

# First Air Force secure bi-directional data sharing occurs at YPG

## By Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

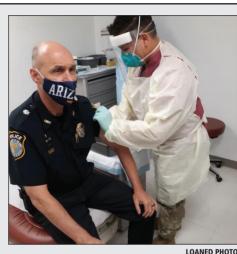
Last month, the joint force took another step toward achieving a military Internet of Things when fifth-generation aircraft overcame long standing connectivity limitations to share actionable operational data in their native secure digital "languages" with and through multiple sources for the first time. This test was the latest

witten XQ-58A

demonstration of the transformative warfighting impact of the open architecture underpinning the Advanced Battle Management System.

SEE DATA SHARING/6

PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. JOSHUA KING



The YPG Health Clinic administered its first COVID vaccines to healthcare and Child and Youth Services workers, and YPG first responders, delivered from Fort Irwin, California courtesy of the flight detachment that supports the Military Free Fall School. YPG's Ground's Chief of Police Donnie Lucas was the first person to receive the COVID vaccine at the YPG.

# COVID vaccine deployment in progress

YPG's workload holding steady

## By Mark Schauer

A new year brought renewed hope for an end to the COVID environment, even as cases across the country continued to spike.

SEE VACCINE/4

Soldier spotlight/ Page 2



Tigershark unmanned aircraft tested at YPG/Page 7

An XQ-58A Valkyrie low-cost unmanned aerial vehicle launches at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground on Dec. 9, 2020. The acquisition team – comprised of Air Force Research Laboratory

and Air Force Life Cycle Management Center personnel working in conjunction with Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.'s 46th Test Squadron – came together to conduct the historic test.



Army unveils new app/ Page 12





Chief Warrant Officer 4 Travus Heffernan has been the Officer In Charge of the Airborne Test Force (ATF) at Yuma Proving Ground for the last three years.

# **Soldier spotlight**

## By Ana Henderson

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Travus Heffernan has been the Officer In Charge of the Airborne Test Force (ATF) at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) for the last three years. His role consist of providing senior-level technical and tactical expertise but also to provide guidance and lead Soldiers.

During Heffernan's time at YPG he's made many contributions to ATF Soldiers, TRAX employees, the YPG community and Army sister services. Heffernan led a team of 18 Airborne Soldiers (test parachutist) and 15 civilians to plan, asses, analyze and support aerial delivery developmental tests, experiments production tests, integrated developmental and operational tests. Heffernan was also a great host and led many guided tours of the ATF building during the Visit Yuma



Heffernan has led a team of 18 Airborne Soldiers and 15 civilians. He's pictured here with ATF Soldiers during a community event.

tours at YPG where he showed visitors the inner workings of the task force. He also volunteered his time representing YPG and ATF at many community events throughout the years.

Heffernan was born into a

military family in Spain but calls Tucson home and hopes to retire there however his next stop is Fort Bragg. He's been serving in the Army since 1999 and is married to Diane, they have three children.

# **TheOutpost**

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 or email to: 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 **THEOUTPOST** call (928) 539-6800 or go to advertising@yumasun.com



Yuma Test Center Commander Lt. Col. Alicia Johnson is pictured with Heffernan during his promotion ceremony.

### OUTPOST

JANUARY 18, 2021 3

# **TID director earns Meritorious medal**





## DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY HAS AWARDED THE MERITORIOUS CIVILIAN SERVICE MEDAL

Todd R. Hudson

for meritorious service as a Supervisory General Engineer, Technology and Investments Directorate, United States Army Yuma Proving Ground, from December 2019 to October 2020. While serving as the principal lead of the Project Convergence 2020 effort, and during a world-wide COVID-19 pandemic, Mr. Hudson led his team to successfully complete a complex demonstration in the span of 7 weeks. In addition to establishing an effective COVID-19 plan briefed to and approved by the U.S. Army Futures Command, Commanding General, Mr. Hudson was instrumental in acquiring the necessary COVID-19 test kits used in establishing the soft bubble for the Project Convergence 2020 demonstration, which was witnessed by many of the Army senior civilian and military leaders, a testament as to how important this effort was to the entire U.S. Army. Mr. Hudson's outstanding performance and professionalism reflect great credit upon him, the United States Army Test and Evaluation Command, and the Department of the Army.

