

# The Outpost

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

VOL. 69 NO. 23 NOVEMBER 23, 2020

## YPG welcomes new Command Sgt. Maj.



PHOTOS BY MARK SCHAUER

After successfully completing his tenure at U.S. Yuma Proving Ground, Command Sgt. Maj. Jamathon Nelson transferred responsibility to his successor, Command Sgt. Maj. Herbert Gill, at a traditional ceremony at the proving ground the morning of Thursday, Nov. 19th. Read about the ceremony and see more photos in the Dec. 7 issue of the Outpost.



U.S. ARMY PHOTO

The Multi-Utility Tactical Transport (MUTT) is an 8 x 8 unmanned all-terrain vehicle that will follow a dismounted infantry Soldier carrying a wireless tether.

## Versatile autonomous transport vehicle tested at YPG

By Mark Schauer

During Project Convergence 20, the Army Futures Command's capstone exercise of an ambitious project of learning, multiple examples of the most cutting-edge military technology were put through their paces on Yuma Proving Ground's (YPG) vast ranges.

One of the most rugged was the Multi-Utility Tactical Transport (MUTT), an 8 x 8 unmanned

SEE MUTT/7

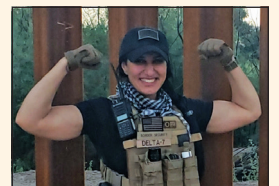
YPG strives for  
inclusion and  
accessibility  
for all/Page 5



Yuma recruiter  
seizes rare chance  
to attend MFF  
School/Page 6



Iraqi YPG  
employee shares  
her story of  
freedom/Page 8





# YPG bids farewell to Command Sgt. Maj. Nelson



During the luncheon YPG Commander Col. Patrick McFall and Technical Director Larry Bracamonte presented Nelson with a Desert Rat and coins.

A small group gathered to wish Command Sgt. Maj. Jamathon Nelson goodbye. On Nov. 19 he transferred responsibility of U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground Command Sgt. Maj. to Command Sgt. Maj. Herbert Gill. The Command Sgt. Maj. is the highest-ranking enlisted person at the

proving ground, serving as a leader and advocate for Soldiers and their families, and is a close advisor to the base commander. Nelson came to YPG in March of 2018 and intends to retire in early 2021 after 30 years of service to his country in both the Marines and Army.



YTC Commander Lt. Col. Alicia Johnson took to the podium to say a few words about Nelson. Then Jeff Rogers presented Nelson with a tank adorned with a plaque.



## THE OUTPOST

The Outpost is an unofficial publication authorized under provisions of AR 360-1. The Outpost is published every two weeks by the Public Affairs Office, Yuma Proving Ground. Views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Army. This newspaper uses material credited to ATEC and ARNEWS. While contributions are solicited, the PAO reserves the right to edit all submitted materials and make corrections, changes or deletions to conform with the policy of this newspaper.



News may be submitted to:  
The Editor, Outpost, Yuma Proving Ground, Yuma, AZ, 85365.  
Phone: (928) 328-6149 or DSN 899.  
Visit our website at: [www.yuma.army.mil](http://www.yuma.army.mil)  
or email to: [ana.c.henderson.civ@mail.mil](mailto:ana.c.henderson.civ@mail.mil)

**Commander:** Col. Patrick McFall  
**Public Affairs Officer:** Mark Schauer  
**Public Affairs Specialist/Outpost Editor:** Ana Henderson  
**Administrative Officer:** Casey Garcia  
**Technical Editor, Cold Regions Test Center:** Clara Zachgo  
**Visual Information Manager:** Riley Williams



To advertise in **THE OUTPOST** call (928) 539-5800  
or go to [advertising@yumasun.com](mailto:advertising@yumasun.com)



PHOTOS BY MARK SCHAUER  
Chief Travis Heffernan and Master Sgt. Loreto Rivera YPG Soldiers with the Airborne Test Force give their goodbyes to Nelson.



# New Garrison Manager hopes to keep the focus on families

By Ana Henderson

Ronny James is the new Garrison Manager at U.S. Army Garrison Yuma Proving Ground (YPG).

But James is not new to YPG. In June 2019 he came to serve as Deputy Garrison Manager, and worked here 12 years ago as well.

