

# The Outpost

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

VOLUME 70 NO. 8 APRIL 12, 2021

## IVAS system undergoes extreme testing at Cold Regions Test Center

By Mark Schauer

It is vital that all military equipment work wherever American Soldiers need it.

Even a cursory examination of our nation's history shows that American troops have had to contend with extreme cold weather conditions more than once.

From Korea to Afghanistan, the lives of American Soldiers depend on functioning equipment in inhospitably

frigid environments, and nowhere else in the world can provide extreme cold weather testing like the U.S. Army's Cold Regions Test Center (CRTC) at Fort Greely, Alaska.

CRTC is a subordinate command of U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) in southwestern Arizona, which is responsible for evaluating equipment in extreme desert, sub-Arctic, and tropical environments.



PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER

Soldiers at Cold Regions Test Center are testing the Integrated Visual Augmentation System (IVAS) in sub-Arctic conditions. Col. Troy Denomy, IVAS product manager under Program Executive Office Soldier explains, "It's not just a night vision device or a situational awareness tool, it's combining all of that into one system."

SEE IVAS/6

## Extended Range Cannon Artillery autoloader resumes testing

By Timothy L. Rider

After a successful live-fire test of the Army's Extended Range Cannon Artillery (ERCA) limited-capacity autoloader at Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) in June 2019, the Picatinny engineers who developed it have refined a faster autoloader and have succeeded in conducting its initial trials at Picatinny, Dec. 15-22.

Development of the ERCA autoloader capability is notable because it would enable the

SEE ERCA/7

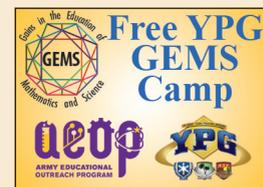
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# Soldier spotlight



PHOTO BY ALFRED HERNANDEZ

Chaplain Maj. Ronald Beltz has served as Yuma Proving Ground's chaplain for the last three and a half years.

## By Ana Henderson

Chaplain Maj. Ronald Beltz has served the Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) community for the last three and a half years as the installation's chaplain.

Beltz has served in the U.S. Army as a chaplain for 20 years. During his career his assignment locations include Iraq, Afghanistan, Germany, and Belgium. His stateside assignments include Texas, South Carolina, Illinois, Alabama and currently Arizona.

Beltz is married to Rebecca and they have two adult children: Katie and Christopher and a very friendly yellow Labrador retriever named Rosie.

Beltz's time of service at the installation is coming to an end this month and Chaplain Capt. Jeffrey Crispin in stepping into the role.



Tropic Regions Test Center Senior Test Engineer Eusebio Lopez is pictured at a test site in Australia in 2011.

LOANED PHOTO

# Employee spotlight

## By Ana Henderson

Eusebio Lopez is a Senior Test Engineer at Tropic Regions Test Center (TRTC). He's been working for TRTC since 1999, yet started his career at Yuma Test Center in the '80s.

Lopez's career has allowed him to travel in various locations in Central and South America, and also Oceania, to execute test missions.

"Travel was great! I loved traveling," he said.

Since 2011 his job has primarily kept him in the office. When asked about the longevity of his career at YPG, he says, "It's important to get along with people and know your stuff."

He says he's enjoyed the experiences with his co-workers in Yuma and the tropics.

"If I did anything well in my career, it is because of the people that work with me. They always provided outstanding support."

# The Outpost

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# Valkyrie takes sixth flight at YPG



PHOTO COURTESY OF AIR FORCE RESEARCH LABORATORY

The Air Force Research Laboratory successfully completed the XQ-58A Valkyrie's sixth flight test and first release from its internal weapons bay on March 26 at Yuma Proving Ground. This test, conducted in partnership with Kratos UAS and Area-I, demonstrated the ability to launch an ALTIUS-600 small, unmanned aircraft system (SUAS) from the internal weapons bay of the XQ-58A. Kratos, Area-I and AFRL designed and fabricated the SUAS carriage and developed software to enable release. After successful release of the SUAS, the XQ-58A completed additional test points to expand its demonstrated operating envelope. "This is the sixth flight of the Valkyrie and the first time the payload bay doors have been opened in flight," said Alyson Turri, demonstration program manager. "In addition to this first SUAS separation demonstration, the XQ-58A flew higher and faster than previous flights."

