

Versatile unmanned aircraft extensively tested at YPG



The Aerosonde, a catapult-launched and net-recovered aircraft used primarily for surveillance and reconnaissance, has been tested at YPG for most of its existence. "We test here whenever we have changes to the system," said Kyle Petesch, Aerosonde site lead. "The YPG personnel are very attentive to what we ask for and easy to work with." (Photo by Mark Schauer)

By Mark Schauer

The United States military has used unmanned aerial systems (UAS) for decades, and increasingly counts on them to perform dangerous missions that save Soldiers' lives.

Among these flying wonders is the Aerosonde, a catapult-launched and net recovered aircraft used primarily for surveillance and reconnaissance.

Capable of 15 hours of flight time, the Aerosonde is highly portable and boasts outstanding optics at high altitudes. The system has undergone extensive testing at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground for most of its existence.

"We test here whenever we have changes to the system," said Kyle

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Antiterrorism awareness is just as important as ever

By Mark Schauer

The United States today has an overwhelming anti-terrorism capability.

Since the World Trade Center and Pentagon were attacked nearly 19 years ago, the federal government annually spends upwards of \$15 billion on counterterrorism efforts. The FBI reports that more than 50 terrorist plots against the United States have been foiled since the attacks of September 11, 2001, as were multiple attacks in decades prior to that fateful day.

"Antiterrorism efforts are something that go on completely unnoticed as long as nothing goes wrong," said Spencer Schultz, physical security specialist. "We have Antiterrorism Month to remind people that regardless of what else is going on in the world, we always have a threat and need to be aware."

A common theme in successful counterterrorism operations is people reporting and following up on suspicious activity, be they law enforcement officials or ordinary citizens. This is the message of the Army's annual Antiterrorism Month, and since its inception YPG personnel have sought to raise awareness as creatively as possible.

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New ATEC Commander makes first visit to YPG



U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC) Commanding General Brig. Gen. James Gallivan made his first visit to YPG Aug. 24. YPG Commander Col. Patrick McFall and Command Sgt. Maj. Jamathon Nelson escorted Gallivan and ATEC Command Sgt. Major Ronald Graves on a comprehensive tour of YPG's test ranges and facilities. During the day-long whirlwind tour, Gallivan got a close look at YPG's developmental test support of Army modernization priorities and unique capabilities. He also interacted with numerous members of the YPG workforce, complimenting their devotion to the mission and sterling safety record. "I am in awe of what you are doing here," he said. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

THEOUTPOST

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Army Emergency Relief is here to help Soldiers... active or retired



Submitted by Rosa Dayton, Army Community Service Specialist

The Army Emergency Relief (AER) was founded in 1942 by Secretary of War Henry Stimson and Army Chief of Staff Gen. George Marshall. Charged with relieving undue financial stress on the force, AER serves the enduring priorities of the Secretary and Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army.

AER provides financial assistance to eligible Soldiers (active or retired) and their Families. AER assistance may come in the form of a no interest loan or a grant. Assistance is based upon eligibility and need. Each request is considered on a case-by-case basis. The following individuals are eligible for AER assistance, in accordance with Army Regulation 930-4:

Soldiers on active duty and their eligible dependents. Spouses must have a Special Power of Attorney, to apply, in the Soldier's absence, to avoid delay. Army Reserve and National Guard Soldiers activated on Title 10 orders for more than 30 days and their eligible dependents.

Soldiers retired for longevity, medical, or upon reaching age 60 (reserve component) and their eligible dependents.

Surviving Spouses who have not remarried and children of Soldiers who died on active duty or died after reaching retirement eligibility.

Personnel assigned to MCAS Yuma must seek assistance through Navy Marine Relief Society located at MCAS.

Not located within 50 miles of a military installation? The American Red Cross is authorized, to provide financial assistance on behalf of AER.

Common requests for AER assistance:

Emergency Travel Funeral Expenses Routine POV Repair/Maintenance and Safety items (will always be processed as a loan).

Preclude privation (food, clothing, shelter).

Utilities, Rent/Mortgage, Medical/ Dental (not covered by Tricare).

