

# The Outpost

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

VOL. 70 NO. 4 FEBRUARY 15, 2021

## Range Operations and Training Division streamlines success

By Mark Schauer

Most divisions at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) are fast-paced, but few rival the Range Operations and Training Division (ROTD) in terms of the sheer scope of responsibility and volume of work.

Responsible for planning and coordinating the safe operations of numerous inherently dangerous test

activities, the division interacts with virtually all mission-related personnel at YPG.

YPG routinely fires upwards of one million rounds and test drives military vehicles for hundreds of thousands of miles across unimproved road courses and other rugged terrain without a single serious injury. Every individual

SEE **ROTD/7**



PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER

The Range Operations and Training Division was created in 2017 with the merger of the Planning and Range Operations Divisions and the Training and Exercise Management Office (TEMO). The merger streamlined operations immensely during the rapid planning and execution of Project Convergence (PC). TEMO lead the preparation of YPG's forward operating base for PC's hundreds of support personnel.



PHOTO BY ARMY SPC. KHALIL JENKINS

Drones like these three pictured at Al Asad Air Base in Iraq will be part of a C-sUAS demonstration at Yuma Proving Ground.

## RCCTO partners with YPG and JCO to conduct demonstrations in the desert

By Ana Henderson

Deputy Director of the Army Rapid Capabilities and Critical Technologies Office (RCCTO) Stan Darbro visited YPG Jan. 28 to meet with Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) and Yuma Test Center (YTC) leadership.

YPG Commander Col. Patrick McFall, Command Sgt. Maj Herbert

Gill, Technical Director Larry Bracamonte, Air Combat Systems Director Jeff Rogers and Aviation Systems and Electronic Test Division Ross Gwynn welcomed Darbro and discussed a proposed partnership between RCCTO, the Joint C-sUAS Office (JCO) and YPG. Darbro's main goal was

SEE **DEMONSTRATIONS/6**

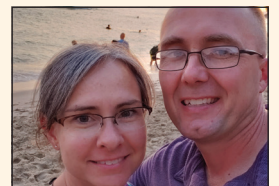
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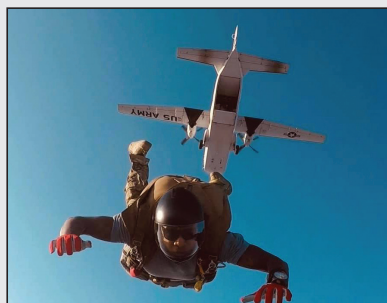




# Soldier Spotlight

By Ana  
Henderson  
Staff

Sergeant Jose Amaro has been serving our country for 11 years in the U.S. Army. He's originally from Palm Beach, Florida and is currently stationed at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground. Amaro is a Special Operations Parachute Rigger and Pack instructor with the Military Free Fall School. Amaro is a devoted husband to his wife Kayla and father of two small children. He enjoys



LOANED PHOTOS



traveling and spending time with his family and is also an avid motorcycle rider and of course—a skydiver!



## THE OUTPOST

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PHOTO BY ANA HENDERSON

(Left to right) YPG Command Sgt. Maj. Herbert Gill, Shearwater's power maintenance team: Mike Campbell, Rande Mayrant, David DuShane, Chuck Tawzer, John Redmon, Garrison Manager Ronny James, YPG Commander Col. Patrick McFall, Public Works Director Pat Driscoll, SMS Project Manager Jaysen Lockett. "These are unsung heroes right here" said Col. McFall after hearing about the actions the Shearwater Mission Support linemen did during a rare stormy night in the desert southwest.

## YPG leaders thank linemen for working in dangerous conditions to keep YPG running

By Ana Henderson

When rain and wind are in the forecast for the dry desert, a multitude of things can go wrong. From flash floods and knocked over trees and powerlines, to fires sparked from lightning strikes.

Earlier this month, all of the above happened at YPG when a strong winter rain storm blew through southern Arizona.

At just about 1 A.M. on Jan. 20, Shearwater Mission Support (SMS) Project Manager Jaysen Lockett received an urgent call from the YPG Police Department.

"The salt-cedar trees collected moisture from the rain and started to sag close enough to the line. It started arching back to the dead area in the tree and smoldering," explained Lockett.

Smoke filled the skyline near the YPG Travel Camp. When the linemen arrived they saw small flames and trees on fire, "The fire department had everything under control they were just waiting on authorization to get in there and spray the trees," said John Redmon, lineman.

The process involved coordinating

with Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District (WMIDD) to isolate the line before they could work since WMIDD provides power to Hidden Shores Resort. Once MWIDD opened their switch and grounded their lines it was action time. "Mike Campbell ended up cutting that whole line there," said Lockett.