18 December 2020



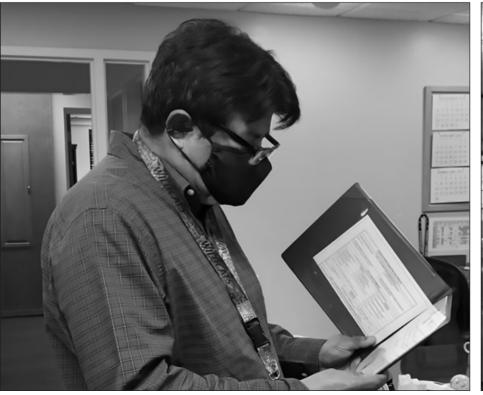
Brigadier General, USA

Commander U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command

DA FORM 5655, FEB 2019. Previous edition is obsolete

LOANED PHOTOS

Yuma Proving Ground Commander Col. Patrick McFall presented Technologies and Investments Directorate Director Todd Hudson with the Secretary of the Army Meritorious Civilian Service Medal, Jan. 11. YPG Technical Director Larry Bracamonte read the citation as McFall pinned Hudson and congratulated him with a handshake.





# Medical clinic staff help navigate through online insurance process

## **By Ana Henderson**

The Medical Clinic at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) is a huge asset to the community. The staff serve active duty Soldiers and their families, retirees and emergency medical personnel serving YPG.

While the clinic can provide services such as vaccinations, checkups and medication refills, providers cannot provide specialty treatments.

At that point a provider will request a referral to a specialist in the Tricare network. That's when Dale Lipumano, the contact representative at the Medical Clinic, steps in, "I'm going to see that and I am going to process that referral for approval. Once I do that it goes into the network and Tricare will pick it up."

If there is an issue with that referral he can help looking into how to resolve the issue on a case by case basis. He has the ability to contact Health Net which is the online system used by Tricare insurance.

"I would try to figure out what is going on...where the issue is stemming from and what the issue actually is."

Adding, "Some people are just much more comfortable talking on the phone with someone and getting help that way as opposed to doing everything online."

In a way Lipumano fills the void left behind when Tricare stopped employing representatives at clinics. Tricare, like most insurance companies, works exclusively online which leaves beneficiaries sometimes struggling to navigate the process.

"They put it on the individual to be more proactive with their healthcare."

Lipumano does warn that once the referral has been processed by the clinic to Tricare it's out of their hands however he's always willing look into the issue.

"If somebody needs assistance and it's something we can help with we would love to help."

At the moment because of social distancing policies the Medical Clinic is limiting traffic inside the clinic so Lipumano advices calling first.



## VACCINE FROM PAGE 1

The long-awaited second wave of COVID infections hit Arizona as anticipated, with fully 40% of the state's total cases since the crisis began last March coming in the five weeks between Nov. 29 and Jan. 3.

As of Jan. 11, Arizona had averaged over 9,000 cases per day in the new year, and more than 150 deaths per day. Nearly 5,000 Arizonans were hospitalized with the illness, over 1,100 of which were in intensive care units. Both numbers were new records.

Amidst all of the hardships and heartache, however, light was visible at the end of the tunnel. By Jan. 11 the Yuma County Health Department had inoculated nearly 3,500 local health care workers, first responders, and long-term care home residents with the first dose of the Moderna COVID vaccine, and was beginning to broaden immunization to teachers and school employees, frontline workers, the elderly, and individuals with serious medical conditions. The vaccine was completely voluntary, and in extremely high demand: Vaccination appointments with the Health Department for the week of Jan. 10 filled within hours of being made available to eligible persons the previous Friday, with county officials pledging that more vaccines and appointments would be available soon.

