworking possible

By Ana Henderson

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, companies looked for ways to keep business running while still following the Center for Disease Control's guidelines which included social distancing.

One of those solutions was teleworking. At Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) prior to the crisis, telework was used, but not commonly.

"It was primarily for people who traveled or higher ranking leaders," explained Paul Harley with the Network Enterprise Center (NEC) at YPG. "The average worker did not take a computer home to work."

When it came time to provide the capability to the masses, there were two components needed.

"The key things you have to have to telework are a laptop and virtual private network (VPN) capability."

The NEC was equipped with one of the two. "We gave out every laptop we had in stock."

However the NEC did not have mass VPN capability at that moment. "We didn't buy extra VPN capability because it all cost money. So we had to beef up quick."

YPG owned very few VPN licenses. Fortunately, YPG's equipment partner helped the NEC get started with a 90-day trial of licenses until YPG was able to purchase them. The NEC also replaced the VPN hardware.

Once employees were teleworking, the next challenge was to keep them in communication. While telephone communication is easy with one-on-one calls, it was not sufficient for meetings.

"Now you have whole departments that have to talk to each other throughout the day."

Once audio conferences were established, the next step was giving the workforce the ability to host video conferences and to share information in real time. This was accomplished with Microsoft Teams,



NEC set up a program that has enabled test customers to view live stream video of their projects remotely. This became an asset when travel restrictions were in effect and customers could not be at the test site in person. It allowed YPG to continue test operations (Photo by Mark Schauer)

which is a newly implemented Army wide program. The system allows for groups of employees to hold video conferencing meetings from their laptop and simultaneously sharing information such as a PowerPoint presentation. This type of meeting most closely resembles an in-person meeting.

On the testing side, the NEC set up a program that has enabled test customers to view live stream video of their projects remotely. This became an asset when travel restrictions were in effect and customers could not be at the test site in person. It allowed YPG to continue test operations.

Prior to the COVID crisis, YPG had a dozen or so infrequent teleworkers. Once the pandemic hit and teleworking was instituted the installation had hundreds. This was all done within a very short window.

"I do think we were in a pretty good posture to support the pandemic from an IT perspective from what

we had on the shelf, and that was refreshing because I don't think we spent an increased amount of money to get ready to work off site. I think we were already there," said Lewis Grable, Chief of the Policy and Plans Division with the NEC.

Grable added, "As an IT guy I

think things can always be better, things can always be faster, we can tweak something to make it better, but when you do that the security piece is always in the background. There has always been a fight between convenience and security. So you have to strike a balance."



The YPG Network Enterprise Center team, made up of about 60 members, made sure teleworking was possible for employees. (Photo by Ana Henderson)



## Shootin' the Breeze

# Our new fashion accessory

By David J. Horn

Watching the world change when computers arrived on the scene, or digital photography, or cell phones, I used to wonder what would be the next big thing that would change the way we lived our lives. Wow...at the moment, I really regret asking that question.

So here we are, in our new COVID-19 reality. It looks like the changes we are now living with, including wearing face masks when we go out in public, are going to be with us for a while. And, since our face masks have been with us for a few months now, here's an update.

I'm going to start off with my favorite mask, which is plain gray in color, has two straps that loop behind the ears, and has a removable filter on the inside. The thing I like most about this mask, is that it's quick and easy to put on or take off. Because

it tapers a little toward the sides, it doesn't creep up into my eyes or cause my glasses to fog up. The only down side to this style of mask, is that there's a fine line between getting the mask tight enough to be up snug to your face, and having the straps pull so hard on your ears, that your ears start to stick out sideways. A few of my coworkers need to take note of this and dial things back a little bit.

While my mask is rather plain looking, I think the coolest masks out there, are the ones that are made by the people who know how to sew. Whether it's the colorful fabrics, prints or patterns, some of them are really creative.

Anyone looking online can also find a huge assortment of masks, from those printed with wild graphics, to those broadcasting your favorite sayings or slogans. Even though

you might not be able to watch your favorite sports team in person yet, you can still wear their team graphics proudly front and center. It's almost like a bumper sticker, for the front.

The only people I've personally observed as having a little difficulty adjusting to this mask thing, are people who work in banks. A while back I walked into the lobby of my local bank kinda fast, and...I will not do that again.

As for me, I have two masks to meet mission needs. I have the work-stained mask that I wear here on the job, plus I have a clean wrinkle-free mask at home for those special occasions when I go out on the town to the grocery store, or to my favorite curbside pickup restaurant.

So, stay safe everybody and keep wearing your mask! Until we are comfortably in the clear, don't leave home without it!