That was just the first of the electrical emergencies, "They came back to recharge before their normal shift and then they get a call that there's a pole literally on fire."

No word if the cause was a lightning strike for sure but the pole was on fire. "Again the fire department has to hold back until these guys get there to de-energize and secure the line before they can get close let alone spray anything on it," explains Lockett.

Fortunately power from only one building had to be shutdown to do the repair. That same morning the crews installed new poles, powerlines and transformer.

"When you look at those poles you don't really think there is a lot that goes into it but there is a lot" says Lockett.



# Virtual town hall reassures workforce

By Mark Schauer

During the first week of February, YPG Commander Col. Patrick McFall, Command Sgt. Maj. Herbert Gill, Technical Director Larry Bracamonte, Garrison Manager Ron James, and YPG Health Clinic Officer-In-Charge Maj. Jennifer Fiantd participated in an hour-long virtual town hall, taking questions in real time from members of the workforce watching a live stream on Microsoft Teams.

A video of the event was posted on YPG's internal Sharepoint page for those who could not view it live.

Though the questions covered a wide gamut of workforce life and concerns, the majority were about the COVID-19 vaccine: is it safe, is it effective, and, most frequently, will YPG personnel be able to get it—and when?

"I'm not sure when YPG personnel will be able to get those vaccines, but they will be able to eventually," said Fiantd. "The vaccine rollout has been a little restricted in terms of supply, and we've only been able to do priority groups so far. Larger installations have been able to get more supplies and get further down their list of priority groups: we will get there as well, but it will take a little time."

Though local COVID infection numbers are decreasing from their post-holiday spike, they are still high enough to have warranted the extension of maximum telework until at least the end of February. McFall stated that the ultimate transition back to normal would not be done hastily.

"We're looking at the safety of our workforce balanced with the ability to accomplish our mission," said McFall.

Senior leaders also affirmed that telework will remain in some form after the pandemic has passed.

"Is there room for telework after COVID? I think so, but as far as what that will look like, it is still to be determined," said Bracamonte.

Recent news about an executive order from the president mandating the use of face coverings in federal buildings led to questions about how it would change working conditions at YPG. The senior



PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER

During the virtual employee town hall, YPG Commander Col. Patrick McFall presented YPG test officer Savanna Silva with the Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC) Employee of the Year Award from ATEC Commander Brig. Gen. James J. Gallivan. Silva was recognized for her efforts as the COVID mitigation implementation lead for Project Convergence (PC). With over 900 personnel arriving from all over the Department of the Army to support PC, safely in-processing and accommodating the visitors took the efforts of multiple people within YPG. "This was a team effort," said Silva. "I could not have done this without all of the fantastic people who worked alongside me."

leaders pointed out that the Department of Defense has required face coverings since early April 2020.

"Nothing has changed for us the way I look at it," said Bracamonte. "President Biden's memo just reinforces what we already had in place here at Yuma Proving Ground."

Questions about the post's budget picture had different answers depending on whether the subject was the test mission budget or that of the Installation Management Command (IMCOM). On the test mission side, YPG's workload has been steady and looks likely to remain so for the remainder of the fiscal year and there have been no changes to the projected budget.

"The workload looks good," said Bracamonte. "Through the end of January we have accomplished roughly 492,000 reimbursable labor hours. I

predict that figure will be around 1.7 or 1.8 million direct labor hours by the end of the fiscal year."

A good deal of work is in the offing to successfully plan the calendar year 2021 iteration of Project Convergence, which will be larger in scope and participation than last year's version.

"80-85% of the actual demonstrations will be done here on Yuma proper," said Bracamonte. "We expect to see a lot of people here to support it."

Within IMCOM, custodial and grounds maintenance contracts will likely see cuts, James reported.

"We're not exactly sure what those cuts will look like yet: we have not received our funding yet," said James. "We do know there will be some kind of cuts."

The other services post workers and residents enjoy will likely remain as

they are.

"On the non-appropriated funds side, we think we are looking OK," said James. "We don't have a whole lot of services here at YPG—we have our food facilities, library, and gym, and the intent is that we will continue to run those as we have in the past once it is safe to do so."

James also assured jittery viewers that layoffs were not a threat.

"There is no reduction if force planned," said James. "The worst-case scenario would be a hiring freeze. Where we're really feeling the pinch isn't so much payroll, but our base operations fund."

Town hall participants were already looking ahead to the summer, and James assured them that normal activities like bowling leagues and the ability to use the post swimming pool would return as soon as it was safe to do so.

"We will have as full a schedule as we can safely have," said James. "We hope to have Kids Camp, but COVID will have a vote in that. We are ready to open up and be back to normal, but we have to follow the rules and the restrictions that are placed upon us."