Also on Jan. 11, the YPG Health Clinic administered its first COVID vaccines to healthcare and Child and Youth Services workers, and YPG first responders, delivered from Fort Irwin, California courtesy of the flight detachment that supports the Military Free Fall School. Though supplies were limited at first, health clinic officials expected that eventually doses would be available for their remaining patients and YPG civilian personnel as the federal government's vaccine distribution strategy evolves.

"We're hoping to see that the supply of vaccine will significantly increase in the coming weeks," said Maj. Jennifer Fiandt, YPG Health

JANUARY 18, 2021 5



"We never stopped working during the COVID-19 pandemic," said Larry Bracamonte, YPG Technical Director. "YPG was always open and able to execute its mission." One of those missions was Project Convergence 20: some of the testing is shown in these images.

Clinic Officer In Charge. "The federal government is considering a change in policy that should significantly expand the availability of vaccine to all interested people."

The vaccine, boasting to be 95% effective against COVID with two doses administered 28 days apart, promised to put the COVID epidemic behind us by next winter assuming that wide-scale dissemination was possible. The Arizona Department of Health Services projected that the second phase of the vaccine deployment, which will include the general public, would begin in the spring or summer.

Further, active duty personnel are free to obtain COVID vaccines off-post from the Health Department or other providers as they become available in the weeks and months ahead.

"We encourage active duty personnel to make sure and get documentation of that vaccination to bring back to the clinic so we can update your MEDPROS appropriately," said Fiandt.

Among other questions about the vaccine, some YPG personnel wondered if getting a COVID vaccine would eventually become a condition of employment.

"The Army has not issued any policy with that type of statement," said Col. Patrick McFall, YPG commander. "We will take all direction from the Army on their policies, but as of right now there is nothing stating that."

## **YPG'S WORKLOAD IS SUSTAINING**

As COVID infections climbed in Arizona's second wave, YPG resumed maximum telework for those personnel able to work from home. Senior leaders expect that maximum telework will continue at least until the end of January, and may be extended depending on local COVID conditions at that time. The majority of YPG personnel, however, work in jobs where telework is not possible. Regardless of their place of duty, however, all personnel needed to follow CDC anti-COVID guidelines to ensure YPG's mission continued as it had throughout the pandemic thus far.

"We never stopped working during the COVID-19 pandemic," said Larry Bracamonte, YPG Technical Director. "YPG was always open and able to execute its mission."

This was vitally important for the success of Project Convergence 20, the Army's groundbreaking campaign of learning to build the future force, which YPG hosted. Though Project Convergence 21 won't occur until late in calendar year 2021, there is a significant amount of testing on tap in the meantime, particularly in the summer months.

"Right now the workload is steady," said Bracamonte. "Through the end of December, YPG has done roughly 390,000 reimbursable labor hours. I predict that by the end of the fiscal year we will have done 1.7 or 1.75 million reimbursable hours."

Testing on behalf of the Army Futures Command's Cross-Functional Teams remains the Army's priority, and YPG is taking on more employees to ensure that Army readiness is sustained with lot acceptance testing of existing munitions.

"We're in the process of hiring more personnel to execute production acceptance testing," said Bracamonte. "There is going to be two crews



that are pretty much solely devoted testing production acceptance and ammunition stocks for reliability. That is going to be in full swing by April or May."