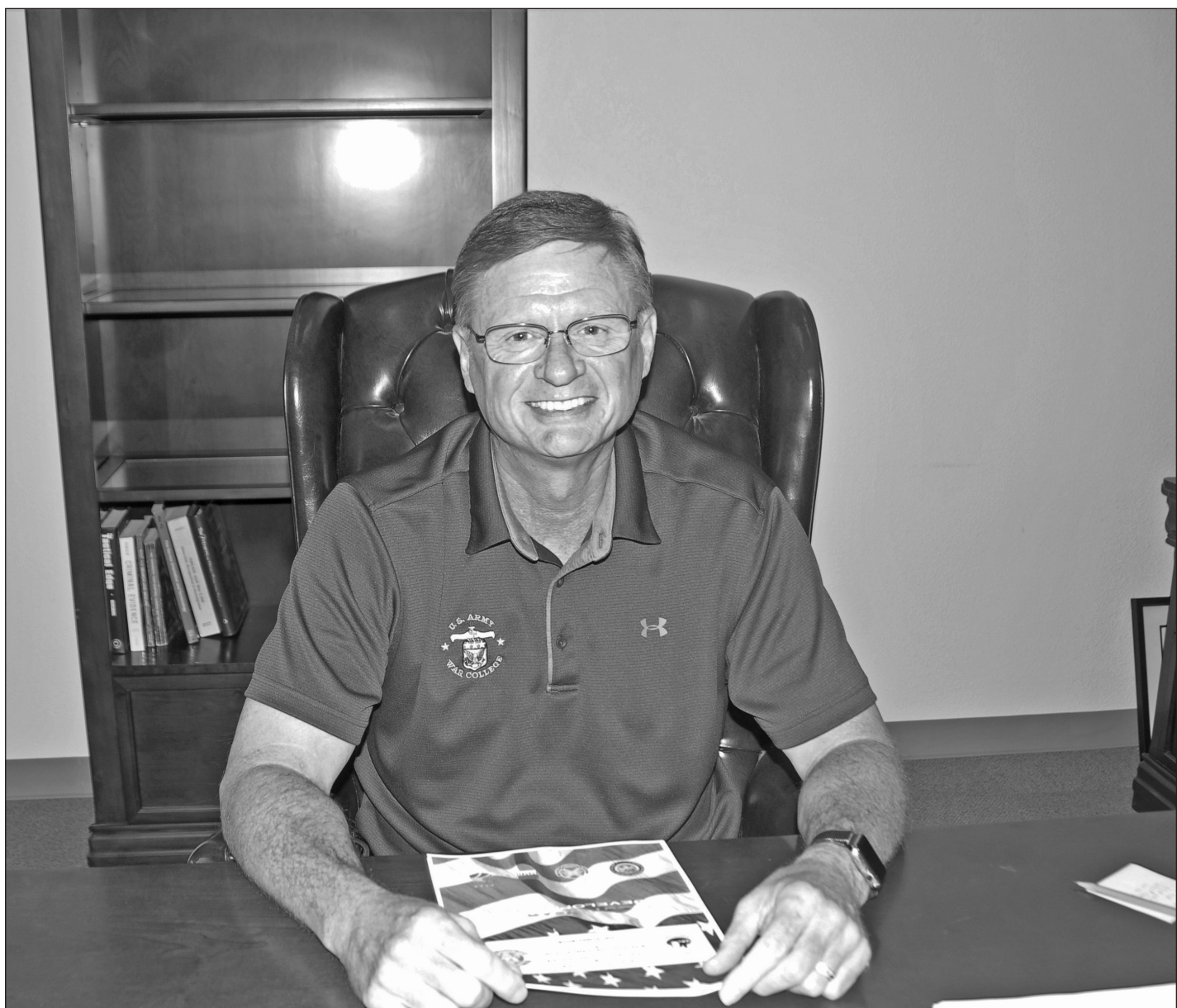
The garrison manager position is similar to a city manager and has James overseeing the services provided to the YPG community such as the police, the fire department, operations, public works, MWR. He also interacts with YPG's tenant units and the Yuma county and city governments.

James has a wealth of experience in installation management. He served as temporary Deputy Garrison Commander at various installations including Fort Bragg in North Carolina and Camp Red Cloud in South Korea. For the last eight months James has served as YPG's Acting Garrison Manager on behalf of Gordon Rogers who retired earlier this year.

"It prepared me well and really gave me an opportunity to get my hands on being a garrison manager so maybe that's what helped me be competitive for this position."

Now officially in the position, James hopes to connect with the community to learn their needs. "I think there are a lot of great ideas out there and I am not sure we are capturing them."

Community members can share their ideas and suggestions through the Interactive Customer Evaluation (ICE) program, which can be accessed through the YPG MWR public website. James says those comments are seen by a lot of management personnel and allows for leadership to act quickly. Examples of those would be a street light out or a menu item suggestion.



Ronny James is the new Garrison Manager at U.S. Army Garrison Yuma Proving Ground. He came to YPG as the Deputy Garrison Manager in 2019.

PHOTO BY ANA HENDERSON

For more in depth situations that may require procedural changes, he suggests attending a resident town hall.

"It might be better in a town hall so we can talk to the person face to face and get their ideas and their thoughts and develop an idea from that."

Recent examples of changes based on community feedback are the changes of hours of operation of the

Post exchange and the commissary. The community gave their input on what worked best for them.

James remarks that the worldwide pandemic has made the focus on community even greater.

"We are out here by ourselves. COVID has really taught us that we need to look into YPG and take care of the community and help them stay out of places they might get infected with

COVID. If we can keep them here, keep them entertained, keep them going to the commissary and PX then they are safer."

James believes with the new leadership of YPG Commander Col. Patrick McFall and himself they can build a strong community.

"We are already a tight knit community so this will just bring us closer."

## Shootin' the Breeze

### Putting the guns in the rearview mirror

By Dave Horn

Well, it's time. After several years of contributing articles to the U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground newspaper The Outpost, it's time for me to lay down the pen due to my upcoming retirement.

I'd like to thank The Outpost for their part in this partnership, which dates all the way back to 1986. My goal in writing the "Shootin' the Breeze" column has always been to take some part of life here at YPG that we could all relate to, have a little fun with it, then hand it back to you for your entertainment. I hope you have enjoyed reading them as much as I've enjoyed presenting them to you.

Thanks again,  
Dave Horn



**Editor's note:** Dave, on behalf of The Outpost and its longtime readers we wish you the best in your retirement. Your column will be missed.



Recliners from **\$199**



SAVE! on Sectionals - fabric or leather

**Yes!**  
NO!  
Credit  
Check  
Financing  
OAC

**Queen  
Mattress**  
from  
**Only!  
\$168**  
American made

**4 Piece  
BED  
ROOM  
SETS**  
Yuma's  
Best Value  
& Selection



**SHEET Only!  
SETS \$24.95**  
Most Sizes In Stock

**FREE!**  
YPG & MCAS  
Delivery



Oak TV  
Consoles  
ON  
SALE!

**Mattress  
Warehouse  
Factory Outlet**

248 East 24th St., Yuma

FREE! YUMA AREA DELIVERY - STORES OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

**Newberry's  
LIFESTYLE  
Furniture**

7512 East 32nd St., Yuma

## Chaplain's Corner

### Hard life strengthens us for an unknown future

By Chaplain Maj. Ronald Beltz

One of the best examples of a mother preparing her young for the ups and downs of life comes from Gary Richmond's book, "A View from the Zoo". In chapter one Richmond gives us an amazing look at the birth of a baby giraffe.

