

# The Outpost

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

VOL. 70 NO. 3 FEBRUARY 1, 2021

## YPG hosts counter-UAS school

By Mark Schauer

Unmanned aerial systems (UAS) are the latest wonder of the aviation world.

The United States (U.S.) military has used them for decades, and increasingly unmanned systems perform dangerous reconnaissance and attack missions that save Soldiers' lives.

As the technology proliferates, however, America's adversaries could potentially use UAS to target Soldiers, necessitating robust counter-UAS defense for use anywhere American forces may be deployed. U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) has years of experience testing counter-UAS equipment, and for nearly a year has also been home to a counter-UAS school that gets students from all branches of the military, as well as civilian law enforcement agencies.

"We've trained individuals from all branches, and agencies like the FBI and Secret Service," said Kevin Lovett, liaison officer for the Joint C-UAS Academy. "The Secret Service uses some of our equipment to protect the President."

Though the academy was stood up a mere weeks before the COVID-19 pandemic struck the world in earnest, it has continued operating with

SEE **COUNTER-UAS** page 6



PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER

U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground has years of experience testing counter-UAS equipment, and for nearly a year has also been home to a counter-UAS school that gets students from all branches of the military, as well as civilian law enforcement agencies.



PHOTO BY ANA HENDERSON

U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground's food service employees have provided a constant familiar face (partially covered of course) and have brought a sense of relief throughout the pandemic.

## Food service employees never stopped serving

By Ana Henderson

U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground's (YPG) food service employees have provided a constant familiar face (partially covered of course) and have brought a sense of relief throughout the pandemic.

"Somebody told me they try to eat here (ROC Garden) so they can leave more food at home

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aircraft tested  
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## Family Advocacy Program Corner

### Army Community Service

### Welcome to Army Community Service Family Advocacy Program

Hello YPG community my name is Cathyann Robinson, I am the Family Advocacy Program Manager at Army Community service. I am pleased to have this opportunity to introduce myself to those of you who I have not yet met. I am a licensed Masters Level Social Worker, with extensive training in crisis management, incidents of abuse, victim support, and prevention treatment. My focus is strengthening families! I want to hear how I can be of assistance to every one of you. I am excited to meet every family member, service member, civilian, and contractor here on YPG. What is the Family Advocacy Program (FAP)? FAP's mission is to prevent child abuse and intimate partner violence by offering a program that helps stop abuse before it starts. FAP also works to ensure victim safety and help military families overcome the effects of violence. In my role as FAPM I plan to establish relationships with other community services and partner with agencies to provide our families an opportunity to address their health, employment, and relationship issues. Which will continue to prevent incidents of abuse.



### Helpful Information

- FOCUS Family Resilience Training [www.focusproject.org/TeleFocus](http://www.focusproject.org/TeleFocus) (703) 784-0189
- KUMON.com Math and reading program

January 22, 2021

# THE OUTPOST

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## SERVING

FROM PAGE 1

so their wife doesn't have to go shopping all the time," shares Maria Spolski, assistant business manager.

Business Manager Tony Williams served the YPG community on both Thanksgiving and Christmas and said patrons were very appreciative that they were able to pick up a hot holiday meal without having to go into town.

"Thank you so much this was great," were the type of compliments the staffed received.

"If people are walking out the door happy, I have done what I was supposed to do. They are happy and I am happy," said Williams after serving 300 pounds of turkey on Thanksgiving.

The YPG eateries, the ROC Garden Cafe, Cactus Cafe, Roadrunner Cafe and Coyote Lanes lounge plus the smaller mobile units have continued to serve the YPG community in one form or another. That's not to say they have not endured their own set of challenges. Much like many employees, food service workers have had to adapt to the ever changing situation surrounding COVID.

William recalls, "One day we can dine-in and the next day we can't. Now we are changing gloves three or



Employees at the ROC Café continue to serve guests except now the orders are takeout and patrons must stand several feet apart. Signs and decals on the floor remind customers of these anti-COVID safety measures.

four times more than before."

The eateries have served dine-in, take-out, delivery and some had temporary shut-downs. The employees have rotated eateries at times and continued to happily serve.