## LOOKING FORWARD

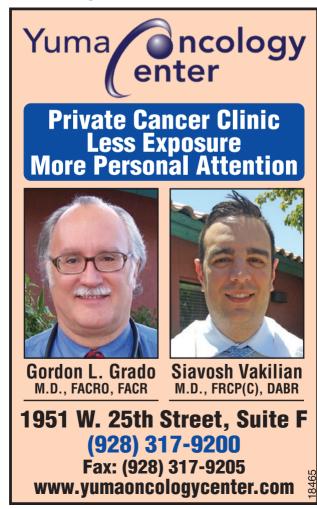
It's hard to believe that less than

12 months ago, YPG hosted in excess of 20,000 people at the YPG 2020 open house, the largest public event in Yuma County last year. Many at YPG and in the Yuma community have wondered if they can look forward to another such event once the pandemic has passed. McFall said preliminary discussions regarding such an open house have already occurred.

"I'm hoping we will have something like that again in 2022 or 2023," said McFall. "It is definitely something I have interest in doing. I heard that the YPG 2020 event was a lot of fun, and that everybody enjoyed it."

In the meantime, following CDC guidelines, maintaining social distancing and hand hygiene, and wearing face coverings are just as important as ever.

"Those are very important for the safety of our YPG family, and I appreciate everybody's support in maintaining vigilance with these practices," said McFall.





A remote control operator speaks into a radio at the U.S. Army YPG during a XQ-58A Valkyrie test flight. The operator controlled the aircraft during a test flight where it flew alongside the Air Force F-22 Raptor and F-35A Lightning II for the first time. This integrated test follows a series of gatewayONE ground tests that began during the inaugural Department of the Air Force on-ramp last year in December.



PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. JAMES CASON A U.S. Air Force F-22 Raptor and F-35A Lightning II fly in formation with the XQ-58A Valkyrie low-cost unmanned aerial vehicle over U.S. Army YPG during a series of tests on Dec. 9, 2020.



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. JOSHUA KING An XQ-58A Valkyrie maintainer pours fuel into the aircraft at U.S. Army YPG. More than 50 team members came together to make the historic flight a safe event.



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. JOSHUA KING A control-room operator observes a test prior to an XQ-58A Valkyrie launch at U.S. Army YPG. The joint effort included a Marine Corps F-35B variant, an Air Force F-22 Raptor, and an Air Force F-35A variant. The Air Force F-22 and F-35A aircraft flew with the attritableONE platform for the first time.

# DATA SHARING

The joint effort included a Marine Corps F-35B variant and the Air Force F-22 Raptor and F-35A Lightning II variant flying with an attritableONE XQ-58A Valkyrie for the first time. The primary tests took place at Yuma Proving Ground, Arizona.

Lt. Col. Kate Stowe, gatewayONE program manager at the Air Force Lifecycle Management Center, set out with 18 test objectives and successfully achieved nine.

"Testing is all about pushing the limits of what's possible, finding out where the toughest challenges are, and adapting creative solutions to overcoming difficult problem sets," Stowe said.

"The real win of the day was seeing the gatewayONE establish a secure two-way translational data path across multiple platforms and multiple domains. That's the stuff ABMS is all about."

Fifth-generation fighters are typically limited to communicating with each other and to command and control centers via legacy tactical data connections, not in their native, but incompatible digital "languages" – Multifunctional Advanced Data Link for F-35 and Intra-Flight Data Link for the F-22. Not only can gatewayONE translate between those formats, in this test it moved data that is normally relegated to an operations center or tactical ground node, directly pushing it into the cockpit at the edge of the multi-domain battlespace for the first time.

Additionally, the test pushed the position data of each platform outside of the aircraft's close-proximity formation through gatewayONE, which enables battle managers on the ground or in the air to better orchestrate operations. The gatewayONE payload also passed tracks or cues from ground operators to both fighters and passed a cue from the F-35A to the F-22 for the first time. These bi-directional communications pathways occurred in the platforms' native digital "languages" and the data was displayed through the aircrafts' organic systems.