# Sen. Mark Kelly visits Yuma Proving Ground



PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER

U.S. Senator Mark Kelly paid a visit to the proving ground April 5. Yuma Proving Ground Commander Col. Patrick McFall provided him a command overview and escorted him on a tour of YPG's cutting edge test instrumentation, along with an up close look at Extended Range Cannon Artillery, part of the Army's top modernization priority. "It is very important to me to understand what the mission is and what you need to do the job," said Kelly. He is a retired Navy captain and astronaut, also had high praise for the YPG workforce. "You guys have an incredible group of people that really know what they are doing."

# Days of Remembrance

## WHEN HUMANITY FAILS

An Afikim Foundation  
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At the end of World War II, U.S. troops sweeping through Germany discovered evidence of unspeakable crimes against humanity. This exhibition tells of the soldiers who liberated western Europe and freed the survivors of Nazi persecution.

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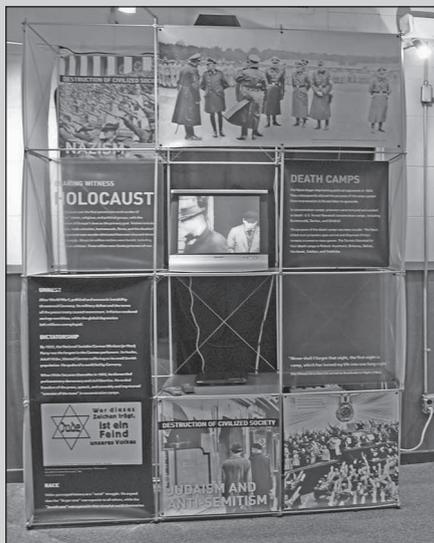
The Afikim Foundation gratefully acknowledges the vision and commitment of Congressman James P. Moran (D-Va.), His advocacy in the United States Congress made this exhibition possible.

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PHOTOS BY ANA HENDERSON

The nation commemorated Holocaust Remembrance Day on April 8th this year. The U.S. Congress established the Days of Remembrance week as the nation's annual commemoration of the Holocaust. At Yuma Proving Ground's Heritage Center, a commemorative display along with videos is exhibited. It tells the story of "When humanity failed" an introduction to the events that led to the creation and eventual liberation of the concentration camps by American Soldiers during World War II.



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# April Is National Alcohol Awareness Month

By Christopher Lee,

Army Substance Abuse Program Manager

ALCOHOL: Aqua vitae, nectar of the gods, liquid courage, joy juice, truth serum, spirits, grog, firewater, devil's water, hooch and many other euphemisms are used to describe the byproduct of yeast and sugar. In low risk amounts alcohol can result in feelings of warmth, relaxation, and even a sense of euphoria. Continued drinking and alcohol leads to poor judgment, sleepiness, and dulled senses. Adding more alcohol to the system can result in slowing down respiration, coma, or even death. And yet most of our culture bypasses the pleasant, low-risk use of alcohol and goes straight for ending up on the floor, you know the songs that count down shots or the "clever" t-shirt with the "1 tequila, 2 tequila, 3 tequila, floor" graphic.

Alcohol is presented in songs, movies, and theater as the solution to heartache, key to a good time, and the means to romance. Advertisements urge consumers to "Drink Responsibly" without providing any insight into what that means and often demonstrating situations within the advertisement itself that are anything but responsible drinking. One of my favorites was the man carrying a six pack into a party and slashing his tires so he wouldn't drink and drive. My experiences as a substance abuse counselor before I came to Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) leads me to believe that he is more likely to drive on flat tires than not drive at all. After all, if he drinks enough, the part of his brain that would point out how incredibly wrong that would be is fast asleep.

"Drink Responsibly" is vague, the Army encourages making low risk choices. These low risk choices are a result of over 30 years of research and are defined as 0 drinks underage, one drink per hour, an average of two drinks per day, and no more than three drinks on an occasion (no you can't save up for 14 on Friday, that much alcohol in one day is definitely high risk!).

Not only has the misuse of alcohol been normalized in society, recent reports have noted that alcohol use increased during the pandemic, as did alcohol related emergency room visits. Alcohol is often used to cope with stress and the pandemic has brought a tremendous amount of stress into our lives. Additionally, access to alcohol was easier with restrictions eased allowing

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for take-out or even delivery. Jokes about kids being homeschooled by drinking parents and alcohol in the coffee cups during zoom meetings tended to reflect more truth than humor.