Gill stressed that the mental health aspects of having services like the library was appreciated by the post's senior leaders.

"We're voicing the needs of our community continuously to our higher command, and they are taking that above and beyond to do the same thing for us," said Gill.

Across the hour, the questions and responses reaffirmed YPG's importance to the national defense and Army modernization efforts, and that the mission would continue both during and after the pandemic.

"Everything we do converges to fight the future fight," said McFall. "What we are doing today is not the same thing we will be doing tomorrow."

"We need to make sure we invest in the right equipment and instrumentation so we can do our best for the Soldiers," added Bracamonte. "We have to get the investments right with the budgets we are going to be given in order to make the most of it."



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PHOTO BY ANA HENDERSON

The Veterinary Clinic at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground is preparing to go through a transition. The current veterinarian, Capt. Charles Andersen, will be completing his time at YPG in March.

## YPG Veterinary Clinic encourages planning for short-term alternate pet care providers during upcoming transition

By Ana Henderson

In March, the Veterinary Clinic at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) is preparing for a change in staffing. The current veterinarian, Capt. Charles Andersen, will transition from YPG in March as part of his military permanent change of station cycling. Andersen will only be taking appointments through mid-March. The YPG Vet Clinic staff would like to inform their clients that there will not be a military veterinarian until one is assigned by a higher headquarters. Unfortunately, the earliest expected arrival of the new military veterinarian will not be until this coming summer.

In an effort to proactively combat this underlap in veterinary provisions, Clinic leadership is continuing their search for a civilian veterinarian to provide additional support during this period. As a precaution, Andersen says, "We do not provide emergency services: owners are recommended to identify emergency care locations and consider establishing a relationship with a commercial veterinary facility

until we are back up with all of our personnel."

During the transition period, the clinic will remain open with operating hours of 0830-1600 Monday - Friday. Staff may be able to provide non-controlled prescriptions (such as flea and tick medication) and possibly perform weight checks. However, vet technicians cannot take appointments without a veterinarian overseeing the staff. These services are only authorized for pets seen at the clinic within the past year.

In the meantime, there are a few recommended services available on a local basis. For pets that only need vaccines, there are vaccination clinics in the surrounding area. For emergencies, pet owners are encouraged to have primary and alternate pet emergency facilities that are local.

It is advised to call the clinic directly for the most accurate and current information at 928-328-2064. LINK to Civilian Veterinarian Job listing: <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/587397100>



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# February is Black History Month

Today's Army stands on the sacrifice of African American Soldiers in past wars, such as the Harlem Hellfighters of New York's 369th Infantry Regiment of World War I and the "Triple Nickels" 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion who were an all-Black Army airborne unit in WWII. Below are a few notable individual trailblazers whose actions and achievements made history.



## AFRICAN AMERICANS in the U.S. ARMY



### *Loyalty. Honor. Patriotism.*



“For more than 200 years, African-Americans have participated in every conflict in United States history. They have not only fought bravely the common enemies of the United States but have also had to confront the individual and institutional racism of their countrymen.”

— Retired Lt. Col. Michael Lee Lanning, author, *“The African-American Soldier: From Crispus Attucks to Colin Powell.”*

### *Profiles of Bravery*



**Sgt. William H. Carney**

*1863: First black Medal of Honor recipient*

Carney was attached to the 54th Massachusetts Colored Infantry. In July 1863, Carney found himself in the fierce Battle of Fort Wagner. After being wounded, Carney saw that the color bearer had been shot down a few feet away. Carney summoned all his strength to retrieve the fallen colors and continued the charge. During the charge, Carney was shot several more times, yet he kept the colors flying high. Once delivering the flag back to his regiment, he shouted “The Old Flag never touched the ground!”



**Cathay Williams**

*1866: First black female to enlist in the Army*

Williams enlisted in the Army using the name William Cathay, Nov. 15, 1866. She informed her recruiting officer that she was a 22-year-old cook. He described her as 5' 9", with black eyes, black hair and black complexion. An Army surgeon examined Cathay and determined the recruit was fit for duty, thus sealing her fate in history as the first documented black woman to enlist in the Army even though U.S. Army regulations forbade the enlistment of women. She was assigned to the 38th U.S. Infantry and traveled throughout the West with her unit.



**Clifford L. Alexander Jr.**

*1977: First black secretary of the Army*

Alexander became the 13th secretary of the Army, Feb. 11, 1977, appointed by President Jimmy Carter. He graduated cum laude from Harvard College and Yale Law School and served in the National Guard.



