

The Outpost

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

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Project Convergence: Army's largest capabilities demonstration coming to YPG

By Sgt. 1st Class Will Reinier,
U.S. Army Futures Command

Gen. John M. Murray, commanding general of Army Futures Command, announced the centerpiece of the Army's campaign of learning that will drive the transformational advancement of the Army modernization priorities and integration into Combined Joint All

Domain Command and Control at the Center for New American Security Sept. 10.

Dubbed "Project Convergence" this campaign ensures the Army, as part of the joint force, can rapidly and continuously converge effects across all domains – air, land, maritime, space, and cyberspace – to overmatch our adversaries in

competition and conflict. In practice, the Army is continuously testing and demonstrating capabilities in the areas of people, weapons systems, information, command and control, and terrain to assess areas of advancement and identify areas for improvement.

Project Convergence centers

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Army converges on Yuma Proving Ground: COVID held at bay

By Mark Schauer

U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG)'s position at the forefront of Army modernization efforts is particularly noticeable now.

The first contingent of hundreds of personnel arriving in support of the Army's top capabilities demonstration of the year arrived on post the week of August 9.

YPG was quick to distinguish itself with the U.S. Army Futures Command (AFC) shortly after it was stood up two years ago. To help create the force of the future, AFC divided the Army's top modernization priorities into eight different cross-functional teams (CFTs). Developmental testing at YPG actively supports six CFTs.

Given this and the confidence the Department of the Army

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The TAROT drone conducts a practice run during the Project Convergence capstone event at Yuma Proving Ground. Project Convergence is the Army's campaign of learning to aggressively advance solutions in the areas of people, weapons systems, command and control, information, and terrain; and integrate the Army's contributions to Joint All Domain Operations. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Carlos Cuebas Fantauzzi, 22nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

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YPG intern program
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workforce local
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McFall family: "We're
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for each other"
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Soldier Spotlight



Sgt. Zachary Pittman is a test jumper, parachute packer and inspector for the Airborne Test Force at Yuma Proving Ground. Pittman is originally from Murphysboro, Illinois and enlisted in the Army in 2016. Pittman's hobbies include going to the gym, volunteering with local high school wrestling teams, video games, hiking, and traveling. He is also currently enrolled at Southern Illinois University working towards a degree in University Studies. (U.S. Army photo)



Employee Spotlight

By Ana Henderson

Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) welcomes Lori Bell, the new Family Advocacy Program (FAP) Manager. Bell comes to YPG from Camp Lejeune Marine Corps Base where she worked as a Clinical Specialist at the Community Counseling Center. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Social Work, a Master's degree in Social Work, and is a licensed clinical social worker in the states of North Carolina and Arizona.

Bell says she hopes to, "Be a resource and friend that walks alongside YPG Soldiers, families, and other civilians as we create, maintain, and enhance relationships so that our lives are rich and meaningful." As YPG's FAP Manager, Bell can also help families at

YPG with the Family Advocacy, New Parent Support, Exceptional Family Member, and Employment Readiness programs.

To reach Bell, stop by Bldg. 309 (first floor) on Main Post or call 928-328-3224.

The Domestic Violence Crisis hotline is (928) 287-3361



Lori Bell is Yuma Proving Ground's new Family Advocacy Program Manager. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

THE OUTPOST

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CONVERGES

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had in YPG and its personnel, the post was slated as venue for a large capabilities demonstration connected with Project Convergence (PC), the campaign of learning designed to advance and integrate the Army's contribution to the developing concept of Combined Joint All-Domain Command and Control.

The day-long demonstration of equipment from five of the CFTs working in tandem is expected to draw the rapt attention of Army senior leaders, Congressional representatives, and national media outlets in late September.

"That demonstration will bring all the pieces together and see how we can shorten the decision cycle through artificial intelligence at the tactical edge," said Gen. Joseph Martin, Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, in remarks at a media engagement at YPG on March 6.

"Project Convergence will allow us to develop efforts and capability to out-decide our adversaries."

With hundreds of support personnel arriving from all over the Department of the Army to support the exercise, safely in-processing the visitors took the efforts of multiple personnel within YPG, including the YPG

Health Clinic and the YPG Police Department. Upon arrival, the visitors were queued for a COVID screening and received their access badges without having to leave their car.

