

Happy 4th of July!

The Outpost

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

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YPG supports high-energy lasers for combat

By Brandon Mejia

With Army modernization at the forefront of the future, U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) and its vast ground and air space serve as a hot spot for on-going high energy laser tests that can cook small, unmanned aircraft systems (sUAS) out of the sky.

The Army Rapid Capabilities and Critical Technologies Office (RCCTO) in support of the Joint Counter-small Unmanned Aircraft Systems Office (JCO) continues to develop and test Counter-small Unmanned Aircraft System (C-sUAS) prototypes like the

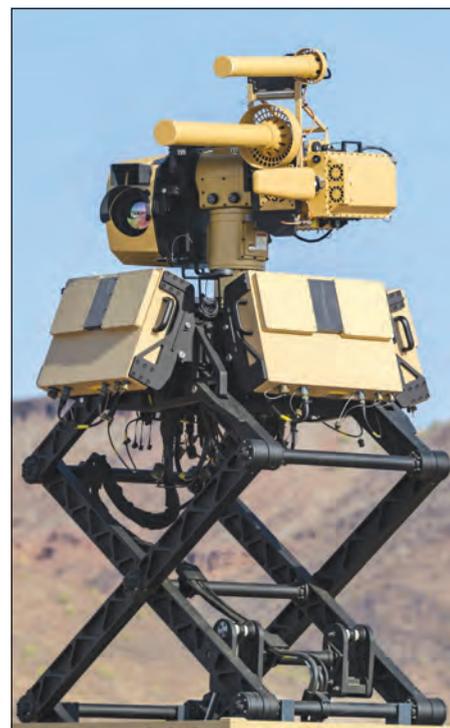
Palletized High Energy Laser (P-HEL) with the support of YPG.

“The laser, as part of a necessary layered set of capabilities against threat unmanned aerial systems, has tremendous potential,” said Maj. Gen. Kenneth Kamper who took part in live prototype testing of C-sUAS’s at YPG in April.

“There’s no doubt lasers will be

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The Army Rapid Capabilities and Critical Technologies Office in support of the Joint Counter-small Unmanned Aircraft Systems Office continues to develop and test Counter-small Unmanned Aircraft System prototypes like the Palletized High Energy Laser with the support of Yuma Proving Ground. (Loaned photo)



YPG commander reflects on first two years in command

By Mark Schauer

Two years into his command at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG), it is clear that Col. Patrick McFall took the reins at a pivotal moment in the Army’s—and YPG’s—history.

Having steered a course through the peak of the COVID crisis while maintaining YPG’s position at the forefront of Army modernization efforts, McFall

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THIS IS MY SQUAD

Soldier spotlight



By Ana Henderson

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Nathan Newey is currently assigned as a noncommissioned officer and test jumper for the Army Test and Evaluation Command, Airborne Test Force, at Yuma Proving Ground.

Although he was born in Salt Lake City, Utah, he graduated from Valley View High School in Ontario, California. Newey signed up to serve his country shortly afterwards, in 2005. He is currently working on his degree from Arizona State University.

Newey's hobbies include woodworking and outdoor activities with his family. He is married to his wife, Erin, and they have three children, Ethan, Adelyn, and Greyson.



U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Nathan Newey has been serving his country since 2005 and is currently stationed at Yuma Proving Ground with the Airborne Test Force. (Loaned photos)

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Financial readiness during inflation

By J.T. Amon

There is no doubt that inflationary pressures have affected everyone in today's economy. Even with these externalities, it is still possible to maintain your family's standard of living. However, maintaining your lifestyle in this environment requires some level of effort and discipline. Taking just a few steps can help you and your family stay on track in this difficult economy.

Record your expenses

The first step in establishing a sound financial plan to combat inflation is to record your current expenditures. It is imperative to know how and where your family spends its resources before any course corrections are made. To accomplish this its best to review 60-90 days of expenses to get an average cost of all monthly expenses.

