

The Outpost

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

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Cutting edge technology demonstration wraps up at YPG

By Mark Schauer

U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) is home to all manner of parachute testing, with spacious and instrumented ranges large enough to accommodate even the world's largest cargo parachutes.

The post has long been on the cutting edge of new airdrop capabilities, and recently wrapped up evaluations of a variety of cutting edge air delivery systems after three years of developmental testing.

The testing was part of the Autonomous Aerial Insertion and Resupply into Dense Urban Complex Terrain (AAIRDUCT) Joint Capability Technology Demonstration. Involving the precision delivery of payloads of between 50 pounds and 2,400 pounds to units in urban environments, YPG's extensive evaluations of the system included



Yuma Proving Ground personnel recently conducted a three year long developmental test on cutting edge air delivery systems. (Loaned photos)



utilizing an existing mock urban complex into a new drop zone.

"The intent of all of the technologies is for small unit resupply," said Jose Ramirez, test officer. "It consists of four different top-level technologies: the JPADS, the HAARS, the MADS, and a payload placement system that is tangential to JPADS."

JPADS, or Joint Precision Aerial Delivery System, has been tested at YPG for the better part of 20 years, and traditionally uses global positioning satellite (GPS) technology and onboard computers to steer payloads within meters of their target, even when dropped from miles above; however, the AAIRDUCT testing was using a camera and vision-based navigation to operate in GPS denied environments. The High Altitude

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Soldier spotlight

By Ana Henderson

Staff Sgt. Justin DeVaul is originally from Lynchburg, Virginia and is currently stationed at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground.

DeVaul is part of the Airborne Test Force and works as a Test Jumper/Inspector Tester and Air Delivery Non-Commissioned Officer.

He's been serving his country in the Army for 12 years and has deployed to Jordan and Kuwait and has been station in North Carolina, Alaska, Kentucky, Virginia and now in Arizona.

In his free he enjoys playing guitar, golfing, and watching all sports. DuVaul also keeps busy studying, he's currently enrolled at University of Purdue Global pursuing a degree in Business Administration. Duval is also the proud father a five month old daughter.



Staff Sgt. Justin DeVaul is a Test Jumper/Inspector Tester and Air Delivery Non-Commissioned Officer with the Airborne Test Force at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground. (Loaned photo)

Next Outpost deadline: June 10th at noon

The Outpost

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Employee spotlight

By Ana Henderson

The Medium Combat Team in the Combat Systems Branch has a new leader: Sarah Hogan. Hogan has worked at Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) within this branch for the last seven years.

"It was a perfect fit from what I was doing, to what I am doing now. It's the same team, so I was able to know what was happening already and was able to easily slide into the new position," said Hogan about the move.

"Mrs. Hogan has the technical expertise and experience required to support Army programs required to perform test and evaluation of systems supporting Army Modernizations efforts," said Marco Nixen the Chief of the Combat Systems Branch Combat & Automotive Systems Division, in an email to the workforce.

Hogan has a degree in mechanical engineering but did not have a specific career in mind. "I just wanted to do something with math and science: that's what led to me engineering."

She moved to Yuma with her husband, who at the time was stationed at Marine Corps Air Station—Yuma. Hogan was teaching at a local high school when her husband, who was looking for jobs for himself, saw the job opening at YPG for Hogan.



Sarah Hogan is the new team lead for the Medium Combat Team in the Combat Systems Branch. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

"I never even considered this as a career field."

Now she's working with combat vehicles daily and knows that the work she, her co-workers, and YPG does is valuable.

"Having my husband be former military and being able to see the test items on our end, which is equipment he used daily or interacted with while in the military, definitely gave me a better understanding of his experiences both as a Marine and deployed in combat. If nothing else, I love this job because it showed me that aspect of a Soldier's life."

As for her new role as a leader, Hogan hopes to help others reach their full potential.

"I enjoy working with junior test officers and mentoring, watching them learn, and seeing their development and growth. As a lead, my goal is to focus on the development side of the individuals that I am working with."

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YPG Performance Fitness room gets total upgrade

By Ana Henderson

The smell of fresh rubber fills the air as you open the door to the newly upgraded Performance Fitness Room which sits adjacent to the Yuma Proving Ground Fitness Center.

The Performance Fitness Room could be described as close to what you would see at a cross-fit or boot camp-type training center. Its mission is to provide cross-training equipment for the community and, in particular, Soldiers.

“The machinery in here will work

for those working to get big numbers on their Army CFT,” explains Steve Ward, recreation supervisor.