**Gen. Roscoe Robinson Jr.**

*1982: First black four-star general*

Robinson attended St. Louis University for only a year and then transferred to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., entering the Class of 1951 and earned a master's degree in international relations at the University of Pittsburgh. Robinson served 34 years in the U.S. Army.



# DEMONSTRATIONS

FROM PAGE 1

“communication.”

RCCTO is tasked with rapidly prototyping technology that lines up with the Army’s modernization priorities: the Secretary of the Army chairs the board of directors. The JCO and RCCTO team selected YTC as the location for two counter-small unmanned aircraft system (C-sUAS) demonstrations in 2021, in addition to other C-sUAS test events throughout

the year. C-sUAS capabilities have become an urgent operational need for Combatant Command leadership as a result of real world threats and operations.

YPG’s task is to execute the demonstration with short notice and manage the requirements while also sharing the range space with other high-profile tests.

“My intent is to come out here and say, ‘We are doing an event in April, where do you need help? What

are the challenges that RCCTO can help with as a team member to solve those challenges so we can stay on schedule?’” explains Darbro.

RCCTO and YPG have worked together in the past on previous programs such as the M777 Extended Range program for the U.S. Army and U.S. Navy earlier this year. The difference now is RCCTO intends to be hyper-focused on supporting JCO in C-sUAS capability advancement, resulting in two C-sUAS

demonstrations yearly starting in 2021. “This is going to be predictable, revolving, two times a year,” explains Darbro.

Following the discussion with the YPG/YTC team Darbro was confident about the partnership. “We all understand the urgency....I think the Yuma part of our team knows exactly what they have go do.”

McFall echoed the sentiment, “The YPG family is excited about the RCCTO/YPG partnership. We fully understand the urgency to support RCCTO and the Army with modernizing our military and ensuring the Warfighter has the right equipment to win our nation’s wars and conflicts.”

The partnership will bring the vast majority of C-sUAS developmental testing to YPG and opens the door for other projects.

“I think there is a lot of things the range can assist in the maturation process, and not just counter-small UAS but some of our other technologies as well. Going forward I am really excited about seeing Yuma be the premier place for the counter small-UAS to go to,” said Darbro.

Because of the urgency and importance of the work this type of commitment requires a strong partnership.

“I think we ought to be a team – RCCTO, Yuma and the JCO,” Darbro said, adding, “We should get to a point where we are just seamless. Where if we have to do a demo and it’s on autopilot. People understand what has to be done and we start forecasting earlier what we need to do to make it successful.”

Rogers adds, “YPG having a strong partnership with RCCTO and JCO is critical in developing a much needed capability for U.S. Forces. YPG has the perfect range and technical expertise within the workforce to meet these challenges. A direct and open line of communication with RCCTO and JCO will prove to be instrumental in the success of advancing the C-sUAS capability for the Warfighter.”



PHOTO BY ANA HENDERSON

Deputy Director of the Army Rapid Capabilities and Critical Technologies Office Stan Darbro visited YPG Jan. 28 to meet with YPG and YTC leadership to discuss the upcoming demonstrations at YPG. Darbro and YPG Command Sgt. Maj. Herbert Gill are pictured following the meeting.



and group heading out to test on Yuma Test Center's ranges, a land space geographically larger than the state of Rhode Island, must get clearance from ROTD range controllers before they can proceed to their destination. On a busy day, this can mean upwards of 250 phone calls for range clearances, with an equal number of calls to cancel them at the conclusion of the day.

ROTD was created in 2017 with the merger of the Planning and Range Operations Divisions and the Training and Exercise Management Office (TEMO), and the streamlined operations helped immensely during the rapid planning and execution of Project Convergence, last summer's campaign of learning that represented the Army's largest capabilities demonstration of the year.

"The range control branch and range planning branch merger has been a huge help for the test center as a whole," said Omar Silva, ROTD chief. "The communication is now seamless."

The work is complex, but the basic mission is simple, says ROTD Chief Omar Silva.

"We're here to support the testers. It's important for us to keep that focus: how can we make the testers' lives easier while they're on the range and we're in this air conditioned room?"

One example is coordinating things like temporary road closures of Highway 95, the arterial highway that bisects YPG, with the Arizona Department of Transportation when necessary to safely accommodate testing. Prior to the creation of the division, this task fell to the test officers themselves, which Silva saw as a needless distraction to the main test mission.

"Let's let the smart people worry about complex engineering problems, and let operational guys like us handle things like road closures," said Silva.

A temporary closure of Highway 95 for a test affects more than motorists, too. Roads within the Kofa Wildlife

Refuge must also be closed as well, which requires coordination with the Bureau of Land Management. Other entities along the road and on YPG property, from the Border Patrol station to General Motors Desert Test Track and the Department of Homeland Security's tethered aerostat must also be notified. The division must also ensure the test is able to proceed in the allotted time.