"It's our job to be there to feed people. We provide a service whether it's one person or 500 people," says Williams.

Serving one customer is not an exaggeration. With maximum telework in effect at YPG, offices and buildings are sparsely populated. Financially it has been difficult for the eateries: spending more money on sanitation and personal protective equipment plus dealing with the financial hit of having a low volume of customers. Yet, for the servers it's the human interaction that affects them the most, they all miss seeing their usual customers, "Hopefully everyone comes back," says Spolski.

They are grateful though for being able to continue to serve Soldiers, retirees and their families plus the workforce.

"I love my job, I love to come here every day and serve my customers. To me, they are like my second family," shares server Betty Ramirez.

Williams says, "I appreciate my employees. Our employees appreciate what they do, they also appreciate their employer for keeping them employed."



PHOTOS BY ANA HENDERSON

"I love my job, I love to come here every day and serve my customers, to me they are like my second family," says server Betty Ramirez who works at the Cactus Café.



# COVID vaccines are groundbreaking

By Mark Schauer

The months-awaited arrival of the COVID vaccine was made possible by utilizing breakthrough technology that could have major implications in combating other illnesses and diseases in the future.

The groundbreaking new vaccines are messenger ribonucleic acids (mRNA)-based immunizations, the first of their kind to reach the mass market.

“A vaccine with messenger RNA was created for the SARS virus, and made it all the way to large-scale phase 3 trials,” explained Maj. Jennifer Fiandt, YPG Health Clinic Officer In Charge. “It didn’t come to market because SARS ended up not being the threat that we feared it might be, but it gave scientists a huge head start when it came time to develop the novel coronavirus vaccine.”

Scientists have been exploring mRNA as a means for producing vaccines for nearly 30 years now. The anti-COVID vaccines teach the body to create ‘spike’ proteins, causing an immune response and creating antibodies. Two versions—one manufactured by Moderna, one by Pfizer—have been approved in the United States so far.

“Both versions of the vaccine have proven to be remarkably effective, said Fiandt. “They protect against 100% of severe coronavirus infections, and 94 to 95% of all coronavirus infections.”

The vaccines do not contain a live virus, never enter the cell nucleus, and do not interact with a person’s DNA. The vaccines cannot cause COVID-19.

“Because this particular vaccine is made up of messenger RNA rather than weakened viruses or killed viruses like we have in some of our other vaccines, there is a much smaller chance of an allergic reaction to the vaccine, and no chance of infection,” Fiandt said.

Observations shows that the most common side effects from the vaccines include injection site irritation, fatigue, headache, muscle pain, chills, joint pain, and fever. More people reportedly experienced these side effects after the second dose than after the first dose. Medical professionals say that these side effects are evidence of a

healthy response to the vaccine and should not cause alarm.

“The side effects are pretty much what you would expect for any other vaccine, said Fiandt. “The most common complaint is discomfort at the site of the injection. Some people have more systemic symptoms like you encounter with a flu shot: some people feel crummy, some people have a mild fever. This happens more commonly with the second shot, and it happens in about 5% to 10% of people.”

One absolute contraindication identified thus far is allergy to polyethylene glycol, which is extremely rare.

“Polyethylene glycol is the main ingredient in a common laxative, and I’ve never seen anyone in my medical career with an allergy to it,” said Fiandt. “The thinking is that the incidence for allergies to this vaccine is going to be very low.”

Pregnant women and individuals with known allergic reactions to other non-COVID vaccines should consult their healthcare provider to decide if the COVID-19 vaccination is safe and appropriate. For most individuals, however, Fiandt said the COVID vaccines should be well-tolerated and highly beneficial.

“In my medical opinion, the short-term discomfort is a small price to pay for avoiding COVID-19 infection and its potentially severe and disabling effects,” she said.

For now, the vaccine is only approved for people over the age of 15, though that will likely change in time.

“Trials are underway to test the vaccine in younger children, and the hope is that there will be something approved for them within the next year,” said Fiandt.

