

The Outpost

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

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ERCA Precision-guided munition reaches new distance

By Lt. Col. Thomas D. Jagielski

The Joint Program Executive Office Armaments & Ammunition Project Manager Combat Ammunition Systems (PM CAS) conducted the first successful test of a 70 km (43 miles) shot with a precision-guided munition, Dec. 19, at Yuma Proving Ground.

The live fire demonstration used the Excalibur projectile and was

the culmination of a campaign of learning on multiple systems.

“Not only did the test show the design robustness of a current fielded projectile to demonstrate lethality at extended ranges, it did so while maintaining accuracy, marking a major milestone in support of (Long Range Precision Fires) objectives of achieving overmatch artillery capability in 2023,” said Col.



Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) and Yuma Test Center leadership along with leaders from the Joint Program Executive Office Armaments & Ammunition Project Manager Combat Ammunition Systems, and Long Range Precision Fires Cross Functional Team, gathered to witness the Excalibur precision guided 70 km shot. After visiting the test site the group witnessed the shot from the mission control center at YPG. (Photos by Mark Schauer)

Anthony Gibbs, Project Manager for Combat Ammunition Systems.

Providing longer range than that of potential adversaries, is a significant combat multiple for maneuver commanders and the Long Range Precision Fires Cross Functional Team (LRPF-CFT) was established to tackle that objective. Their mission includes increasing lethality, improving rates of fire, and enabling deep fires to shape the battlefield and set conditions for the brigade combat team close fight. Multiple efforts including new propellant charges, an Extended Range Cannon

Artillery (ERCA) system, multiple projectiles with varying capabilities, and target identification and tracking systems, are under development to increase range and reduce the time from target identification to effects on target.

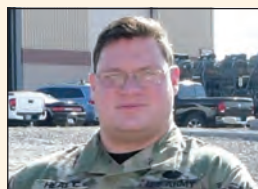
The Excalibur 70 km demonstration is signaled as the first step to regaining U.S. supremacy in cannon artillery by 2023. For more than 15 years, the M982A1 Excalibur projectile has been the premier precision artillery munition

SEE **MUNITION** page 6

ATEC employee
of the year
/Page 2



Soldier
spotlight
/Page 3



Recruits
visit YPG
/Page 5



YPG employee is ATEC Command Employee of the Year

By Mark Schauer

U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG)'s position at the forefront of Army modernization efforts wouldn't be possible without the efforts of exceptional personnel.

Among those is Savanna Silva of the Ground Combat System Test Directorate

From military vehicles to tank and artillery cartridges, Silva has worked on many of YPG's largest projects in her decade working here. Her most recent recognition, however, came for her efforts as COVID mitigation implementation lead for Project Convergence (PC), the Army's largest demonstration project of the year hosted at YPG in the summer of 2020.

Silva was first recognized as the Army Test and Evaluation Command's employee of the quarter in mid-November, and then selected weeks later as employee of the year. She was conducting a firing test when the news came out in an all-YPG email.

"To be recognized is such an honor. It was very exciting and took me a minute to keep going. It was a fantastic feeling."

The honor wasn't the first in recognition of her performance in the Army's large capabilities demonstration and campaign of learning—during the final week of the event, Lt. Gen. James Richardson, Deputy Commander of Army Futures Command, presented her with the Meritorious Civilian Service Award, the Army's third highest such award. Silva is quick to add that YPG's success in keeping COVID at bay during PC was a team effort.

"I couldn't have done it without all the people who contributed to the effort. There were 21 other people who helped execute the mitigation plan."

With over 900 support personnel and flag officers arriving from all over the Department of the Army to support PC, safely in-processing the visitors took the efforts of multiple



Test Officer with the Ground Combat System Test Directorate Savanna Silva is the ATEC Command Employee of the Year, in the category of Mission Personnel for fiscal year 2020. Silva developed and executed a comprehensive COVID-19 mitigation plan for Project Convergence 2020 at YPG. (Loaned photo)

THE OUTPOST

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personnel within YPG, including the YPG Health Clinic and the YPG Police Department. Both the visitors and the YPG personnel directly supporting the effort were also required to take a COVID test upon arrival and at the conclusion of the event, as well as periodically throughout the duration of their weeks-long stay here.