"We go through the list of questions that we normally ask at our access control points," said Savannah Silva, COVID 19 implementation lead. "On top of that, we added a temperature check for the individuals."

To protect both YPG's resident workforce and the hundreds of visiting personnel, a key safety concept was keeping those directly supporting Project Convergence in so-called 'bubbles' that were separate from each other. Visitors working on Project Convergence remained in several remote locations around YPG's vast ranges during duty hours, and were asked to restrict their off-duty activities to only essentials like grocery shopping or purchasing gasoline. Three weeks into the experience, the health of all concerned demonstrated the success of the effort.

"I think people understand that they could compromise the bubble and negatively impact the project if they aren't responsible," said Silva. "People have been more than willing to help out as much as possible."

Both the visitors and the YPG personnel directly supporting the effort were also required to take a



YPG's Protocol Officer Jim Stickney conducts a COVID screening questionnaire for arriving Project Convergence participants. "We go through the list of questions that we normally ask at our access control points," said Savannah Silva, COVID 19 implementation lead. "On top of that, we added a temperature check for the individuals." (Photo by Mark Schauer)

COVID test upon arrival, as well as periodically throughout the duration of their weeks-long stay here. The YPG Health Clinic had responsibility for administering the tests and processing the samples, and had planning the effort since early in the COVID pandemic.

"We've been planning for this for months," said Maj. Jennifer Fiant, Officer In Charge of the YPG Health Clinic.

As community transmission in the broader Yuma area and Arizona as a whole plummeted in the record-setting summer heat, the YPG Health Clinic set up a tent outside of the fence and supervised the administration of hundreds of COVID test kits to the visitors and those directly supporting the effort over the course of weeks. Not seen by most was the intensive and time-sensitive administrative tasks associated with planning the collection process and preparing the samples for testing by an outside facility.

"Whether it is working on site or working the administrative side, everyone in the clinic has had a hand in supporting this," said Staff Sgt. Selina Strawn, medic. "We still have all of the clinic's normal duties to take care as well."

The hundreds of support personnel were committed to the mission,

though, and cooperated with the procedures.

"Nobody refused the test," said Spec. Alex Scarborough. "It seems like everybody is on board with all of the safety measures."

Like all personnel at YPG since the earliest days of the COVID pandemic, those here in support of Project Convergence are required to use standard YPG COVID-19 mitigation measures such as face coverings, social distancing where practical, and increased cleaning and hygiene measures in work spaces.

"I think the most effective benefit of the testing is reinforcing compliance with masks, hand hygiene, and social distancing," said Maj. Joshua Chase, clinic administrator. "It keeps people accountable: if they were to test positive, they would have to be isolated for 10 days and wouldn't be able to perform their mission."

Silva feels the successful process is an example of the innovative and resourceful culture that YPG has long been known for.

"We started from a framework that didn't really exist beyond the CDC guidelines," she said. "We've had to design, implement, evaluate, and refine an entire framework. By doing so, we are creating a standard that will be mimicked within other organizations."



With hundreds of support personnel arriving from all over the Department of the Army to support the Project Convergence exercise both the visitors and the YPG personnel directly supporting the effort were also required to take a COVID test upon arrival and periodically throughout the duration of their stay. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Carlos Cuevas Fantauzzi, 22nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

Commander speaks with media



YPG Commander Col. Patrick McFall was the guest on KAWC 88.9 FM's "Arizona Edition" news magazine on Aug. 28. The topics of discussion included YPG's importance to Army modernization efforts and the staunch support YPG receives from the Yuma community. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

YPG Commander Col. Patrick McFall spoke with KYMA-TV on Aug. 26 about YPG's support of Army modernization efforts and the importance of Highway 95 lane expansion. The story can be found on the www.kyma.com.



Commander reaches out to Rotary



YPG Commander Col. Patrick McFall visited with members of the Yuma Rotary Club both online and in-person at their hybrid virtual meeting Sept. 8. McFall discussed YPG's position at the forefront of Army modernization efforts and thanked the Yuma community for its staunch support of the proving ground. "Soldiers downrange never have to question whether their equipment will do what it is supposed to do-- YPG personnel work very hard to ensure that, and that's why I say that our core competency is our people. I appreciate the support from the community as we execute our mission." (Photo by Mark Schauer)



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YPG's summer intern program helps keep graduates in our community

By Ana Henderson

Not every college graduate dreams of leaving town for their career. Some graduates would like to contribute to their community and be near their family.

