

The Outpost

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

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YPG opens new Compact Item Repair shop building

By Ana Henderson

The construction of the new Compact Item Repair shop building will allow for Kineto Tracking Mount (KTM) operators and maintenance crews to work under one very large roof.

Up until now they were divided by Highway 95, working out of two buildings on separate cantonments of Yuma Proving Ground (YPG).

The newly constructed building will bring the two groups together. "All the operators and maintenance crews will be under the same roof so if something goes wrong they will all be right there," explains Steven Taylor, with the engineering support branch adding, "It will be great to have them operating under the same roof."

KTM's play in important role at YPG, "The KTMs support a lot of air drops providing video data as well

SEE **REPAIR SHOP** page 6



The new Compact Item Repair shop building is open for business! About 30 employees will work out of the building, which boasts 9,000 square feet: 5,200 square feet of shop area, and 3,800 square feet of office area. (US Army photo)

Monsoon season can be unpredictable – caution is needed

By Ana Henderson

Monsoon season in the Desert Southwest usually means thunderstorms, strong winds, torrential rain and haboobs, yet so far this season has been quiet. Yuma Proving Ground's (YPG) Lead Meteorologist Gabriel Langbauer explains we should still not let our guard down. "Monsoon season can be very dangerous and very unpredictable." Langbauer recalls an incident several years ago at YPG when he saw the dirt road collapse under a truck in front of him. "The rain had eaten the ground below the surface but the road still looked good." YPG's Meteorology (MET) team has recorded some astonishing statistics from the YPG Climate Station over the years, such as wind

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ACS provides school supplies for Soldier's kids /Page 8



Innovative thinking saved big horn sheep from water shortage /Page 11



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Generals visit YPG: focus on modernization

Stars shone on YPG throughout the week of July 26, with White Sands Missile Range Commanding General Brig. Gen. David Trybula and Fort Sill U.S. Army Fires Center of Excellence Commanding General Maj. Gen. Kenneth Kamper both receiving comprehensive tours of YPG test facilities from YPG Commander Col. Patrick McFall. The distinguished guests visited with multiple YPG personnel and expressed how impressed they were with their efforts in support of Army modernization priorities.



Airborne Test Force Chief Travus Heffernan is pictured briefing Brig. Gen. David Trybula and Command Sgt. Maj. Chris Prosser at the Airborne Test Facility.

THEOUTPOST

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Munitions and Weapon's Branch Chief Steve Flores briefs Maj. Gen. Kenneth Kamper as, Technical Director Larry Bracamonte and Command Sqt. Maj. Stephen Burnley look on. (Photos by Mark Schauer)



Brig. Gen David Trybula and Command Sgt. Maj. Chris Prosser listen as Metrology Branch Chief Brad Cox explains the importance of metrology and simulation at YPG.



Maj. Gen. Kenneth Kamper learns about YPG's unmanned aircraft systems from Aviation Branch Test Officer Brandon Kubilus.

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COVID cases declining in Arizona, Yuma County

By Mark Schauer

In early August, Arizona's experience with COVID-19 seems to be stabilizing.

Statewide as of August 10, the number of new cases had declined 48% over the previous seven days. A large backlog of COVID tests in Arizona was also cleared, with the median turnaround time now clocking in at two days after common reports of 15 day-turnarounds in the latter part of July.

In another positive sign, all possible ways of figuring the metrics showed that Arizona's cumulative percent positive ratio of COVID tests is now under 10%. The number of acute care beds, intensive care beds, and ventilators in use in Arizona hospitals declined to their lowest levels since mid-June.

The positive news was just as apparent locally. In the first week in August, Yuma Regional Medical Center reported 59 current COVID hospitalizations, the lowest number since data reporting began in late May. The number of daily deaths in Yuma County, which fell below five on only one day in July, now had multiple days of lower numbers.

Despite the highly positive trends, however, YPG senior leaders caution

that this is no time for complacency.

"Daily cases rates are on the decline," said Maj. Jennifer Fiandt, YPG Health Clinic OIC. "However, COVID is still present in our community at very high levels. We really recommend that people continue to use masks in public, practice social distancing, and pay good attention to hand hygiene whenever you are out in the community."

Fiandt credits widespread adoption of face masks in public places in the wake of local mandates in cities throughout Yuma County with the drop.