The first thing you need to recognize is giraffes have long legs... very long legs. The body of a mother giraffe is some ten feet from the ground and she does not lower her body when she gives birth. When a calf is born, he immediately falls ten feet to the ground and lands on his back. Ten feet is a long way to fall. What a way to come into the world. Then after falling on its back, the newborn calf rolls over on his stomach with his legs tucked under him. At this point the mother giraffe does something extraordinary. She waits about a minute and then she kicks the newborn calf head over heels and sends it sprawling. Talk about tough love. If the baby giraffe doesn't immediately get up on its legs, she kicks it again, and again. Finally, the little giraffe stands for the first time on its very wobbly legs. He's now ready to follow her and the rest of the herd.

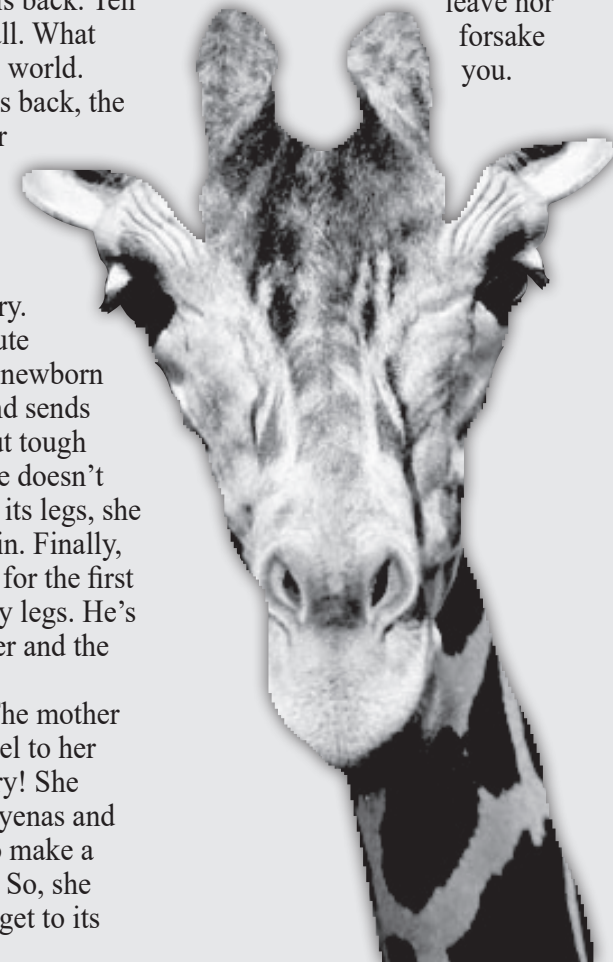
Please understand. The mother giraffe is not being cruel to her baby. Quite the contrary! She knows that lions and hyenas and leopards would love to make a meal of a baby giraffe. So, she needs her baby calf to get to its

feet as quickly as possible so that it can keep up with the herd. Kicking him is her way of protecting her young one from predators.

Sometimes we may also feel as though life has no sooner gotten us to our feet when it turns around and suddenly knocks us back down. The next time that happens to you, think about the newborn giraffe. Life may simply be strengthening us for an unknown future.

The Bible reminds us: Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified. The Lord your God goes with you, will never

leave nor  
forsake  
you.





# YPG strives for inclusion and accessibility for all



PHOTOS BY ANA HENDERSON

(Left to right) Acting Garrison Manager Ronald Rodriguez, Garrison Manager Ronny James, Command Sgt. Maj. Jamathon Nelson, YPG Technical Director Larry Bracamonte, Disability Manager Carolyn Lauzon and Equal Employment Opportunity Director Joeann Bailey, watch as YPG Commander Col. Patrick McFall and Steve Wilson cut the ribbon on the electric doors at YPG's headquarters.



By Ana Henderson

Yuma Proving Ground's (YPG) Commander Col. Patrick McFall, Garrison Manager Ronny James, YPG Technical Director Larry Bracamonte, Command Sgt. Maj. Jamathon Nelson, Acting Garrison Manager Ronald Rodriguez, Disability Manager Carolyn Lauzon and Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Director Joeann Bailey gathered to cut the ribbon on YPG's new automatic doors.

Bailey started looking into the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) accessibility guidelines after seeing Steve Wilson, also present at the ribbon cutting, struggling to enter the Range Operation Center (ROC) building.

"Why do people have to struggle to get into the ROC when it's our main headquarters," thought Bailey.

The ribbon cutting was a proud moment for everyone involved. After the ceremony, McFall told the group about his step-father who used crutches and transitioned to an electric scooter to get around after having polio as a child.

"I am very appreciative to electric doors and the handicap parking spots because I grew up with it. I understand the value of these doors."

In addition to the doors the restrooms inside the building were retrofitted for wheelchair accessibility.

Bailey urges YPG employees if they see someone with a disability or struggling to get into a facility let the EEO office know, Carolyn Lauzon is the Disability Accommodation Manager, so they can work to make the location accessible.

YPG has retrofitted others facilities on an as needed basis with automatic doors and wheelchair accessible restrooms however Bailey says accommodations could include telephones, desk, chairs etc.

"Just let us know and we can assist the person to get what they need to get their job done."

**Yuma Oncology Center**

**Private Cancer Clinic  
Less Exposure  
More Personal Attention**



Gordon L. Grado  
M.D., FACRO, FACP



Siavosh Vakilian  
M.D., FRCP(C), DABR

**1951 W. 25th Street, Suite F  
(928) 317-9200  
Fax: (928) 317-9205  
www.yumaoncologycenter.com**



# Yuma recruiter seizes rare chance to attend Military Freefall School

By Alun Thomas

It was a proud moment for Staff Sgt. Jordan Alston, recruiter, Yuma Recruiting Station, Phoenix West Recruiting Company, as he successfully graduated the Military Freefall School (MFFS) Parachutist Course, here, Oct. 30.

It was a rare opportunity for a recruiter to attend the school, mainly reserved for special operations groups such as Army Special Forces and Rangers, Navy Seals, and Air Force Para-Rescue and Combat Controllers.

During the month-long school, Alston learned combat military freefall skills, which take place at both day and night, utilizing High Altitude-Low Openings and High Altitude-High Opening settings.