So was the case for Horacio "Henry" Ibarra-Hurtado and Maleny Marin.

"I know a lot of people talk about if you leave town you get paid more, but everyone's situation is different," explained Marin. "My family is from here and I was born and raised here, so I wanted to stay here."

Ibarra-Hurtado's family moved from Mexico to Yuma seven years ago to get away from the violence south of the border. His parents sacrificed their careers-- his Dad was a teacher, his mom a business owner-- for the safety of their family. "They are very proud, and they are still working in the field, and they don't want to stop until my younger brother graduates college. If I can help out, I will."

Now he is in a position to help his family financially.

Ibarra-Hurtado and Marin are two of the seven college students who

participated in the Department of the Army's Pathways internship program at Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) in the 2019/2020 school year.

"They have this unique opportunity to work with experienced engineers, military personnel on multi-million dollar projects that they just wouldn't have this early in their career at other locations," explains Iris Espinoza program manager.

"When I was about to graduate, I was looking for jobs and it was not easy," said Ibarra-Hurtado. "There was only a few positions in Yuma, and almost all of them required two to four years of experience."

Without this program, he would have had to leave Yuma to gain experience, and then possibly return if he found a job.

Thanks to the Pathways program, though, Ibarra-Hurtado started his full-time internship in 2018. During that time he completed this Associates in Computer Science at Arizona Western College, then transferred to the University of Arizona (UofA) where he took cyber operations classes online. In December 2019 he earned his



"When I was about to graduate, I was looking for jobs and it was not easy," said Horacio "Henry" Ibarra-Hurtado. "There was only a few positions in Yuma, and almost all of them required two to four years of experience." Now Ibarra-Hurtado has that experience and is choosing to stay at YPG to work fulltime.

Bachelor's in Cyber Operations with an emphasis in forensics and defenses.

Marin graduated in May with a Bachelor's in Systems Engineering and now has a year of work experience because she interned full-time with YPG's Combat and Automotive Division.

"The fact that I already had something waiting for me meant a lot, because I am not stressing out. So for me that outweighs anything else," Marin adds, "I wasn't sure what a systems engineer could do for work because it seemed so general. Working here really applies well with what I studied. A lot of the work has to do with reports, scheduling, and managing."

Both Marin and Ibarra-Hurtado now have full-time careers at YPG.

Espinoza explains that this program is not solely for local students, even though it is great to invest in our community.

"YPG has hired paid interns for many years now from all over the

country. One student even drove here from Florida. Students have the option to work during the summer and winter breaks. If they live locally, they can work full-time while finishing their degree."

She notes that YPG's collaboration with Tonya Hodges and Sam Peffers with UofA and with the local high school is what makes this program successful.

For high school or college students who are interested in the Pathways program, Espinoza recommends they speak with their school career advisor and also create a USA Jobs account so they can search and apply for opportunities. They must be at least 18 years old and a current college student.

As for Marin and Ibarra-Hurtado, they are happy to have started their careers at YPG.

"I couldn't have thought of anything better," said Marin. "I like what I do."

"I don't want to stop, said Ibarra-Hurtado. "I want to get my Masters."



Maleny Marin graduated in May with a Bachelor's in Systems Engineering and now has a year of work experience because she interned full-time with YPG's Combat and Automotive Division. "Working here really applies well with what I studied. A lot of the work has to do with reports, scheduling, and managing" explained Maleny Marin. Here she coordinates the maintenance of a combat vehicle. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

PROJECT

FROM PAGE 1

on delivering data and cloud technologies to the tactical command and is rooted in an overarching requirement to reduce the time in combat decision-cycles.

“We don’t know what future conflicts our nation will be involved in,” said Murray. “But, we know that if we try to fight the next 20 years the same way we’ve fought the last 20 years, we’re going to be too slow to be competitive – in some ways we already are.”

“Constantly measuring our current capabilities against an unknown-future threat is exactly what AFC was created to do, and Project Convergence is how we’re going to do it.”

