

# The Outpost

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

VOLUME 71 NO. 8 APRIL 11, 2022

## Yuma Proving Ground's primary mission differs from most military installations

By Mark Schauer

Unlike most military installations that exist primarily to train troops, Yuma Proving Ground's (YPG) main purpose is to test the equipment Soldiers use to ensure it works as it should wherever in the world they need it.

"A place like Fort Hood is used primarily for training: Here at YPG, we do some very limited training events, but it's not our primary mission," said Larry Bracamonte, YPG Technical Director.

The equipment under test on any given day ranges from ground combat equipment to unmanned aerial systems. YPG personnel integrate weapons systems into helicopters and test both cargo and personnel parachutes.

YPG's developmental test mission



Yuma Proving Ground's main purpose is to test the equipment Soldiers use to ensure it works when they need it. The equipment under test on any given day ranges from ground combat equipment to unmanned aerial systems. (U.S. Army photo)

includes evaluations of the most cutting-edge equipment. For example, YPG conducts developmental testing of multiple facets of Extended

Range Cannon Artillery (ERCA), from the artillery shells to the

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## Trespassers on YPG's range face serious hazards

By Brandon Mejia

The large area of desert controlled by the U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) comprises about 830,000 acres of land that allows for U.S. military testing of all kinds to excel the United States wartime capabilities.

While the terrain and space are vital and attract customers of all kinds to test equipment, it also attracts those venturing off-road in their recreational vehicles.

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# William Session: YPG Garrison Employee of The Year

By Ana Henderson

The U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Fire Department responds to emergencies on the installation as well as the outlying areas including Hidden Shores, Martinez Lake and Highway 95.

The team is made up of skilled fire fighters, emergency medical technicians and paramedics — William Session is one of those team members. He was recently named the U.S. Army YPG Garrison Civilian of the Year.

“It was very humbling and surprising,” commented Session of the honor. “It’s a prestigious award and I am appreciative.”

This is not the only time Session has been recognized, most recently he was named employee of the Garrison first quarter in 2021. The citation notes his work at YPG, and the volunteer work he performs with national charities. One of those charities is the National Fallen Fire Fighter’s Foundation, he’s one of five Arizona state representatives who travel around the state spreading



William Session had his hand in organizing Yuma Proving Ground’s (YPG) yearly Patriot’s 5k Run and bringing the 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb to YPG. Session is pictured participating in the run in 2019. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

awareness.

He has also had his hand in organizing the yearly Patriot’s 5k Run and bringing the 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb in honor of the New York Fire Fighters who lost their lives during the terrorist attacks, to YPG. Thanks to that initiative, fire fighters from YPG no longer have to travel out of town to participate in the climb.

“It made it easier because we

could support the 5k run and do our own event here while honoring the members of the NYFD,” He added. “It’s been a success.”

Session came to YPG in 2005 after serving in the Air Force. While here he’s pushed himself to grow with the educational opportunities within the organization and outside.

He attended the Civilian Education System Basic Leadership course in 2019 which inspired him to earn his Master’s in Public Safety and Leadership and Executive Fire Administrative. Session is enrolled in the National Fire Academy Managing Officer Program through the Federal Emergency Management Agency better known as FEMA. He’s had unique opportunities like sitting on the committee for the National Fire Prevention Association which set the standard for fire safety nationwide and participated in a two-year detail in Italy when first starting his career at YPG.

Session couldn’t be happier with his journey as a fire fighter and employee at the proving ground.

“YPG is really unique. Our history is cool. We came from building bridges for the war effort in Africa to where we progressed now is just really cool and I’m glad I am part of it.”

## The Outpost

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Law Enforcement Officer Sgt. Shawn Baker with the YPG Police Department, the number of illegal access breaches – otherwise known as trespassing - has seen a significant increase over the years on YPG's property.

The proving ground has no authorized off-road recreation on the installation. However, Baker sees the issues firsthand as he travels to areas of the range where trails created by unlawful entry have become defined in areas restricted to the public.

"It is difficult to define the full extent of the trespassing occurring on the installation," said Baker, who sees the number of citations trending higher. "The available data reflects the number of interdictions performed by in-person contact with violators and those obtained from photographic surveillance."