Determine your priorities

After you have accounted for all your monthly expenses, you must determine what are your most important financial priorities. When examining priorities, it's understood that they change frequently over a lifetime. For example, a single service member does not have the same priorities as a family of five, and that family may have different priorities than a family of two. Listing your priorities in order will help individuals visualize what is important and ultimately what you are willing to fund ahead of another discretionary item.

Establish Goals

Now that your priorities have been established, it's time to review and establish goals. Setting financial goals can be difficult when your dollar doesn't go as far as it used to. However, it is still important to sit down and write down your goals. Goals can be saving money for retirement, saving for a house, car down payment etc. Irrespective of



your individual goals, after you have solidified them, revisit your list of priorities, and ensure your goals are reflected and/or represented in your previously established financial priority list.

Control Costs

Now that you have established your priorities and goals, its time to examine ways to reduce or curb spending. If finances are tight, are you willing to evaluate/reduce the amount of money spent on some of your priority items (groceries, entertainment, vacations)? Are there things you are willing to cut out all together (minimize take out, limit visits to the mall). Is your family willing/able to bargain shop (shop in bulk, use coupons, discount stores)? Each of these actions can help reduce

your expenditures, but you should be mindful to continue funding your highest priority items.

A general example of financial priorities

1. Mortgage/rent
2. Home utilities (power, water, internet, etc.)
3. Retirement savings
4. Groceries
5. Car payments
6. Cell plan
7. Children activities (ballet, sports, art class, etc.)
8. Self-care (salon, gym membership, etc.)
9. Take out
10. Local entertainment (movies, mall, etc.)
11. Weekend getaway/family vacation

financial plan. Prioritizing your expenditures and minimizing costs will ultimately help your family live within your means. Living within your means and avoiding unnecessary debt is a recipe for financial success, even in the current inflationary environment.

If you or your family require financial assistance Army Community Services has a financial readiness program for individual, family, or group counseling. Additionally, the Army Emergency Relief (AER) program offers grants, zero interest loans or a combination of both for unforeseen, unexpected, or emergent financial needs. The financial readiness and AER representative at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground can be contacted at 928-328-2332 or Jamie.t.amon.civ@army.mil.

YPG Education Center news

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NAU representative visit:
11 am -1 pm, Aug. 18,
Sept. 13, Nov. 17.
Contact 928-328-3926 or
tamara.s.ramos.ctr@army.mil
for more information.

*The purpose of the news is to provide information to members of the YPG community and of education services available through the YPG Education Center. Any mention of a specific educational institution or organization is not intended as endorsement, stated or implied, of the non-federal entity.

YPG Commander addresses workforce in virtual townhall

By Ana Henderson

Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Commander Col. Patrick McFall had hoped to host his first in-person town hall, yet faulty air conditioning at the proposed venue ruined that plan on the afternoon of June 23.

Instead, McFall held a live virtual meeting with the workforce. More than 200 people logged into the meeting which included information from Technical Director Larry Bracamonte, Chief of Staff Minerva Peters and representatives from the YPG Health Clinic.

While they covered a variety of topics, McFall started off by saying, "People have always been my number one priority" and expressed to the workforce how important it is for them to take time off work.

Bracamonte told the workforce that the summer workload would involve supporting the Army's priorities. To aid in that mission, some of the legacy items will be replaced with newer systems. The



Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Commander Col. Patrick McFall held a live virtual meeting with the workforce. More than 200 people logged into the meeting which included information from Technical Director Larry Bracamonte, Chief of Staff Minerva Peters and representatives from the YPG Health Clinic. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

commander added that YPG is going to slim down on equipment that is not used or needed to bring down the cost of maintenance.

Bracamonte went on to remind the mission workforce to stay hydrated and to keep an eye on out-of-town industry partners who are not acclimated to the Yuma heat. Lastly, Bracamonte cautioned the workforce to not get complacent when performing tasks.

"Follow SOPs or there is a chance for something bad to happen," Bracamonte said.

During her remarks, Peters also emphasized safety, but her focus was on summer activities outside of work. Advising the workforce to ask themselves, "Is this an unnecessary risk?" She encouraged employees to take time off and relax with their families. During the town hall Peters announced plans to bring back the Women's Equality Day celebration that was cancelled due to COVID in

2020.