"I think you can track the decline in cases locally directly to increased compliance with masking," said Fiandt.

Throughout the pandemic, YPG's work in support of Army modernization efforts has not stopped, which is reflected in the post's direct labor hours.

"We are about 6% behind where we were last year, which is not bad considering the circumstances," said Col. Patrick McFall, YPG Commander. "We have found innovative ways to continue our mission. As we look to the end of the year, we should end the year close or on par with where we were last year."

YPG's vital mission must proceed without fail, he added.

"We are a national asset," said McFall. "The Department of Defense is relying upon on us to do our mission, and everyone here is important to this mission."

As for post life, FMWR facilities like the post library and the Auto Skills Center reopened consistent with Army safety guidelines during the second week of the month, as did the post fitness center for Soldiers and first responders with a fitness requirement related to their work. Senior leaders say other facilities will reopen in due course as the broader Yuma community's numbers continue to decline.



Throughout the pandemic, YPG's work in support of Army modernization efforts has not stopped, which is reflected in the post's direct labor hours. "We are about 6% behind where we were last year, which is not bad considering the circumstances," said Col. Patrick McFall, YPG Commander. (Photos by Mark Schauer)

"Our number of COVID cases are going the right way now," said Command Sgt. Maj. Jamathon Nelson. "They're going the right way because things have been closed and the people that live and work on YPG

have been doing the right thing. As long as we keep wearing our masks, social distancing, and being careful what we do on weekends and going into town only for necessities, we will get there."















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A closer look with Casey:

Choice versus change - the decision is yours

By Casey Garcia

Change is defined as to make or become different, while normal is conforming to a standard; usual, typical, or expected. The world is changing all around us from how we shop, our leaders, how we communicate with friends and family to even how we work.

The term "new normal" has been used by our leaders, media, politicians and even our friends as a way to talk about uncertain times brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. The way new normal is framed, it brings about fear. You may feel stressed even if you are not sick resulting in feeling tired, worried, apathetic, anxious, frustrated, depressed or even afraid.

You may think that some are not taking the pandemic seriously enough, while others are being overzealous and unnecessarily panicked. You might believe that the call for social distancing is unjustified

or that the government has lost control.

Often times we think if the world change then we could change. We think if this obstacle or that blockage would disappear than we could change. The thing is we all have a choice to change. This language of a "new normal" is being deployed as a way to quell your fears in uncertainty but you have a choice to take control. A few ways to choose to defeat these fears is to plan for the unthinkable. Monitor the situation and shift your plan as things change. Be flexible so that when the time is right you can shift your plan to respond to the change and what lies beyond it.

Choose to see these times as an opportunity to shape the world for better. Challenge yourself to imagine the unthinkables and consider key questions for a better work and home environment.

We have a choice: we can succumb to the pressures of the pandemic or leverage the opportunity to induce personal growth. You probably know from experience when things times are tough, we wind up thinking, feeling, and doing things that we hadn't considered or even thought possible during more positive times. I remember the day I got my approval to retire from the Marine Corps to find out I was to be out of service no less than two weeks later. On one hand I was excited for the new chapter in life but on the other I was terrified. I had no job so how would I provide for my family? The unknowns were plentiful. Shortly after I was offered a job on the Marine Corps Air Station only to find out there was an executive order that I couldn't work as a government employee for 6 months. However, both times, in what I thought were my darkest hours, I wound up experiencing more personal growth

than ever before. I had the chance

to reinvent myself and that is likely

what is happening to you right now.

You might realize what you have taken for granted. Nothing in life is guaranteed. Socializing is restricted and many have lost jobs. Necessities are scarce but when we take a hard look at our good fortune, we become more aware of the despair of others.

You might be gaining clarity through simplicity. We can still take pleasure in phoning an old friend, writing in a journal or a letter to a friend, or reading a book. When we have a common enemy, we tend to bond with those around us. I think we can collectively agree that we do not want to get sick nor do we want others to get sick but in the end we need to work together to overcome the virus.

Summarily, change is upon us. Now is the time to recognize that your beliefs are also changing and this adjustment to the unknown will ultimately transform you for the better. Now please go wash your hands.