18.U.S.C.1382 is the U.S. law regarding unlawful entry onto U.S. Military, Coast Guard, or Naval Property. "Public access to YPG property located outside of the cantonment areas is restricted to permitted hunters only-- all other access by the public is unlawful," said Baker.

Having found unauthorized trails on the installation from off-roaders, YPG's perimeter security is robust, using a combination of both personal and electronic means of detection. "I review and print the photos, run the vehicle registration, then issue a ticket for the violation and certify mail the ticket and a letter of notice to the registered address," said Baker.

Popular trails see a high volume of unknowing passengers in several locations, due to YPG's and Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) shared borders.

However, seasonal visitors may be unaware of their off-road limitations. The proving ground's footprint is rugged and vast, which has challenged YPG law enforcement



A trail that crosses into a restricted area on Yuma Proving Ground's Cibola range is so defined due to recreators dismissing the U.S. Government Property No Trespassing Sign. (Photo by Brandon Mejia)

and its physical security posture to become creative and develop and prioritize security in layers throughout the installation.

"There is signage almost every kilometer along the base boundary that reads: "U.S. government property, no trespassing," said Baker.

One area of confusion for riders is not knowing an established trail from a designated trail.

"They [recreators] think if they are riding on a marked BLM trail and the trail leads to the YPG property line they are authorized to continue if they do not travel off the trail because that is an established trail. This is a common misconception within the off-road community. The BLM designated trails are marked, numbered, mapped, and only apply on land owned by BLM. Though several of these trails lead to the YPG boundary that is where they and their designation and legality of use come to an end."

One way to avoid crossing onto a trail that may have been established but is not designated is to pre-plan your trip ahead of time. This can also ensure a safe ride and return.

"Let people know where you are going, when you will be leaving, when you will be back and give them a hit time. 'If I am not back at this time you need to contact law enforcement'. One thing I do is use my contacts with people to educate

them, there is a lot of confusion in the off-road community of what they can and cannot do legally and most are ill prepared in the event of an emergency."

Crossing onto YPG property poses many risks that include more than just the common off-road accident.

There is always the possibility of coming across an unexploded ordnance from the proving ground's distant history as a World War II training facility.

One area of great concern is an area north of Wellton. According to Baker there is a wash that many ride along that comes straight into an impact area.

"There have been numerous contacts with off-roaders which have ended up in our Kofa Firing Range test areas over the years due to unlawful entry along the southern boundary. There are trails which lead directly into live fire areas. The main point for the public is to educate themselves both for safety reasons and to avoid potential legal ramifications."

Those resources can be found via <https://www.azgfd.com/OHV/> or <https://yuma.isportsman.net/> <https://www.blm.gov/maps/georeferenced-PDFs>

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# Alcohol Awareness Month

Submitted by Scott Zaehler

Please join the Yuma Proving Ground Army Substance Abuse Program in observing Alcohol Awareness Month in April. Alcohol Awareness Month was established in 1987 with the goal of raising awareness in the community and to help understand the causes and treatment available for one of the nation's biggest health issues. The campaign also aims to reduce the stigma associated with alcoholism and how to educate people on how to find assistance for this deadly disease.

The research shows that most adults who consume alcohol do so responsibly, and without negative effects to components of their lives. However, it is estimated that about 15 million U.S. adults are affected by an Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD), and more than 88,000 people die annually from alcohol-related causes, making alcohol a leading preventable cause of death.

AUD is a medical diagnosis, with



severity based on several clinical criteria. Basically, alcohol becomes a problem when it impacts a person's life in a negative way. Some examples provided by the National Institute of Health include, "Is your personal or work life deteriorating

because of your drinking? Have you had times when you drank more, or longer, than you intended? Are you drinking to feel better? Are you drinking to cope with stress or other problems? Do you feel anxious or irritable without a drink?" For more information about the criteria for AUD, see <https://pubs.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/dsmfactsheet/dsmfact.htm>.

A new study published in the

Journal of the American Medical Association finds alcohol-related deaths increased 25% in 2020, significantly higher than in previous years. Researchers believe several factors have affected this rise, including increase in drinking to cope with stress, higher rates of binge drinking, more emergency room visits due to alcohol withdrawal, and delays in receiving treatment.

Alcohol misuse and abuse is an issue that affects us all. The effects can be felt in the home, the workplace, our social lives, and our health. In order to reduce the risk of negative outcomes of alcohol misuse the Army Substance Abuse Program will be providing a variety of informational programming and events throughout the month of April.