As part of the Army Modernization Strategy, the Army has emphasized its focus on becoming Multi-Domain Operations-capable by 2035. One of the tenants of MDO is convergence or the ability to integrate effects across the five domains to decisively overmatch any adversary in conflict. Assessments of the future operating environment allowed the Army to identify six modernization priorities, and led to the development of AFC’s Cross-Functional Teams: Long-Range Precision Fires, Next Generation Combat Vehicle,

Air and Missile Defense, Future Vertical Lift, Army Network, Air and Missile Defense, and Soldier Lethality. Additional CFTs lead the Army’s efforts in Synthetic Training Environment and Assured Position, Navigation, and Timing.

“When you look at the individual efforts of the Cross-Functional Teams and the labs and centers, it’s impressive how far we have come in the past two years,” Murray said, “But unless all of those systems can talk and work together, it’s going to limit our ability to effectively integrate into joint and allied systems.”

“We couldn’t afford to wait any longer,” Murray said. “Understanding now where to focus our efforts we’re bringing all of these capabilities along together the right way.”

The CFTs will integrate emerging artificial intelligence technologies in an operational context to yield measurable and accountable outcomes. These outcomes inform Army force disposition and how we organize for combat; highlight opportunities to optimize operational processes; evolve how we visualize, describe, decide, and direct; and build trust in those emergent technologies.

“The future of conflict is going to happen fast,” said Lt. Gen. Jim Richardson, deputy commanding general of AFC. “We have to be



A contractor with the Combat Capabilities Development Command prepares the Next-Generation Combat Vehicle Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected surrogate for a live-fire exercise during the Project Convergence capstone event at Yuma Proving Ground. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Carlos Cuebas Fantauzzi, 22nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

able to make decisions in minutes in places where it used to take days.”

“The more we can automate and learn, the more we can ensure that we’re placing Soldiers in the right place, at the right time, to deter – or when necessary, overmatch – any adversary.”

Throughout the year, these structured experiments and demonstrations will occur as often as every two weeks, culminating in an annual capstone event at Yuma Proving Ground, Arizona. That capstone event is currently ongoing and will conclude on Sept. 18, with two distinguished visitor days on Sept. 21 and 23.

“Bringing together functions and capabilities is a critical piece to all of this,” said Richardson. “Normally, we’re dispersed across the United States, so there’s only so much interfacing these systems can do remotely. Even simple things like ensuring communications equipment fits inside of a helicopter or vehicle lets us see where to sustain or increase our focus.”

These distinguished visitor days will help unify Army senior leaders on the goal of Project Convergence, as well as ensure a common understanding for the process Army Futures Command is employing to

discover and deliver solutions or the joint force.

The Project Convergence capstone in 2020 separates capabilities by where they could be employed in the following phases of Multi-Domain Operations:

1. Compete to expand the competitive space by enabling the defeat of information and unconventional warfare, conducting intelligence and counter-adversary reconnaissance, and the demonstration of credible deterrence.

1. Penetrate strategic and operational stand-off by neutralizing enemy long-range systems, contesting enemy maneuver forces, and maneuvering from operational and strategic distances.

3. Dis-integrate the enemy’s anti-access and area denial systems by defeating enemy long- and short-range systems, conducting independent maneuver and deception operations.

4. Exploit freedom of maneuver to defeat enemy objectives by neutralizing enemy mid- and short-range systems, and isolate and defeat enemy maneuver forces.

5. Re-compete to consolidate and expand gains and physically secure terrain and populations which can enable sustainable outcomes with



The TAROT drone prepares to conduct a practice run during the Project Convergence capstone event at Yuma Proving Ground. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Carlos Cuebas Fantauzzi, 22nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)



The autonomous system, Origin, prepares for a practice run during the Project Convergence at Yuma Proving Ground. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Carlos Cuebas Fantauzzi, 22nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

partners and set conditions for long-term deterrence.

Information about specific capabilities and their role in MDO will be released in the coming weeks.

These capstone events are designed to not just assess how far the Army has come, but also inform the areas for further research and testing in the coming year. By operating within the MDO-context, Army scientists and

engineers can simulate how the Army plans to fight a future conflict and stress the current capability to fight and win in those scenarios.

"Like any scientific venture, you learn so much through experimentation," said Murray. "AFC has always said that if we're going to fail, we need to fail fast, learn, and get it right the next time. So Project Convergence isn't

about always getting it right, it's about understanding where our opportunities and vulnerabilities are now – before we ask Soldiers to employ these capabilities in combat."