"The team was highly functioning for seven weeks and didn't have much ramp-up time. It was thanks to Eddy Patchet, who handpicked individuals for the team."

Formulating the plan took weeks of work. To protect both YPG's resident workforce and the hundreds of visiting personnel, a key safety concept was keeping those directly supporting PC in so-called 'bubbles' that were separate from each other. Visitors working on PC 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.

"The command and control plan was a very comprehensive plan that I modified a couple of times throughout the event. It was unique because we didn't have anything like it before—it wasn't something that we could just copy from someone else."

PC proceeded flawlessly, dramatically exceeding the expectations of the Army's most senior leadership. No one contracted COVID during the weeks-long project, and the plan was adopted as a model to follow elsewhere within the Army.

Silva found the experience fruitful.

"It was an awesome opportunity to be able to grow in a field I know very little about but was able to apply my engineering skills to. I'm appreciative of the people I work with and of being recognized."

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or go to advertising@yumasun.com

U.S. Army launches tenant satisfaction survey

Submitted by Opal J Graves, Housing Chief, Directorate of Public Works

The Army began its annual Tenant Satisfaction Survey to gather feedback about living in Army housing. An online survey link was emailed Dec. 2, 2020 to more than 110,000 tenants living in privatized, government-owned and government-leased housing across the globe. Completing the survey takes about 10 minutes. Tenants have 45 days to complete the confidential survey, which ends Jan. 15, 2021.

Army privatized, government-owned and government-leased housing tenants can rate their satisfaction with services, property and the overall housing experience through the online survey. Feedback is used by the Army to help maintain a high quality of life for service

members and their families. Results will guide the decisions the Army makes today about future housing.

"The Army will improve homes, communities and customer service -- from Army housing staff and the private housing management companies -- through the candid feedback we receive from our Soldiers and their families," said Lt. Gen. Jason Evans, Deputy Chief of Staff of G-9, which provides policies, programs, resources and expertise for services and installation infrastructure to enable total Army readiness. G-9 is the sponsor of the survey.

Housing tenants who do not receive the survey notice email should contact their local garrison housing offices. CEL & Associates Inc., an independent, third-party group, will conduct the survey.

Chaplain's Corner A time of miracles

By Chaplain Maj. Ronald Beltz

Under a cultural-exchange program, Alan Abramsky and his family in Roanoke, Texas, were hosts to a rabbi from Russia at Christmas time. They decided to introduce him to a culinary treat that was probably not available in his country: They took him to their favorite Chinese restaurant.

Throughout the meal, the rabbi spoke excitedly about the wonders of North America in comparison to the bleak conditions in his homeland. When they had finished eating, the waiter brought the check and presented each of them with a small brass Christmas-tree ornament as a seasonal gift.

They all laughed when Abramsky's father pointed out that the ornaments were stamped "Made in India." But the laughter

subsided when they saw that the rabbi was quietly crying. Concerned, Abramsky's father asked the rabbi if he was offended because he'd been given a gift for a Christian holiday.

He smiled, shook his head and said, "Nyet. I was shedding tears of joy to be in a wonderful country in which a Buddhist gives a Jew a Christmas gift made by a Hindu!" A time of miracles. A time for stories.

From time to time we hear someone say, "Wouldn't it be great if it could be Christmas all year long." Surprise! That was God's intent. That is why God invaded our planet and gave us the gift of God's Son. There is only one thing that stands in the way of celebrating Christmas all year long.

You and I.