Implemented in April 2021, the

Army Combat Fitness Test (CFT), known as CFT 3.0, consists of six events: three-repetition maximum deadlifts; standing power throw; hand-release push-ups; sprint-

drag-carry; leg tucks or planks; and a two-mile run.

The room features rubber octagon dumbbells, medicine balls, kettle

bells, and a two-inch twisted battle rope. There are two sizes of plyo boxes which are lined with durable material to avoid slips and injuries.

“The possibilities are

endless here,” said Ward. “We don’t have this big of a set up in the main gym.”

The two hex bars will aid in training for the deadlift portion of the test. The rail monkey bar allows individuals to perform leg tucks, pull-ups, and a variety of exercises with resistance bands.

The room is open to the YPG community with a four person limit. It’s open during regular gym hours and those wishing to use the room need to check in with the front desk staff for access.

**Yuma Fitness Center
and Performance
Fitness room hours**
Monday-Thursday
6 AM – 7 PM
Friday-Sunday
10 AM – 6 PM



The Performance Fitness room is filled with the equipment needed to prepare for the Army Combat Fitness Test.



The two hex bars will aid in training for the deadlift portion of the test. The rail monkey bar allows individuals to perform leg tucks, pull-ups and a variety of exercises with resistance band.



The room features, rubber octagon dumbbells, medicine balls, kettle bells, a two-inch twisted battle rope and plyo boxes. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

YPG Assistant Fire Chief finds bone marrow match



Yuma Proving Ground Assistant Fire Chief Daniel Manning has found a bone marrow donor match. Manning was diagnosed with Myelofibrosis, a rare blood disease in late 2020. He's currently seeking donation of leave hours through the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program and he's also being enrolled in the Taking Care of Our Own Program which allows for the leave donations to be solicited and taken Department of Defense wide. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

Leading by example: Command Sgt. Maj. hosts fun run



Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Commander Col. Patrick McFall, Command Sgt. Maj. Herbert Gill, and dozens of Soldiers and YPG Family members started the day off right by participating in the CSM's Quarterly 5K Walk/Run on the morning of May 27. The next community run is June 14 for the Army Birthday. (Photos by Casey Garcia)



**Register and pay \$115 Registration Fee
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Memorial Day

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offer: themselves. Our liberty was purchased with their toil, sweat, and blood—and often their lives.



For 80 years, Yuma has paid a small part of this debt of gratitude with a solemn ceremony to remember the fallen at the Ocean to Ocean Bridge. As usual, on Memorial Day 2021, a color guard from U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground was front and center. (Photos by Mark Schauer)



Volunteers clean cemetery



The Bushmasters Company L memorial committee organized a cleanup day May 22 at Yuma Pioneer Cemetery. YPG Commander Col. Patrick McFall joined the volunteers and spoke with one Vietnam Veteran who visits the cemetery daily to maintain the plants and gravesites. The Pioneer Cemetery's gravesites date back to the 19th century and include veterans from the Civil War, World War I and II, Spanish American War, Korean War, Vietnam all the way to present day are buried there. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

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Aerial Resupply System (HAARS) can deliver a similar capability more rapidly by dropping a payload at the same height, but in free fall much longer.

“The HAARS is a low cost drogue-fall system,” said Ramirez. “When the payload comes out of the aircraft, it is under a small parachute just to stabilize the system. This system has a pre-set pressure sensor set at whatever altitude we want to activate the main parachute.”

The Multi-Use Aerial Dispersion System (MADS), meanwhile, is a disposable one-time use parachute that can be utilized to drop humanitarian aid packages or leaflets into an urban environment with minimal risk to the civilian population. All three systems were tested extensively to ensure they can drop with precision even in an environment where GPS service is degraded or entirely denied.

The new drop zone was placed within YPG’s Joint Experimentation Range Complex that was constructed in the early 2000s as a test site for technologies to counter the destructive capabilities of roadside bombs that American Soldiers encountered in Iraq. The highly instrumented complex includes

hundreds of buildings, dozens of miles of paved roads with bridges and overpasses, and telephone poles and power lines. To utilize the area as a drop zone took many months of surveying work and safety assessments.

“This was the perfect spot to simulate an expeditionary unit operating in a dense urban environment,” said Ramirez. “Having hazards like power lines and buildings allowed us to test the hazard avoidance and maneuverability of the system.”

The regular availability of a wide variety of aircraft at YPG, from UH-60 helicopters to large cargo planes such as the C-130 and C27J was also important to testers.

“On top of aircraft availability, it would be very hard to get the actual range space and air space that we use here,” said Ramirez. “We also have the simulated expeditionary area very similar to where this could be used in the field.”