During the 2020 Association of the United States Army Annual conference

Army Futures Command will lead a contemporary military forum on the topic of Project Convergence and outline AFC's vision to incorporate joint partners during the 2021 capstone, and allied forces in 2022.



"We know we're not going to be alone in a future conflict, so what can

we do now that enables deterrence and victory later?" Richardson said. "For us, that means bringing everyone in early and learning as much as we can to close the gap between the science available and the future threat."



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Jordi "George" Farragut
1755-1817

Jordi Farragut Mesquida, better known by his anglicized name George Farragut, was the only known Spanish volunteer who fought under the American flag in the War of American Independence. Farragut's name, now most closely associated with his son, the Civil War Admiral David Farragut, also deserves its place in the pantheon of émigré volunteers who fought side by side with their fellow America colonials, and epitomized the spirit of independence. Farragut first came to New Orleans, the capital of Spanish Louisiana, in 1775. His arrival on the American coast coincided with the outbreak of the American Revolution. There, Farragut learned of this brewing conflict, for that port city had become the center of American espionage for the Spanish Empire. "For the first time" Farragut later wrote, referring to himself in the third person, "he heard of the difficulties between England and her colonies, and immediately determined to assist with his life and his fortune in the struggle for American independence."

Journal of the American Revolution

Journal of the American Revolution



*Stage of Charleston, by Alless
Chapin's 1862. Courtesy
Anne E.K. Brown military collec
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In an attempt to prevent the city from being bombed, they sank eleven available galleys, one of which, *Reverie*, was commanded by Farragut, with the objective of forming a barricade at the mouth of the river.

Admiral David G. Farragut
1801-1870



One of our foremost Hispanic Naval figures is Admiral David Glasgow Farragut, who's brilliant career is well-known. What may not be so well known is his interesting early life. Born James Glasgow Farragut on July 5, 1801 in Campbell Station, Tennessee, his father was Jordi 'George' Farragut. His father befriended a naval officer, David Porter, who died the same day as George Farragut's wife. In thanks of George Farragut and his assistance with his father, David Porter Sr., and to elevate the strain David Porter Jr. adopted James. James Farragut soon changed his first name to David in honor of his adopted father. Admiral Farragut went on to become one of the most effective admirals in the Union Navy during the Civil War.

"Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead."



Mobile Bay, Alabama, Farragut's force entered the bay in two columns (August 1864), with armored monitors leading and a fleet of wooden frigates following. When the lead monitor *Tecumseh* was demolished by a mine, the leading wooden ship *Brooklyn* stopped in alarm, and the whole line of ships drifted in confusion under the very guns of Fort Morgan. As disaster seemed imminent, Farragut shouted his famous words: "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead!" to the hesitating *Brooklyn*.

McFall family: "We're all doing our part for each other"

By Mark Schauer

Social distancing and all that comes with it is a tough adjustment for someone as service-oriented as Heidi McFall.

Among the reasons her husband, YPG Commander Col. Patrick McFall, made U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground his first choice for command was the thriving community life both on post and in the greater Yuma area.

The YPG 2020 open house extravaganza drew nearly 23,000 visitors in February, for example, more than double the attendance of the YPG 75th Anniversary celebration in 2018. Price Elementary School, part of Yuma's Scholl District #1, has educated generations of the post's K-5 children in small classrooms with lots of individualized attention, and is easy walking or biking distance from the housing areas. YPG seemed like a perfect place to serve for a family with small children that enjoys interaction and community service.

Yet the COVID-19 pandemic put

a damper on their fondest hopes for the beginning of Col. McFall's tenure as commander. Rather than fly, in late June the family drove an RV on a whirlwind trip from their previous home in Virginia to Yuma to limit their exposure to other travelers. The change of command ceremony, usually a heavily attended event on YPG's Cox Field, became a virtual ceremony held in the Palm Garden Conference Center with minimal in-person attendance. Whereas July on YPG usually means weekends at the Kahuna Lagoon swimming pool and Coyote Lanes bowling alley, both were closed as a COVID mitigation effort. The post's restaurants were only open for carryout and delivery orders. The YPG Heritage Center museum and YPG Library weren't allowing the public to enter the facilities. All of the normal venues to meet and interact with new neighbors during off-duty hours were unavailable.