Although the COVID-19 vaccines passed all FDA trials for safety and are extremely effective, it is currently not a requirement for Soldiers because it is still in the final phase of evaluation. The final phase happens when the FDA allows for a vaccine for use in the public, and typically takes 18 months for completion. Once final clearance is given for all COVID vaccines, the immunization will likely be given to all Soldiers along with all other mandatory vaccines.



PHOTOS BY MARK SCHAUER

YPG Commander Col. Patrick McFall, Command Sgt. Maj. Herbert Gill, and Technical Director Larry Bracamonte received their first of two Moderna COVID-19 vaccine shots at the YPG Health Clinic from Spc. Jeremiah Garcia. The YPG Health Clinic expects to administer many more as the vaccine roll-out proceeds in the weeks and months ahead.

# SHARP Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention

## U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground



**SFC Joseph Santa Lucia**  
Collateral VA/USASOC  
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Collateral VA/USASOC  
Office: (928) 328-3867

**Yuma Proving Ground SHARP 24/7 Helpline: 928-920-3104**

**DOD Safe Helpline: 877-995-5247**

### Report **CONFIDENTIALLY** to:

- Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC)/SHARP Specialist
- Victim Advocate (VA)/SHARP Specialist
- Healthcare Personnel
- Victims may initially tell a close friend, i.e. battle buddy, roommate or family member, and they still can file RESTRICTED with some limitations

### SEXUAL ASSAULT REPORTING OPTIONS

**Restricted Reporting:** Allows victim to disclose the details of his/her sexual assault to specifically identified individuals (SARC/SHARP, VA/SHARP, and 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 Specialists. Filing an unrestricted report will initiate an official investigation.

### SEXUAL HARASSMENT COMPLAINT PROCESS

**Informal Complaint-**Complainant does not wish to file in writing. No timeline to file a complaint.

**Formal Complaint-** Complainant files in writing and swears to the accuracy of the information. **60 calendar day** timeline to file a complaint.

**\*NOTE:** Department of Defense Civilian personnel sexual harassment complaints are reported to Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO)

### WHAT SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR SHARP OFFICE?

- Sexual Assault Victim Advocacy
- Assistance to obtain Special Victim Council (Attorney)
- Safety Planning
- Accompaniment to appointments (medical, CID and legal)
- Case Management/Tracking
- Resources and Referrals to military or civilian programs
- Coordination of Medical Services
- Liaison with Command and other Agencies
- Education and training
- Confidentiality
- Restricted Reporting
- Unrestricted Reporting
- Assisting in Formal/Informal

**SHARP Program: I AM THE FORCE BEHIND THE FIGHT**



Safety training will be posted on Sharepoint and spread throughout the year with a different topic being presented each month. Once employees complete their training they can sign the acknowledge page on Sharepoint as well.

SCREENSHOT

# 2021 Safety Awareness Week changes

## By Jeni Williams, YPG Occupational Safety and Health Specialist

In response to the Coronavirus (Covid-19), 2021's Safety Awareness Week will no longer be presented in the theatre as in-person training. Rather, training will be posted on Sharepoint and spread throughout the year with a different topic being presented each month.


The first safety topic to start off the year is vehicle inspections. Each month the training topic will be changed. The link to each training topic is: <https://intranet.yuma.army.mil/cmd/Safety/SitePages/SAW%20Training%20Site.as>

Once you access the link simply click on the link titled "01Jan Vehicle Inspections." Keep in mind, if you are viewing the training while on telework via VPN it may take a bit longer to download.

Once you have viewed and completed the training use the drop down menu located under "Acknowledgments," choose "01 Jan Vehicle Inspections" and then click the small box just below the training title. Your name and date should auto populate. Click submit and you are then done with the training. Complete the same steps for each training listed in the coming months.


The training information provided each month is guaranteed to be useful, relevant, and usually entertaining! So whether you are Army Test and Evaluation Command Mission, Garrison, Military Free Fall School, Medical Clinic, contractor, or one of our other YPG tenants, this training is for YOU!

If you have any questions please contact Mary Svoboda at 328-2444 / 920-9857 or email [mary.b.svoboda.civ@mail.mil](mailto:mary.b.svoboda.civ@mail.mil).