Shortly before the pandemic I was noticing a trend. A rash of articles focused on the benefits of abstaining from alcohol. Whether it is for 30 days, a year, or indefinitely it is always interesting to hear this person extol the myriad of benefits they experienced including more energy, better focus, and improved sleep. Some of the authors were making high risk choices. Even the authors that were making low risk choices saw improvements when abstaining.

Whether you decide to abstain for a period of time, or choose to drink responsibly by making low risk choices, the Army Substance Abuse Program can provide education and assistance. If you would like more information on alcohol use the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism has a website, available for anyone, called "Rethinking Drinking" at <https://www.rethinkingdrinking.niaaa.nih.gov/>. The site answers questions such as "How much is too much?" It provides information for self-assessment, how to make changes, and helpful tools to support your choices. The information is confidential and free.

For service members and their families there is Military One Source, at [www.militaryonesource.mil](http://www.militaryonesource.mil) or 1-800-342-9647. The Employee Assistance Program, (928) 328-2249, for YPG DA Civilians, family members, and retirees can provide support and a referral for anyone who may have questions about alcohol use.

This last year was challenging and there may be more challenges before the return to a life more normal. Take a few minutes to identify positive, healthy coping skills, reach out to family, friends, and neighbors, and make low risk choices when drinking alcohol for continued mental fitness.



## April brings awareness to sexual assault prevention

By Ana Henderson

This year marks the 20th Anniversary of the Army's Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

The Army's Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and

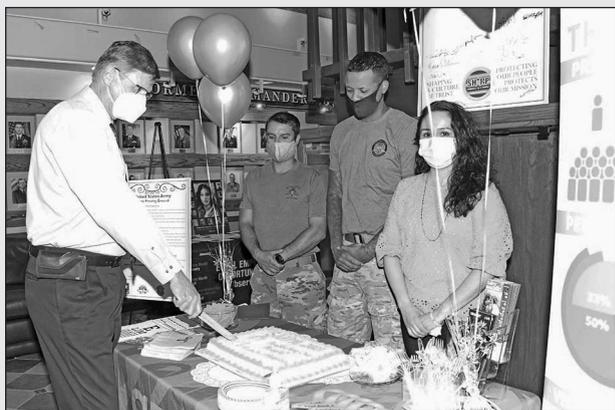
Prevention program, known as SHARP, exists so the Army can prevent sexual harassment and sexual assaults before they occur. Proactive steps require a personal commitment from both civilian and military members.

### The Army is committed to:

- Reducing the stigma of reporting
- Protecting the victim
- Increasing prevention, investigation, prosecution and victim capabilities
- Increasing training and resources

- Refining and sustaining response capability

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PHOTOS BY ANA HENDERSON

On April 1, Garrison Manager Ronny James joined by Technical Director Larry Bracamonte (not pictured), Sexual Assault Response Coordinator Arlene Gentry and victim advocates Staff Sgt. Jose Amaro and Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Santa Lucia gathered for the Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month proclamation.

# YPG's water treatment plants vital to community

By Ana Henderson

Many people might not realize Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) is similar to a small town.

The installation has an elementary school, daycare, gym, commissary, library, hotel, police and fire departments and many other amenities a small town would have. YPG even has its own water treatment plants. There are three plants, one located on both the Howard and Walker Cantonment areas and one on the Kofa Firing Range. Those plants provide drinking water and non-potable water for the water hydrants and irrigation.

This month Eagle Harbor, a sister company to Shearwater Mission Support (SMS), and EMI Services took over the management of the plants at the local level. Jaysen Lockett is the Regional Manager and James Pacheco is the local Project Manager.

Daniel McDaniel, Safety Manager with SMS and Pacheco explain how the plants work. All three water treatment facilities have a filter system with the biggest on Main Post that produces 400 gallons a minute. The water is well water that comes from deep beneath the ground.

“The water from the aquifers is cleaner because of the natural filters and it gets fed into the tanks and then it goes through the filter process,” explains McDaniel.

Pacheco says, “Our raw water tank is fed by two wells (that are the responsibility of SMS) it flows and splits into two streams. One is for irrigation and the other is for the plant. The water treatment takes place

in here and that water is pumped into a product tank and that's a 50-thousand gallon tank. From there is pumped into remote tanks and we have 750-thousand gallon storage capacity there.”