Dave Horn is modeling his newest fashion accessory...a mask he says "While my mask is rather plain looking, I think the coolest masks out there, are the ones that are made by the people who know how to sew. Whether it's the colorful fabrics, prints or patterns, some of them are really creative." (Photo by Ryelle Pattuinan)

## Chaplain's Corner

# The next time someone needs you...stay

By Chaplain Maj. Ronald Beltz

A nurse took the tired, anxious serviceman to the bedside. "Your son is here," she said to the old man. She had to repeat the words several times before the patient's eyes opened.

Heavily sedated because of the pain of his heart attack, he dimly saw the young uniformed U.S. Army Soldier standing outside the oxygen tent. He reached out his hand. The Soldier wrapped his war toughened fingers around the old man's limp ones, squeezing a message of love and encouragement.

The nurse brought a chair so that the Soldier could sit beside the bed. All through the night

the young Soldier sat there in the poorly lighted ward, holding the old man's hand and offering him words of love and strength. Occasionally, the nurse suggested that the Soldier move away and rest awhile. He refused.

Whenever the nurse came into the ward, the Soldier was oblivious of her and of the night noises of the hospital – the clanking of the oxygen tank, the laughter of the night staff members exchanging greetings, the cries and moans of the other patients.

Now and then she heard him say a few gentle words. The dying man said nothing, only held tightly to his son all through the night

Along towards dawn, the old man died. The Soldier released the now lifeless hand he had been holding and went to tell the nurse. While she did what she had to do, he waited. Finally, she returned. She started to offer words of sympathy, but the Soldier interrupted her. "Who was that man?" he asked.

The nurse was startled, "He was your father," she answered.

"No, he wasn't," the Soldier replied. "I never saw him before in my life."

"Then why didn't you say something when I took you to him?"

"I knew right away there had been a mistake, but I also knew he

needed his son, and his son just wasn't here.

I've seen too many dying men who needed their mothers, girlfriends, or wives, and watched as nurses held their hands. When I realized that he was too sick to tell whether or not I was his son, knowing how much he needed me, I stayed." I came here tonight to find a Mr. William Grey. His son was killed in Iraq yesterday day, and I was sent to inform him.

What was this gentleman's name?

The nurse with tears in her eyes answered, Mr. William Grey.....

The next time someone needs you ... stay.

# Change of command ceremony marks change in ATEC leadership

By Lindsey Monger

Maj. Gen. Joel K. Tyler relinquished duties as the commander of the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC) to Brig. Gen. James J. Gallivan during the change of command ceremony July 15 on Aberdeen Proving Ground.

A change of command is a military tradition that represents a transfer of authority and responsibility for a unit or command. The history, tradition, and accomplishments of the command are embodied in the colors. The passing of colors from an outgoing commander to an incoming commander ensures that the unit and its Soldiers are never without official leadership, represents a continuation of trust, and signifies an allegiance of Soldiers to their unit's commander.

Gen. Joseph M. Martin, the 37th Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, presided over the ceremony. He credited Tyler for his incredible leadership to a dynamic organization, and reflected on his accomplishments and responsibilities during his time at ATEC.

"Your optimistic can-do style of

leadership has paid dividends here especially through the trying times we have all recently experienced," said Martin. "Your leadership to the modernization effort has been nothing short of transformative. You have provided understanding to Army Senior Leaders, which is not easy to do when you are speaking a different language with multiple dialects and being able to communicate that to a universal audience."

Martin listed many of Tyler's accomplishments, to include: restructured ATEC to align with U.S. Army Futures Command (AFC) Cross Functional Teams; planned and executed tests for signature programs; tested and evaluated more than 900 systems; established an ATEC Line of Effort to recruit, develop, and retain the skilled and innovative workforce; served as an advocate for ATEC modernization efforts; and assisted in increasing the funding for testing infrastructure and capabilities.

"He [Tyler] will never see the benefits but this organization will



Former ATEC Commander Maj. Gen. Joel K. Tyler's next assignment will be as the director of J-3 Operations/Cyber at U.S. Africa Command, Germany. (Photos by Lindsey Monger)

because of his leadership and vision," as the Commanding General of the said Martin. U.S. Army Joint Modernization

Tyler assumed command of ATEC June 7, 2018; prior to that, he served

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The Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC) welcomed a new ATEC Commander and Sgt. Major on July 15. Here you see the symbolic passing of the guidon. Brig. Gen. James J. Gallivan is now the ATEC Commander. During the ceremony, Command Sgt. Maj. Jon E. Helring transferred his duties as the ATEC Command Sergeant Major to Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald J. Graves.