"We're adapting to all of this. It's hard because I can't do much or meet a lot of folks yet. Everybody

is keeping to themselves, which is as it should be right now. We're all doing our part for each other."

Meanwhile, as the new school year began the family faced the same challenges as many members of the workforce, juggling virtual schooling at home for young kids while one parent works in person and the other teleworks. McFall, who served an enlistment as an Army medic prior to beginning her 25-year civil service career, has worked for the General Services Administration as a contracting officer for more than eight years, and was busy preparing urgent contracts for relief supplies.

"About 10% of my normal job function is working for FEMA. In times of natural disasters, it stretches to about 95% of my job function. When COVID hit, I was working crazy hours."

But as the Yuma area's COVID-19 infection rates dramatically declined in August, some small signs of the usual community life began to reappear. The YPG Library re-opened for

in-person visits, and the McFalls have taken advantage for the sake of their two youngest children.

"This is a wonderful library."

Perhaps more challenging was the being helpless to follow their natural inclination to serve their new community in a volunteer capacity.

"I'm going to try to be wherever I can be most helpful. I love being involved with the kids in their school—previously, I volunteered all the time in the classroom, anyway."

McFall is looking forward to more post activities as post life comes closer to normal, assuming COVID infection rates remain under control. Through it all, she has kept her perspective as the entire community faces the pandemic environment's challenges.

"It's a struggle for everyone. We have our health, though, so that's what we need to concentrate on. We're all important to each other—it's a tough situation, but I think we'll all get out of it."

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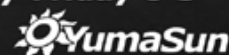


The YPG Library re-opened for in-person visits, and the McFalls have taken advantage for the sake of their two youngest children. "This is a wonderful library," says McFall. (Photo by Mark Schauer)



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Chaplain's Corner Make amends

By Chaplain Maj. Ronald Beltz

They were sitting in a classroom and listening to two speakers who appeared to be a father and his teenage son. The teenager spoke first. With eyes never looking up, he slowly and quietly told his story about something that had happened to him less than a year ago. He had been driving too fast, he said, and had lost control, with the car going off the road, and colliding with a tree. He managed to survive, but his passenger, his best friend, died instantly. He went on to describe, quite graphically what his buddy looked like, and how he felt, and how he would never be able to forgive himself for what he had done.

And then he sat down.

Next to speak was the man beside him who turned out to be, not his father, but the father of the boy whom this driver had killed. The father spoke quietly, with difficulty, but also with dignity. He went on to share with a room full of soon to be licensed teenage drivers what it meant for him as the father, and for the boy's mother to lose their only child. He described in quite a bit of detail the kind of young man their son was. He went on to imagine some of the possible contributions their son could have made to the community, had he lived. His comments clearly demonstrated that in his mind, there was no greater sacrifice than the sacrifice of an unfinished life. The father pointed out how proud he had been of his son and how proud he now was of this young man beside him who was willing to testify in this manner, to other drivers, in such a painful and costly, but powerful way.

The reconciliation between this father and this teenage driver was born out of their mutual desire to see some kind of "saving possibility" arise out of the death of a precious loved one. I don't know about you, but when I hear of an act like this, I have to believe God is at work.

All of us are tempted to hold on to resentments even to the point of allowing precious relationships to be severed. But what would God have us do? God would have us take the first step. Don't wait life is so short and precious! Take that first step and reach out to a friend, family member, former spouse and begin to make amends.

Newspapers matter. Every day, the Yuma Sun strives to reflect our community and report on what's happening here. Stay informed - subscribe today.

YPG celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

By Ana Henderson

Hispanic heritage month is celebrated from September 15 to October 15. The U.S. Census Bureau Hispanic Heritage Month always starts on September 15, "A historically significant day that marks the anniversary of independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. The designated period is also a nod to those from Mexico and Chile, which celebrate their independence on Sept. 16 and Sept. 18, respectively."

In honor of the month we asked YPG employees about their Hispanic heritage.



Emma Almendarez, Executive Assistant to YTC Commander

What does your Hispanic heritage mean to you?

When I think of what Hispanic Heritage Month means to me, the first words that comes to mind are pride and gratitude. Celebrating Hispanic Heritage means honoring the unique contributions that Hispanics and Latinos have made to science, entertainment, the arts, and social justice. It is a time to embrace and appreciate the cultural traditions, values and achievements that have helped strengthened our community and our country. Being first generation Mexican-American, this month helps me to remember with pride where I came from, never forgetting the sacrifices of my

ancestors. I also feel truly blessed and grateful for a better future for my children and their children to come.