The plant warehouse is full of filters, tubes and drains plus the machines that monitor them. The team there is responsible for monitoring the systems and taking water samples to check levels for process control testing. From there they know if they have to make adjustments or replace parts etc.

Pacheco explains, “We are operators. The science behind the machines originates at General Electric who make the machines.”

The well water comes out very salty from the ground with high total dissolve solids and that's what needs to be filtered out. The large stacks are what filter out that salt. They are made up of thousands of layers of filters and those filters go through a cleaning process every 200 hours of run time to ensure the water is always at its purest.

The installation's yearly demand is significantly less than what the facility is capable of producing, meaning the YPG community is not exceeding the water available yet conserving water is always encouraged.

Pacheco reminds the community to report leaky valves to the SMS service desk by calling extension 3005 and not to leave faucets running.



PHOTOS BY ANA HENDERSON

Yuma Proving Ground has three water treatment plants, one located on both the Howard and Walker Cantonment areas and one on the Kofa Firing Range.



The team at the water treatments plants are responsible for monitoring the filtration system and taking water samples to check levels. Project Manager James Pacheco shows how he monitors the filtration system at the main treatment plant.



Shearwater Mission Support Safety Manager Daniel McDaniel (left) explains that Yuma Proving Ground's water comes from deep beneath the ground.

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# IVAS

FROM PAGE 1

The range of conditions present at CRTC is unimaginable to much of the world's population. The highest summer temperatures have been as much as 150 degrees warmer than the deepest cold of winter. The longest summer days have nearly twenty-three hours of daylight, while the winter solstice has less than five hours of daylight. Close to the Arctic Circle, CRTC is the premier site for punishing tests of military equipment in severe cold.

One of the most recent examples of items subjected to the most punishing elements at CRTC is the Integrated Visual Augmentation System (IVAS), an augmented reality goggle based on Microsoft's HoloLens that stands poised to redefine close combat force capabilities.

"To me, the IVAS program is one of the most revolutionary things we've done for the dismounted close combat force since the inception of night vision," said Col. Troy Denomy, IVAS product manager under Program Executive Office (PEO) Soldier.

"It's not just a night vision device or a situational awareness tool, it's combining all of that into one system."

The IVAS prototype heads up display packs a variety of impressive capabilities into one package. Night vision and thermal scope settings are both available at the press of a button. Soldiers can share topographical imagery or 3D maps of an objective at any time, whether rehearsing or in the field. A Soldier can pair the IVAS to a weapon, enabling the weapon to be aimed using a reticle projected into their field of vision rather than holding it at the shoulder and peering through the scope. All members of a platoon can know where all of their teammates are at a given time, no matter how dark or dense the surrounding terrain.

"It's like a wearable version of Blue Force Tracker," said Isaac Howell, CRTC test officer and former infantry officer. "You're able to maintain visibility of your entire element dismounted while moving through terrain. That is a huge benefit to command and control."

The need for putting the device through its paces in an extreme natural

environment prior to fielding was self-evident to the Army officials in charge of the program.

"If we only test and understand how the system works in a nominal environment, that very much restricts options on where we fight," said Denomy. "Designing the system for extreme cold, humidity, and heat is paramount."

"We're going to be expected to function in multiple domains and regions," added Sgt. 1st Class Josh Braly, with the Soldier Lethality Cross Functional Team. "This needs to be a piece of kit we know is robust enough to handle the hazards of cold and the tropics."

When Infantry Soldiers stationed at Alaska's Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson arrived at CRTC in March, the terrain and temperature were made to order for the test. It was well below zero degrees Fahrenheit, and CRTC's test officers had planned a multi-mile night trek across rugged terrain in realistic scenarios that also served as training for the Soldiers. An element of the Soldiers served as mock opposition forces. Snowshoes were required in the deep snow that partially or wholly covered all manners of obstacles, including dense vegetation. Aside from the test officers and data collectors accompanying the Soldiers, the exercise seemed like a real infantry mission.

"These observation points were chosen so they could observe some existing mission infrastructure as part of a scenario where they are tasked to move into an area and do reconnaissance," said Ivan Geroy, CRTC test officer. "It's pretty complex, rolling terrain with steep sections: this is the first time the system has been exercised in extreme cold with complex topography."