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# New commander at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground

By Mark Schauer

U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground held a change of command ceremony on July 8 with Col. Ben Patrick McFall III assuming command from Col. Ross C. Poppenberger.

The modest ceremony was held virtually as a COVID-19 mitigation measure, with hundreds watching a live stream on YPG's Facebook page as a small group of attendees looked on in person.

McFall assumes command as the proving ground's position at the forefront of Army modernization efforts have garnered national attention. The proving ground actively supports six of the Army Futures Command's Cross Functional Teams 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 waging irregular warfare that has been achieved since the 9/11 attacks. Later this year the proving ground will serve as venue for a large demonstration connected with Project Convergence, the campaign of learning designed to aggressively advance and integrate the Army's contribution to the developing concept of Joint All-Domain Command and Control.

"I can't speak to how excited and honored I am to have this



Outgoing YPG Commander Col. Ross C. Poppenberger passed the guidon in a symbolic gesture to incoming Col. Ben Patrick McFall III during the YPG Change of Command ceremony July 8. McFall will lead YPG for the next three years. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

opportunity," said McFall. "The reputation of YPG is outstanding and widely known: I am awestruck by the capabilities of our workforce and our top-notch facilities."

Outgoing commander Poppenberger received widespread praise for his emphasis on positioning the proving ground to support Army modernization priorities far into the future and support of community outreach efforts, which included such unprecedented events as the YPG 75th Anniversary and YPG 2020 open houses, the latter of which drew 22,000 people onto the installation.

He credited these outreach efforts with results like the state's allocation of \$28 million to begin a long-needed expansion of Highway 95, YPG's major traffic artery, to four lanes.

"Modernization has always been YPG's wheelhouse," said Poppenberger. "Historically, all of the personnel in acquisition circles knew the amazing work and value that YPG delivers to the force, but now senior leaders are coming here in droves to see what we do for modernization."

In remarks at the ceremony, McFall pledged to continue the post's vital work in support of Army

modernization efforts, and thanked YPG personnel for their longstanding rigor in testing virtually every piece of equipment in the ground combat arsenal. He mentioned having personal as well as professional appreciation for the workforce's efforts.

"As a mechanized infantry company commander in Iraq in 2004, I tested your equipment on two-way live fire ranges. Never once did I doubt that it would do what it was supposed to do. I'm here today because of the work you did yesterday."

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.

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."



Soldiers from the Airborne Test Force presented Col. McFall's wife Heidi with yellow roses and their two children Aisley and Liam with welcome gifts during the change of command ceremony. (Photo by Mark Schauer)



Members of the community attended the modest change of command ceremony including the City of Yuma Mayor Douglas Nicholls, City of Yuma Administrator Phillip Rodriguez, MCAS Commander Col. Charles Dudik and Arizona State Representative Tim Dunn. (Photo by Ana Henderson)



# Cold Regions Test center welcomes new commander

By Clara Zachgo

The reins of the U.S. Army Cold Regions Test Center (CRTC) were entrusted to a new leader during a change of command ceremony held at the Fort Greeley Community Activities Center on June 30. A small group of CRTC colleagues along with a few friends welcomed incoming commander, Lt. Col. Ina Jackson, and said farewell to outgoing commander, Lt. Col. Loren Todd. The rest of the workforce, along with countless member of the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command team, and friends and family from all over the country watched the change of command virtually.

Former Yuma Proving Ground Commander Col. Ross Poppenberger, served as the host commander virtually. Col. Christopher Ruga, Commander of U.S. Army Garrison Alaska, stood in Poppenberger's place as the colors were passed.

During this time-honored tradition that formally transfers total responsibility, authority and accountability from one leader to the next, Poppenberger described LTC Todd's as "a simply outstanding leader that lead CRTC through an exceptional period of growth." He praised him as a "tremendous critical thinker, outstanding officer, and one of the top that I've served with. His transformation of leadership will have a lasting effect on this organization and the Department of Defense programs tested here, as well as subordinate leaders and the workforce he has mentored."

Todd, a Field Artillery Officer and member of the Army Acquisition Corps, had been the Commander of the CRTC since May 2018. He was commissioned in June 2001 as a Field Artillery Office at Fort Richardson, Alaska where he held several positions as an Arctic



U.S. Army Garrison Alaska Commander Col. Christopher Ruga stood in for former YPG Commander Col. Ross Poppenberger during the passing of the colors. (Photos by Sebastian Zaarloos)

paratrooper. He was stationed at Camp Casey, Korea and Fort Bragg, North Carolina before transitioning to the acquisition career field in January of 2010. Since then he has held positions at Operational Test Command, Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space, and the Pentagon. He has completed four operational deployments, two each in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. During his remarks, Todd addressed the CRTC workforce, "Thank you for your skill and dedication. You embody the frontier spirit, your ingenuity and willingness to pitch in and help one another, no matter the task, will always enable us to accomplish any mission we're given." He concluded, "Ina, your reputation proceeds you and I'm thrilled to hand off the colors to someone of your caliber. I'm sure CRTC will continue to excel under your leadership." Todd is transitioning to the Pentagon in Washington D.C. where he will work in the budget office.