Capping off the informative portion of the townhall were members of the Health Clinic. They reported that YPG's clinic does not have any COVID vaccines due to low demand and that the flu vaccine will be available in late summer.

The forum was then opened for questions from the workforce. Questions ranged from which insurance can be used at the medical clinic, to how to move government furniture on base, how to suggest classes for EMERGE, what's considered fully vaccinated and working a 9/80 schedule.

In closing, McFall said he hoped this town hall will give the workforce a view of the inner workings of YPG and the conversations and issues leadership deals with daily.

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YPG celebrates 247th ARMY BIRTHDAY



In honor of the Army's 247th birthday, U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) hosted a multitude of events starting with a competitive 5k run to kick off the morning. Following the run, Soldiers, and civilians from the YPG workforce were invited to take part in a breakfast provided by the YPG Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) department. Those in attendance also got a special visit from Child and Youth Services students who sang the Army song and picked up goodies from Army Community Services, Michael's Military Housing, and MWR. And it wouldn't be a birthday without cake! Many gathered later in the day for the annual cake-cutting ceremony with the post's oldest and youngest Soldiers and civilian personnel. Happy birthday, U.S. Army! (Photos by Brandon Mejia and Ana Henderson)



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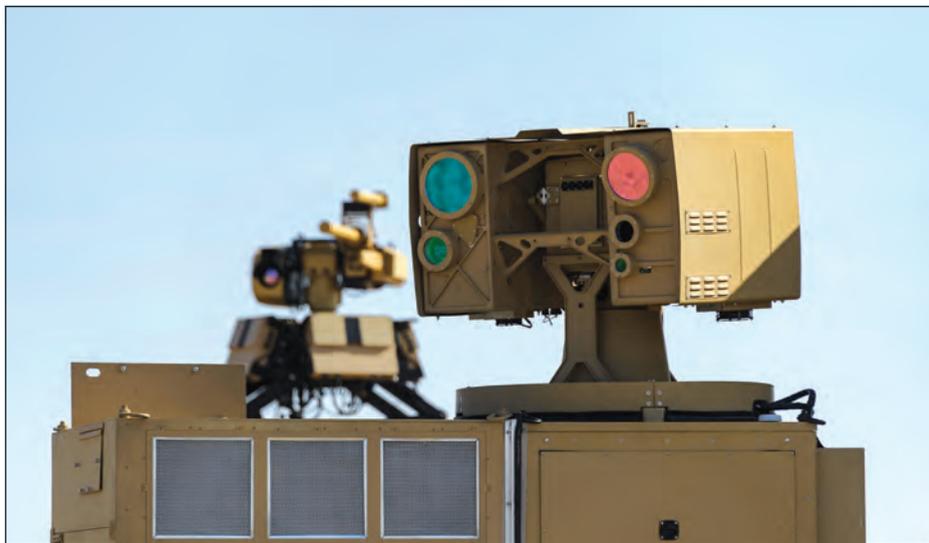


on the future large scale ground combat battlefield, so it's great to see these initial prototypes to gain understanding of its capabilities and think through where these capabilities will fit into our organization, impact how we fight, and understand how we need to adjust our doctrine."

Packed with cameras, passive sensors, 3D detection, radar, and optical systems, as well as tracking capabilities, the P-HEL is one of several prototypes that allows a commander and gunner to attack a drone or target with the laser.

The system relies on high-powered energy to destroy its target instead of using traditional ammunition to shoot it out of the sky.

While the test-system itself is multifaceted so is the process for shooting a high energy laser at YPG, according to Test Officer Riley Sinek.



"The laser, as part of a necessary layered set of capabilities against threat unmanned aerial systems, has tremendous potential," said Maj. Gen. Kenneth Kamper who took part in live prototype testing of C-sUAS's at Yuma Proving Ground in April. (Loaned photo)

"The P-HEL took the JCO program office, the RCCTO program office, YPG, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Laser Clearing House (LCH) all to make sure one test can function safely and successfully," Sinek explained.

The FAA controls air traffic outside of YPG's restricted airspace

and the LCH works in conjunctions with the satellites that are in space.