Alston, a native of Oswego, Ill., said he was able to attend the course thanks to a connection made between Maj. Derick Taylor, commander, MFFS, and Staff Sgt. Christopher Rivera, station commander, Yuma Rec. Station.

“He (Rivera) pushed for one of us to attend the school, so we could explain to potential applicants what it takes to be a part of the elite branches of the military,” Alston said. “Special Operations Forces (SOF) is the number one priority for the Army right now, so that was the emphasis for me being here.”

Alston said he has a huge desire to be involved with Special Forces in the future, so attending the MFF School was essential for him.

“As soon as I was offered it, I was on it without hesitation,” he said. “I knew it would give me a glimpse into my future.”

Alston said the first week of the school began with students learning to pack their parachutes and practicing parachute techniques in the Master Sgt. George Bannar Vertical Wind Tunnel.

“Weeks two to four involved jumps, where we learned jumps special operations utilize to get to a location or a target,” Alston explained. “I learned to use different parts of my body I never expected to. I had never skydived before, so I thought it couldn’t be

too hard, just falling through the air.”

Alston soon discovered this wasn’t the case and found himself challenged by the variety of different jumps performed.

“It takes a lot of work to learn different body positions and make sure your body is aerodynamic,” he said. “I learned a lot of in-flight techniques, how to turn, get away, pilot tracking ... it was a lot more demanding than I thought it would be.”

Alston said the jumps became increasingly difficult during the night jump portion of the course, where there would usually be two jumps a night.

“It got progressively more challenging when we had to start wearing combat equipment,” Alston said. “You’re not just flying your body anymore and have to adjust to the weight.”

Alston also found himself having to perform a ‘cut-away,’ a procedure where the reserve parachute has to be engaged in order to avoid a potential accident.

“If something malfunctions or goes wrong, or you find yourself spinning, you have to get rid of the equipment you’re carrying,” Alston said. “Unfortunately I had to do that and was the only one in the class, but it’s either that or your life and a first-hand learning experience.”

Alston said although the school was grueling at times, the training was excellent and very professional.

“This experience makes me want to get into special operations even more; it’s opened my eyes to a lot of things, especially the intense training,” he added. “The instructors are so knowledgeable and professional, that it inspires you to achieve more.”

Taylor said he was delighted to have Alston attend the school and experience the training, highlighting the relationship between the MFFS and United States Recruiting Command.

“Due to both the close relationship and location, the MFFS was able to facilitate a ‘walk-on’ allocation to the Military Freefall Parachutist Course for Alston,” Taylor said.

SEE RECRUITER/7



Alston (right) bumps fists with Maj. Derick Taylor, commander, Military Freefall School, after successfully graduating the Military Freefall School Parachutist Course at YPG.



PHOTOS BY ALUN THOMAS

Alston (center) stands in formation as he prepares to graduate the Military Freefall School Parachutist Course at YPG on Oct. 30. Alston’s attendance was a rare opportunity for a recruiter to attend the school, mainly reserved for special operations groups such as Army Special Forces and Rangers, Navy Seals, and Air Force Para-Rescue and Combat Controllers.



# RECRUITER

FROM PAGE 6

“The concept behind his attendance was twofold: firstly to provide a unique training opportunity that may assist USAREC in meeting their SOF recruiting goals, and secondly reward him for his superior work as a member of the Yuma recruiting team and Phoenix Recruiting Battalion.”

Taylor said the relationship between the Yuma station and the MFFS has been beneficial to both teams, for both enlistments and visibility of special operations.

“The Yuma Recruiting Station and the Military Freefall School have enjoyed a positive relationship over the last 18 months,” Taylor said.

“This relationship resulted in multiple 18X and SOF support enlistments, as well as local recruiters gaining a better understanding of SOF and SOF support jobs available.”

Having Alston attend the school will now allow the recruiters to give potential future Soldiers a glimpse into the MMFS and its opportunities.

“Military Freefall Training is among the Department of Defense’s most exciting and high-risk training opportunities,” Taylor said. “Recruiting personnel are often asked about SOF career fields and training, but generally lack the experiences to effectively answer these questions.”

Alston said he is excited to teach future Soldiers about his experiences at MFFS and use it as a positive recruiting tool.

“I’ll be better able to explain the professionalism of special operations and how they train – they are the ultimate in the Army,” he said. “I want people to know how detailed they are, how they go from A to Z in everything they do.”

Alston said he was proud to graduate and make it through the course, something he wants future Soldiers to take note of when considering a future in SOF.

“If they’re determined enough and want it badly, then they can do this, 100 percent,” Alston said.

# MUTT

FROM PAGE 1

all-terrain vehicle that will follow a dismounted infantry Soldier carrying a wireless tether.

In addition to its usefulness for lugging heavy gear, or even wounded Soldiers, an armed variant is outfitted with a Javelin anti-tank missile, a .50 caliber machine gun, and a M4 rifle.

“We are testing integrating multiple payloads that will enable a Soldier to do their mission more effectively,” said Gerald Jung, mechanical engineer. “Dismounted Soldiers can only carry what’s on their back—now they have a ‘mule’ that can carry much heavier equipment, but that’s still small enough to not restrict their mobility in tight areas.”

Perhaps the most interesting payload being evaluated was a tethered unmanned aerial system that can ascend 200 feet above the MUTT and serve a variety of purposes, including use as an electronic signal repeater.

“It can be used for reconnaissance, surveillance, or assessments of battle damage,” said Carlos Molina, test officer.

The MUTT can also be outfitted with other payloads: a screening obscuring module that delivers a smoke screen, chemical and biological agent detectors, and an ultra-low light night vision camera that produces full color images.

“You can see and make distinction of objects a lot easier when you have full color,” said Jung.

The testing at YPG across six weeks of Project Convergence’s capstone exercise subjected all of the systems to the most intense weather and terrain conditions the Sonoran Desert had to offer, and then some: Yuma experienced nine days of record-breaking heat across the time the demonstration was in progress. The MUTT was put through its paces across rugged, steep, unimproved desert roads and trails fully exposed to the elements as evaluators collected performance data.