Soldier spotlight

Sgt. Patrick Healy is one of the newest members of the Yuma Proving Ground Airborne Test Force (ATF). Healy is assigned as the Health Care Non-commissioned Officer in Charge of ATF. In fact, he's the first medic ever to be assigned with the unit. Healy is the primary individual to provide aid to personnel injured in the drop zone. Healy is originally from Connecticut and joined the Army in 2010. He's married to his wife Simone and they have a cat and a dog. (Loaned photo)



SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MILITARY CHILDREN



The Scholarships for Military Children Program is now open and accepting applications for the 2021 school year.

HOW TO APPLY

All applications will be submitted online only.

Apply at www.militaryscholar.org



Scholarship program of Fisher House Foundation



Yuma Proving Ground community resources

By Ana Henderson

Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) provides a variety of services for the YPG community. Below are some of the services and programs offered.

For a comprehensive list visit www.yumamwr.com

Army Community Services (ACS) Family Advocacy Program (FAP)

The family services team at YPG focuses on prevention and education.

- The New Family Support Program includes services for those who are newly pregnant or recently gave birth.

- The FAP team provides parenting classes and other services for those dealing with family turmoil.

- The Victim Advocacy Program provides services for victims of domestic violence.

- The Exceptional Family Member Program provides resources for children with special needs.

Army Emergency Relief (AER)

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.

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

Families Over Coming Under Stress (FOCUS)

The FOCUS program can help families learn skills to prevent conflict and stress, while enhancing family unit communication and cohesion. FOCUS training is confidential, free and available to active duty and activated guard and reserve service members and their families. Traditionally this program would be held in person but the option for socially distant sessions are available with the TeleFOCUS feature. All

participants need is a computer with a webcam. One of the advantages of using TeleFOCUS is that couples or families who are geographically separated can still participate.

For more details on the program call Beth FitzGerald at 928-920-6738.

Interactive Customer Evaluation (ICE) program

The ICE program can be accessed from the YPG Sharepoint site and the Morale, Welfare and Recreation website and is intended to provide feedback to service providers at military installations and related facilities around the world. Whether you are submitting your comment anonymously or including your name, all customers are encouraged to provide feedback.

MedSafe box

The U.S. Army YPG Branch Medical Clinic offers a place to dispose of unused/expired prescription medications with the recent installation of the MedSafe receptacle in the lobby of the clinic. Anyone can bring in unused medications within the following guidelines:

- No Illegal (Schedule I) drugs allowed.

- Leave medications in original packaging/containers when possible.

- No liquid containers more than 4 ounces. Place in a plastic baggy before depositing.

- No sharps containers, needles, syringes, batteries, aerosol spray cans, trash, medical devices, chemicals, or other hazardous materials.

- MedSafe is only available for use when an authorized employee is present.

- If locked, please return during hours of operation. DO NOT LEAVE MEDICATION OUTSIDE OF MEDSAFE.

Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention Program (SHARP)

The Army's Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention Program exists that the Army can prevent sexual harassment/sexual assaults before they occur. The SHARPs goal is to eliminate sexual assaults and sexual assault by creating a climate that respects the dignity of every member of the Army Family.

Sexual Harassment Complaints

Informal Complaint – Complainant does not wish to file in writing (no

timeline to report).

Formal Complaint – Complainant files in writing and swears to the accuracy of the information (60 calendar days to report).

Anonymous – Report of sexual harassment, regardless of the means of transmission, from an unknown or unidentified source.

NOTE: Department of Defense Civilian personnel sexual harassment complaints are reported to Equal Employment Opportunity.


Sexual Assault Reporting Options

Restricted Reporting (confidential): Allows victim to disclose the details of his/her sexual assault to specifically identified individuals (SARC/SHARP, VA/SHARP, Military Healthcare Provider) and receive medical treatment, counseling, and other available services without initiating an official investigation.