From a test officer perspective, Sinek said its important they make sure the laser is leaving the atmosphere at 60,000 feet, in coordination with the FAA to ensure the laser energy is leaving above public airspace and "keeping our

pilots and public air traffic safe."

The geodetics support group works to conduct analysis needed for high powered laser tests. Using geodetic surveys, they can ensure lasers are leaving the airspace at the minimum requirement.

While working with lasers has its hazards, one hazard in particular a test officer must consider is when the laser beam is fired. "As the beam diverges the power density in the beam size will eventually get to a less hazardous level but essentially the energy is going to continue until it hits something," Sinek said.

That's where coordination with the LCH comes into play, allowing windows for the laser to laze at certain times based on satellite locations, so no satellites are hit as the beam continues its path of travel.

"Between our [YPG] large ground and our large airspace it really helps us accommodate this type of testing," Sinek explained. "And with high power lasers, we are able to cook those things (UAS's) out of the sky when it works."

Summer fun: think before you drink

By Scott Zaehler

Summer is here and it's time to get out and enjoy the season! To avoid unnecessary risk and negative consequences, the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism and Yuma Proving Ground's Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) offer the following information to help a fun time stay fun.

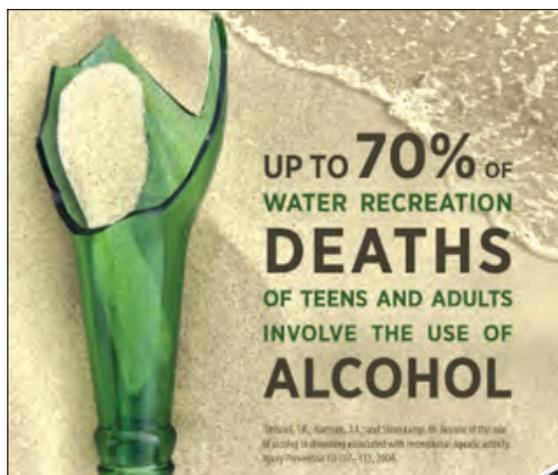
Alcohol impairs judgement and can increase risk-taking, leading to a dangerous combination for swimmers. If you're engaging in swimming activities, not consuming alcohol is the safest course.

The U.S. Coast Guard reports that alcohol contributes to 18% of boating deaths. In Arizona (as well as most states), a blood alcohol concentration of 0.08 is against the law, and can result in severe consequences. To reach a 0.08, an

average-sized woman would require about four drinks in two hours; for an average-size man, it would take about five drinks in two hours.

The risk doesn't only apply to the person driving the boat; passengers can lose their balance, slip on deck, have accidents on the dock, or fall overboard.

Summer holidays are some of the most dangerous times of the year to be on the road – taking an unfamiliar road with a trailer, kids and the



pets adds distraction and increases the risk of an accident. Adding alcohol to that mix puts the lives of the driver, passengers,

hydrated with non-alcoholic drinks to keep the fun going!

Some research suggests that alcohol lowers the amount of sun exposure needed to produce burns. Also, people that are drinking alcohol may not be diligently putting on sunscreen as compared to a non-drinking person.

Be smart this summer – think before you drink. Avoid alcohol beverages while piloting a boat, driving a car, exploring the wilderness, and swimming or surfing can help keep you and your loved ones safe.

If you're hosting and serving alcohol, be sure to provide a variety of healthy food, snacks, and non-alcoholic beverages.

For more information, scan this QR code and/or contact the ASAP Manager, Scott Zaehler at (928) 328-2249 or scott.r.zaehler.civ@army.mil.

and other people at risk.

Hot days can lead to dehydration. Alcohol also causes dehydration. Together, they can quickly lead to heat injuries. Stay



REFLECTS

FROM PAGE 1

is now looking to the long term by going back to basics.

As he plans for the YPG of the year 2035, two phrases guide him: ‘People are our core capability’ and ‘our can-do culture.’

“Those two statements define YPG in my opinion,” he said. “The best idea in the world is only an idea if the people and culture don’t support it.”