“We had several days that were in



U.S. ARMY PHOTOS

The Multi-Utility Tactical Transport (MUTT) is an 8 x 8 unmanned all-terrain vehicle that will follow a dismounted infantry Soldier carrying a wireless tether. In addition to its usefulness for lugging heavy gear, or even wounded Soldiers, an armed variant is outfitted with a Javelin anti-tank missile, a .50 caliber machine gun, and a M4 rifle.



excess of 115 degrees,” said Jung. “That’s without the solar loading—once you put the sun on it, the temperature of the vehicle can exceed 140 degrees. Some of our equipment reached 160 degrees.”

“This is a testament to how important it is to test out here,” said Molina. “A lot of these systems have never seen the temperatures we have here. When you add the temperature, the dust, the vibration, it is an extremely intense environment.”

Each MUTT is expected to be able to carry 1,000 pounds, operate

for 60 miles in 72 hours, and run silently in the field to avoid detection by an adversary, all while being able to recharge Soldiers’ peripheral electronic gear like radios and night vision goggles with onboard power. YPG’s natural environment testing ensures this vital piece of equipment will work as expected wherever in the world it is called upon to serve.

“The YPG personnel have been phenomenal,” said Jung. “Whatever we needed, they were able to surge and provide it.”



# YPG employee from Iraq supports the mission because military gave her freedom

By Ana Henderson

“Growing up in the Middle East life is so different. It’s kind of simple but also there is a lot of struggle because of the war.”

This is how Nahla Mariam Alabodi describes her life in Baghdad, Iraq as a child and young woman. One day her life changed when an American Soldier came to her family’s door during a search of homes in her neighborhood.

In 2003, U.S. troops came to Iraq. “We all were excited and happy to see the U.S. military come to Bagdad. They were going to give us the freedom and democracy everyone was looking for,” recounts Alabodi.

The translator accompanying the Soldier was struggling to translate, so Alabodi spoke up.

“I jumped to defend my dad and spoke the language.”

Alabodi learned English in school. At that time students were required to take English courses as early as fifth grade. The Army Captain was surprised and before leaving gave her a piece of paper with information. The next day Alabodi showed up the base with that piece of paper and showed it to the guard.

“That day when I walked into the military base, my life changed.”

Alabodi was in her 20s when she began translating. “I worked with Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Special Forces. I would go on checkpoints, raids and missions. I translated in big conferences with sheiks and tribes and people in the official government.”

Alabodi was paid for her work as a linguist, but the job was more than a paycheck.

“I worked to support my family, but I also I wanted to support the mission. I was excited to see Americans

thousands of miles away from their home here to help us.”

Alabodi says she and her sister were the first female translators on Camp Victory. Her family was worried for her, but also proud. After a while when word spread about the sisters’ job, her family became a target for terrorists.

“They attacked my family house three times. I received a threat letter.”

Yet, the worst moment came in March 2006 when her work switched to the Green Zone to assist the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Her brother dropped her off that day.

“On his way back to the house, he got targeted and he got shot. They shot him eight times.”

It was especially heartbreaking for Alabodi because he brother was so proud of her.

“It’s not fair what happened to him, because he didn’t do anything wrong. I was supporting the mission. My family has nothing to do with what I was doing. Their only guilt was being supportive to me.”

After the murder of her brother everyone thought she would quit.

“If I am going to quit, I let them win. They already took my brother’s life and they made my family suffer,” adding, “The terrorists, this is what they want to do. They kill people just to take your freedom, take your life, to punish you for doing something against their own agenda.”

After that, Alabodi says she escaped a near kidnapping. She knew then it was time to leave Iraq. She was able to come to America under a special immigration visa for being an Iraqi translator. She came to America alone.

“It was an exciting moment for me to see the streets and the lights. I grew up in a warzone. I had to finish school studying with a candle. Sometimes we didn’t have water.”

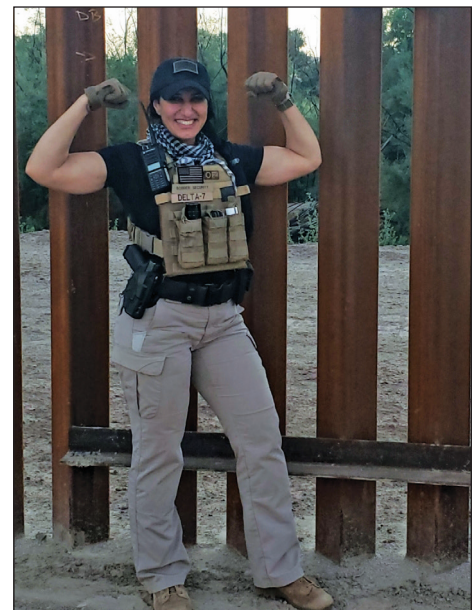
Alabodi continued working for the government as a translator. She received pre-deployment training and returned to Iraq but was not allowed to contact her family for their safety. After 15 years, Alabodi moved on from this chapter in her life and begin working in security. She’s worked securing the border wall, and now works at YPG in the Protection Division.

“I love to be supportive of the mission. The Military traveled thousands of miles to help people from another country why can I not use my skills to help and support the mission over here.”

Aladodi also has another mission, bringing her family to the U.S. one day.

“It’s not safe for them. They have been moving from neighborhood to neighborhood for years.”

“I learned to be away from my family, but also I have to survive everything for them. It’s hard for me because I can’t see them,” said Aladobi in tears. “I hope one day I can bring my family here. I am blessed to be here.”



LOANED PHOTOS

After 15 years, Alabodi moved on from this chapter in her life and begin working in security. She’s worked securing the border wall, and now works at YPG in the Protection Division.



Alabodi was in her 20s when she began translating. “I worked with Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Special Forces. I would go on checkpoints, raids and missions. I translated in big conferences with sheiks and tribes and people in the official government.”