Other AER assistance include:

Cdr/1SG approval of up to \$2000. Must stop by AER Office, to process. Wounded Warrior Assistance Program (AW2) within 50 miles must stop by nearest AER office. Not within 50 miles, must apply through AW2 Advocate.

Spouse and children education scholarships (need based).

It's important to note, every \$10 donated to AER turns into \$30 of assistance. This return enables Soldiers to take care of Soldiers.

Locally, last year Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) AER provide over \$32,600 in loans and grants to eight active duty and five retirees. YPG's 2019 AER Campaign raised \$29,100 from Retirees. This year's campaign is finalizing and we are at approximately \$25,000 for the year.

If you would like to donate to AER one simple way is when visiting the shoppette the cashier gives you an option to donate to AER upon checkout.

For more information on donating or using the AER services please contact Army Community Service at 928-328-2513.



4 AUGUST 31, 2020 **COVID-19 cases continue to plummet in Yuma County**

By Mark Schauer

As August drew to a close, Yuma County's dramatic decrease in new COVID-19 infections continued.

As of August 24, the number of acute care hospital beds in use in Arizona hospitals was at its lowest number since May. Statewide, 176 ventilators were in use, the lowest number since April 8 and the secondlowest number since daily reporting began.

In Yuma County, officials reported nine new infections countywide on 23 August, the lowest daily number in more than four months. Yuma County's seven-day average of COVID test percent positive ratio had declined to 8.1%, and the region saw multiple consecutive days without a single COVID-related fatality reported.

"The COVID numbers are going in the right direction because people are doing the right thing," said Col. Patrick McFall, YPG Commander.

McFall cautioned that complacency could undo all of the positive gains made, however.

"We must stay vigilant and continue to apply the CDC guidelines at all times," he said. "It is important that we continue to do that to protect the health of our family, our YPG Family, and the community."

McFall emphasized that this vigilance would be particularly important during the upcoming Labor Day weekend.

"The infection still exists, and it isn't going to take a holiday," he said. "Until we have a vaccine, it is important to keep making the necessary sacrifices and following the CDC guidance at all times if we want to defend the gains we've made."

COVID not the only threat

YPG's mission has continued without pause for the duration of the COVID pandemic, and the proving

ground's workload increased in the second half of August. Yuma County saw several days of recordhigh temperatures during this time, prompting the post's senior leaders to emphasize standard heat safety and mitigation procedures, particularly for visiting personnel. As always, the consequences of the extreme heat came to the attention of YPG's first responders.

"Every summer at YPG we have an increase in ambulance calls responding to the community outside the gate," said Deputy Garrison Manager Ron James. "It's the usual things you think of in summer in Yuma: heat casualties, vehicle accidents on Highway 95, boating accidents at the lake or the river. We don't want to have to go to those kinds of calls, so we ask everybody to please stay safe in the summertime."

Though wintertime seems far away, the post's senior leaders were planning ahead for flu season, and counting on the same anti-COVID PPE and hygiene protocols to mitigate against the twin threat.

"We will continue to wear face masks, social distance, and wash our hands frequently," said Larry Bracamonte, YPG Technical Director. "That in itself will help against the influenza virus."

"I think it very important for people to get their annual flu shot," added Maj. Jennifer Fiandt, Officer In Charge of the YPG Health Clinic. "Flu in itself is a danger to people, and there are different strains of influenza. The flu vaccine is only effective against several of these strains, but the good news is that even if you are unlucky enough to catch an influenza strain that isn't covered by the vaccine, you will still likely have an easier course of the illness than if you didn't get vaccinated."

Staying the course

Though the most dire consequences of Yuma County's experience with COVID were abating by the end of August, the uncertainty wrought in its wake persisted. Some sectors of the local

economy were still hurting. Most local schools were closed to inperson learning until at least the day after Labor Day, yet youngsters were still expected to remotely attend class sessions and do schoolwork from home. The ability of the local community to carry out longstanding annual civic events like the Veterans Day Parade in the months ahead was unknown.

At YPG, the senior leadership counseled the workforce to maintain its focus on YPG's vital mission and stay the course.