# SUICIDE Prevention HOTLINE

1.800.273.TALK



YUMA PROVING GROUND

## SEXUAL ASSAULT 24-HOUR HOTLINE

928.920.3104



February is Black History Month

# 2021 Black History Theme: "The black family: representation, identity and diversity"

Submitted by Joeann Bailey, YPG  
EEO Director

Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history. Also known as African

American History Month, the event grew out of "Negro History Week," the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries

around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating Black history.

The theme: the black family Representation, identity, and diversity the black family has been a topic of study in many disciplines—history, literature, the visual arts and film studies, sociology, anthropology, and social policy. Its representation, identity, and diversity have been revered, stereotyped, and vilified from the days of slavery to our own time. The black family knows no single location, since family reunions and genetic-ancestry searches testify to the spread of family members across states, nations, and continents. Not only are individual black families diasporic, but Africa and the diaspora itself have been long portrayed as

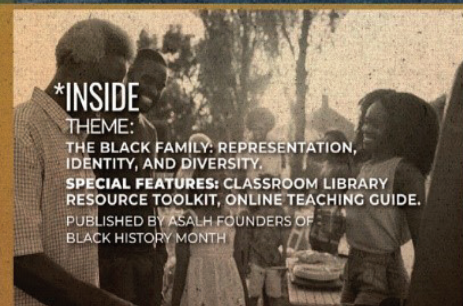
the black family at large. While the role of the black family has been described by some as a microcosm of the entire race, its complexity as the "foundation" of African American life and history can be seen in numerous debates over how to represent its meaning and typicality from a historical perspective—as slave or free, as patriarchal or matriarchal/matrifocal, as single-headed or dual-headed household, as extended or nuclear, as fictive kin or blood lineage, as legal or common law, and as black or interracial, etc. Variation appears, as well, in discussions on the nature and impact of parenting, childhood, marriage, gender norms, sexuality, and incarceration. The family offers a rich tapestry of images for exploring the African American past and present.

## THE BLACK FAMILY

Black  
History  
Bulletin  
VOL.83, No.2



*Representation, Identity, Diversity*



**\*INSIDE  
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## COUNTER-UAS

FROM PAGE 1

reduced class sizes and COVID-19 mitigation strategies like distancing desks and separating them and placing clear plastic shields beside them.

"We have students from various backgrounds, everything from infantry to electronic warfare to air defense," said Lovett. "They learn in a very short period of time how to utilize these systems."

The nine-day course isn't just classroom work—students put what they learn into practice against a variety of unmanned aircraft.

"It gives Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines enough time to get familiarity and proficiency with these systems," said Lovett. "The systems themselves are pretty user-friendly."

The course's students learn to fly and identify drones, and engage in realistic scenarios against a variety of them. All of the anti-drone scenarios here use electronic, not kinetic means: the students don't shoot them down, they use electronic drone busters to

scramble their navigation and send them flying back toward whoever is controlling them.

"We primarily have systems used by the U.S. Army," said Lovett. "The Army oftentimes runs a lot of the installations downrange, or at least there is a heavy Army presence. This gives individuals from other branches operator-level experience on other systems used by the Army that they may encounter downrange in hostile environments."

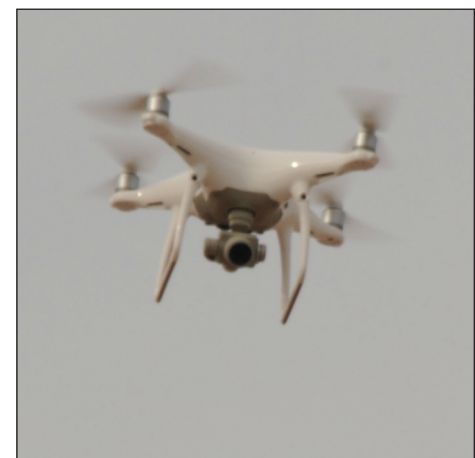
YPG's clear, stable air and extremely dry climate combined with an ability to control a large swath of the radio frequency (RF) spectrum makes it a desired location for this training. YPG's vast institutional UAS and counter-UAS testing knowledge is an added bonus.