# CLASSIFIEDS

To place your ad call 928-783-4433

## Auto

### Air Cond - Heating



**A/C & HEAT PUMP  
TUNE UP SPECIAL \$55  
HEAT PUMPS ON SALE**

- Park Models • Mobile Home Sales, Repairs, & New Installations

**Free Estimates Res & Comm  
928-919-1717**  
-Insured- ROC# 271605

**AIRO LLC.  
Air Conditioning**  
Install, Repairs & Maintenance

- Park Model Experts
- Heat Pumps and A/C's
- Swamp Coolers
- AZ room Duct Additions
- Gas & Electric Furnace

**Same Day Serv. & Repairs 24/7  
Lic. & Insured  
Call 928-488-1518  
AZ ROC #231920 K-39**

AZ ROC # 90834-R396

**FOOTHILLS**  
AIR CONDITIONING & HEATING  
SALES & SERVICE

- Residential • Mobile Homes
- Park Models • AZ Room Duct Additions
- Duct Cleaning

**FREE ESTIMATES**

**(928) 342-9164**

**12890 40th St.**

**(FOOTHILLS)**

**FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED**

Licensed, Bonded, Insured

## Ceramic Tile

### Victor's 1 STOP Remodeling Shop

(In Business since 1986)

- Showers
- Bathroom and Kitchen Remodel
- Complete Home Renovations



**(928) 726-4430**

Office: 2573 East 24th St.  
ROC# B. 103948 B-1.232324

## Concrete

### AMERICAN MASONRY

- High Quality Work
- Brick • Block
- Stone • Concrete
- Custom tile • Gravel
- Iron gates & Landscaping.
- No job too small.
- Over 30 years experience

**Free Estimates  
928-257-8584**

Not a Licensed Contractor

## Electricians

### ELECTRICAL UNLIMITED

- Residential & Commercial Electrical
- Wiring Service for Remodel / New Construction
- Repair Services
- 24hr Service & Free Estimates

**(928) 920-2311**

License#379734 & Insured

## Handyman

### A & M HANDYMAN

A&M HANDYMAN  
Masonry, Carpentry,  
Cement, Remodeling,  
Painting, Plumbing,  
Roofing & More Just Ask!  
No job too small because  
I do them all.

Allen Ainsworth  
**Cell 928-257-9077**  
or Call 928-783-0306

## Painters

### GR Stamps Painting Service

Painting Interior / Exterior

**928-329-4441 or  
Call Gary 928-271-9968**

Licensed & Bonded for your Protection  
ROC 145570

## Cleaning Services

### Alabaster Cleaning

HOMES • OFFICES • YARDS

Carpet Cleaning  
Construction Cleaning  
Yard Cleaning & Hauling  
Windows & Blinds  
Strip & Wax Floors

**928-782-6624**

Lic., Bonded, Insured

www.AlabasterCleaning.com



- Stamped Concrete
- Epoxy Floors • Grinding
- Polishing • Resurfacing
- Commercial Coatings

28 Years Exp.

www.concreteconceptsllc.com

Duane (928) 580-5626

ROC#302888

## Excavation

### ERNIE'S BOBCAT SERVICE, INC.

Excavation, Grading,  
Hauling, Pool  
Excavation, Lot Prep,  
Cleaning and more!  
**FREE ESTIMATES**  
**928-210-1152**  
**928-726-3514**  
ROC #237678

## Landscaping

### Art's Tree Service

Trimming, Shaping,  
and Removing,  
General clean-up,  
Gravel Spreading,  
Brick and Concrete Work,  
Sprinkler Installation  
**FREE ESTIMATES**  
**Call 928- 342-7779**  
or **928-920-4164**  
not a licensed contractor

### M.T. Professional Painting & Remodeling

- Stucco, Drywall
- Baseboards, Doors
- Roof Coatings
- Credit Cards Accepted

Neat Professional Work.

**32 Years Experience**

Fully Bonded & Insured

**928-726-2664**

Res. ROC#165505

Comm. ROC#112597

## Construction

**LUIS RODRIGUEZ**  
Cell: (928) 750-8887

**DAVID RODRIGUEZ**  
Cell: (928) 271-9102

**LIC # ROC 326087**  
**Luis7coastbuilders@gmail.com**

Working to Meet Your Budget and Deadline!

New Construction,  
Residential & Commercial.  
Additions • Remodels • Concrete  
Paint • Patios • All Flooring

The Pros For All Of Your Construction Needs!

## Handyman

### HANDYMAN BOB

Veteran with over 40 years  
experience in all phases  
of home and property  
maintenance and repairs  
including welding.

**928-919-6809**

No job too small.

Available to help you year round

(not a licensed contractor)

### Arturo's Artistic Landscaping

Installation and Repairs

- Sprinklers
- Spread Rock
- Lighting
- Design
- Edging • Brick
- Concrete
- Curbing

**Call Today 928.580.8666**  
ROC#214701

### SIERRA COATINGS LLC

Commercial & Residential

Custom Painting

28 years of quality service

• Stucco & Drywall Repair • Stains

• Varnish • Epoxy floors

• Roof Coatings • Licensed

• Bonded • Insured

**928-257-2555**

5865 E. View Parkway, Yuma

Free Estimates ROC# 261629

### WE CLEAN WINDOWS & BLINDS



\$45 Special  
Cleaning for up to 10  
Residential Windows  
Inside & Out  
(Blinds not included)

**(928) 247-2946**

## Concrete

### E&S Custom & Regular Concrete

Residential & Commercial

- Stamped Concrete
- Colored Concrete
- Foundation • Block Walls
- Sidewalks & Driveways
- Retaining Wall & Mexican Brick

**FREE ESTIMATES**

**928-259-6502**

**928-246-3947**

ROC# 290917

### Victor's 1 STOP Remodeling Shop

(In Business since 1986)

- New Residential Homes and Commercial Buildings
- Kitchen and Bathroom Remodel
- Casitas
- Room Additions
- Concrete Work

Office: 2573 EAST 24th St.

**(928) 726-4430**

ROC#B.103948 B-1.232324

### ROGER'S HOME IMPROVEMENT & HANDYMAN SERVICES

Extended Experience in all  
Phases of Home Improvement

• Drywall • Electrical • Plumbing  
• Framing • Painting • Roof Repair  
• Build From Scratch or Restore  
• Honey-do's & much more!