"Execution is down to the second because we have specific windows with ADOT," he explained. "When we open up the clearance, the highway is closed and the gun can fire. As soon as the round makes impact, we can open it back up immediately to minimize the inconvenience for the public."

As for test planning, the three-week planning cycle remains, albeit with the ability to fast-track priority tests or adjust the schedule to insert other projects if a test is temporarily delayed.

"If tests are postponed due to equipment or some other reason, we can immediately fill the gap with other projects to keep those personnel occupied," said Silva. "It's a constant massaging of the schedule to ensure we are efficient with all of the folks we have."

Another ROTD innovation has been the creation of a curriculum where test officers observe range controllers for two hours, culminating with the opening of a firing clearance.

"I wanted to let them experience the complexities of range control so that whenever they're out there, they've been on the scene and know what it takes," said Silva. "It helps them, and it helps us."

The complexities of range control are multifold: issuing range clearances over the phone to every person who enters the ranges, confirming that technical safety data supplied by test officers is accurate, and calmly orchestrating one of the busiest test ranges in the world. In the range control room, the controllers are astonishingly cool as the synapses of the installation's nerve center crackle about them. The unpunctuated beep

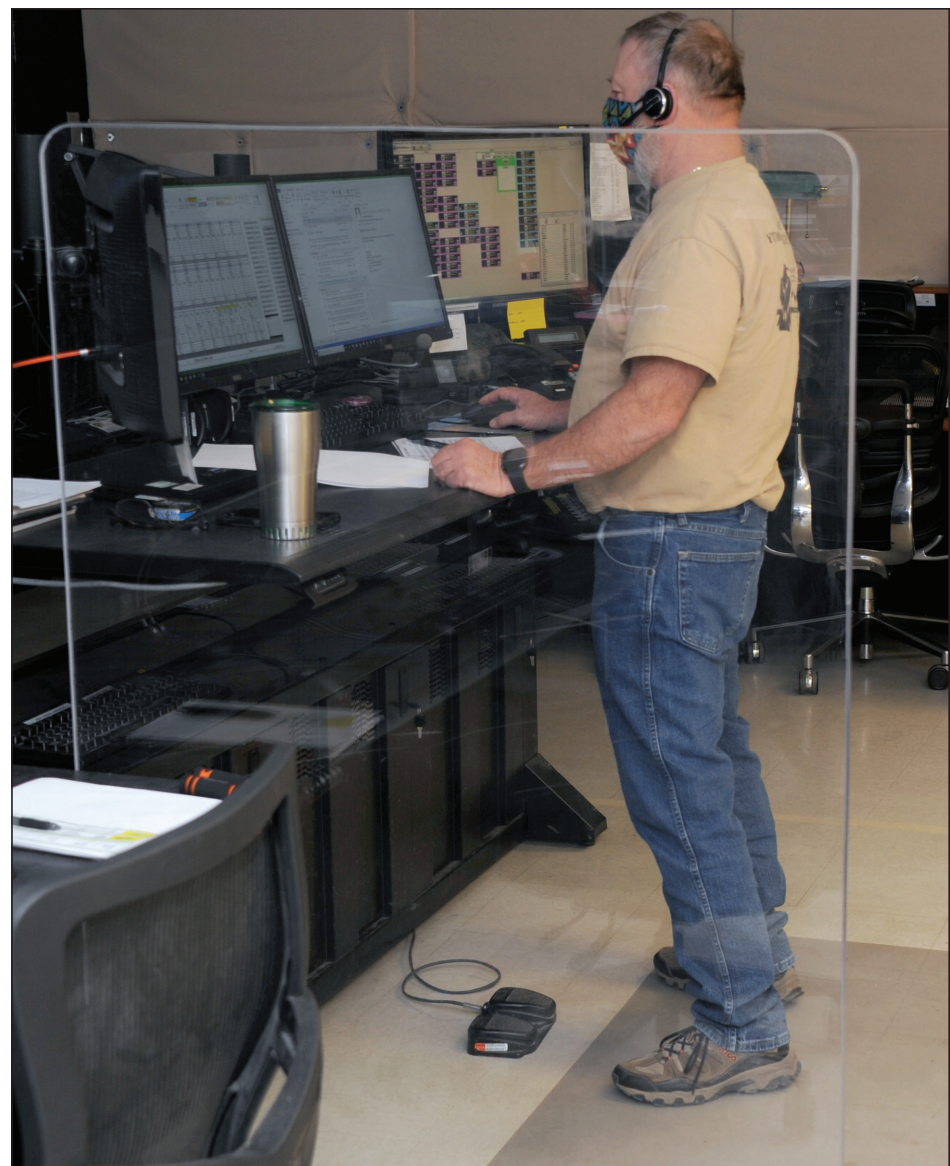


PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER

Every individual and group heading out to test on Yuma Test Center's ranges must get clearance from ROTD range controllers before they can proceed to their destination. On a busy day, this can mean upwards of 250 phone calls for range clearances, with an equal number of calls to cancel them at the conclusion of the day.