The Army Substance Abuse Program also offers training, and educational programming to recognize and prevent substance abuse issues. Contact Scott Zaehler at [scott.r.zaehler.civ@army.mil](mailto:scott.r.zaehler.civ@army.mil) for more information. No-cost resources for substance use as well as a variety of issues service members face are also available at [militaryonesource.mil](http://militaryonesource.mil) for eligible users.



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## Medical Clinic provides screenings



Soldiers from the Yuma Proving Ground Medical (YPG) Clinic set up a pop-up clinic at YPG headquarters to provide on-site screenings and flu shots for the workforce. Ernie Hugh is pictured getting his blood pressure checked. (Loaned photo)

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The U.S. Army Garrison Yuma Proving Ground Installation Safety Office continues its cultural of safety with its eleventh consecutive Safety Excellence Streamer Award. (Left to right) Deborah Campbell, Mike Morrison, Ron Van Why of the Installation Safety Office, and Garrison Manager Ron James celebrate the honor. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

## YPG Installation Safety Office earns 11th Safety Excellence Streamer Award

By Ana Henderson

The U.S. Army Garrison Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Installation Safety Office continues its cultural of safety with its eleventh consecutive Safety Excellence Streamer Award.

The “Streamer” is awarded by the U.S. Army Installation Management Command (IMCOM) based in San Antonio at Fort Sam Houston.

“This award recognizes the extraordinary efforts and unfailing dedication to duty of the Garrison in sustaining a positive safety culture. Your accomplishment of completing fourteen consecutive years without experiencing a Class A or B accident; completion of the Army Readiness Assessment Program; and attaining 100% completion of Risk Management Training demonstrates safety excellence,” detailed a memo from IMCOM’s Safety Director, Ernesto Valadez.

To qualify for the prestigious award, an Army installation must have no instances of Class A or B accidents which are loosely defined as severe accidents to personnel or property. The YPG Garrison installation has not experienced a

Class A or B accident in 14 years which has made the Installation Safety Office eligible for the award the last 11 years.

U.S. Army YPG Garrison Director of Installation Safety Ron Van Why credits his staff and the Army’s Safety Management System which empowers directorate leaders be responsible for their employee’s safety. This allows the leaders to implement tailored safety programs based off Occupational Safety and Health Administration and U.S. Army requirements with the help and guidance of the Installation Safety Office.

Van Why remarks that safety is not just about avoiding accidents – it’s educating the workforce, keeping up on safety training and making safe decisions.

“Everyone is a safety officer. I am not successful in my program without the help of everyone else.”

Van Why adds, YPG has a culture of safety.

“We are successful due to the fact of everybody’s commitment to our safety program. We have a total buy in.”

## YPG Protocol Officer is ATEC Employee of the Quarter



The Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC) selected Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Protocol Officer Jim Stickney as its Civilian Employee of the Quarter. For the honor Stickney received a Civilian Service Commendation Medal. In the citation, Stickney was praised for his service during Project Convergence 2021 where he provided, “Exceptional service to more 130 distinguished visitors and very important visitors.” In a letter ATEC Maj. Gen. James Gallivan wrote, “Your nomination clearly recognizes your outstanding technical abilities, sound judgement and dedication to duty.” YPG Commander Col. Patrick McFall (right) presented Stickney with the medal. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

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MISSION

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longer cannon tube and larger firing chamber an improved howitzer will need to accommodate them. YPG's ammunition plant has been instrumental in building multiple experimental formulations, shapes, and configurations for new propelling charges to accommodate the improved projectiles.

"The troops at training ranges are usually using systems that have already been accepted into the Army's inventory," said Bracamonte. "Everything they are using has been certified as safe, and probably at some point was tested at a test center."

YPG often boasts of its large land area, capable of testing scores of different items every day without a conflict for space. Most of these tests require the most accurate measurements possible, and YPG's Engineering Support Branch has long characterized every centimeter of YPG's vast range. This level of measurement is unique to a proving ground like YPG.

"We have to locate calibration targets, cameras, radars, optical tracking systems, transponders: anything that needs to be located as part of a test," said Ruben Hernandez, engineering technician. "We measure very precisely the elevation, angle, and distance to that point."