Janett Hernandez, Office Support Assistant

What does your Hispanic heritage mean to you?

"My Hispanic heritage means big puffy quinceañera dress, tamales on Christmas, Marco Antonio Solis and Juan Gabriel while cleaning on Saturday mornings and huge family gatherings because your tio came to town. It means working hard at everything you do as little as it may seem and never giving up."

What part of your heritage do you value the most or brings back fond memories?

"I have fond memories of my family's gathers and the traditions they maintained."



Omar Silva, Chief, Range Operations and Training Division

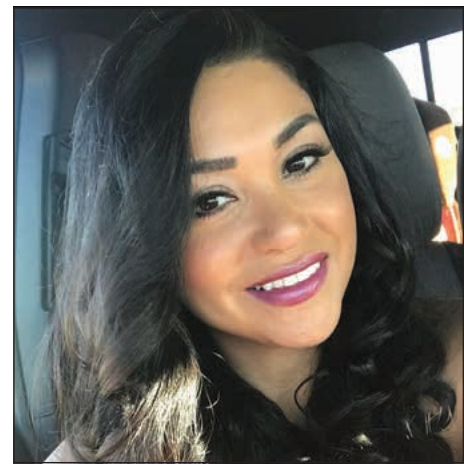
What does your Hispanic heritage

mean to you?

"Family, traditions, music, and food! In my case, celebrating and sharing the Mexican culture with my fellow Americans is something I'm proud of. Sharing cultures is one part of what makes this country great. Everyone should have the opportunity to experience what each heritage brings to the melting pot."

What part of your heritage do you value the most or brings back fond memories?

"The music and the food most are at the top of the list for me! They bring back a lot of memories of piñatas, family gatherings, Christmas eves, and any excuse to get together with family; music and food is always front and center. Most of the time, you can't have one without the other. Case in point, if you go any sit-down restaurant in Mexico, it is almost guaranteed a Trio de Boleros or a Mariachi will go table to table taking song requests."



Ana Henderson, Outpost Editor

What part of your heritage do you value the most or brings back fond memories?

Some of my fondest memories include watching my Grandmother and aunts make tamales on Christmas Eve and telling us we would open our presents when they were done. Also, watching my grandpa perform the Mexican lasso dance. It's a site to see. Google it!

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Suicide Prevention Month: make it your mission to be there

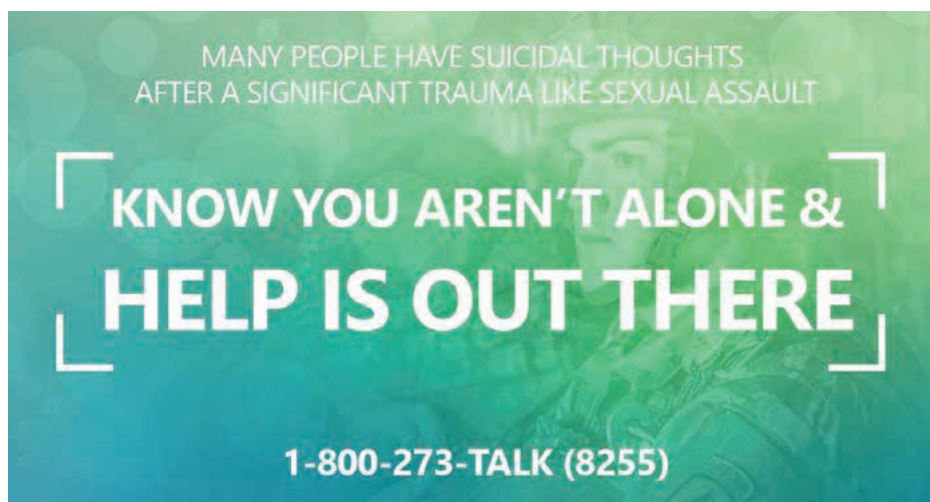
By Christopher Lee, Suicide Prevention Program Manager

This month is Suicide Prevention Month in the Army, and worldwide. The theme for this month is "Connect to Protect: Make it Your Mission to Be There." This message emphasizes that key to impacting suicide prevention is in the day to day personal interaction with each other. That has been challenged with the current pandemic. Despite these challenges people have come up with creative ways to remain connected, from birthday parades to online virtual meetings.