Some of the test officers and personnel present were from Yuma Test Center and Tropic Regions Test Center, YPG's two additional subordinate commands, who were slated to participate in future tests of the system. Many months earlier, all

of the test officers had participated in an earlier Soldier touchpoint of the system at Fort Pickett, Virginia, which they credited with shaping the experience they created at CRTC.

"We did the land navigation courses as trainees, which was really helpful to understand the test we were designing," said Geroy. "It helped scale expectations for the test and enabled us to build realistic scenarios within the constraints of the test."

For their part, the Soldiers who participated in the CRTC exercise found the scenarios compellingly realistic.

"You want to know how the system will react in adverse conditions, and there is nothing more adverse than falling in five feet of snow and pounding your head on a tree, subsequently jarring your equipment, and seeing how that affects the interface of software and hardware," said Spc. Nicholas James, one of the participants. "How practical is it to use in the snow, in rough terrain, when moving five clicks on an objective? With any design you make, you have to include people."

The Army evaluators felt that the involvement of a variety of YPG personnel throughout the testing of the IVAS was beneficial.

"If the team that's involved in the program just parachutes in for certain events, they can miss some of the perspective and context of what the system is and is not," said Denomy. "Absent that perspective, people can draw wrong conclusions, particularly when they look at the device in the state it is in now—it looks like it is ready to be fielded, but it is still in a prototype phase."

Once testing is concluded, the first units are expected to receive the device at the end of this year.

"I think it is a revolutionary piece of technology that is beneficial as it exists now, but where I really get excited is thinking about where it is going to be when fully mature," said Howell.



PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER

The Integrated Visual Augmentation System (IVAS) is an augmented reality goggle based on Microsoft's HoloLens that stands poised to redefine close combat force capabilities. A Soldier can pair the IVAS to a weapon, enabling the weapon to be aimed using a reticle projected into their field of vision rather than holding it at the shoulder and peering through the scope. With the IVAS prototype, night vision and thermal scope settings are both available at the press of a button. Soldiers can share topographical imagery or 3D maps of an objective at any time, whether rehearsing or in the field.

cannon to fire at significantly faster rates, enhance lethality, and may set the stage for future “optionally manned” artillery battery configurations where fewer – or possibly no-- Soldiers would be required at the cannon during firing operations.

Cannon loading requires selecting the right type of projectile and fuze to deliver the desired effect to the target and selecting the right propellant to match the required distance. First, the fuze is set. Next, the projectile and then the charge are loaded into the cannon’s tube, the breech is closed and the cannon is ready to fire.

The autoloader is a machine that performs these well-orchestrated tasks, which have historically been performed by cannon crew members. The autoloader, however, can attain a rate-of-fire that is two or three times faster than a cannon crew, with limits to duration such as the cannon tube overheating, according to Jimmy Lee, ERCA Ammunition Handling System Lead

In November 2018, an earlier variant of the ERCA, the XM1299 howitzer, fired projectiles out to 72 kilometers at YPG, the farthest-reaching shots ever made by U.S. Army howitzers, and more than double the reach of currently fielded Army artillery systems.

In the demonstration in June 2019, an early science and technology ERCA prototype outfitted with a limited capacity autoloader, loaded five mass simulator high velocity projectiles and five prototype XM657 Extended Range Supercharge propellant charges, and successively fired a five-round cannon “burst” downrange at a rate of seven-rounds-per-minute.

The limited capacity autoloader was designed to handle only one type of projectile and charge, and it worked with a limited capacity magazine, according to Lee. It was built to validate key aspects of the engineering approach during the march toward

the objective autoloader, and the tests allowed the team to verify that key components would work as intended in realistic conditions, while close observation of its performance would inform future autoloaders.

Next up, according to Lee, was building and demonstrating the objective capacity autoloader, which will be able to load and manage a suite of the Army’s legacy and emerging fuzes, propellant charges and projectiles, and it will work with larger capacity magazines. It is a more complex machine because projectiles, fuzes and propellant charges come in different shapes, sizes, and weights, which requires the autoloader to handle a range of configurations to execute a fire mission.

Also, the newer autoloader must deliver at a higher rate while working in synchronization with the larger magazines, which store and manage the loads so that it will deliver the right combination of fuze, projectile and propellant for the fire mission.

### THE AUTOLOADER AND OTHER ERCA OBJECTIVES

Along with the autoloader, prominent elements of the ERCA program include the XM1113 Rocket Assist Projectile and XM659 Stub Charge. There are also several versions of the “Supercharge” in various stages of development to support an increased range capability.