"The way we start this is the way we finish it—that's how we get through this," said Command Sgt. Maj. Jamathon Nelson. "Let's not get complacent—we need to keep wearing our masks when we can't maintain six feet of social distancing, or when we are carpooling to and from work."

"I know these are challenging times," added McFall. "I'm there with you. But from what I've seen of YPG's performance to date, I know we will get through this together-our YPG Family is strong."

YPG's mission has continued without pause during the pandemic, and the proving ground's workload increased as local COVID rates plummeted in the second half of August. "The COVID numbers are going in the right direction because people are doing the right thing," said Col. Patrick McFall, YPG Commander. "We must stay vigilant and continue to apply the CDC guidelines at all times." (Photo by Mark Schauer)



OUTPOST AWARENESS FROM PAGE 1

The Army has noticed, too: YPG's antiterrorism awareness program has won the best unit and best installation award in the Army's annual Antiterrorism Awards.

The most public example of these efforts is the YPG-designed Antiterrorism Awareness Flag that sports the griffin-in-a-shield official logo of the Army's antiterrorism efforts accompanied by antiterrorism month's theme of flexibility, preparedness, and awareness. On August 20, Master Sgt. Aaron Duemmel, an instructor with the Military Freefall School jumped the flag into a proving ground drop zone in a ceremony incorporated into their routine training schedule. Among those on hand were YPG Commander Col. Patrick McFall and Command Sgt. Maj. Jamathon Nelson.

"It's a moment to remind us of the importance of antiterrorism awareness," said McFall. "It



Master Sgt. Aaron Duemmel, an instructor with the Military Freefall School, jumps the YPG Antiterrorism Awareness flag into a proving ground drop zone in a ceremony incorporated into their routine training schedule.

all begins with us: Everyone is responsible for helping to protect our country."

The intended purpose of the flag was to get people talking about antiterrorism, on post and off, and it has succeeded.



The intended purpose of the Antiterrorism Awareness Flag was to get people talking about vigilance, on post and off, and it has succeeded. "We've been doing this ceremony for seven years," said Spencer Schultz, physical security specialist. "It has become a post tradition, and everyone was looking forward to seeing it happen."

"We've been doing this for seven years," said Schultz. "It has become a post tradition, and everyone was looking forward to seeing it happen."

The terrorist threat persists, and reporting unusual activity could be the vital difference that foils a deadly act.

"If you see something suspicious, say something, because it all starts with you," said McFall. "Everyone has the responsibility and duty to do this. The terrorism threat remains, and we must remain vigilant."



Although the community should always be vigilant, August is the official month the Army focuses on antiterrorism awareness. To mark the month, members of the Military Free Fall School showed their support by jumping into a YPG drop zone with the YPG-designed Army Antiterrorism flag. Here, YPG Commander Col. Patrick McFall (right) and Command Sgt. Maj. Jamathon Nelson (left) pose with Master Sgt. Aaron Duemmel moments after his jump. (Photos by Mark Schauer)



928.782.0499 pinthouseyuma.com Historic Downtown Yuma

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Petesch, Aerosonde site lead. "The YPG personnel are very attentive to what we ask for and easy to work with."

"Aerosonde has been testing here for more than 12 years," added Matthew O'Donald, test officer. "It's a well-proven machine, and there have been numerous upgrades over the years."

The sheer volume of commercial air traffic in the United States means that conducting developmental testing of even the smallest UAS in a safe, sustained manner within the national airspace is highly problematical. However, such constraints do not exist at YPG the proving ground controls nearly 2,000 square miles of restricted airspace in addition to boasting clear, stable air and an extremely dry climate where inclement weather is a rarity.

"We have perfect flying weather, well over 300 clear days per year," said O'Donald. "We have such a wide flight area of restricted airspace that's perfect for customers to get what they need." "We like the nice, clear weather without a lot of clouds or rain delays, and definitely like the range space we can get here," added Petesch. "The flat desert is good for emplacing ground stations and measuring farther distances without trees or line-of-sight issues."

Aerosonde is typically deployed in a system with multiple aircraft and ground control stations, all of which can be accommodated in a realistic manner at YPG. The vast range and air space here means the testers can easily evaluate things like fuel consumption and the ability to smoothly hand-off control of the craft between controllers located in multiple ground control stations.