In fielding the best equipment

possible, testers are particularly interested in inspecting mortar and artillery tubes for anomalies as the systems undergo testing. YPG's Physical Test Facility is regarded as second-to-none: In the area of cannon laser bore mapping, for instance, YPG has developed a variety of apparatus to map even the most microscopic crack or abnormal wear inside a cannon under test. The lab's most ultra-precise stationary machine can measure an object accurately within 50 millionths of one inch.

"We can characterize tube wear and anomalies as we test," said Bracamonte. "We can figure out how a tube is doing as a result of shooting different types of propellant or projectiles."

With the sheer volume of YPG's artillery test workload and size of its test range, however, being able to take measurements in the field is vitally important. The lab's portable laser bore mapping capability is accurate to within two-tenths of one thousandth of an inch, and is rugged enough to take bouncing around on an unimproved road or in the cargo hold of an aircraft enduring turbulence.

"With respect to developmental test, we have a lot of diagnostics and instrumentation that you wouldn't see at a training base," said Bracamonte.

Since items under test are oftentimes inherently dangerous weapon systems, the safety of evaluators is a key factor. All of this means that many of the fixtures



"We have to locate calibration targets, cameras, radars, optical tracking systems, transponders: anything that needs to be located as part of a test," said Ruben Hernandez, engineering technician. "We measure very precisely the elevation, angle, and distance to that point." (U.S. Army photos)

and components to support this vigorous testing are not available on the commercial market, or need to be extensively modified for YPG's needs. Whether it is a mock helicopter to serve as a target or a specialized mount to hold a machine gun under test, YPG oftentimes has to rapidly conceive of and build elaborate test fixtures to make possible a critical evaluation that Soldiers are counting on.

"Our machine shop has the capability of making hard stands," said Bracamonte. "Sometimes we will fasten those hard stands to a piece of armor to serve as a platform, or fasten it with bolts to concrete. Early on in testing, they may not have the system ready to accept whatever we're testing, and these stands can serve as an interim and keep the program moving forward while they design the system the weapons will eventually be mated to."

Another key difference between a test facility like YPG and typical military installations is an extra emphasis on safety. Given the experimental nature of many of the items tested at the proving ground, munitions are typically fired remotely as personnel take cover behind reinforced concrete bombproofs.

"We always make the assumption there could be a catastrophic failure, particularly with developmental items because we don't know how they are going to perform," said Bracamonte. "If a system does have a catastrophic failure, we know that everyone supporting that test is going to be

safe—we may have minor structural damage, but that is something we can repair."

Though only a small portion of YPG's overall workload, the post still supports training for Soldiers, whether a tenant unit like the Military Free Fall School that trains special forces parachutists, or transient units assisted by YPG's Training and Exercise Management Office (TEMO).

"The whole reason TEMO is here is to support testing," said Luis Arroyo, TEMO chief. "We synchronize activities to make sure the priority always goes to test. We don't say no to training, but find efficiencies to be able to make it happen."

Oftentimes this means scheduling training events on weekends or other times when test ranges are not in use. Sometimes, however, training events occur simultaneously to dozens of tests in progress across the post's vast ranges.

"The majority of times training activities are invisible to test," said Arroyo. "It's happening and people don't realize it is happening."

Counterintuitively, YPG's status as primarily a test range provides it with flexibilities that training installations likely don't have.

"Being a test range gives us the flexibility to set and reset training and testing areas in any way we need to have them as long as doctrine supports it, the command approves it, it is within the unit's capability, and we have the appropriate environmental documentation," said Arroyo.



YPG conducts developmental testing of multiple facets of Extended Range Cannon Artillery pictured.



# Wild burros require caution from YPG motorists

By Mark Schauer

For most of its nearly 80-year history, U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) has seen itself as a natural laboratory, desiring to test equipment Soldiers use in the most realistic natural environment possible to ensure it works as it should wherever in the world they are called upon to serve.

As such, YPG has a deeply vested interest in being good stewards of the environment, and the proving ground's record in this area shines.

"We try to do proactive things to help the environment," said Daniel Steward, YPG wildlife biologist.

"That way, the range is always ready to be used for military testing."

Among the multiple species found within YPG's over 1,300 square miles of range space are wild burros, well known to all YPG personnel who spend their days in the field testing equipment. Though the burros are generally popular with the YPG workforce, the creatures occasionally cause mischief. For example, several years ago at least one enterprising burro managed to turn on a water spigot—he drank his fill, then departed with the tap still running.