The cannon features a sliding block breech built to withstand the immense pressure of the supercharge and a cannon tube made with new alloys formed to a 30-foot length, which enables a projectile’s velocity to continue increasing inside the cannon tube before exiting.

The ERCA Integration Team is in the final stages of informing the LRPF CFT’s Increased Rate-of-Fire capability with the XM1299E1 ERCA system, which is now integrated onto a M109A7 chassis with an optimized cab and full-capacity autoloader. Two more demonstrations are planned for fiscal year 2021 that will further validate autoloader technologies and with greater rates of fire.



APRIL 12, 2021 7

The autoloader for the Extended Range Canon Artillery (ERCA) is intended to speed up the rate of fire for greater lethality. (Bottom right) The Army Vice Chief of Staff, Gen. Joseph M. Martin, observes the second demonstration of the ERCA autoloader by observing the machinations through an ERCA opening. The demonstration was held at Picatinny Arsenal, N.J.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE U.S. ARMY COMBAT CAPABILITIES DEVELOPMENT COMMAND ARMAMENTS CENTER

The December tests were part of the preparations for those demonstrations. In the tests, the engineers successfully fired multiple rounds using the objective capacity autoloader at Picatinny’s Ballistic Evaluation Center. It was the second time Picatinny facilities have live-fired integrated autoloader technologies from a Paladin platform, the first being a limited capacity auto loader demonstration in June of 2019.

The test objectives were to verify integrated hardware and software auto loader technology maturation in a live-fire environment prior to proceeding to full scale testing at YPG.

“What we are seeing today is a result of Army investments in future cannon artillery technologies that are transitioning out of the Science and Technology phase and to Project Manager Self-Propelled Howitzer Systems under Section 804 Middle Tier Acquisition Authority as well as to PM CAS to equip the warfighter with more capability and further informing the ERCA Capability Development Document requirement,” said Rich Granitzki, DEVCOM’s Science and Technology advisor to LRPF CFT.

### GOING FROM VIRTUAL TO ACTUAL AUTOLOADER

The most challenging aspect of the objective capacity autoloader’s continued development revolves around the coordination of the motion controls and software testing that underpins the successful functioning of the complex system, said Lee.

“We always start work in software emulators. We have been maturing the

software, running it in the lab, testing the design, and improving a lot of the simulations. We started with the virtual and now we have hardware in the loop.”

Josiah Fay, Armaments Center Project Officer for ERCA, said the team verified that the fundamental architecture and ramming approach were correct, and they also validated their assumptions about component robustness to withstand environmental aspects that are truly unique to cannon artillery engineering: Violent, massive and sudden releases of energy occurring within a cannon breech and shaking everything nearby, and not-so nearby.

The team also verified they need to continue, if not enhance, their teams-centered approach.

“Rate-of-fire is a system-level effort,” said Fay. “It isn’t just the autoloader.”

The elevation system has to be designed so that it points quickly and accurately. The breech has to be designed so that it opens and closes quickly while the cannon is elevated. This breech also must hold the propellant in place as the ammunition handler is retracting before it closes.

“The pointing has to be in the right place at the right time and not be moving while we’re loading. If any of those things aren’t there, we’ll be waiting until those things happen before we can load, so getting it all to work together is a team effort,” said Lee.

Editor’s note: The ERCA autoloader demonstration took place at YPG on 30 March. You can read about the demonstration in the April 26th issue.

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CDC COVID-19 SAFETY GUIDANCE WILL BE FOLLOWED. SOCIAL DISTANCING MUST BE PRACTICED AND PROTECTIVE CLOTH FACE MASKS MUST BE WORN AT ALL TIMES.

Grab a canvas, a glass of wine and get creative!

THURSDAY  
**22 APRIL 2021**  
1730-2000 | Cactus Café

# Paint & Sip



Register NLT 15 April at Bldg. 300 Upstairs. The fee is \$20 (includes supplies) - CASH ONLY.  
\*Limited space available.

QUESTIONS?  
(928) 328-2333




## Yuma Proving Ground Easter egg hunt



**PHOTO BY ANA HENDERSON**

The Easter bunny made a stop at Yuma Proving Ground on March 27 thanks to a call from the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation team. Community members gathered for an Easter egg hunt divided up by age groups. Kids had the opportunity to win grand prizes if they found a winning egg.