"We test not only to integrate products our customers want, but also to improve our own system's reliability," said James Ruthven, senior engineering support manger. "In the end, that helps our country's mission overseas by having a quiet, reliable aircraft that provides good optics and other sensors."

The Aerosonde is a relatively quiet aircraft, as is necessary for its surveillance mission.

"Our end user—a platoon out in the field—doesn't want their targets to know they're being watched,"



Capable of 15 hours of flight time, the Aerosonde is highly portable and boasts outstanding optics at high altitudes. The system has undergone extensive testing at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground for most of its existence. (Loaned photo)

said Ruthven. "Our engine and aircraft has to be quiet, so coming here affords us the opportunity to put people out in the desert and do acoustic measurements. We can tailor how we operate in the real world based on the findings we have here."

The proving ground's extensive experience with testing UAS and associated sensors is another attraction, as is the ability to control a large swath of the radio frequency (RF) spectrum. YPG has more than 500 permanent radio frequencies, and several thousand temporary ones in a given month.

"This is the easiest place for us to operate, and we get the most complete and comprehensive coverage in support of what we're doing," said Ruthven. "The heat and density altitudes that we find in this local environment are very similar to a lot of the places we're operating in overseas."



Since the Aerosonde is used for surveillance missions it has to be discreet, "Our engine and aircraft has to be quiet, so coming here affords us the opportunity to put people out in the desert and do acoustic measurements," said Ruthven. (Loaned photo



The proving ground's extensive experience with testing UAS and associated sensors is another attraction for testing here, as is the ability to control a large swath of the radio frequency spectrum. YPG has more than 500 permanent radio frequencies, and several thousand temporary ones in a given month. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

The Aerosonde will continue coming to YPG for testing well into the future, Ruthven added.

"We're looking at our technology roadmap and trying to grow what our system can do for the customer to meet their needs for the next decade to come," he said. "Utilizing the test ranges, frequencies, and facilities here is crucial to us getting to that point. The work we were able to do at YPG got us to this point."







Aerosonde is typically deployed in a system with multiple aircraft and ground control stations, all of which can be accommodated in a realistic manner at YPG. (Photo by Mark Schauer)



⁸ AUGUST 31, 2020 Suicide prevention through relationship resiliency

By Lori Bell, LCSW, YPG Family Advocacy Program Manager

We are all here doing this life together. I'm grateful for that. Thank you for allowing me to be here in the capacity of your Family Advocacy Program Manager at Yuma Proving Ground. My hope is that while we are doing this life together, I serve you well. The Family Advocacy Program's mission is to be your resource for domestic violence through crisis response, victim advocacy, prevention, and education. The ultimate goal is to foster healthy relationships and to promote full and meaningful lives. September is Suicide Prevention Month in the Army, and worldwide. It is vital to notice the correlation between relationships and suicide.

Relationship stress ranks highest among risk factors that contribute to suicidality and death by suicide. Humans are relational beings; we thrive off of social interactions and the meaning they take in our lives. When our relationships do not feel safe, trusting, or supportive our sense of security is compromised. The need for love and belonging is genetically coded in all human brains. A lack of this need breeds hopeless. Hopelessness breeds depression. Depression breeds suicidality.

Connectedness is a necessary ingredient in a recipe for a savory life and the theme for September is "Connect to Protect." Explore some ways you can take committed action on Army strong values to care for yourself in your relationships and



SUICIDE PREVENTION PLEDGE

Each one of us has a duty to protect one another—now more than ever. Make a promise today to #BeThere.

- Connect to Protect. Make connections with friends and family a priority.
- Set an example by creating an environment where asking for help and reaching out to others are signs of strength.
- #BeThere for yourself! Taking care of yourself is as important as taking care of others.
- Develop healthy habits and ways to cope with stress to keep you strong and resilient.
- $\ensuremath{\bigcirc}$ Check in with friends and family. Let them know you care.
- Know the resources that are available to you and others.
- O Volunteering or joining a group are great ways to care for yourself and others.
- Be the one who reaches out. Ask, "How can I help?"
- O Consult with a mental health professional if you need assistance.