"Food, water, and shelter are what draw wildlife into our area. When it gets really dry, burros are looking



Slow moving and with binocular vision, burros are incapable of moving out of the way of a vehicle moving at highway speeds in time to avoid a costly—and deadly—accident. (Photos by Mark Schauer)

for water. Landscaping and sprinkler systems provide water—we really try to watch out for pooling water that would attract burros."

Slow moving and with binocular vision, burros are incapable of moving out of the way of a vehicle moving at highway speeds in time to avoid a costly—and deadly—accident.

"As things dry out, they are looking for forage and water and we'll have to continue being vigilant when driving on Highway 95. We've seen areas where if one burro gets

hit by a vehicle, there will be others in short succession. When you see one burro, there are usually more nearby."

Nighttime and twilight hours of dawn and dusk are particularly dangerous for motorists on Highway 95 and roads on YPG's ranges.

"That's when your visibility is the worst and when the burros are most active," said Steward.

Mitigating the burro threat from the length of two-lane road with a higher traffic density than any other in Arizona is no easy task, but Steward and other wildlife officials have done the best they can.

"We've eliminated water sources near the roads to try to keep horses and burros as far away from Highway 95 as possible. It's not healthy for the horses and burros to be exposed to high levels of traffic, for the animals or for the people."

Officials also attempt to relocate burros by organizing gathers with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

"If people let me know when they have specific damage they are receiving from burros, whether it is broken water lines or some other infrastructure damage, I can communicate that with BLM."

The creatures tend to live long lives due to their sheer size and wary pack mentality that deters desert predators.

"Burros are big, strong, and have a herd to protect each other. A lot of times they are too dangerous for a predator to take down—it happens, but it is rare. Mountain lions are typically associated with sheep, not burros."

Steward cautions that burros are still wild animals that should be treated as such. In particular, feeding a wild burro should be strictly avoided.

"When people start feeding the burros, they become a real nuisance. These are wild animals—one begging for food can be ornery. You want to keep a respectful distance from any wild animal."



"As things dry out, they are looking for forage and water and we'll have to continue being vigilant when driving on Highway 95. We've seen areas where if one burro gets hit by a vehicle, there will be others in short succession. When you see one burro, there are usually more nearby," explains Daniel Steward, YPG wildlife biologist.



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## Teaming up to care for community



To help benefit Soldiers and Families living at Yuma Proving Ground, Army Community Services hosted a S.A.F.E coffee drive-thru April 5. Those who attended received valuable resources from the Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention Program, Army Substance Abuse Program, Family Advocacy Center, Employee Assistance Program, and several others. Free flu shots were also available and administered on-site from the Army's Medical clinic. (Photos by Brandon Mejia)



## Easter Egg Hunt fun

The Yuma Proving Ground community gathered on the morning of April 2 for the annual Easter Egg Hunt on Cox Field. The event is one of the most popular on post. Children were all smiles as they hunted down the coveted eggs and met the Easter Bunny. (Loaned photos)



## Splash pad opens for the season



Looking to beat the heat as temperatures rise? What better way than grabbing the family and heading on down to the splash pad. Desert Oasis Communities announced March 29 that the self-operating splash pad is open for the season. It will re-main open until mid-October. (Photos by Brandon Mejia)



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# Chaplain's Corner

## Hope

### Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain Maj.  
Jeffrey Crispin



Happy Holidays, Yuma Proving Ground family. It is a busy season in the various faith communities as most of the major world religions have a holiday between late March and early May. I hope you can observe your family's holiday(s) with hope and peace.

There's unique theology and practices to our holidays, or holy days. But having hope, or a reasoned belief or expectation about the subject of our hope is universal to everyone.

There's a bit of trust or faith mixed in the recipe for hope. Some people "hope" to win the lottery jackpot or become a celebrity, or some other wishful thinking. Mathematically, the odds are better of getting struck by lightning than winning the lottery

jackpot. In my 50 years, I've not met a jackpot winner. So, I don't really put any hope in winning the lottery.

Hope is based on some level of knowledge or experience with or understanding of who or what we hope for or hope about. It's starting to get warm in Yuma. But I have hope that it will cool off here. I can say that because I know that, while summer will be the opposite of what I hope for, fall and winter are coming, whether or not I'm here to see my hope come to pass.