YPG is the Army’s primary personnel and cargo parachute tester, with heavily instrumented ranges and decades of institutional knowledge in rigging and evaluating these complex airdrop systems. YPG’s nearly 2,000 square miles of restricted airspace and favorable weather make it an ideal location for air drop testing.

“They chose YPG because of the



“Having hazards like power lines and buildings allowed us to test the hazard avoidance and maneuverability of the system,” said Test Officer Jose Ramirez.

experience of our test officers and riggers, and also because of our facilities and air space,” said Carlos Anaya, team lead. “Our workforce

is very flexible and able to work together well with the trial and error that comes with developmental tests.”



The Autonomous Aerial Insertion and Resupply into Dense Urban Complex Terrain (AAIRDUCT) Joint Capability Technology Demonstration at Yuma Proving Ground, involved the precision delivery of payloads of between 50 pounds and 2,400 pounds to units in urban environments. (Loaned photos)

Like father, like daughter: rigging parachutes runs in the family

By Ana Henderson

Tom Hall and his daughter Elizabeth Extejt have a unique bond. They both served in the U.S. Army as parachute riggers and now both work for Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) as riggers.

"Riggers do anything from packing the parachutes to rigging the loads, to maintaining and sewing the parachutes that the Army uses," explains Hall. "They also jump from the aircraft to test the parachutes."

Hall served 25 years in the Army as a parachute rigger and retired as a sergeant major. When Extejt decided to join the Army, there was no question what she wanted to do.

"If I was going to join the Army. I was going to be airborne."

Extejt said, "Growing up I saw my Dad jump out of airplanes and pack parachutes and I thought 'that's a pretty cool thing to do. I want to do that myself.'"

Hall should have had a clue into his daughter's destiny when he took a photo of her at Pope Air Force Base posing at the door of an airplane.

Their shared love for jumping out of airplanes has provided the father and daughter with some special moments. While Extejt was in airborne school, Hall was on active duty.

"He got to jump my qualifying jump. He was the first jumper out, and I was the first student out of the aircraft."

Extejt excitedly tells the story of her graduation. "When I graduated, they did a ceremony with first, second, and third generation paratroopers. I got to come out of the formation and he got to pin my wings on me in front of my whole graduating class."

Hall doesn't fear seeing his daughter jump from an aircraft: When she served in Afghanistan was the exception.

"I deployed to Desert Shield/Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi



Tom Hall and his daughter Elizabeth Extejt both served in the U.S. Army as parachute riggers and now both work for Yuma Proving Ground as riggers. (Photo courtesy of Carlos Anaya)

Freedom. It's one thing to be a deploying service member and leave the family behind. It is totally different when you are the family member left behind watching your child go off."

After retiring, Hall started a career at YPG as a rigger for the Air Delivery branch and now works as a test officer. In Air Delivery, the Army's equipment is tested



Tom Hall should have had a clue into his daughter's destiny when he took a photo of her at Pope Air Force Base posing at the door of an airplane. (Photo courtesy of Tom Hall)

before it's fielded and given to the Warfighter.

"I remember using JPADS when it was in its inception in the field. Then coming here and getting to be part of the testing in the 2000s --seeing how far we have come with what we are doing is really cool."

In the meantime, Extejt served in the Army as a rigger for nine years and left the service after having

children.

"I thought my jumping days were over. I was content being a mom. I had just had my fourth baby."

That was until her Dad saw a job opening posted by a YPG contractor for a rigger and called his daughter.

Extejt said, "I interviewed and they asked if I was still willing to jump, and I said absolutely. Jumping was the best part of being in the Army, and I missed it."

While Hall and Extejt don't work in the same office at the rigger facility, they get a lot of hands on projects together. Hall teaches his daughter techniques, and, of course, they jump together.

"We both jump round canopies, static lines, and double back static lines, and other test jumps," said Hall.

Extejt chuckles that Hall gives her 'the look' when she calls him by his first name, but for the most part she calls him Dad.

Hall also has another daughter, currently at Fort Benning, who is a parachute rigger as well.