Poppenberger welcomed Jackson to the YPG team saying "I know you are well prepared to continue the outstanding work that Lt. Col. Todd has done up there. Lt. Col. Jackson

has held all the key leadership positions, both during her operational assignments and her acquisition assignments, and is well prepared for the mission."

Jackson was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Signal Corps in 2002 through Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia. As a signal officer, she held positions in Korea, Georgia, Kentucky, and Florida and was deployed to Qatar and Afghanistan. Jackson joined the Acquisition Corps in 2010 and lead a variety of acquisition assignments. Jackson most recently served as the Brigade Executive Officer, 414th Contracting Support Brigade, Caserma Ederle, Italy.

After taking command of CRTC, Jackson spoke to the CRTC workforce for the first time saying, "Lt. Col. Todd, thank you for making this the best transition I've ever had. What an incredible opportunity I have to command and lead the Cold Regions Test Center and I won't take this responsibility lightly or forget the importance of what we do. I look forward to working with each of you and I look forward to this new adventure."



Outgoing CRTC Commander Lt. Col. Loren Todd relinquished command to Lt. Col. Ina Jackson in a virtual ceremony on June 30.



# Select employees receive distinguished St. Barbara awards

By Ana Henderson

On the morning of July 7, Yuma Proving Ground leaders held the Order of Saint Barbra awards presentation.

The Order of Saint Barbara is a military honor society of the U.S. for both the U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps Artillery, including Field Artillery and Air Defense Artillery. The award is named for Saint Barbara, the patron saint of artillerymen and is awarded to those individuals who have demonstrated the highest standard of integrity and moral character.

Wayne Schilders provided opening remarks and introduced Julio Dominguez former YPG technical director and Ancient Order recipient as the guest speaker during the ceremony.

The recipients were invited to the ceremony held at the Artillery Gunner's yard but unaware they were receiving the award.

YTC Commander LTC Alicia

Johnson announced the names of the recipients as former YPG Commander Col Ross Poppenberger and Technical Director Larry Bracamonte presented the awards. Following the awards presentation Technical Director Larry Bracamonte read the Genesis of Field Artillery. To end the ceremony, Schilders read the Fiddler's Green while Douglas Arps acted out the Artillery Grog's skit and toast to the awardees which was a crowd pleaser. Congratulations to all the recipients!

The Ancient Order recipient:  
David Le

The Honorable Order of Saint Barbara recipients:  
Eddy Patchet  
Esteban Flores  
Lou Nguyen  
Robert J. Rodriguez  
Jose "Joe" Torres  
Daniel Zendejas  
Darrell Williams



(Left to right) Larry Bracamonte, Eddy Patchet, Steve Flores, Darrell Williams, Daniel Zendejas, Robert Rodriguez, Joe Torres, David Le, Lou Nguyen, Lt. Col. Alicia Johnson, former Col. Ross Poppenberger.



David Le, received the prestigious Ancient Order award. Le is known as a world-renowned expert in the field of artillery and mortar inspections and has performed more than 25,000 inspections since 1980.



Julio Dominguez former YPG technical director and Ancient Order recipient served as the guest speaker during the ceremony. (Photos by Mark Schauer)

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# Yuma Test Center recognizes employees' outstanding contributions



ABOVE: Soldiers from the Airborne Test Force were recognized for their help with the YPG 2020 open house and community celebration. A handful of Soldiers also received recognition as they prepared for a permanent change of station this month.

RIGHT: Shepherd "Kermit" Okamura, Juan Elizarraras, Steve Flores along with Chris Tennant and Jered Ford received a certificate of appreciation from Brig. Gen. John Rafferty, Director of the Long Range Precision Fires for their work making the Extended Range Cannon Prototype Demonstration a success.



Former YPG Commander Col. Ross Poppenberger handed Engineering Technician with Weapons Operations Michael Gomez a Department of the Army Civilian Service Commendation Medal award for his work on the testing of various long range precision fires programs. Gomez served as the primary crew leader. Technical Director Larry Bracamonte looks on while Command Sgt. Maj. Jamathon Nelson prepares to pin Gomez's medal. (Photos by Ana Henderson)







ABOVE & BELOW: A large group of civilian employees received certificates of appreciation for their participation in the YPG 2020 open house and community celebration. Many served as subject matter experts at the displays during the event.