of the phone system that signifies a call waiting on the other line is a constant sound in the dim room where controllers record data by the light of green-shaded banker's lamps next to computers on a long control desk. On the wall are large screens displaying live radar data and maps showing surface danger zones of tests in progress.

The most important tool at range control's disposal is a detailed map of the installation that shows which tests are in progress and the danger zones for each. In the event of a serious injury, range controllers would pass on these coordinates to an emergency airlift pilot as they rapidly cleared

YPG's airspace for the helicopter's safe entry. Likewise, in the event of an emergency evacuation of the range due to flooding during a monsoon, the range controllers are responsible for ensuring everyone gets out safely.

ROTD even has impact on some of the infrastructure on the range, including a helicopter landing zone and access roads constructed by troop labor. The troops in these units can also utilize TEMO facilities for things like weapons qualification during their time here.

"We really formalized the program of troop labor across YPG," said Silva. "That checks off their training and gets them a project completed as well."



# Yuma Proving Ground BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION PARADE

YPG CY5 will be holding a  
Birthday Parade for its YPG Residents on

**March 13th, 2021 at 10AM.**

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# Highway 95 improvements set to begin

By Mark Schauer

After decades of danger, Highway 95's road to safe status is about to begin.

Starting this summer, a stretch of Highway 95 from Avenue 9E to just north of Rifle Range Road will be expanded to five lanes, a project that will take roughly one year to complete.

Concurrently, long-awaited left and right turn lanes will be added to Highway 95's intersection with Dome Valley Road.

In summer 2022, construction to widen the Wellton-Mohawk Bridge to five lanes will begin. Though the \$29 million allocated by the State of Arizona in 2019 includes money to design the stretch of road connecting the five lanes ending at Rifle Range Road to the Wellton-Mohawk Bridge, but not enough to construct it. When future money will be available to continue the project is undetermined at this time.

"That will come down to what the budget looks like," said Rep. Tim Dunn, who represents District 13 in the Arizona State House of Representatives. "COVID has set the state back a little bit, but we're actually rebounding better than we thought."

Aside from having the highest traffic volume of any two lane road in Arizona, the stretch of Highway 95 that runs from Avenue 9E to Aberdeen Road has poor lighting, multiple blind curves, and inconsistent shoulder width. The morning and evening commutes to and from the proving ground have long been dubbed the 'YPG 500,' an amusing sobriquet if not for the grim list of lives the road has claimed over the past decades. In command surveys of YPG personnel, having to drive daily on Highway 95 is often cited as the worst aspect of being employed at the



PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER

proving ground—one Army veteran who now works at YPG as a civilian said they found the experience more consistently frightening than multiple deployments to Iraq. The road is shared not only with farm vehicles working the adjacent fields, but also with winter visitors whose presence normally doubles Yuma's population.

"We have a farm on Highway 95, so we see the 'YPG 500' every day," said Dunn. "We understand how much traffic is on that road and how dangerous it is."

Funding is the principal impediment to fixing the longstanding road deficiencies, and barring intervention will remain a chronic problem. All told, Arizona's counties alone have in excess of 20,000 miles of paved and unpaved roadways to maintain. Arizona's gasoline tax is the seventh-lowest in the nation, hasn't increased since the early 1990s, and has lost more than 35% of its original value due to inflation.

Completing Highway 95's expansion to five lanes all the way to the Aberdeen Road entrance of YPG's Kofa Firing Range will cost approximately \$80 million more than has been allocated to date. State leaders hope to ensure additional stretches are funded as YPG's prominence at the forefront of the Army's current modernization efforts grows.

"With all of the additional testing coming out to YPG, we know it is going to get busier," said Dunn.





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**PROPOSED PLAN - PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**  
 Yuma Proving Ground, Former Mortar Impact Area  
 Munitions Response Site (YPG-002-R-01)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has issued a Proposed Plan for the Former Mortar Impact Area Munitions Response Site (MRS) (YPG-002-R-01). The Former Mortar Impact Area is located in a portion of the active military installation U.S. Army Garrison Yuma Proving Ground- (USAGYPG) and within the boundaries of the MRS. The Former Mortar Impact Area was historically used for live-fire training of munitions, including mortars, grenades, and medium/heavy artillery between 1942 and 1945.