## Kids have fun at Youth Services spring break camp



**PHOTO BY ANA HENDERSON**

School aged children on spring break enjoyed some fun at the Yuma Proving Ground Youth Services spring camp. The five days of camp was filled with educational and fun activities and included a trip to the Coyote Lanes bowling alley for bowling and a movie. For more information on camps contact Parent Central Services at (928) 328-3119.



## Free YPG STEM Camp



### GEMS

(Gains in the Education of Mathematics and Science)

**Yuma Proving Ground will be hosting (2) – 1 week STEM Camps**

**Camp Dates:**

- Week 1: 07-10 June
- Week 2: 14-17 June

Applicants must be entering 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade in 2021-2022 school year

Hands on STEM Labs taught by YPG Engineers and Scientists

Transportation provided - Pick-up/drop-off:  
Week 1 – Gila Vista Jr. High / Week 2 – Otondo Elementary School

Student Application deadline is 15 April -- Only 70 applicants will be accepted

**AEOP Info Page:**

<https://www.usaeop.com/program/yuma/>

**Important Dates:**

**APRIL**

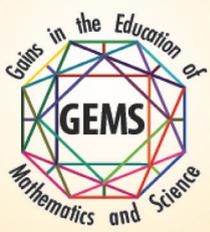
- Student Applications due no later than April 15, 2021
- Selected Students will be notified no later than April 30, 2021.

**MAY**

- Parent Meetings will be held on May 11, 2021 and May 17, 2021.

**JUNE**

- GEMS Week 1 - June 07-10, 2021
- GEMS Week 2 - June 14-17, 2021




**What is YPG GEMS?**  
Our program provides STEM exposure utilizing hands-on activities led by YPG engineer and scientists. Activities focus on age and grade-appropriate labs in areas such as science, robotics and coding, engineering, mathematics, environmental sciences, chemistry, and biology. We are looking forward to hosting another great year of GEMS for the students of Yuma County.  
For more information: <https://www.usaeop.com/program/yuma/>



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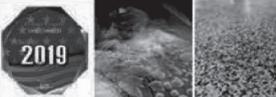
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## Chaplain's Corner

### What makes us different?

**Chaplain's Corner**  
Chaplain Capt.  
Jeffrey Crispin



One of the important differences between the United States and some of our “near peer” competitors or adversaries is the way that we view religious freedoms. As I write this, it is International Holocaust Remembrance Week. But I am fairly certain that this is not something being observed in China, Russia, Iran, etc. or by violent extremist movements such as the Taliban, ISIS or similar organizations.

But as a Christian in the United States, I need to remember that the free exercise of religion, or freedom to not practice, are fundamental freedoms that have motivated Soldiers past and present to serve. Where one faith group’s freedoms are violated, it becomes sets a precedent for more violations to follow suit. The ability to worship by those with whom I have irreconcilable theological differences matters.

Consider the following statement by Rev. Martin Niemoehler, a German World War I veteran who initially supported the Nazi’s but had a change of heart in the mid-1930’s.

“First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a socialist.

Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out—

because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.”

The fundamental right of religious freedom of each person is why the Department of Defense (DOD) and the courts have upheld the role of the Chaplains, to “perform or provide” religious support to Soldiers, DOD Civilians, their Families and others as directed on behalf of their commanders. In other words, the Chaplain performs the religious requirement within the limitations of their own faith group’s beliefs, or provides resources to help that person’s religious need to be met.

So whether it is remembering the Holocaust with the vow of “Never Again!” as someone who has visited Yad Vashem, the Israeli Holocaust memorial and museum and being granted an audience with a Holocaust survivor, or speaking out as an individual about the modern religious persecution in China against the Uighur Muslims, it is important to advocate for the right to worship, or abstain, for each person.

My hope is that you will make the most of the freedom that you have been granted and you will help to ensure freedom of religion remains the right of every person.

# April safety awareness training

By Jeni Williams

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, this year all Safety Awareness Training will be posted on SharePoint. Each month a new subject will be presented. April's Safety Awareness Training will cover first aid and hot/cold weather safety.

Working in extreme temperatures can cause stress to the body's internal system causing the body to be unable to warm or cool itself, which could result in a heat or cold stress related injury. Both heat and cold weather can play a part in adverse health effects which range in severity from being uncomfortable up to death.