YPG HOUSING RESIDENTS

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Virtual Sensing Session (see tutorial provided)	7 June 2021	1730-1900	https://conference.apps.mil/we_bconf/fqk2nxijb6kw2en53vfrkvu eqwjms0vy
In-person Sensing Session	7 June 2021	1730-1900	Palm Garden (Library Conference Room) BLDG 530 – Howard Cantonment/Main Post
Walking Sensing Session	8 June 2021	0800-1000	Colorado Housing Area
Virtual Sensing Session (see tutorial provided)	8 June 2021	1130-1300	https://conference.apps.mil/we_bconf/s98v8ldz85evb4tqq6ot5a6pnmx2ntrf
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photo courtesy of Randy Hoeft/Yuma Sun

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YPG Housing tops list for excellent homes, customer service

By Ana Henderson

It's no secret that pleasing everyone is an impossible task, yet the staff at Desert Oasis Housing at Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) might have figured out the formula.

"Being available and making sure that everything gets done as needed," cites

Kristel Steib community director, as part of that formula that helped the Desert Oasis Housing office rank number two out of 43 installations and 383 housing neighborhoods, on the Tenant Satisfaction and Opinion Survey.

Desert Oasis personnel is responsible for leasing and maintaining the housing on the YPG installation along with the landscaping exclusively on housing grounds.

CEL & Associates, Inc. conducted the survey of privatized housing on Army installations between December 2020 and January 2021. The survey looked at topics such as tenant satisfaction with their home, landscaping, quality of maintenance, and customer service.

Opal Graves Chief of Housing at YPG, is the liaison between the privatized housing and the government. She's responsible for making sure Desert Oasis Housing upholds the Army standards and does so by conducting weekly site inspections.

Graves explains, "The management makes sure they go well above and beyond to please the customer."

One example of that exemplary customer service, "We have 72 hours to perform routine

maintenance. We get it done in 24," says Steib, "If they call that something is wrong, typically we have all our work orders completed

within the same day. If not, the very next day."

That is a big feat considering the housing team is made up of nine employees: four maintenance technicians,

two grounds maintenance, one housekeeper, and two office personnel. While they are a small team, its members are all very familiar with the residents: most of the staff has been in their position for 10 years or more.

"When they go out, they are familiar with the unit, the resident and they are able to be personable and professional. They get the job done the first time," explains Steib.

Another example of staff going above and beyond —if a Soldier is injured, Desert Oasis will install grab bars and ramps. "We do it at no cost because they are our Soldiers and we need to take care of them."

During Graves' inspections, occasionally a resident will not be in compliance with the Army standards and because of that personal relationship, the housing department can speak with them and help resolve the issue quickly. "It is working together as a community," said Graves.

Overall the Desert Oasis staff and the YPG Housing Department are pleased to see the survey results.

Steib said, "It's nice to see that people are seeing the effort that is being made."

"It's really no surprise, because they do a great job," adds Graves.



University of Arizona – Yuma helps YPG employees reach educational goals

By Ana Henderson

In the last six years, more than 30 Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) employees have earned Master's degrees, mostly through the University of Arizona (UA) – Yuma campus-- and five more are currently enrolled in the program.

UA – Yuma offers undergraduate and graduate programs in engineering which appeal to the YPG workforce: this happened though careful planning and collaboration, explains Adjutant Iris Espinoza.

“Several years ago, UofA approached YPG and asked what type of programs, training, or courses our staff needed for professional development and higher education.”

YPG's workforce is made up of employees with a wide variety of educational backgrounds, yet engineering is the most common with employees who work on the testing side at Yuma Test Center. The UA Master of Science Engineering Management program provided YPG employees the knowledge needed to broaden their career opportunities.

“There's not just technical courses: they are having the engineers think at a broader level, more of decisions that a manager would need to make,” said Espinoza, “Though our engineers have technical expertise, they may have not been afforded the opportunity to work on the soft skills. Some of the courses that are in the engineering management course have to do with finance, law, and marketing.”

Most of those employees who have earned their Master's have moved to leadership positions at YPG. While they certainly reaped the benefits of having a higher education, the process was not an easy one. Having the support of the cohorts made up of other YPG employees gave them a sense of unity.

“We spent long nights doing group projects in the beginning of our Master's program,” said Richard Bloomfield, who had one YPG employee in his cohort.

Savanna Silva who finished the



In the last six years, nearly 30 Yuma Proving Ground employees have earned Master's degrees through the University of Arizona – Yuma campus. Pictured are a handful of those graduates: (Left to right) Hi-Sing Silen, Justin Croutch, Richard Bloomfield, Manny Elizarraras, Isaac Rodriguez, Savanna Silva, Omar Silva, Yogendra Shrestha, Kermit Okamura. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

program in 18 months, had two YPG employees in her cohort, “You can gather with your local classmates to work on your assignments and projects together. It made it so much easier. It would have been difficult to do it all through Zoom.” Silva adds, “It was great. I was able to take classes with them. We were able to build a comradery that otherwise would not have existed without this program being here.”