Unrestricted Reporting: Allows victim who desires medical treatment, counseling, other available services, and an official investigation of the allegation to use current reporting channels (for example, the chain of command or law enforcement) or to report the incident to the SARC/SHARP or VA/SHARP Specialist. Victims are entitled to, a military protection order, legal advice, expedited transfer (military only), and law enforcement investigation into the incident. Filing an unrestricted report will initiate an official investigation.

NOTE: SHARP can assist a military service member, spouse, dependent family member ages 18 and older, and are enrolled in DEERS.


24/7 YPG SHARP Helpline: (928) 920-3104
DoD Safe Helpline 877-995-5247



US Army Yuma Proving Ground Community Resources



<u>Yuma Area Resources</u>		<u>Yuma Proving Ground Resources</u>	
Military Family Life Consultant:	928-821-4702	Dir. of Operations Police/Fire :	911/328-2720
MCCS Behavioral Health:	928-269-2561	Army Community Services:	328-2513
NurseWise Crisis Mobile Team:	1-866-495-6735	Family Advocacy Program:	328-3224
County Sheriff's Office:	928-783-5794	Sexual Harassment/Assault:	328-2324
Yuma Police Department:	928-783-4421	Army Emergency Relief:	328-3350
The Veteran's Center:	928-271-8700	Chaplain's Office:	328-3465
Yuma Community VA Clinic:	928-317-9973	Civilian Personnel Advisory Center :	328-3831/2211
Amberly's Place 24hr Helpline:	928-373-0849	Soldier For Life:	328-2167
AZ Dept. of Economic Security:	855-432-7587	Emergency Operations Center:	328-7336/2336
(Adult Protective Services)		Employee Assistance Program:	328-2249
AZ Dept. of Child Safety:	928-247-8200	Equal Employment Opportunity:	328-2736
<u>24 Hour Hotlines:</u>		Health Clinic:	328-2502/2666
Suicide Prevention:	800-273-8255	Installation Safety Office:	328-2660
Domestic Violence:	800-799-7233	TRAX EAP	800-327-1850
Sexual Assault:	800-656-4673	Shearwater Mission Support EAP	888-628-4824
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		



Building a Ready and Resilient Community

Army recruits wowed by YPG

By Mark Schauer

Most newly enlisted recruits' knowledge of the nature of Army service is secondhand.

If they're part of the lucky few, perhaps a parent or other close relative served. Others know of it entirely from television and movies. But 10 lucky young adults from the Yuma area recently spent a day at Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) getting a dynamic look at what YPG does and how the post's Soldiers serve.

From seeing students of the Army's elite Military Free Fall School participate in a high altitude, low opening freefall, to touring the Airborne Test Force and Weapons Operations shops, the visitors were consistently wowed throughout the

day.

YPG has hosted such visits for much of the last decade, and local Army recruiters say doing so is making a big impact.

"Ever since we started doing these education tours, we've seen an increase in interest and leads for the Army recruiting station in Yuma, particularly between young people between the ages of 17 and 22," said Staff Sgt. Alex Lopez, recruiter. "We see they take pictures and share them with their friends on social media, and it sparks interest in others."

This visit was more modest than usual due to COVID-19 mitigation efforts. Whereas a tour in normal times typically shows the post to 15 future Soldiers and 15 local



The students were able to see the Army's elite Military Free Fall School participate in a high altitude, low opening freefall and toured the Airborne Test Force and Weapons Operations shops.



Ever since we started doing these education tours, we've seen an increase in interest and leads for the Army recruiting station in Yuma, particularly between young people between the ages of 17 and 22," said Staff Sgt. Alex Lopez, recruiter.



Ten lucky young adults from the Yuma area recently spent a day at YPG getting a dynamic look at what YPG does and how the post's Soldiers serve. (Photos by Mark Schauer)

educators, the most recent one had less than a dozen. About half were weeks away from going to basic training, while others were still on the fence about enlisting. One participant was a late addition induced to come by his buddy who had already enlisted. The two local educators who came took personal leave from their day jobs to attend.