I pledge to make it my mission to #BeThere for myself and others to prevent suicide.

Make it Your Mission to ... #BeThere

remain mission ready.

Loyalty: Practice devotion to yourself, peers, and loved ones. Acknowledge your thoughts and feelings throughout your experiences in relationships. Note what is pleasing and meaningful to you in your interactions. If you experience doubt, unpleasantness, or a breach of respect, listen to your thoughts and feelings. Ask what needs aren't being met. Be a listener of needs that your peers and loved ones may have, as well.

Duty: It is our personal assignment to take care of ourselves and our relationships. Develop coping skills that allow you to bring your best self to your relationships. Find space and time to reflect and take a few breaths before responding to a situation when you feel overwhelmed by conflicts. Make time for rest to restore energy.

Respect: Commit to hearing a peer or loved one's perspective even if it is different from your own. Listen without making a judgement or sorting through information to deem it "right" or "wrong." In doing this you are also practicing self-respect by ensuring that you have exercised your best effort in your relationships.

Selfless Service: Practice commitment to the welfare of others. Is it worth it to put someone else's needs above your own in certain situations? Take time to evaluate when you can serve someone else without expecting recognition or personal gain.

Honor: By paying attention to your own feelings and needs, communicating them, and listening to the feedback of others you will be acting honorably. Be intentional to view your relationships with positive regard. This will enable you to communicate honestly and take a posture of openness when interacting with others.

Integrity: Take time to selfevaluate. Be aware of what is promoting feelings of trust. Be aware of what experiences have moved



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you away from trust in relationships. Have boundaries of behaviors and words that are off limits for you in your relationships.

Personal Courage: This is a muscle that we are constantly building. Relationships of all types are challenging. Building the muscle may look like being honest and respectful when our impulses are to stay quiet or scream and yell. It may look like refrain and setting a boundary on a behavior that will only harm a relationship and not help it.

Because relationships are both the heartbeat of our overall well-being and can be a challenging aspect of life, let's not expect perfection, but progress and willingness to keep moving forward. There are some resources that can help with this process. Address problems before they become dangerous or deadly by reaching out to your social supports or someone you trust. Enlist the feedback and guidance of your Chaplain (Building 1100, 928-328-3465). Get resources from your Family Advocacy Program (Building 309, 928-328-3224). There is a network of people that cares for you and wants to see you have a full and meaningful life with relationships that contribute to your well-being.

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New Army Greens slated to reach all installations by mid-2021

By Devon Suits

Recruiters, drill sergeants, and initial entry trainees will be among the first to receive the new Army Green Service Uniform (AGSU), as program officials look to distribute it to all installations by the middle of next fiscal year.

The uniform harkens back to the "greatest generation" of Soldiers who fought during World War II.

"For the past year, I've been wearing the Army Greens. Wherever I go, people tell me that they love the uniform," said Army Vice Chief Of Staff Gen. Joseph M. Martin.

"As we transition to the next phase of the rollout, I'm excited for the Soldiers who are about to receive the uniform," he added. "I think that when they see themselves in the mirror they'll feel connected to the Soldiers of the past and realize that they're writing the next chapter of what people feel about our Army."

Rollout schedule

Personnel in basic combat training and one-station unit training should receive the AGSU beginning in the first quarter of fiscal year 2021, said Lt. Col. Naim Lee, product manager of Soldier Clothing and Individual Equipment at Program Executive Office Soldier.

The Army is continuing to work through its distribution and production channels to ensure all recruiters are issued the uniform starting in November through April 2021.

"The Army prioritized recruiters and drill sergeants, because they serve as the face of the Army," Lee said.

Moving forward, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service will supply the new uniform through a wavebased rollout approach, Lee said. The majority of AAFES locations within the U.S. are scheduled to have the new uniform by December. The mandatory wear date for all Soldiers is Oct. 1, 2027.