Based on the results of a Remedial Investigation (RI) and Feasibility Study (FS), possible risks to human health and the environment have been identified at the Former Mortar Impact Area MRS related to Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC) and Material Potentially Presenting an Explosive Hazard (MPPEH). The Proposed Plan summarizes historical investigations conducted at the site and details the proposed remedial alternative selected based on remedial action objectives, and threshold and balancing criteria for the site. The preferred alternative recommends removing and disposing of MEC and MPPEH in the surface and subsurface soil strata at the MRS and mitigating any residual MEC hazards by implementing limited land use controls (LUCs).

The public is invited to review the Proposed Plan and supporting documents at USAGYPG, Environmental Services Division, 301 C Street, Building 307, 1st Floor, Yuma, AZ 85365. The USACE is soliciting public comment on each of the alternatives presented in the Proposed Plan document. If requested, USACE will conduct a public meeting to provide information on the Proposed Plan. Public comments on the Proposed Plan are considered before any action is selected and approved. Written comments will be accepted during the public comment period from February 8, 2021 through March 10, 2021 and should be sent to:

Ms. Donnett Brown  
 Environmental Chief/DERP Manager  
 Environmental Sciences Division-Directorate of Public Works  
 Bldg. 307, Room 2  
 301 C Street AMIM-YMP-E  
 USAG Yuma Proving Ground  
 Yuma, Arizona 85365  
[donnett.brown2.civ@mail.mil](mailto:donnett.brown2.civ@mail.mil)

The above may also be contacted to request a public meeting.

## Chaplain's Corner

## Be willing to serve and sacrifice

By Chaplain Capt. Jeff Crispin

Aloha YPG Ohana. I'm Chaplain Jeff Crispin, the incoming YPG Garrison Chaplain coming to you from Oahu, Hawaii. My wife Tabitha and I, along with our four children, ages 6-13 are excited to be part of the team here at YPG.

As I write this, today is Four Chaplains Day. On Feb. 3, 1943, the S.S. Dorchester, a troop ship sailing in the north Atlantic was torpedoed by a German submarine. Among the troops on board were four Army Chaplains: a rabbi, a priest and two pastors. These Chaplains assisted in helping keep the Soldiers calm and leading prayers as the lifejackets were passed out and lifeboats loaded. When the lifejackets were gone, they gave theirs to Soldiers who didn't have one. One survivor recounts trying to go back into the ship to get his gloves, but was stopped by one of the Chaplains asking what he was doing.



LOANED PHOTO

The YPG Community welcomes Chaplain Capt. Jeff Crispin, his wife Tabitha and their four children.

Immediately, the Chaplain gave away his own gloves and ordered the Soldier onto a lifeboat. The Chaplains were last seen, locked arm in arm on the deck praying according to their respective traditions as the Dorchester

sank. They were all four awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor and there was a postage stamp issued to commemorate their service and sacrifice.

My hope for us is that in the days in which we live, our community will draw on their example to bringing calm in the chaos, concern for the well-being of others without asking about if you are "like me," or "what's in it for me," and be willing to serve and sacrifice for the sake of the truly important things in our lives.

**Communication and Connection:**  
 Keys to a Stronger Relationship



**Friday February 19<sup>th</sup>**  
 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

**LOCATION:**

**MCFIB**  
 Building 598  
 Conference room  
 (next to the commissary)

**\*A meal will be provided\***  
**Childcare will NOT be provided**

**Please join FOCUS and the MAG-13 Chaplain for a Couples' Workshop.**

**We will learn skills to:**

- Improve communication
- Deepen relationship
- Enhance mutual support

**Due to COVID-19 Space is Limited Please RSVP by Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>**  
 (928) 269-4288 or [yuma@focusproject.org](mailto:yuma@focusproject.org)

The MAG-13 Chaplain conducting the training recognizes the union of marriage between a man and a woman. All couples are welcomed to attend.

The FOCUS Program • FOCUS (Families OverComing Under Stress) is a resilience building program of the Department of Defense. The FOCUS program is designed for military families, couples and children facing ongoing stress and change. FOCUS provides family strengths and supports adults and children to help manage the challenges of military life. • [www.focusproject.org](http://www.focusproject.org)

**F·O·C·U·S**





PHOTO BY ANA HENDERSON

The linemen with SMS support know if there is rain or wind in the forecast it means "we are going to have problems" said the linemen, Mike Campbell, Rande Mayrant, Chuck Tawzer, John Redmon, almost in unison.

## LINEMEN

FROM PAGE 2

Right before the end that very long day the crew received another call to reset communications towers. Without those towers testing could have come to a halt.