"The gatewayONE payload really showed what's possible and helped us take a big step towards achieving (Joint All-Domain Command and Control)," said Lt. Col. Eric Wright, a 59th Test and Evaluation Squadron F-35 pilot. "This critical capability

"For years people said it couldn't be done. Today the team turned another page toward making the impossible possible"

Preston Dunlap, Chief Architect, Air and Space Force

provides additional connections between our advanced fighters and other forces and battle managers across all domains. The future is promising, and gatewayONE will allow the F-22 and F-35 to connect to and feed data sources they've never before accessed. Those future connections will bring additional battlefield awareness into the cockpit and enable integrated fires across U.S. forces."

Additional successful tests during the week included establishing a communications pathway between the KC-46 Pegasus tanker and a ground node using commercial internet routing standards over the Tactical Targeting Network Technology waveform and the F-35B sending full-motion OUTPOST video to a ground controller.

"If fifth-generation platforms are going to be quarterbacks of a joint-penetrating team, we have to be able to communicate with those quarterbacks in an operationally relevant manner and enable data sharing between them, to them, and from them. For years people said it couldn't be done. Today the team turned another page toward making the impossible possible," said Preston Dunlap, Air and Space Force's chief architect. "In just 12 months, the team has opened the door to a world where we can put the power of an operations center into the cockpit at the tactical edge."

The December flight test included the attritableONE platform, also known as the XQ-58 Valkyrie, a lower-cost,

unmanned, aerial vehicle. The rocketlaunched Valkyrie successfully conducted a semi-autonomous flight alongside the F-22 and F-35s for the first time. The

gatewayONE payload was integrated into the Valkyrie for its maiden voyage with the fifth-generation fighters to conduct an initial test of gateway capabilities from an attritable platform; however, shortly after takeoff, the communications payloads lost connectivity and those test objectives were unable to be accomplished.

ABMS is the Air Force and Space Force's priority program to develop the military's first Internet of Things and is the services' primary contribution to Joint All-Domain Command and Control, a Defense Department-led effort to securely connect all elements of the U.S. military–every sensor and shooter–across land, air, sea, space and cyberspace.



The vast range and air space at U.S. Army YPG means the testers can easily evaluate things like fuel consumption and the ability to smoothly hand-off control of the craft between controllers located in multiple ground control stations.

# **Tigershark unmanned aircraft tested at YPG**

## By Mark Schauer

YPG's position at the forefront of Army modernization has garnered immense acclaim in recent years, but its importance to developmental testing dates back decades.

One system that cut its teeth at YPG from its earliest days is the Tigershark, an unmanned aerial system (UAS) that has flown thousands of hours in combat theaters.

"The autopilot in this airframe is amazing," said Troy Rodriguez, YPG test coordinator. "It is a reliable workhorse that is very accurate when it comes to the flight profile that is programmed into it."

Today's Tigershark flies many miles away from its ground controller and provides high-quality video for upwards of eight hours, both day and night, as it loiters quietly high overhead. It boasts laser radar that can see through obstructions like foliage and camouflage to produce threedimensional images of an object. All of these capabilities were integrated into the platform over the past 15 years, and the vast majority of testing for each subsequent improvement occurred here.

"The Tigershark of today is nothing like when we started," said David Reed, Navair electronics engineer. "When we started, it was basically a big radio-controlled toy. Now, it is a mature UAV system."

The Tigershark was a workhorse of surveillance and reconnaissance operations in Iraq and Afghanistan between 2006 and 2014, and continues to undergo testing at YPG today.

"We've done over 10,000 combat missions and 75,000 flight hours in theater," said Reed. "We're not currently deployed in theater, but we are testing new developmental payloads for other programs of record."

YPG's clear, stable air and extremely dry climate along with vast institutional UAS testing knowledge makes it an attractive location to host this kind of work. Also important to the mission is the proving ground's robust sensor-testing workload and ability to control a large swath of the radio frequency (RF) spectrum. YPG has more than 500 permanent radio frequencies, and several thousand temporary ones in a given month.

"The weather is phenomenal, and

YPG has a tremendous amount of restricted airspace," said Reed. "We have at least 330 days of good flying weather every year."