Sometimes we have bad expectations and then we say our hope didn't work out. We've probably all had times where we believed the best about - or put hope in someone that disappointed us. Other times, our hopes were not well informed. Maybe we only knew part of the story and we wished for a certain result without knowing many details that would have made us re-consider.

And yet hope is a powerful emotion. It can give a struggling

couple the strength to keep trying to make a relationship work when they see that they are both trying. Hope is what has led to many great social changes. People knew what was going on but had strong reasons to believe that something can be different and better. People live in hope so that their hard work will receive a just reward because of the experience of others strengthens their hope.

As a Christian, I live in the hope of eternal life with God, based on the knowledge of what the scriptures tell me and informed by the life, death, and supernatural resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus risen from the dead is the basis of my hope and motivates me to live differently. The testimony of others also encourages me in my hope for the life to come. That is the meaning of the Easter holiday for Christians.

I wish you a hope filled holiday season as you celebrate this sacred time of year.



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*Presented by the YPG Employee Assistance and Resiliency office*



# YPG employee leads local team to Robotics World Championship

Submitted by Nickolas McColl

Members of The Yuma Homeschool Robotics Program have qualified to participate in the VEX Robotics World Championship in May.

This is a huge achievement for the team that was started off by two dads in the summer of 2018. I, Yuma Proving Ground's Test Support Branch Chief and Jay Bathrick attended a Homeschool Conference in Phoenix. This conference had a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math focus lunch hour where different homeschool parents talked about Robotic programs they have done. After the conference had concluded, Jay and I got together and decided to do some research to see if it was possible to create a robotics program. After a week of number crunching, it was determined that we needed eight kids onboard, each paying \$150 to start the program.

We promoted the program by posting to two homeschool Facebook pages. The results were beyond our expectations. In a matter of days, we had 24 students wanting to sign up for our program. We ultimately selected 20 students and grouped them up four kids per robot. We selected the VEX IQ platform for our building material. These are standardized parts that allow for a fair competition hosted by Robotics Education and Competition (REC). Five VEX IQ robot kits were secured and we were able to find a used competition field to allow the kids to practice competitions before heading to Phoenix. The program had taken off.

The following season of 2019-2020, we increased our students to 30 kids and had 10 robots kits. This gave a student to robot ratio of three to one. We found that this ratio was excellent in keeping the kids engaged during our weekly two-hour class. Last year's 2020-2021 season saw COVID-19 disrupt the classroom environment for most schools but that didn't slow our group down. We continued to meet outside thanks to the beautiful Yuma weather and grew



Dads, Jay Bathrick and Nickolas McColl, Yuma Proving Ground's Test Support Branch Chief started The Yuma Homeschool Robotics Program in 2018. Four of their teams have qualified to participate in the VEX Robotics World Championship in May. (Loaned photos)

to 33 students and 11 robots. We have since stabilized and finished our 2021-2022 season with 31 students and 10 robots.

As the program grew so did our equipment. We started with five robot kits, one competition field, and some spare parts. We wrapped up our fourth year of the program with a total of 12 robot kits, five competition fields, and over 150,000 extra spare parts. We also expanded our programming side with laptops allowing students to program their robots.

Competition has always been at the heart of the program as we feel teamwork is one of the most important attributes gained from our class. Over the years, we have

attended at least two Phoenix competitions yearly and have hosted local competitions to showcase our students' progress to friends and family. Everyone's hard work has paid off as our teams have earned various awards over the years.

In the 2021-2022 season, four of our teams have qualified for the VEX Robotics World Championship currently being held in Dallas from May 8-12.

Our program has

helped spur other private schools in starting their own robotics program and we assist as needed to those groups. Our ultimate dream was to host our own VEX IQ Robotics Competition right here in the city of Yuma, this dream will now come to fruition in November of 2022.

We believe that our program has been successful over the years because of the parents. Jay and I as mentors are responsible for the teaching material, planning, and development of the program. The student's parents manage teamwork challenges with the students, help with running our practice competitions, and assist the mentors when needed.

In addition to working as a Yuma Homeschool Robotics Program Mentor, I am part of the robotics team for the Army's Gains in Education Program at Yuma Proving Ground.



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