Active-duty enlisted Soldiers, including Active Guard and Reserve Soldiers, will continue to receive



ABOVE LEFT: Army senior leaders pushed for a revamped design to connect today's Soldiers with the service's past. The Army Green Service Uniform is based on the dress uniform worn by Soldiers during World War II. (Photo by Eric Pilgrim) ABOVE RIGHT: Early in the development process, the Army held an all-female uniform board that determined the design, components, features and fit of the female uniform. While both the male and female uniforms are similar, PEO Soldier officials said the female version allows for an elective skirt and shoe wear option. (U.S Army photo)

their annual clothing-replacement allowance to offset the new uniform's cost, Lee said. Other Guard and Reserve Soldiers will begin receiving uniforms no later than the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2021.

Everyday service uniform

The Army is currently the only service without an everyday business uniform, Lee said.

The current Army Service Uniform,

commonly known as dress blues, was previously considered an optional purchase uniform prior to 2008, PEO Soldier officials said. Over time, leaders realized that the dress blues were too formal for everyday business use.

With the launch of the AGSU, Soldiers will now have an everyday service uniform, which will set an appropriate standard for professionalism within an office setting, Lee added.

Eventually, the Army will stop issuing the dress blues to all Soldiers. The uniform will continue to be optional and serve as a dress uniform for all Soldiers requiring a formal attire.

Limited user test, evaluation As the Army delivers its new uniform, PEO Soldier will continue to conduct limited user testing and evaluations through May 2021, Lee said.

Early in the development process, the Army held an all-female uniform

board that determined the design, components, features and fit of the female uniform. While both the male and female uniforms are similar, PEO Soldier officials said the female version allows for an elective skirt and shoe wear option.

"Soldiers are enjoying this new uniform and they are eager to go out and get it," he added. "We can't get it to them fast enough."



Outpost lookback



ERCA Autoloader is being tested for first time at YPG

By Ana Henderson Rome waan 't built in a day... but they were laying bricks every hour. This statement rungs particularly true in the case of the work being done for the Extended Range Cannor Artillery (ERCA) project. One day, ERCA will provide faster and eafer fright cambilities for

One only, ENCA will provide faster and safer firing capabilities for the Warfighter. the process to get there is one of meticulous planning, engineering, and a lot of team work. "ERCA itself is a massive undertaking in that avarchise in

ERCA tubel is a massive undertaking in that everything is under development at the same time and it's a platform that needs to be compatible with multiple howitzer configurations, multiple projectiles and multiple missions, "explains Dante Mucaro, Test Lead for ERCA with the Combat Capabilities Development Center-Armament Center (CCIC)-CAC. The ERCA program has been



Outpost look back: One year ago this month the front page story on the Outpost was the testing of the extended range cannon artillery (ERCA) autoloader. The test was the first time the prototype autoloader had been tested. Over the last five years YPG has tested a variety of components all connected to ERCA. (YPG loaned photo)

Chaplain's Corner Living with grace

By Chaplain Maj. Ronald Beltz

During the Civil War, many Soldiers were held captive in a Nashville, Tennessee prison. One day a lady appeared at the gate and said that she needed to see her son. She had talked to the commander. He had agreed to the release of her son, as planting season was nearing and she couldn't work her large farm by herself. She walked into the prison and said to the prisoners, "I have teenage clothes for somebody. I haven't a son, but I can free one of you." The prisoners got together and chose

a captain. He put the clothes on and walked arm in arm with his

"Mother," saying, as he went past the guards, "Come, we've got some plowing to do."

That is a very imperfect analogy to what God has done in our behalf. He has adopted us as his own children and walked us to freedom. We did not deserve

it. We cannot even live up to it though we try all our lives long. In the vernacular of the business world, it is a done deal. All we can do is acknowledge it and build our lives around it. That is what grace is all about.

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Serve your country and your community.

As a member of the military, you and your family understand what it means to serve your country. You can provide another great service to your country and community by responding to the 2020 Census.

Foundation of Our Democracy

Every 10 years, the federal government counts everyone who lives in the United States. The decennial count is required by the Constitution and is a foundation of our democracy, because the population of each state determines the number of representatives it has in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Service to Your Community

Responses to the 2020 Census will drive decisions on how more than \$675 billion in federal funds is distributed each year for the next 10 years. That's money that is used for education, housing, health care, emergency services like firefighting, and more.

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