The vast range and air space here means the testers can easily evaluate things like fuel consumption and the ability to smoothly hand-off control of the craft between controllers located in multiple ground control stations.

The Tigershark was renowned for its reliability in Southwest Asia, which testers attribute to the extensive evaluations that occurred at YPG.

"We were able to test in a similar dry, very hot desert environment," said Reed. "Our electrical and engine systems were really up to par because of the testing we did here."



The Tigershark was a workhorse of surveillance and reconnaissance operations in Iraq and Afghanistan between 2006 and 2014, and continues to undergo testing at U.S. Army YPG today.



Today's Tigershark flies many miles away from its ground controller and provides high-quality video for upwards of eight hours, both day and night, as it loiters quietly high overhead.

# <section-header>









PROTECTING

OUR PEOPLE

OUR MISSION

PROTECTS

# YPG leaders make pledge to Soldiers and workforce

## **By Ana Henderson**

YPG leaders, YPG Commander Col. Patrick McFall, Command Sgt. Maj. Herbert Gill, Technical Director Larry Bracamonte along with Chief of Staff Minerva Peters signed the Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) Program Pledge as a reminder, "To Act, intervene, and

sustain a high level of motivations to eliminate sexual harassment and sexual assault in the workplace," explains YPG's Sexual Assault Response Coordinator Arlene Gentry.

The pledge is based on the Army's Intervene, Act, Motivate (I.A.M.) Strong Campaign. The SHARP goal is 500 signatures by 1 April which is

<image>

Sexual Assault Awareness month.

Gentry says, "It is important that we recognize the SHARP program year-round and not just in April. While there are men and women dedicated to preventing sexual assault, it also falls on the shoulders of the friends, families and coworkers of victims to speak up when they see something

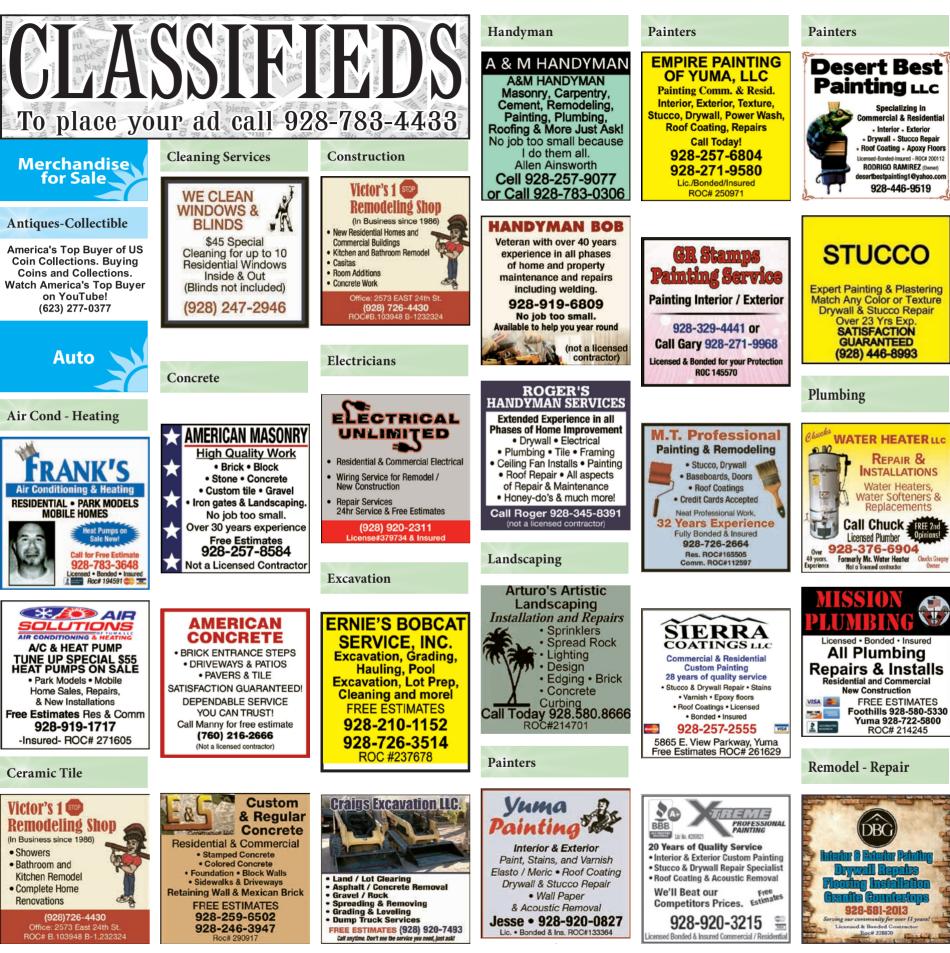
> wrong. Pledge to support your fellow Soldiers and intervene, act and motivate others to stop sexual harassment and sexual assault and help foster an environment free of these behaviors."