YPG Commander Col. Patrick McFall, Command Sgt. Maj. Herbert Gill, and Garrison Manager Ronnie James gathered to personally thank the crew for their work in such dangerous conditions.

"You get called to action when conditions are bad: rainy, fires – and then we ask you to play with electrical wires. What you do is extremely dangerous," said McFall.

That it is. Redmon recalls, "You would try to look up and it was just

pouring down rain," It was raining the entire time.

The linemen say it's all in a very long day's work and they all seem pretty humble about their work yet the YPG leaders know without them a lot of things could be jeopardized.

"I don't know if you guys see it that way but you really are saving lives," adding, "We rely on electricity so much that we don't realize it. So I want to say that I am proud of you guys. That I am thankful."

Gill told the crew, "You've got dedication for this community and I really do appreciate it."



LOANED PHOTO

At just about 1 am morning on Jan. 20 smoke filled the skyline near the YPG Travel Camp after salt-cedar trees collected moisture from the rain and started to sag close enough to the line to start smoldering and catch on fire.



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## Family Advocacy Program Corner

February is teen dating violence prevention month, every February, young people and their loved ones join together across the country for a national effort to raise awareness about the issue of teen dating violence through Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month (TDVAM). Congress declared the month of February to be National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month in 2010. This annual, month-long push focuses on advocacy and education to stop dating abuse before it starts.

### 2021 Theme "Know Your Worth"

This year's theme Know Your Worth is all about learning about healthy relationships and self-empowerment, and was chosen by college students from across the country. You are worth respect and deserving of a healthy, loving relationship. Our idea with this theme is to empower our audience to learn more about healthy relationships, and to know what they are worth and what they deserve. It is a very powerful, personal statement that guides actions, behaviors, and communication in relationships to be healthy and free from violence. Everyone is deserving of a healthy relationship!

For information on any of our services or to request a class, contact Family Advocacy 928-328-3224 we are here for you!



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# FMWR provides path for home-based business on installations

By Ana Henderson

Home-based businesses (HBB) are booming.

Since people are staying home more often, they are using the time to get creative and make extra money selling their creations.

U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground's Family Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (FMWR) program offers a path to make those home-based business legal on Army installations like Yuma Proving Ground (YPG).

"What the Department of the Army did is streamline the process when spouses have a business and are moving from one installation to another installation or starting up a new business," explains Mardy Clark, chief of the Family Support Division at YPG.

"Not everyone thinks they can be an entrepreneur. By us giving them the instructions and helping them with guidelines and regulations, it gives them the opportunity to take the uncertainty away and gives them power back so they can succeed," adds Cathyann Robinson, YPG's Family Advocacy Program manager.

All HBB's operating out of YPG need to be compliant, including childcare providers, Etsy shops and mid-level marketing businesses. The process involves picking up an application at FMWR, Building 300, or Army Community Services, Employment Readiness Program, Building 309, and submitting the application to four departments for approval. From there FMWR staff take over. It's important to note, FMWR

cannot provide business ideas or help with the process of starting a small business: they simply provide the path to make it compliant to operate on the installation.

Once a HBB is registered, the business owner will be able to use window advertisements and operate out of their home as long as no more than 25% of the home's gross floor area is used for the business.

The process takes a look at the type of business and makes sure it does not compete with the services provided by AAFES or FMWR. For example, a business offering food would have to provide specialty items like cakes and cupcakes.

"There are certain regulations they need to adhere to, so their application goes through the Safety Department and FMWR," explains Clark.

Overall this process was established by the Army to empower spouses, Clark says.

"The military lifestyle is not very conducive for our transitions and it absolutely does not make it convenient. With them having the opportunity to have a home-based business it gives them the continuity from one duty station to another. It keeps them gainfully employed, and the anxiety and stress from leaving one duty station to another and finding a job...it can take that away."

Clark adds, "We are trying to streamline the process so that they can come in with their HBB and get through the hurdles and start their business faster."

For more information on the process call 328-2530.

## Community member uses art to bring smiles

By Ana Henderson

Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) community member Ramona Scott is using her artistic skills to bring smiles. Scott paints rocks and then places them in random locations around YPG's housing area. Community members like David and Vivienne Nieto have had fun finding the rocks: they found five! Rock finders can either leave the rocks, take and keep them or re-hide them. Scott says, "I always enjoyed painting and there is so many rocks perfect for painting here in the area. I needed an activity to unwind and the community needed some colors and smiles, especially with these challenging times. It's nearly impossible not to smile when you find a painted rock."



LOANED PHOTOS BY RAMONA SCOTT AND DAVID NIETO