"Yuma Proving Ground is an ideal place to do this," said Lovett. "There is a lot of counter-UAS testing done at YPG, and we interface with those folks. The fact that they're here provides us a little more situational awareness as to the testing and validation of these systems."



The course's students learn to fly and identify drones, and engage in realistic scenarios against a variety of them. All of the anti-drone scenarios here use electronic, not kinetic means: they use electronic drone busters to scramble their navigation and send them flying back toward whoever is controlling them. "We've trained individuals from all branches, and agencies like the FBI and Secret Service," said Kevin Lovett, liaison officer for the Joint C-UAS Academy. "The Secret Service uses some of our equipment to protect the President."

PHOTOS BY MARK SCHAUER



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# Long Range Cannon completes maximum range demonstration

By Matthew Jones

Recently, the Long Range Cannon program successfully completed two major objectives using the M777 Extended Range (ER) platform and ammunition from both the United States (U.S.) Army and the U.S. Navy.

Two M777ER 55 caliber systems, one rifled and one smooth bore, were fired at Yuma Proving Ground. The XM351 Rifled Cannon fired the XM1113 with the XM655 Supercharge and XM351 Smooth Bore fired the HVP with the XM656 Supercharge. Both projectiles achieved more than double the range of the current M777A2 Howitzer.

The M777ER is a bolt-on upgrade kit for the existing M777A2 Lightweight Howitzer developed on an accelerated schedule and as a joint effort between the Joint Project Executive Office Armaments and Ammunition, Project Manager Towed Artillery Systems, the Rapid Combat Capabilities and Critical Technologies Office, and engineering performed at U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command – Armaments Center. The kit is the cheapest upgrade for artillery to double the range of the gun and adds less than 10% of the original weight of the M777. Armaments Project Officer Andrew McFadzean said this upgrade is, “the best bang for the buck,” in terms of performance value versus cost



of the upgrade.

This performance has been achieved by integrating a 55 caliber cannon tube, developmental XM655 Supercharge propellant, and XM1113 Rocket Assisted projectile. The M777ER is also in the process of completing mobility, transportability, and air lift testing at Aberdeen Proving Ground. The user interface – the look, feel, and operation of the gun remain unchanged. A trained Soldier or Marine could walk up to an upgraded 777 and execute a mission. The upgrades can be performed by depot-level mechanics and require no additional tools or support hardware for integration.

Test teams at YPG fired two M777ER 55 caliber systems. The XM351 rifled cannon fired the XM1113 with the XM655 supercharge and XM351 Smooth Bore fired the HVP with the XM656 supercharge. Support personnel are shown here setting up the behind the gun measuring instrument and triggers for high-speed cameras to capture the projectiles in motion.

PHOTOS BY MARK SCHAUER





# Desert's primary predator is among wildlife at YPG

By Mark Schauer

U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) is a natural laboratory in which equipment Soldiers use is tested to ensure it works as it should wherever in the world they are called upon to serve.

As such, YPG has a deeply vested interest in being good stewards of the environment, and wildlife abounds here.

The proving ground is home to one of the largest and most genetically diverse populations of bighorn sheep in Arizona. The Sonoran Pronghorn, virtually extinct in the early 2000s, is now regenerating thanks in part to Arizona Game and Fish officials intentionally introducing the creature into YPG as a safe haven to help it regenerate. A fringe-toed lizard that is threatened in most of the American West thrives at YPG, as does the Sonoran tortoise.

Coyotes are among the many animals here, and are usually somewhat elusive.

"Coyotes are always going to come through at night when we're not looking," said Daniel Steward, YPG wildlife biologist. "It's been that way ever since there has been a YPG, and for several thousand years before there was a YPG. We are in a very good piece of habitat for all kinds of wildlife."

Coyotes are nocturnal, foraging at night. The desert's primary predator, they eat rodents and rabbits and are seen more often during the winter time.

"Coyotes are going to be really active before the sun comes up," said Steward. "In the winter, we are pulling into our parking lot or leaving our front doors before the sun comes up. During the summer, nobody sees coyotes anymore—they haven't gone away, they've just gone back to shelter before the sun comes up."