**Call Roger 928-345-8391**

(not a licensed contractor)

### Landscape Services

- Landscape Installation
- Drip Systems
- Sprinkler Systems & Repair
- Grass • Gravel • Pavers
- Flagstone • Brick Borders
- Yard Lighting & Clean-UPS
- Tree Trimming

**928-920-2672**

(not a licensed contractor)

### AAA X-TREME PROFESSIONAL PAINTING

20 Years of Quality Service

• Interior & Exterior Custom Painting

• Stucco & Drywall Repair Specialist

• Roof Coating & Acoustic Removal

We'll Beat our Competitors Prices.

**928-920-3215**

Licensed Bonded & Insured Commercial / Residential

### FRANK'S Air Conditioning & Heating

RESIDENTIAL • PARK MODELS  
MOBILE HOMES

Heat Pumps on  
Sale Now!

**Call for Free Estimate  
928-783-3648**

Licensed • Bonded • Insured

ROC# 194591



## Painters

**Desert Best Painting LLC**

Specializing in Commercial & Residential

- Interior • Exterior
- Drywall • Stucco Repair
- Roof Coating • Epoxy Floors

Licensed-Bonded-Insured - ROC# 200112  
**RODRIGO RAMIREZ (Owner)**  
 desertbestpainting1@yahoo.com  
 928-446-9519

**Epoxy Floors Resurfacing & Floor Prep**

**CONCRETE CONCEPTS** Duane at  
 928-580-5626  
 Roc # 302888  
 www.concreteconceptsllc.com

**Yuma Painting**

Interior & Exterior  
 Paint, Stains, and Varnish  
 Elasto / Meric • Roof Coating  
 Drywall & Stucco Repair  
 • Wall Paper  
 & Acoustic Removal  
**Jesse • 928-920-0827**  
 Lic. • Bonded & Ins. ROC#133364

## Plumbing

**MISSION PLUMBING**

Licensed • Bonded • Insured  
**All Plumbing Repairs & Installs**  
 Residential and Commercial  
 New Construction  
 FREE ESTIMATES  
 Foothills 928-580-5330  
 Yuma 928-722-5800  
 ROC# 214245

## Roofers



**COOL DOWN WITH POLYURETHANE FOAM ON YOUR ROOF!**

The single most energy efficient thing you can do for your home.  
 We also do all types of roof coatings!

Call  
**928-782-2814**  
 Licensed, Bonded, Insured  
 Roc#162010 **Free Estimates**

## Roofers

**AAA Affordable Home & RV Roofing**

**Roof Coatings, Wind Damage & Leaks,**  
 AZ Room, Shingles, Foam+ Metal.

**Christian Values & Retired Military.**  
 Call Mike  
**(928) 257-6803**  
 (Not a Licensed Contractor)



We do specialized coatings for rubber roof system and all types of coatings for every roof.

Get it done right.  
**928-782-2814**  
 Lic. Bonded, Insured  
 Free estimates  
 ROC#162010

**Commander makes appearance on "Chamber Chatter"**

YPG Commander Col. Patrick McFall was the guest on KBLU's 560 AM "Chamber Chatter" radio program with Kimberly Kahl and Russ Clark. The hour-long segment was pre-recorded and aired on Veterans Day.

PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER

**Army museum opens as place to tell Soldier stories**

By Joseph Lacdan

The National Museum of the U.S. Army celebrated its grand opening on Veterans Day in an empty auditorium. Army leaders paid tribute to the sacrifices of Soldiers during a ceremony that was closed to the public due to pandemic safety restrictions.

The museum highlights the individual stories of Soldiers, from accounts on the front lines during World Wars I and II to Medal of Honor recipients' tales of valor. Soldiers' achievements are featured in the exhibit halls of this sprawling, 185,000-square-foot building with exhibits and displays that date back to the Army's inception in 1775.

"The Army's history is America's history," said Army Chief of Staff Gen. James C. McConville. "The Army has been here since before the birth of our nation ... The Army museum has done an incredible job of bringing to life, the inspirational stories of service and sacrifice of American Soldiers."

The Army and the nonprofit Army Historical Foundation coordinated the effort while the Army Corps of Engineers performed the construction of the steel and glass facility.

McConville has emphasized that



Army senior leaders along with acting Secretary of Defense Chris Miller and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark A. Milley attend the grand opening of the National Museum of the U.S. Army on Nov. 11 at Fort Belvoir, Va. The 850,000-square foot facility will have limited attendance due to pandemic safety restrictions.

SCREENSHOT

individual Soldiers -- the Army's people -- are the backbone of the Army. The museum enshrines the accomplishments of Soldiers in the aptly-named Soldier Stories Gallery. Soldiers' bravery will be further brought to life with figures, artifacts and documentaries and the Fight for the Nation Galleries and Army and Society Gallery.

The museum features displays from major conflicts including the Civil War, the Vietnam War, Operation Desert Storm and the global war on terrorism.

"Ordinary men and women from every corner of the country in every walk of life, achieve the extraordinary," said Army

Secretary Ryan D. McCarthy, who served in the 75th Ranger Regiment during the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom. "This living museum will help their sacrifice endure for the ages and serves as a repository for all Americans to honor our heroes, and inspire the next generation of free men and women to serve."

The facility provides exhibits and activities for families including the interactive Experimental Learning Center, which teaches children in the areas of geography, math, science, technology and engineering.



# Teaching the future STEM leaders of America

By Ana Henderson

Educational institutions and the Department of Defense (DoD) alike know that science, technology, engineering and math also known as (STEM) is the way of the future.

"With the evolution of technology advancing so fast, we have a shortage of people entering into STEM occupations. Not only in DoD but private industry as well," explains Yuma Proving Ground's (YPG) STEM Outreach Program Manager Paula Rickleff.

For years now the Army Educational Outreach Program (AEOP) has been reaching out to students and educators to expose them to DoD careers. YPG administers the local program.

"We need to plant the seed in young people's minds that there are exciting STEM activities that relate to what we do at YPG. We have hopes that some of them will end up working out here in the future."