Chaplain's Corner -

Don't be a prisoner of fear

By Chaplain Maj. Ronald Beltz

It's said that scientist Louis
Pasteur, founder of the science of
microbiology, was morbidly afraid
of germs. That shouldn't surprise us.
It was Pasteur, you will remember,
who introduced us to the idea of
germs in the first place. The time
most of us learned about Pasteur
was when we were first introduced
to the pasteurization of milk.
Pasteurization is the means by which
harmful bacteria are removed from
milk

Pasteur discovered that these tiny microbes, bacteria, exist almost everywhere. Realizing that these bacteria can cause illnesses of many kinds, some of them fatal, and further realizing that, at that time, there were no effective antibiotics that could destroy these perilous bacteria, Pasteur became obsessed with his own personal cleanliness. He spent a ridiculous amount of time compulsively washing and rewashing his hands-he even washed the bar of soap! He refused to shake hands. If someone grabbed his hand to shake it, he immediately rushed to the nearest washroom to wash up. He was famous for examining his food before he ate it to look for any sign of contamination. He also examined dishes and silverware for any suspicious signs they hadn't been properly washed.

His obsession affected his concern for his son, who served in the French

Army during the FrancoPrussian War. He was stationed in an Army hospital far away from the front lines. You would think Pasteur would be relieved that his son was not involved in the fighting. This was no comfort, though, to Pasteur for he knew that hospitals can be especially infested with germs. It's interesting how the world has changed to where we are beginning to be concerned again about patients being infected with germs, even super-germs, in our hospitals today.

Pasteur was so obsessed with germ-infected hospitals that he actually wrote to his son's commanding officer requesting that his son be sent to the front and away from the contagion in the hospital. "In Pasteur's mind, flying bullets on the frontline were safer than all those germridden sick and wounded men. Despite his father's concerns, his son survived the war.

Here's what we need to see: God doesn't want us to be prisoners to fear. Actually, Louis Pasteur had good reason to fear, but think how much joy was taken out of his life by his constant obsession with germs. God doesn't want fear to rob us of our joy, or our effectiveness as his followers. He doesn't want to see us shrink back from responsibilities to our community and our family and ourselves because of fear.

God reminds us: Take courage! Don't be afraid! Wear a mask and wash your hands! OUTPOST AUGUST 17, 2020 **5**

MONSOON

FROM PAGE 1

at 61 knots (about 70 miles per hour) in August 1996 and six inches of rain in 1992, which Langbauer calls the "most monsoon only rain" received at YPG.

Langbauer notes there could have been stronger winds in other parts of the installation, however the YPG Climate Station goes back to the 1950s, so it is used as the reference station.

One fact to keep in mind is that due to size of YPG, roughly the size of Road Island, what is happening on one side of the installation may not be happening all-around, so employees must be vigilant.

"A lot of times those thunders storms happen overnight, so you go home from your shift and you think it's all safe, and you don't realize some of the farther parts of YPG had a thunderstorm."

Langbauer uses one of the weathers towers on the Kofa range as an example. "It's more exposed desert, there are no buildings out there, and it has the Wellton Mountains to play off, so it can be a little more extreme."

The MET team is made up of three meteorologist, two electronic technicians and three TRAX contractors who use a variety of equipment to track and forecast what might be heading our way.

"We start with the national available satellites and radars," we can use



YPG's Meteorology team has recorded some astonishing statistics from the YPG Climate Station over the years, such as wind at 61 knots in August 1996 and six inches of rain in 1992. This photos shows several inches of rain gathered on the roadway at YPG from a storm in 2015. (Photos by Mark Schauer)

that for a regional overview for the Desert Southwest. To track what is happening on YPG specifically they utilize "a series of weather surface stations, roughly 30 of which gives us a good understanding of what's going on."

Those metrics include visibility and wind sensors at multiple heights. The MET team also performs 4,000 balloon launches a year (paid for by the customers to track weather for testing events) more than anywhere else in the world. There are also 16 wash sensors that measure the height of water which strategically placed around the ranges.

"Those are really helpful to keep people safe and lets Range Operations and Shearwater Mission Support know if there has been any water damage" they also alert Range Operations when washes are running. "You know if there are four feet of water on a sensor that everything is destroyed."

Another danger of monsoon season are lightning strikes: The desert southwest gets it's good share of lightning.