YPG's proximity to the Colorado River makes it attractive for a wide variety of species, including coyotes, Steward said.

"Anywhere in the state that I've ever been, when I hear coyotes yip and howl at night, it's usually near water systems.

Coyotes are going to be in the best habitat where there is lots of cover and forage, and there's nothing better for habitat than the Colorado River corridor."

Coyotes are typically not a problem for human communities as long as people refrain from feeding them.

"The only real risk for people from coyotes is if we are feeding them. When coyotes are fed by humans, they lose their fear and start to expect to be fed. There have been cases across the country where people get bit in communities where people are feeding coyotes."

If a coyote makes repeat appearances at a work site, Steward said, the likeliest explanation is that someone in the area has fed it before.

"If somebody is handing that coyote a sandwich every morning, that coyote is going to keep coming back, and won't necessarily know one person from another."

Landscaping in housing areas can also attract the creatures: palm trees, date palms, and even pods from mesquite trees could serve as forage for a coyote. Nonetheless, removing other sources of food can help deter them from wandering in yards.

"The best way to guard against that type of behavior is securing garbage, making sure pet food is put away, and limiting the amount of open water," said Steward.

Though coyote hunting is legal in Arizona with a hunting license, doing so in residential areas is not.

"We have about 250,000 acres on YPG that are available to hunting with a YPG hunting access pass,"



PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER

Coyotes are typically not a problem for human communities as long as people refrain from feeding them

said Steward. "Our hunting units are very specifically chosen to make sure they are in areas that are not going to interfere with our test mission or in any areas that would cause a security issue. It's easy to control coyotes in our hunting units, but not as easy to control them on our test sites or cantonment areas."

Steward says that coyotes' intelligence makes trapping them difficult.

"Coyote trapping is extraordinarily challenging. A coyote knows its environment and knows when you are doing something that doesn't fit in."

The best way to deal with coyotes is too ensure they maintain their natural fear of humans.

"If a bighorn sheep walks up to you, I want you to be quiet and let the sheep pass on its own. If a coyote walks up to you, I want you to be big, scary, and loud. When I see a coyote in a parking lot, I'll bang things around and yell until I see the coyote run."

Steward says filling a soda can with gravel and shaking it vigorously is a good noisemaker. He stresses keeping a safe distance from coyotes and other wild animals.

"They're a wild animal. We have to keep our distance from any wild animal, for the animal's safety and ours."

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## Chaplain's Corner

## Regain our connection with God

By Chaplain Maj. Ronald Beltz

Jimmy Stewart was one of Hollywood's most loved and most respected actors. According to all accounts, Stewart's character and integrity were byproducts of being raised by loving and honorable parents. He himself once wrote of his father's wise and loving advice to him before Jimmy went off to fight in World War II. In a letter, Alex Stewart wrote, "My dear Jim

boy, soon after you read this letter, you will be on your way to the worst sort of danger . . . I am banking on the enclosed copy of the 91st Psalm. The thing that takes the place of fear and worry is the promise of these words . . . I can say no more . . . I love you more than I can tell you. Dad." Part of the 91st Psalm reads, "For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways."

This is the proper antidote to the anxiety that many of us feel in this turbulent world in which we live. God is with us regardless of what the future may bring. What we need to do is to regain our connection with God. We need to focus less our financial resources for security and more on the "Rock of Ages." Read the signs of the times. They will tell you we need God more than ever before.

## Chapel serves up smiles



LOANED PHOTOS FROM ANGELICA IVEY

Chaplain Maj. Ronald Beltz couldn't resist feeding his sweet tooth after Sunday service.



YPG Community members were all smiles, under their masks of course, as they picked up some ice cream after Sunday service. Angelica Ivey and her children helped by handing out the cones.



The Metts children were happy as they picked up some cones on their way out. Events such as this are another way the YPG Chapel serves the community.



# YPG's operations usually can't be heard from Yuma

By Mark Schauer

Given that the Yuma area is home to U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG), Marine Corps Air Station Yuma and the Barry M. Goldwater Bombing Range (BMGR), the potential for military-related noise in the region is high.