"I love helping the recruiters out," said Jerri Van Sickle, a teacher at Yuma's Gila Ridge High School. "We usually have the recruiters come in, but this year we haven't been able to due to COVID. I wanted to find out a little bit more so that when I talk to the kids and encourage them to look at options for their life, I can give them more information."

In addition to their wide-ranging experience with the sights and sounds of the proving ground, the recruits also enjoyed a briefing and question and answer session with YPG Commander Col. Patrick McFall and Command Sgt. Maj. Herbert Gill.

"I got a lot of feedback from them about speaking with both the commander and Command Sgt. Maj.," said Lopez. "They said they enjoyed talking with them and felt that they were genuine with them."

Both the recruits and teachers felt the visit was worthwhile and informative.

"There were a couple of things that I didn't know YPG did that I learned about today," said Van Sickle.



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MUNITION

FROM PAGE 1

in the U.S. arsenal. The projectiles' reliability, robust structural design and the ability to course correct while maintaining both precision and accuracy were leveraged to achieve 70 km range during the test.

Throughout initial development and multiple years of operational use, Excalibur subsystems were proven to be effective with the current 39 caliber gun systems in the M109A6/A7 Self-Propelled Howitzer and M777A2 Towed Howitzer fleets. However, the increased pressure to achieve the muzzle velocity required for 70 km range from the longer 58 caliber ERCA cannon created harsher environments, so the major focus became maintaining flight stability and safety.

"Testing in late 2019 revealed that the warhead used in Excalibur had sufficient margin to survive this higher gun launch environment," said Gibbs. "The team learned that the effects of the new system and its associated harsher environments

on the projectile had reduced or eliminated some of the design margin that existed with the legacy systems."

The design team of U.S. Government and contractor engineers analyzed the individual subsystems' operating margins, their structural integrity and their safety margins in order to assure that the ammunition would be safe and effective in the new ERCA System. Together with support from the Munitions and Weapons Division at the Army Test and Evaluation Command Yuma Test Center, PM CAS, and these technical experts from Raytheon, their subcontractors and the Combat Capabilities Development Command Armaments Center completed the necessary research and testing to reduce the risk and make the Excalibur 70 km demonstration possible.

"Today's demonstration marks a significant step forward in filling a capability gap in our Army of accurately reaching out to 70 km with cannon artillery. It's the product of tremendous teamwork and initiative by multiple organizations and our industry partners to bring



The live fire demonstration which consisted of three shots, used the Excalibur projectile. The projectile's reliability, robust structural design, and ability to course correct while maintaining both precision and accuracy were leveraged to achieve 70 km range during the test.

new technology to our artillery forces and regain overmatch with our adversaries," said Brig. Gen. John Rafferty, LRPFCFT director.

By leveraging the robust design of the current Excalibur, a GPS coordinate-seeking projectile with a circular error probable of less than two meters, it also represents a low-investment, high-payoff approach to meeting objectives in support of the Army's top modernization priority. Development efforts will add a seeker able to identify and engage moved or moving targets and

differentiate between military and civilian vehicles. Future upgrades may also enable the projectile to identify friend or foe and to communicate between projectiles in flight to reduce multiple projectiles engaging the same target during volley fire. The LRPFCFT modernization of U.S. Artillery Forces is poised to deliver overmatch and the evolution of Excalibur continues to incorporate cutting edge technologies that provide increased capabilities in support of the Field Artillery mission.



Together with support from the Munitions and Weapons Division at Yuma Test Center, PM CAS, and the Combat Capabilities Development Command Armaments Center completed the necessary research and testing to make the Excalibur 70 km demonstration possible. (Photos by Mark Schauer)

Employee spotlight

By Ana Henderson

Jose Arguelles got quite the surprise from U.S. Army Garrison Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) leadership. He was told the Garrison General Manager, Ronny James was conducting a site visit to the Military Personnel Division. What he not did expect is that James, Acting Deputy Garrison General Manager Ron Rodriguez and Garrison Human Resources Director, Chrissy Randle, would all be there to present him with the Department of the Army Civilian Service Achievement Medal.