These YPG employees/students not only had each other for support: they also had the support of the UA – Yuma faculty. The students credit UA – Yuma Regional Coordinator Dr. Tonya Hodges and Program Coordinator Alberto Urbietta for their support.

“There's other individuals behind the scenes but Dr. Hodges and Alberto gave it a personal touch. Any hiccups we came across with the Tucson officials, they were able to help,” said Espinoza.

For Silva, that personal touch meant making them feel a part of the UA family even while in a remote campus.

“Alberto took us up to U of A a couple of times to meet the professors. He was like our champion for the Master's cohort here at YPG.”

Isaac Rodriguez shares, “We appreciate his support. He was always willing to help. He would be available at a moment's notice and proctor exams around our work.”

Another student remembers Urbietta helping set up the room for their senior project to present in Yuma so they didn't have to make the trip to Tucson.

Urbietta recently retired and was inducted into the UA Hall of Fame. Those students he supported at YPG want him to know he made an impact on them.

“I want to congratulate Alberto for being inducted into the hall of fame it is well deserved. He's helped out a lot of people in the Yuma Community and YPG,” said Manny Elizarraras.

Chaplain's Corner Titles or testimonies

By Chaplain Capt. Jeffrey Crispin

I want to wish a belated congratulations to all the recent graduates and promotees.

Your accomplishment is an obstacle that you have persevered to overcome and you are ready to start looking at your next challenge.

I want to share a story that I heard third or fourth hand from Rev. Dr. Tony Campolo. He is a professor, part of a church staff, author, and has been on teams that have advised presidents. Every year when the church where he served acknowledges the year's graduates, the senior pastor gives the same message and asks the same question.

I'm going to give my paraphrase. ‘Children, I want to congratulate you on your accomplishments.

As you proceed in life I want you to remember what I am about to share with you. One day you are going to die, for no man or woman is guaranteed tomorrow. We will gather at the church to pray, sing, and read the Scriptures and talk about you. Then we will take your body out to drop it into a hole in the ground, throw dirt on your

face, and return to the church for a pot luck dinner. Then we will really talk about you.

The question I want you to remember is, will we talk about your titles or your testimonies? Will we discuss the accomplishments of your professional life, or will people tell testimonies of the difference you made in their lives?

Now is the time that you must begin to choose which one it will be. Will you live your life for titles or testimonies?”

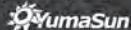
Regardless of who you are, I think this a valid question to periodically ask ourselves. The choice is not mutually exclusive, where you can only pick one.

Would you rather be remembered for an impressive resume of accomplishments, or for the people that you invested yourself in while accomplishing your goals? Am I more focused on my annual evaluation, or taking the time to get to know my co-workers, friends, or family and helping them where I can to let us succeed together?

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It's YOU time!



Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Commander Col. Patrick McFall and Command Sgt. Maj. Herbert Gill helped the community get a little 'YOU' time on the morning of May 26 by being the 'Y' in Yuma during the unveiling of the YUMA public art sculpture at Yuma's Quartermaster Depot. The sculpture was created by students at Yuma's Aztec High School, and both McFall and Gill had some quality interaction with them, as well as other members of the community. (Photos by Mark Schauer)

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Community celebrates pool opening



Families living on the Yuma Proving Ground installation celebrated the grand reopening of the Kahuna Lagoon Pool May 22. Those in attendance enjoyed swimming, refreshments, and live music from one of Yuma's local favorite band, Side Hustle. (Photos courtesy of FMWR)



CDC COVID-19 SAFETY GUIDANCE WILL BE FOLLOWED. SOCIAL DISTANCING MUST BE PRACTICED AND PROTECTIVE FACE MASKS MUST BE WORN WHEN NOT IN THE POOL.

SWIMMING POOL FEES

DAILY	\$ 1
PUNCH CARDS (10 visits each)	\$ 10
SEASON PASS (per person)	\$ 50

Passes may be purchased at the Swimming Pool during regular business hours.

*DoD ID Cardholders (ages 18 years and older) are allowed up to 2 guests. Punch cards can only be purchased or utilized by DoD ID Cardholders.
Unaccompanied children must be at least 12 years old and an experienced swimmer.

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GROUP LESSONS (8 Lessons @ 45 minutes each)	\$ 35
PRIVATE (5 Lessons @ 30 minutes each)	\$ 45
LIFEGUARD CLASS	\$115

MISCELLANEOUS

POOL PARTIES (Up to 2 hours)	\$ 65
\$30 EACH ADDITIONAL HOUR	
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