April's monthly safety training and more information about hot/cold weather safety as well as

first aid can be accessed on the intranet at: <https://intranet.yuma.army.mil/cmd/Safety/SitePages/SAW%20Training%20Site.aspx>

After viewing the training material use the drop down menu located below the training link under "Acknowledgements," choose the training you have completed (i.e. April First Aid and Hot/Cold Weather Safety) and then click on the small square box just below the training title (your name and date will auto populate) then click "submit." The square box must be clicked in order for the training/signature to be validated. The Safety Office will then send you a completed certificate that you (if a U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC) employee) will upload to ATTM at on Sharepoint. Non-ATEC employees can use this

certificate as proof of their annual safety training.

Once you are in ATTM, scroll down to YPG – CY21 SAW Training (April module) and upload your certificate you received from the Safety Office.

As always, the training information that is provided each month is guaranteed to be useful, relevant as well as entertaining! So whether you are ATEC, Mission, Garrison, Military Free Fall School, Medical Clinic, contractor or any other YPG tenant, this training is for you!

If you have any questions please contact Jeni Williams at (928) 328.2323/(928) 581.6920 or via email at [jeni.m.williams2.civ@mail.mil](mailto:jeni.m.williams2.civ@mail.mil)

## Name change for the Soldier for Life Transition Assistance Program

By Connie F. Everly

The Soldier for Life Transition Assistance Program (SFL-TAP) has changed to the Transition Assistance Program (TAP). For U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground, the name is now Yuma Proving Ground Transition Assistance Program (TAP). Before it was SFL-TAP it was also known as the Army Career and Alumni Program.

The naming convention for all TAP center social media accounts will also change too. They will put their installation name followed by Transition Assistance Program (TAP). Example- Fort Knox - Transition Assistance Program (TAP), Fort Benning - Transition Assistance Program (TAP), etc.

For questions or TAP assistance, please contact me, the YPG Transition Assistance Program Liaison at [Connie.f.everly.civ@mail.mil](mailto:Connie.f.everly.civ@mail.mil), or 928-920-1602.

Next  
Outpost  
deadline:

**APRIL  
15<sup>TH</sup> AT  
NOON**



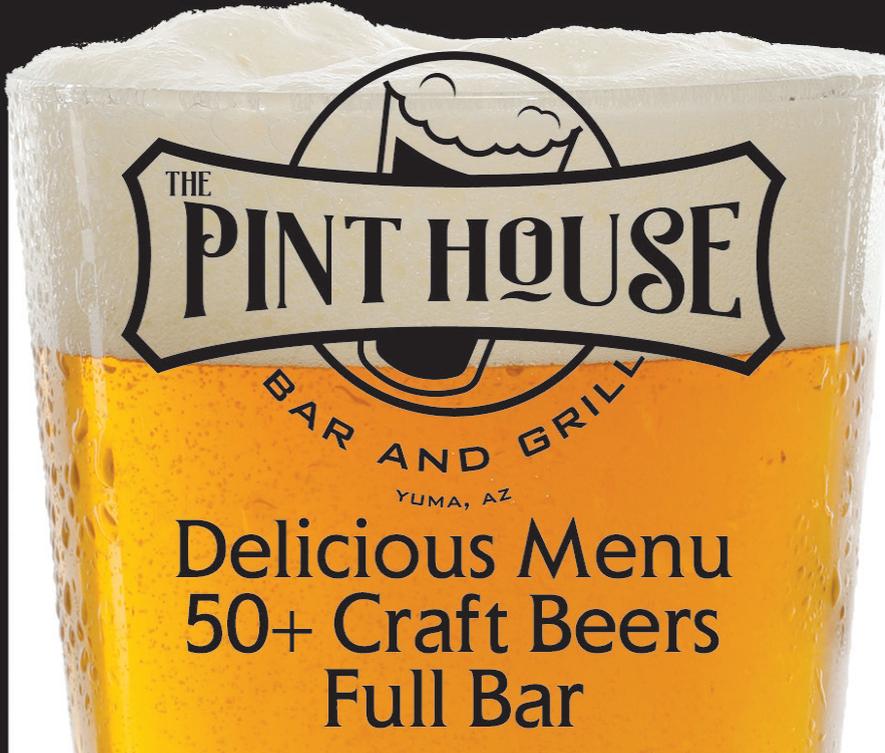
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