Former YPG Commander, Col. Ross Poppenberger presented a framed letter of recognition from Joint Program Executive Officer, Brig. Gen. Alfred Abramson to Shepherd "Kermit" Okamura, Juan Elizarraras, Steve Flores, Adrian Fernandez, and Michael Henderson for their efforts with the Long Range Precision Fire Cross-Functional Team VIP demonstration. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

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# PROPELLANT

FROM PAGE 2

have to have essentially unlimited downrange. We will probably end up somewhere in the South Pacific to do the kind of orbital shots we want to do.”

Tower says that using YPG as a test facility has greatly helped the start-up company in their efforts to rigorously control costs, and characterizes the support his team receives from YPG personnel as unparalleled.

“I don’t think we could do this anywhere else in the United States. We’ve gotten support all along that is incalculable in its value. These guys really put their back into it, and the professionalism has been exceptional.”



Using a hydrogen and oxygen gas propellant whose only byproduct is water vapor, the company has achieved four mega joules of energy with horizontal fires at YPG, and approached the velocities reached in the vertical shot that set the world record in 1966.



“We are getting ready to test where we can go up to 20 to 22 mega joules, which will build up enough energy to get our vehicle to 105 to 110 kilometers of altitude,” explained Brad Tower, Green Launch CEO. (Photos by Mark Schauer)

# ATEC

FROM PAGE 5

Command at Fort Bliss, Texas. His other assignments include service stateside, in the Federal Republic of Germany and the Republic of Korea. In addition, he has deployed to Operation Desert Shield/Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Spartan Shield.

When Tyler took command two years ago, he was tasked to “move test and evaluation out of the industrial age and into the information age.” “Today I can report that we’re getting there, along with the rest of the Army Modernization Enterprise. We have updated our processes to conduct essential testing, we are building methods to share data and test artificial intelligence-enabled systems, and thanks to Army senior leader interest, we are upgrading our decades-old infrastructure,” said Tyler.

Tyler credited the ATEC workforce for their amazing skill and commitment. “The most recent example is that Army Modernization has stayed on track during this

pandemic because ATEC has stayed on the job.”

“I am so proud to have been part of this amazing organization and helping to tell its story,” said Tyler. “ATEC strives every day to remain relevant and contribute value to the Army and the Nation’s defense. To realize that transition to the Information Age, it is time to consider the future of test and evaluation as resources are challenged, systems grow more complex, and time to deliver becomes more critical. ATEC remains the organization best postured to bring the Army’s future to life, and I ask you to consider what it needs to do just that.”

Tyler’s next assignment is to serve as the director of the J-3 Operations and Cyber at U.S. Africa Command, Germany.

Martin presented Tyler with the Distinguished Service Medal and his wife, Stacy, with the Army Public Service Commendation Medal.

Martin introduced the new commander to the ATEC team. “I know you’re the right leader for the right job and you will keep

this organization on track towards realizing our modernization efforts. I’m looking forward to observing future tests with you and I will bring as many people that are willing to come to those tests so they can see what’s going on not only in the Army, not only with that equipment, but in the greatness of this organization.”

Tyler also welcomed Gallivan to the ATEC team. “You will never serve with a more dedicated and competent group of people. I wish you the best of luck.”

Gallivan previously served as the chief of staff for AFC, located in Austin, Texas. Additional assignments include deputy commanding general (Operations) for 1st Armored Division and Fort Bliss, and commander of the 402nd Field Artillery Brigade and the 5th Armor Brigade.

“It is a true privilege to join the ATEC team and build on the vision and leadership that Gen. Tyler brought to ATEC,” said Gallivan. “I am excited to serve with all of you.”

In the transition of the passing of the colors during the ceremony,

Command Sgt. Maj. Jon E. Helring passed the colors to Tyler signifying his relinquishment of responsibilities as the ATEC command sergeant major. Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald J. Graves received the colors from Gallivan, signifying his assumption of responsibility as the ATEC command sergeant major.

“Command Sgt. Maj. Graves, I know that you too, will bring great care and concern to the Soldiers in this organization,” said Martin. “As you advise Gen. Gallivan, I expect you to voice the care and concern to ensure that we are truly putting our people first.”

Martin concluded his remarks by capitalizing on the amazing teamwork between Tyler and Helring. “The net result of your work is a highly effective organization, consisting of the right people and the right equipment that we trust to modernize our Army and make that effort happen. You are leaving this organization better than you found it. You have left an incredible mark of excellence in testing and evaluation community and the effects of which will be felt for many years to come.”