"Several years ago we had a lightning strike hit the electrical substation and cause a fire." This monsoon season Langbauer wants employees to keep in mind:

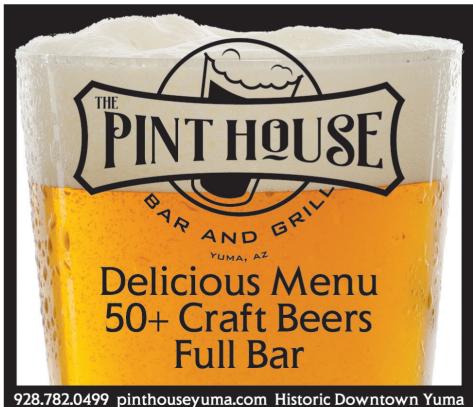
After rainfall anywhere where there is a dramatic change of terrain are places you need to be extra cautious with.

When you see a dust storm just pull over and wait it out.

Lightning can get your car, yourself, the building yourself so try to stay away from lightning.



Monsoon season in the Desert Southwest usually means thunderstorms, strong winds, torrential rain and haboobs. This road damage caused by monsoon rain in 2018 is typical of the damage torrentials rain cause at YPG.



REPAIR SHOP

FROM PAGE 1

as time space position information, direct fire as well as indirect fire. Once of the largest efforts they support and will continue to support is the long range precision fire crossfunctional tests" explains Taylor.

The Maintenance crew had been in previous building since 1993 but the building was not built to their needs it started out in 1955 as a motor pull building then the rigger shop for Air Delivery.

new building when a request for funding was submitting in 2013. The funding was approved in 2019 and construction stared in June 2019. The original completion date was scheduled for early 2020, but the COVID epidemic caused a delay.

Now that the building is complete, it has a lot to offer, starting with basic protection from the extreme Yuma weather. The building features two large pull-through bays which have enough room for two trucks and trailer systems. This was not possible in the past, Taylor said.

"With the former facility the best

trailer into the bay, but the actual truck that pulls the KTM couldn't fit into the bay for shade. This new building provides two huge bays so they can pull the truck and trailers in and work on them simultaneously." The building is equipped with a 10

ton remote-controlled crane to work on KTM pedestals and other heavy equipment. It features a Small Optics room for work on optical equipment with four state-of-the- art soldering stations with exhaust fans. There is also an office and conference area. "There's lot of nice things for both parties."

Mechanical (EOM) lab is next door to assist with any specialty work. "They do a lot of the cabling and some of the more difficult soldering and development work. The EOM Lab will be able to help them out. Plus the EOM lab works on the machinery and bracketing. Their location is excellent."

In all, the building will be able to accommodate the fleet of KTM and field systems adding up to nearly 40 pieces of equipment plus about 30 employees will work out of the building, which boasts 9,000 square feet: 5,200 square feet of shop area,



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LEFT & ABOVE; The 5,200 square feet of shop area also makes a nice area for displaying equipment during VIP visits such as this visit with Fort Sill U.S. Army Fires Center of Excellence Commanding General Maj. Gen. Kenneth Kamper. (Photos by Mark Schauer) TOP RIGHT: The building is equipped with a 10 ton remote-controlled crane to work on KTM pedestals and other heavy equipment. It also features two large pull-through bays which have enough room for two trucks and trailer systems. MIDDLE RIGHT: Crews will now be able to work on optical equipment in the Small Optics room which features four state-of-the- art soldering stations with exhaust fans. BOTTOM RIGHT: Another convenient feature are offices with a window view of the bay area. The building also has a meeting and breakroom for employees. (US Army photos)

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Innovative thinking saved big horn sheep from water shortage

By Ana Henderson

Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) has an extremely intelligent and dedicated workforce who are also passionate about the ecosystem around the range.

"I get calls a couple times a week from folks downrange who make an observation," explains YPG's Wildlife Biologist Daniel Steward.

This dedication leads to employees going above and beyond to solve a problem. So was the case when Range Operations Lead Darrell Williams reached out to YPG's Meteorological team to ask if they could help the Arizona Department of Game and Fish (AZDGF) with remotely monitoring wildlife water station tank levels.

Williams works closely with the YPG Environmental Sciences Division and the Meteorology Division, and they all work with AZDGF. Every few weeks the department flies over YPG's ranges to check on wildlife and the water stations. AZDGF monitors more than 25 wildlife waters on YPG alone.