In early November, the YPG STEM team taught students at McGraw Elementary School about ballistic trajectory. The students logged in from home and the YPG team broadcast from a conference room at YPG via Google Meets, the platform local schools are using for virtual instruction. Since STEM projects are typically hands on it was a learning experience for the YPG team.

"They are teaching me about Google Meets and I am teaching them about ballistics," jokes Ashley Locketto, Artillery I Test Officer in the Munitions and Weapon's Division and STEM team member.

Once the team worked past the technical issues with the help of the kids it was time to learn. Adjutant Iris Espinoza kicked off the lesson with a short



The YPG STEM team, Adjutant Iris Espinoza, STEM Outreach Program Manager Paula Rickleff and Artillery I Test Officer and STEM team member Ashley Locketto, taught students at McGraw Elementary School about ballistic trajectory. The students logged in from home and the YPG team broadcast from the Commander's conference room at YPG.

presentation.

"We were able to start teaching them about trajectory. The Power Point showed a balloon launch demonstrating internal ballistics as we are holding the balloon and the balloon launching is external ballistics and when it hits the target its terminal ballistics," explained Locketto.

Locketto followed by giving instructions on how to build a catapult using household items supplied to the students by the YPG STEM team. She taught the kids step by step how to make the spoons more rigid so they were able to fire them. They took the approach of them all thinking like engineers. Locketto explains they started using one spoon to shoot the projectiles in this case were a cotton ball and balled up tin foil, "Then we optimized our design and tried to keep moving going forward and get them thinking on their toes of 'how do you strengthen the weapon itself? How do you make it go farther?' We were able to think technical with them and let them dream up whatever they were wanting to do with it."



PHOTOS BY MARK SCHAUER

Locketto a Mechanical Engineer gave the students instructions on how to build a catapult using household items supplied to the students by the YPG STEM team.

Despite not being in the same room the kids ranging from first to fourth grade in the Student Ambassador Club and the I-TECH Club, an engineering and technology based club at McGraw, were fully engaged.

"A, they are pros at virtual learning and B, they were beyond responsive. They are sitting there looking at our catapult and giving us suggestions."

Locketto adds, "They were shooting cotton balls across their house saying 'I am going to be an engineer one day'"

This is exactly the reaction YPG's STEM Outreach program like to hear. Espinoza, Rickleff and Locketto will continue to adapt the program until they can see students in person again.

They also plan to continue collaborating with local educators such as Mrs. Rebekka King who is working with the team to add an "A" for agriculture to YPG's program to tie in with Yuma's largest industry. The YPG team sends a thank you Mrs. King, Mrs. Desiree Cooksey and Mr. Mark De Young for serving as moderators for the program.

Shop. Support. Volunteer.



**Amberly's**  
PLACE  
Thrift Shoppe



812 S. Ave. A • 928-329-2989

Open Mon-Fri 9-5, Sat 9-1  
www.amberlyspace.com



**Delicious Menu**  
**50+ Craft Beers**  
**Full Bar**

928.782.0499 pinthouseyuma.com Historic Downtown Yuma

**ZOUNDS®**  
Hearing

**WE'LL BEAT**  
**ANY COMPETITORS**  
**PRICING!**

1025 W. 24th St. Ste 1  
**(928) 344-1968**  
**www.ZoundsHearing.com**



## Be someone's angel

The angels for the Annual YPG Angel Tree Program are now displayed in trees at the Exchange, the ROC Garden Café, and the Roadrunner Café. Each angel lists the age and gender of an at-need child of a Soldier at YPG. To participate pick an angel, purchase a gift, wrap the gift and return it with the angel attached. Gifts can be placed under the trees or dropped off at the ACS, Bldg. 309 by noon on 12 December.



PHOTO BY ANA HENDERSON

# YPG Commander and Soldiers support veterans



PHOTO BY ANA HENDERSON



PHOTO BY ANA HENDERSON

This year's American Legion Post #19 Veterans Day Parade was especially meaningful, and YPG turned out in force to support it, with YPG Commander Col. Patrick McFall and wife Heidi, YTC Commander Lt. Col. Alicia Johnson, Command Sgt. Maj. Jamathon Nelson, and Soldiers from the Airborne Test Force all participating. A very hearty thank you to all of our nation's veterans.



PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER



PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER

Following the Veterans Day parade Col. McFall and wife Heidi attended the 11th Hour ceremony at the American Legion Post #19.

26 November 2020

# Thanksgiving ON THE GO!

## MENU

Slow Roasted Turkey  
Honey Sweet Baked Ham  
Mashed Potatoes with Turkey Gravy  
Traditional Stuffing  
Candied Sweet Potatoes  
Buttered Sweet Corn  
Chilled Cranberry Sauce  
Freshly Baked Dinner Rolls  
Fresh Garden Salad  
Choice of Pecan or Pumpkin Pie

Adults \$17.95 Children \$9.95  
The Cactus Cafe will not be open for dine-in -- Carry-out  
Only! For reservations/payment, call Bldg. 300 NLT  
24 Nov. (928)328-2530.

Schedule your pick-up time Thanksgiving Day from  
1030-1300 Hours

**cactus café**  
U.S. ARMY YUMA PROVING GROUND



## FITNESS CENTER OPEN

PATRONS MUST FOLLOW POSTED COVID-19 SAFETY RULES

**MONDAY-THURSDAY  
0600 - 1900**

**FRIDAY  
SATURDAY & SUNDAY  
1000 - 1800**

**FACE MASK MUST BE WORN AT ALL TIMES!**



PATRONS MUST FOLLOW POSTED COVID-19 SAFETY RULES

**FACE MASK MUST BE WORN AT ALL TIMES!**

## Hours of Operation

**OPEN**

**LUNCH**

MONDAY - THURSDAY  
1100 - 1300 HOURS

**DINNER**

TUESDAY - THURSDAY  
1700 - 2000 HOURS

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
CALL (928) 328-2333

**cactus café**  
U.S. ARMY YUMA PROVING GROUND