Usually, though, when such noise is heard in populated areas, YPG is not the source of the sound.

The immense size of YPG's range space, larger in area than the state of Rhode Island, makes the proving ground an ideal place for testing long-range artillery shells. Last fiscal year, for example, saw nearly 400,000 total rounds fired at the proving ground. YPG is the epicenter of testing related to the Army's top modernization priority: long range precision fires.

The Army aspires to field systems capable of accurately firing at targets 100 kilometers away in the next few years, and YPG testing has already achieved significantly increased distances in test fires conducted at both the proving ground and, on several occasions, the nearby BMGR.

These artillery tests can take place at all hours of the day and night depending on the needs of the item under test: the high speed cameras testers use to capture crisp images of projectiles in flight have forward looking infrared capability, which allows images to be captured at night without artificial light.

Whatever time of day they occur, YPG's isolation and natural terrain bowl of mountains surrounding it on three sides usually mute the sound of these test fires so far as people who live in Yuma County are concerned. Rarely, an atmospheric condition called an inversion, associated with upper level ridges, can create a

'density barrier' that reflects sound waves back to the ground and disperses them over wide areas. As such, people in locations far from the source of the sound might hear the muted crump of artillery fire during an inversion event.

YPG's vast size also includes nearly 2,000 square miles of restricted airspace, with clear, stable air and an extremely dry climate where inclement weather is a rarity. All of these factors make the post highly coveted for aviation testing, and YPG's specialty is helping to prove the airworthiness of a given airframe once weapons systems and sensors are integrated into it. YPG's aviation personnel are testing some of the most cutting-edge platforms around—they have already hosted a demonstration related to the Future Vertical Lift, the next generation Army helicopter-- but none of YPG's aviation testing ever causes a sonic boom.

"We don't allow aircraft to break the sound barrier in our air space," said Hugh Lottinger, range operations manager. "From a YPG standpoint, there is no reason at this point in time to do any type of supersonic flight here. We aren't conducting that type of testing, so we have no reason for that to occur."



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The extended range cannon artillery is one of the many firing systems at YPG. The immense size of YPG's range space, larger in area than the state of Rhode Island, makes the proving ground an ideal place for testing long-range artillery shells.

PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER

Testing is YPG's bread and butter, but the proving ground also hosts training activities for Soldiers, Marines, and even various civilian law enforcement agencies. However, these operations usually aren't responsible for noise heard by the general public, either.

"If we support demolitions or artillery training, the sound generated would be equivalent to what is produced by test operations," said Luis Arroyo, chief of the Training and Exercise Management Office. "The size and scope of training operations here is miniscule compared to the test operations. It is extremely unlikely that anyone in the City of Yuma or the Foothills will hear anything related to training operations at YPG."

These and all other test and training activities at YPG are conducted in extremely remote locations that are

far from any populated areas. Tests and training missions are all done in accordance with Army regulations that require surface danger zones to ensure that all possible hazards are contained within that zone.

Putting military equipment through punishing testing at YPG ensures it is safe and effective prior to the time when a Soldier or Marine's life may depend on it. So far as the general public is concerned, this fact is orders of magnitude louder than the noise of our operations.

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# MyFuture platform keeps students engaged with CYS

By Ana Henderson

Yuma Proving Ground's (YPG) Child and Youth Services (CYS) is finding different avenues to stay connected to children in the community even if the kids are not physically present in their facility.