Williams noticed that because

of YPG's busy firing schedule sometimes it was difficult for AZDGF to make their scheduled flights. Additionally, in those weeks between the flights there was no way to know if a tank had an issue. Those water stations are instrumental in sustaining wildlife. "That's part how we are able to sustain those high numbers that we are to be able to support sheep re-location by AZGFD to support bighorn populations statewide," explained Steward.

Williams had an idea and made the call to the Meteorological team. "I talked to the Met guys and said 'do those pressure transducers work on the tanks.' They said yes."

The pressure sensors work much like the sensors used to measure the water in washes around YPG's range. Because YPG has a very large range with remote locations that need to be monitored, there are sensors to alert when washes are running during a storm

Ryan Ingham and Cory Olsen, Electronics Technicians with the Meteorology Division at YPG, took that pressure senor and installed it in four of the AZDGF wildlife water tanks. Ingham comments that the installation was not difficult... it was accessing the tanks that was the challenge. "Some of these drinkers we had to go in by helicopter to bring in the equipment. Some we had to hike to, some are a few miles round trip. So we had to carry all the equipment up the mountain range."

Ingraham began monitoring the pressure data in the tanks and converting the pressure into depth in inches. He provides this data to AZDGF weekly.

In early July Ingham noticed a two inch drop in one tank. He notified AZDGF and they hiked out to the Chocolate Mountains that weekend. They found a broken pipe probably caused by two sheep who were horsing around, which in turn drained the tank. The team was also surprised to find 16 big horn sheep

milling around ...presumably in search of water.

The alert of the drop in water saved their lives, said Steward. "This time of year they really depend on that water" adding "If you let them go dry you are going to lose animals."

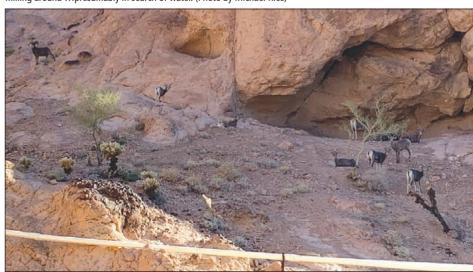
Steward is very proud to share this story because it illustrates just how dedicated individuals can make an impact. "Our workforce is passionate about the outdoors and these type of innovations bring these type of tools to bear."

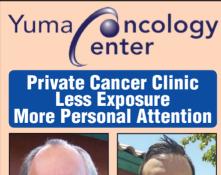
RIGHT: Ryan Ingham and Cory Olsen, Electronics Technicians with the Meteorology Division at YPG, took that pressure senor and installed it in four of the AZDGF wildlife water tanks. Olsen is pictured making his way to the water tank. (Photo by Ryan Ingham)





ABOVE: Ingham comments that the installation was not difficult... it was accessing the tanks that was the challenge. "Some of these drinkers we had to go in by helicopter to bring in the equipment. Some we had to hike to, some are a few miles round trip. So we had to carry all the equipment up the mountain range." (Photo by Ryan Ingham) BELOW; In early July Ingham noticed a two inch drop in one tank. He notified AZDGF and they hiked out to the Chocolate Mountains that weekend. They found a broken pipe. The team was also surprised to find 16 big horn sheep milling around ...presumably in search of water. (Photo by Michael Rice)









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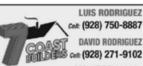
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Something got you fired up? Let us know! Send in a Letter to the Editor at letters@yumasun.com

OUTPOST AUGUST 17, 2020 11

Back2School Brigade provides backpacks for students at YPG





hallway of the Army Community Service (ASC) building at YPG. Rosa Dayton ACS, Paul Alarcon, School Liaison Officer, Sommer Cloinger Youth Director, Theresa Robinson, CDC Director and Shannon Murphy, CYS Trainer assisted in putting the backpacks and school supplies together. The Back2School Brigade was made possible because of the Chief of Family Support Division Mardy Clark, Operation Homefront and Woodside Homes Sponsors. ABOVE: Parents parked and waited as volunteers handed them canvas bags filled with school supplies. ACS thanks the Child and Youth Services staff and volunteers for their help with the event. (Photos loaned by ACS)

RIGHT: Hunter and Conner Miller smile as they dig through their bags. They are one of the 64 school aged children at YPG who received school supplies through the Back2School Brigade program. (Loaned photo)

Yuma Proving Ground BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION PARADE

YPG CYS will be holding a Birthday Parade for its YPG Residents on September 26th, 2020 at 10 AM.