"I didn't expect it!" exclaimed Arguelles, "It's nice to be recognized. You feel like people care about you."

Indeed they do. Randle explained to Arguelles that he was being recognized for operating the division on his own for nearly five months.

"You were out by yourself out here doing two jobs and we as an organization wanted to recognize you for that."

Adding, "You were faced with staff shortages and provided services flawlessly."

Arguelles, the Garrison Military Personnel Division Chief with 16 years' experience in the office manned it on his own from November 2019 to April 2020. This was not an easy task

because the office covers about 16 functional areas including identification cards, Soldier actions, awards, retirements, personnel actions, Freedom of Information Act, record keeping, and in and out process Soldiers.

While a large majority of the workforce was teleworking Arguelles showed up daily. His job requires a lot of face to face interactions plus document handling that just cannot be done teleworking.

"The Soldiers expect that someone will be there."

Plus, Arguelles says, "I know the importance."

He himself served in the Army and four of those years were at YPG in the same position. He knows the services provided are important to Soldiers and their families.

"If it wasn't for the Soldiers none of us would be here. That's the reason I do it because of them. I was a Soldier for 21 years and I know the needs and the relief when you know your records are right and finances are correct."

In addition to serving the Soldiers the division provides service to the entire YPG community,

"We help every contractor, civilian, dependent that comes through here with their CACs."



Garrison General Manager, Ronny James presented Garrison Military Personnel Division Chief Jose Arguelles with the Department of the Army Civilian Service Achievement Medal. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

YPG welcomes new Youth Services Director

By Ana Henderson

In late 2020, the Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) community welcomed Melissa Anderson, the new Child and Youth Services Director.

"I am excited to be here in Yuma and looking forward to working with our families and youth," says Anderson adding, "I love that each day is a new experience with school aged children. As a group we get to learn, grow and have fun. I love being around others and it's so special to be around the youth that will be our future."

Anderson was recently working in Rota, Spain with the Navy Child and Youth Program as a teen coordinator, however she lived in southern California and earned her bachelor's degree in Kinesiology from San Diego State University (SDSU).

"My interest in sports led me to volunteer coach a youth basketball team working with first and second graders. From that rewarding experience I knew that I wanted to continue working with youth."

Anderson continued working with recreation programs while attending SDSU and then transitioned to working with Military families.

"I did six internships over the next three years with Camp Adventure working with military children and families all over the world in Child and Youth Services."

During that time she completed her Master of Education degree with a focus on curriculum and instruction.

Anderson arrived at YPG at the end of year and immediately noticed the



YPG welcomes the new Child and Youth Services Director Melissa Anderson. (Loaned photo)

tightknit community,

"My first event was Friendsgiving and it was a great way to get introduced to YS and YPG," she said.

Youth Services is an integral part of the community and hosts many community-oriented events throughout the year. Youth Services' main mission is providing a safe learning environment for children. Anderson feels the small community at YPG is a benefit.

"My main hope and goal is to provide the community with programs that not only benefit their children, but the family as a whole. The community is small and like a family in itself. I want to provide a positive experience and one that will be enjoyed in all the programs: School Age Services, Middle School/Teen and Youth Sports."

Anderson welcomes the community to reach out. "I am just a phone call or email away. I want the community to know I am here for them."

YPG leadership supports Wreaths Across America

The Yuma community came together on the morning of Dec. 19 for Wreaths Across America ceremonies at Desert Lawn and Sunset Vista Cemeteries. YPG Commander Col. Patrick McFall, joined by his wife Heidi and children along with Command Sgt. Maj. Herbert Gill accompanied by his children attended the ceremonies and placed wreaths on graves of those who have bravely served our country. (Photos by Ana Henderson)


A large, close-up photograph of a glass of beer with a thick, white head of foam. The beer is golden and has condensation on the glass.