People are demonstrating remarkable resilience in the face of the COVID pandemic. Some of you are not giving yourself enough credit. Yes, you, the reader that just thought to themselves "not me, I'm barely keeping it together." You are keeping it together, period. Resilience doesn't mean coming to work with a smile on your face and a positive attitude ALL THE TIME. Resilience can mean something different for each of us. A significant concept in the U.S. Army Master Resiliency Training is "Hunt the good stuff;" not just the great stuff, the good stuff. Still, as something like the COVID pandemic continues, it can be more difficult to keep hunting the good stuff, maintaining a positive attitude, or remaining resilient. Connecting to others, our spirituality, our values, and our community helps to move forward, one day at a time.

If you want to have an impact on suicide, connect. I can know the risk factors, warning signs, and all the resources support available and it makes no difference if I do not reach out and connect. Connecting on a personal level, connecting professionally, connecting emotionally, and connecting to resources are key. None of these things happen unless I make it my mission to be there.

Suicide is still the 10th leading cause of death among adults in the



United States. The Department of Defense and the Army have focused on suicide prevention to improve resources, tools and support. It all boils down to connection. As we move forward through this month, I encourage you to look for new and creative ways to make connections. Seek out new coping skills to connect to. There are several mobile applications that are confidential, free, and available to anyone that can

support psychological health. These apps, developed by the Veteran's Administration and other government entities, include Mindfulness Coach, Mood Coach, Moving Forward, Parenting to Go, Breath 2 Relax, PTSD Coach, and Stay Quit (smoking cessation). Additional resources include the Army Fit website, www.armyfit.army.mil, and the Human Performance Resources website, www.hprc-online.org.

There may be times when additional assistance may be helpful, there are several resources to connect with on post. The Family Advocacy Program Manager, Lori Bell is in building 309 and can be reached at 928-328-3224 or lori.a.bell15.civ@mail.mil. The Chaplain, in building 1100, can be reached at 928-328-3465, on his cell phone at 928-920-9771, or ronald.a.beltz4.mil@mail.mil. Military One Source, for active duty service members and their families, can be reached at 1-800-342-9647 or www.militaryonesource.mil. I am the Employee Assistance Program Coordinator, supporting DA Civilians, family members and retirees and I am located in building 501, room 205, and can be reached at 928-328-2249 or christopher.a.lee24.civ@mail.mil.

This month, and every month, reach out to someone and Connect to Protect. By making it your mission to be there, for yourself, your family, your neighbors, your co-workers, and your communities, you will make a difference and save a life.



US Army Yuma Proving Ground Community Resources



Yuma Area Resources

Military Family Life Consultant:	928-821-4702
MCCS Behavioral Health:	928-269-2561
NurseWise Crisis Mobile Team:	1-866-495-6735
County Sheriff's Office:	928-783-5794
Yuma Police Department:	928-783-4421
The Veteran's Center:	928-271-8700
Yuma Community VA Clinic:	928-317-9973
Amberly's Place 24hr Helpline:	928-373-0849
AZ Dept. of Economic Security: (Adult Protective Services)	855-432-7587
AZ Dept. of Child Safety:	928-247-8200

24 Hour Hotlines:

Suicide Prevention:	800-273-8255
Domestic Violence:	800-799-7233
Sexual Assault:	800-656-4673
DoD Safe Helpline (SAPR):	877-995-5247
Child Abuse (National):	800-422-4453
Child Abuse (AZ):	888-767-2445
Teen Crisis:	800-448-3000
Poison Center:	800-222-1222
Military OneSource	800-342-9647

Yuma Proving Ground Resources

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Army Community Services:	328-2513
Family Advocacy Program:	328-3224
Sexual Harassment/Assault:	328-2324
Army Emergency Relief:	328-3350
Chaplain's Office:	328-3465
Civilian Personnel Advisory Center :	328-3831/2211
Soldier For Life:	328-2167
Emergency Operations Center:	328-7336/2336
Employee Assistance Program:	328-2249
Equal Employment Opportunity:	328-2736
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Installation Safety Office:	328-2660
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Shearwater Mission Support EAP	888-628-4824



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