We will be escorted by the YPG Fire Department and will be giving out **Birthday Goodie Bags and Balloons!**

If your child has had a birthday between July 1st - September 30th, and you would like to them recognized please send the following information:

Childs Name, Address, and Birthday Date

By August 31st, 2020 to Sommer.j.cloinger.naf@mail.mil This is for YPG Residents ONLY. We will Apologize for any inconvenience.

For more information please call 928-328-3119/3339



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1025 W. 24th St. Ste 1 (928) 344-1968 www.ZoundsHearing.com **12** AUGUST 17, 2020 OUTPOST

A complete 2020 Census count of military service members and their families is vital to their communities

Submitted by Tammy L. Parise

For cities and states across the country, active duty military, veterans and their families are an important part of community life.

But military families may not realize how important they are for the 2020 Census. They should know that the 2020 Census will have an impact on their communities' political representation and billions of dollars in funding annually for the next 10 years.

State, local and federal officials will use 2020 Census data to determine funding for infrastructure and public services such as hospitals, schools, emergency response services and road maintenance and construction. All are services that military members, veterans and their families use while they live in a community.

By now, most households in the United States have received an invitation to respond to the 2020 Census and several reminders. People can respond to the census online at 2020Census.gov, by phone at 844-330-2020 or by mailing in their paper questionnaire.

Together, we can ensure that our community receives the resources it needs.

Census 2020

Learn more at 2020census.gov.

The Census Bureau has clear guidance to help active duty military members understand how to respond to the 2020 Census based on where they are on April 1, 2020.

If you are active duty and:

• Deployed outside the United States while stationed in the United States, the Census Bureau will use administrative data from the Department of Defense to count you at your usual residence in the United

States. Note: Any family members living in the United States need to respond for themselves to a census questionnaire.

•Staying in barracks/dorms or other on-base group quarters in the United States, the Census Bureau will work with a point of contact on your base to ensure you are counted. In most cases, the contact will ask you to fill out an individual census questionnaire.

•Living in a household in the United States, such as privatized base housing, you need to respond to a census questionnaire and count everyone living there.

Starting August 4, census takers will begin interviewing households that have not yet responded to the 2020 Census. Military families are highly encouraged to respond now online, by phone or by mail to avoid a knock on the door by a 2020 Census worker.

Responses to the 2020 Census are safe and secure. Federal law bars the Census Bureau from releasing personal census data to law enforcement, immigration agencies or other government agencies.

Workforce reminded to be watchful during Antiterrorism Awareness Month and always

By Kerensa Crum

The Army Antiterrorism Program protects personnel, information, property and facilities daily from threats all over the world.

This year, due to the pandemic impacting the country, Antiterrorism Awareness Month looks different than in years past. Though most employees don't have to travel through physical security checkpoints to get to work, it's just as important to be vigilant while working from home

"Antiterrorism is the prevention or abatement of terrorism," said Paul Quintel, AMCOM security specialist and operations security program manager. "Since you are working from home and not in the protected environment of the installation, you are more vulnerable to direct threats. Your workspace is accessible to anyone entering your home and your physical security of that area is important."

Employees are urged to be particularly watchful during this time when those who wish to do the country harm might look to strike. Staying observant, taking note of and reporting suspicious activity or individuals are vital to everyone's protection.

"Your actions are critical to prevent, identify and mitigate the

impact of potential terrorist attacks," said Josette Paschal, U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command antiterrorism program manager.

"We all help provide the advanced warning needed to defend against terrorism if we remain aware and notify others when we see something."

Report suspicious activities, such

- People drawing or measuring important buildings.
- Strangers asking questions about security forces or security procedures.
- A briefcase, suitcase, backpack or package left unattended.

- Cars or trucks left in no-parking zones in front of important buildings.
 - Intruders found in secure areas.
- A person wearing clothes that are too big and bulky and/or too hot for the weather.
- Chemical smells or fumes that worry you.
- Questions about sensitive information such as building blueprints, security plans or VIP travel schedules without a right or need to know.
- Purchasing supplies or equipment that can be used to make bombs or weapons or purchasing uniforms without having the proper credentials.