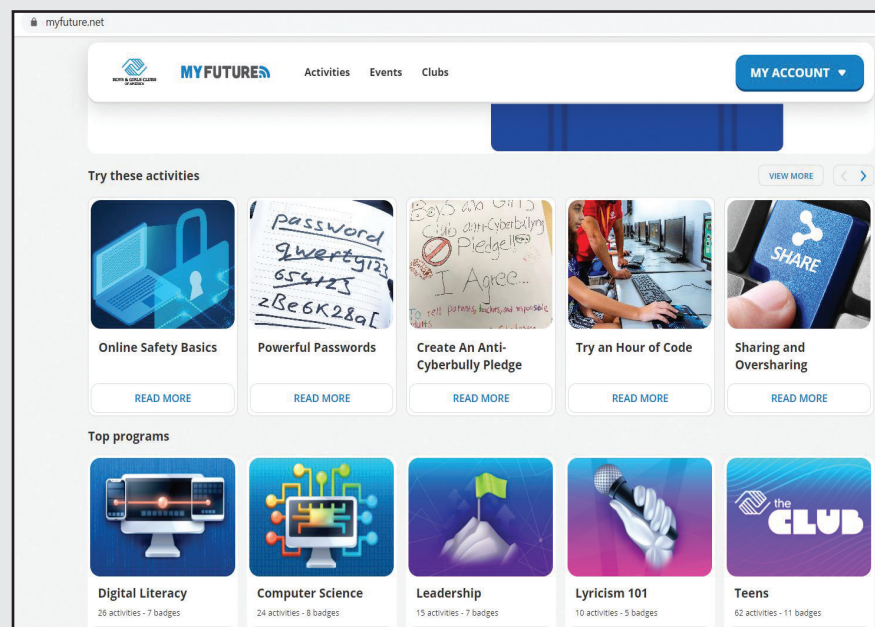
CYS is encouraging school aged kids to log onto the Boys and Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) MyFuture platform. The platform, "Enables CYS staff and youth to access program content, learn new skills, earn recognition, and share their projects with their peers. Youth can complete the fun activities at home, at any time, as it's flexible. Our staff can then track what the youth are doing when it is completed," explains YPG CYS Director Melissa Anderson.

Anderson has created a short video showing the steps of enrolling in the free platform. She posted that video on the CYS Facebook. The site is similar to most social media sites and features a newsfeed where students can see what other kids are working on and CYS staff can log in and give kids recognition for their work. There is an optional feature where CYS can tailor the content to interests of the students if they get enough local participation.

MyFuture can be accessed at <https://myfuture.net/>

The CYS Facebook page can be found at [www.facebook.com/ypgcys](https://www.facebook.com/ypgcys)

For questions contact [melissa.g.anderson9.naf@mail.mil](mailto:melissa.g.anderson9.naf@mail.mil)



SCREENSHOT

CYS is encouraging school aged kids to log onto the Boys and Girls Clubs of America MyFuture platform which can be accessed at <https://myfuture.net/>

YOU'VE



ADAPTED

To be the change you wish to see in the world...



Get a caffeinated boost or some good ole H<sub>2</sub>O and a sandwich from Chick-Fil-A courtesy of the ACS Family Advocacy Program and the MFF school FRG. This will be a drive through style coffee hour and a great opportunity to meet some of your helping hand service providers.

TODAY IS A NEW DAY

WHEN: February 11th, 2021 from 8-9

WHERE: Parking lot of ID Card Office Bldg 501

WHY: Because encouragement can go a long way and together we can help! We care about you. Yes YOU! You matter to all of us in this YPG team.

POC: CathyAnn Robinson 928-328-3224

[Cathyann.robinson.civ@mail.mil](mailto:Cathyann.robinson.civ@mail.mil)



Listen to understand

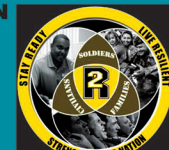
EMBRACE kindness



**SHARP** Practice Take chances  
SEXUAL HARASSMENT/ASSAULT RESPONSE & PREVENTION

Compassion BEGIN AGAIN

ASK FOR HELP



## Yuma Proving Ground BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION PARADE

YPG CYS will be holding a Birthday Parade for its YPG Residents on March 13th, 2021 at 10AM.

We will be escorted by the YPG Fire Department and will be giving out Birthday Goodie Bags and Balloons!

If your child has had a birthday between January 1st—March 31st, and you would like to them recognized please send the following information:

Childs Name, Address, and Birthday Date

By February 26th, 2021 to [melissa.g.anderson9.naf@mail.mil](mailto:melissa.g.anderson9.naf@mail.mil)

This is for YPG Residents ONLY. We apologize for any inconvenience.

For more information please call 928-328-2860.