> The SHARP pledge poster will be displayed at YPG's main headquarters for those who would like to sign the pledge as well.



(Left to right) YPG Command Sgt. Maj. Herbert Gill, YPG Commander Col. Patrick McFall and YPG Technical Director Larry Bracamonte along with Chief of Staff Minerva Peters (above) sign the Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) Program Pledge.

JANUARY 18, 2021 9



OUTPOST











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

# Chaplain's Corner **Understanding the message**

## By Chaplain Maj. Ronald Beltz

Back when the telegraph was the fastest means of long-distance communication, there was a story, perhaps just a legend, about a young man who applied for a job as a Morse code operator.

Answering an ad in the newspaper, he went to the address listed. When he arrived, he entered a large, noisy office. In the background a telegraph clacked away. A sign on the receptionist's counter instructed job applicants to fill out a form and wait until they were summoned to enter the inner office. The young man completed his form and sat down with seven other waiting applicants. After a few minutes, the

young man stood up, crossed the room to to each other, and then one spoke up, the door of the inner office, and walked right in. Naturally the other applicants perked up, wondering what was going on. Why had this man been so bold? They muttered among themselves that they hadn't heard any summons yet. They took more than a little satisfaction in assuming the young man who went into the office would be reprimanded for his presumption and summarily disqualified for the job.

Within a few minutes the young man emerged from the inner office escorted by the interviewer, who announced to the other applicants, "Gentlemen, thank you very much for coming, but the job has been filled by this young man."

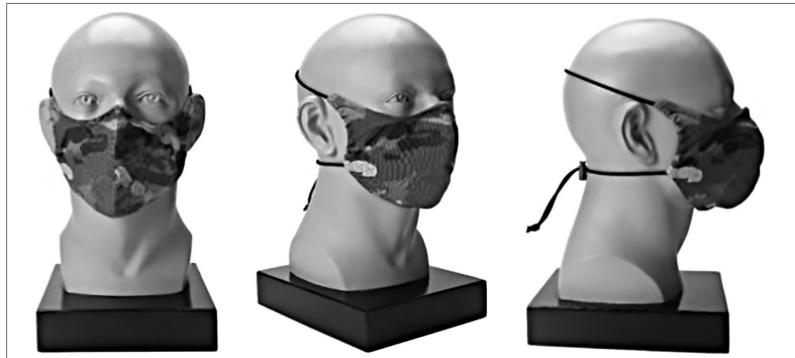
The other applicants began grumbling

"Wait a minute I don't understand. He was the last one to come in, and we never even got a chance to be interviewed. Yet he got the job. That's not fair."

The employer responded, "All the time you've been sitting here, the telegraph has been ticking out the following message in Morse code: 'If you understand this message, then come right in. The job is yours.' None of you heard it or understood it. This young man did. So the job is his."

Our livelihood, indeed our life, depends upon our ability to discern the meaning of these words: "You are my child, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

# Army's official face mask to be issued to new Soldiers in 2021



The official Army Combat Cloth Face Covering will be provided to new Soldiers during the second guarter of FY2021.