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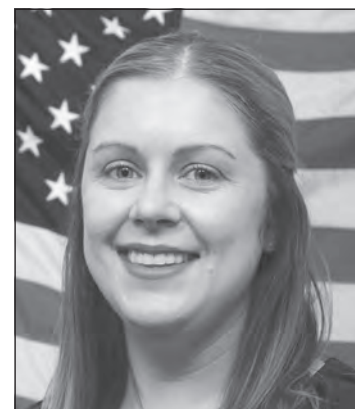
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'Tis the season for giving

Stocking stuffers provided to military families



Thanks to Operation Homefront, all active duty military stationed at or living on YPG were eligible to fill a bag with stocking stuffers for each of their children. Among those who came by for this opportunity were YPG Commander Col. Patrick McFall and his wife, Heidi. "We're here to support our Soldiers and their families during this time," said Rosa Dayton, Army Community Service Specialist. (Photos by Mark Schauer)

Trees for troops



Soldiers with the Airborne Test Force at YPG helped unload a delivery truck filled with 100 trees. The trees traveled to Yuma from northern California and were provided free to active military members by the Trees for Troops organization. (Loaned photo)



YPG Commander Col. Patrick McFall greeted Soldiers from the Medical Clinic as they selected their tree. McFall also thanked YPG's Army Community Services staff for making this event possible. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

SMS and DPW team up to give



Shearwater Mission Support (SMS) and the Department of Public Works (DPW) joined efforts to purchase food and gifts this holiday season. They collected more than \$1,450 dollars in donations. "We collectively decided to not only support a family through Amberly's Place, but also four YPG military children, ranging from six months to 12 years of age (Angel Tree)," said Jaysen Lockett, SMS Project Manager. (Loaned photo)

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Muscle Milk gives free milk to YPG military families

Submitted by Teri Robinson, Child Development Director

On December 21, Morale, Welfare, and Recreation employees were excited to hand out case upon case of Muscle Milk to Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) military families.

"It felt very rewarding to see the smiles on soldiers' faces as

we handed them out," said Teri Robinson, Child Development Director.

The Muscle Milk was donated by the Muscle Milk Company and the team was very excited to be part of the event. Military members from the Medical and Veterinarian Clinics, Free Fall School, and other locations throughout YPG swarmed the Army Community Services (ACS) parking lot to claim their cases.

"At first, many of the Soldiers walked up to us and expected to receive only one case. When we handed them two, they were pleasantly surprised. It was nice to see how a small gesture can go a long way," said Melissa Anderson, Youth Services Director.

The next Muscle Milk Giveaway will be in early January 2021, and everyone who participated in the first one is looking forward to handing more out again.

"It's always nice to see the community do these kind of things for our military families," said Shannon Murphy, Child and Youth Services Training and Curriculum

Specialist.

"Where there is love and inspiration, we do it all for our Soldiers and their families," said William Symons, Recreation Assistant.

Two Soldiers were all smiles as they received their Muscle Milk and greeted each other with a fist bump.



Teri Robinson (left) and Shannon Murphy (right) removed cases of Muscle Milk from the large pallets and onto the truck bed to prepare them to be picked up by Soldiers.



Melissa Anderson (left) checks off her list as Soldiers picked up their cases. As William Symons (right) helped carry cases to vehicles. (Loaned photos).

Community gives back to YPG Military families



The YPG and Yuma community came together to provide gifts and gift cards to YPG Soldiers and their families. The generous gift donations which added up to about 200 gifts were provided by: YPG community members, SMS, DPW, and the Hidden Shores Community as well as others. Additionally, over \$2,500 gift cards were given to offset food and holiday gift costs for 19 YPG Soldiers and families. These were provided by the American Legion Post 19, American Legion Post 802 Women's Auxiliary, VFW Post 1763 Women's Auxiliary, and the Yuma Chamber of Commerce, as well as others. (Loaned photos)