# 'A day on, not a day off': celebrating MLK Day through service

## Submitted by Joeann Bailey, EEO Director

This year, the Martin Luther King (MLK) Jr. Holiday is the 26th anniversary of the day of service that celebrates the civil rights leader's life and legacy. MLK Jr. Day is observed each year on the third Monday in January as "a day on, not a day off." MLK Jr. Day is the only federal holiday designated as a national day of service to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities.

Amidst the increased attention on the subject of racial justice this past year, MLK Jr. Day is an opportunity to reflect on our progress with civil rights in this country — and consider



how far we have yet to go. As the King Center notes:

Honor His Memory MLK Day of Service January 18

# Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

January 18, 2021, marks the 26<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the day of service that celebrates the Civil Rights leader's life and legacy.

Remember! Celebrate! Act! A Day On, Not a Day Off!!!



MLK Memorial Wall, Washington DC

"We commemorate Dr. King's inspiring words, because his voice and his vision filled a great void in our nation, and answered our collective longing to become a country that truly lived by its noblest principles. Yet, Dr. King knew that it wasn't enough just to talk the talk, that he had to walk the walk for his words to be credible."

There's a way for all of us to walk the walk — through service. As Dr. King observed, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?"

The MLK Jr. Day of Service, organized by the Corporation for Community and National Service, is a way of answering this question and fulfilling the mission of the holiday: empowering individuals, strengthening communities, bridging barriers, creating solutions to social

problems, and moving us closer to Dr. King's vision of a beloved community.



928.782.0499 pinthouseyuma.com Historic Downtown Yuma

# Army unveils new app to submit service orders

## By Ana Henderson

If a Soldier is looking to submit a maintenance request for their barracks room, there's an app for that.

The Army Materiel

Command and Army Installation Management Command are launching the Army Maintenance Application (ArMA) on Jan. 19. It will enable Soldiers to submit maintenance requests from the convenience of their phone or pc.

"You open the app, put the maintenance request in, attach pictures, and request service to fix it," explains Opal Graves, Chief of the Housing Division Directorate of Public Works (DPW) at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG).

At that point the service desk clerk will verify the request is an actual service order, and then put it into the system.

"The resident can review the request at any time on the app, when it was submitted, if they need more information, when somebody is coming to complete the work. It's great."

To be clear, the requests are for non-emergency situations, maintenance repairs, including plumbing, electrical, HVAC, among others. If residents have an emergency maintenance issue related to life, health, and safety, they need to call DPW at YPG for immediate support. Another

caveat is that ArMa is only for government military

housing. Housing at YPG is privatized so at YPG only those in the permanent and training barracks can utilize this app.

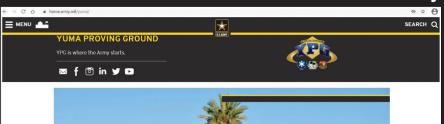
Even with these restrictions, ArMA makes the process much more convenient. In the past, "they would call or go to the barracks manager and put in a request, and from then on they waited. This way they can track it right on the app."

Like anything else new there is always a learning period. To help work out issues and provide suggestions, every Garrison participated in a pilot program for a two and a half week period in early December to gather information. At YPG, four Soldiers registered to help test out the program.

"We are fortunate because we don't have a lot of service orders because our barracks are very well maintained, but the pilot program went through and we did have participation."

Now it's time to put the app to use. ArMa can be used for smartphones or desktop browsers, visit ArmyMaintenance.com to register.

# YPG Garrison unveils new website... APP is on the way





The U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) community can now access information about YPG and Garrison by logging onto to a new website that will soon be linked to an app. The website provides a plethora of information from contact numbers, hours of operations, programs and events. The app will allow users to easily search information and also to receive notifications. The website can be found at home.army.mil/yuma.

# SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MILITARY CHILDREN



OUTPOST

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