In recent years, YPG has achieved an unprecedented prominence within the Department of Defense. The proving ground hosted Project Convergence 2020 and 2021, the latter being the largest capabilities demonstration in the Army in the preceding 15 years. The last three Secretaries of the Army have visited the test ranges, and ambitious Army modernization efforts will only expand in the years ahead. In light of this, McFall recently hosted the post’s senior civilians on a two-day planning retreat at a remote gun position on YPG’s range to actively ask about and plan for the next 13 years. What range infrastructure improvements will be necessary to accommodate testing of the most-cutting edge developments foreseeable?

“I know time doesn’t stop in 2035 and that what we think today may not be right next year, but most strategies stay on the same glide path,” McFall explained. “I don’t see workforce and range modernization efforts going

away—it is evolution.”

A major component of this preparation is the Employee Modernization Effort for Relevant Growth and Enrichment (EMERGE) program, stood up earlier this year with an initial investment of \$270,000. The program’s efforts at preparing the workforce for the future test mission is wide-ranging and comprehensive, covering everything from developing new test methodologies for advanced technologies to leadership strategies and critical thinking.

“I wanted to start a program that modernizes our workforce,” McFall said. “It was important to me that this program be made by our workforce, for our workforce.”

Though it has already attracted positive attention from the Army’s senior leaders, McFall stresses that the program is not only designed to prepare the workforce for the long term, but to be implemented incrementally due to the continuous demands of YPG’s busy test schedule.

“You can’t take too many people out of testing: you have to rotate people in and out of training,” he said. “It will take years to build this program.”

Safety is always a vitally important factor in successfully conducting YPG’s mission, and it is front and center in McFall’s mind.

“Before I came here, I didn’t fully appreciate all that went into testing. In developmental test, we don’t have a full appreciation of an item’s failure rate or what will happen when an



Col. Patrick McFall is pictured with Technical Director Larry Bracamonte observing a test. McFall recently hosted the post’s senior civilians on a two-day planning retreat at a remote gun position on YPG’s range to actively ask about and plan for the next 13 years.

item under test fails. The inherent danger in this post’s mission takes a lot of effort to mitigate hazards and ensure nobody gets hurt.”

Aside from the obvious facets such as keeping surface danger zones free of people while tests are in progress, fortified bunkers and blast shields for personnel to take cover in while test firing artillery, and remote firing of weapons by test personnel, McFall also sees how other factors contribute to a good safety culture. Ensuring proper maintenance of equipment is one such element.

“Maintenance isn’t just about maintaining the fleet’s operational capabilities: it is also a critical safety issue,” he said. “We don’t want a vehicle’s brakes to stop working when our personnel are driving on the test range, or have it break down at an unimproved gun position far from any populated area when it is 120 degrees outside.”

He is also keenly interested in ensuring personnel don’t lose their ability to think and act safely from the fatigue of working burnout schedules.

“Rest and relaxation are part of safety,” he said. “I want everybody to have a good work-life balance.”

McFall also believes good community relations is vitally important in ensuring the proving ground’s long-term viability, and he has been an active presence in the community for the duration of his time in command. He is particularly impressed with organizations like the ‘Yuma 50’ military support group, made up of many of Yuma’s most prominent civic and cultural leaders.

“Being involved in the community is important because they are integral to YPG’s continued success,” McFall said. “The Yuma community embraces YPG because they understand how important this post is to the national defense.”



Yuma Proving Ground Commander Col. Patrick McFall is pictured with his wife Heidi at the Veteran’s Day parade in 2021. “Being involved in the community is important because they are integral to YPG’s continued success,” McFall said. (Photos by Brandon Mejia)

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2022 GEMS summer programs wrap up at YPG

By Brandon Mejia

The summer program Gains in the Education of Mathematics and Science (GEMS) wrapped up its fourth year at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) June 16. The two, week- long programs welcomed nearly 70 bright students from Yuma-area schools to engage in Science, Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) through nearly 10 different labs.

Students, alongside subject matter experts made up of scientists and test engineers at YPG took part in rocket and catapult testing, frog dissections, solar oven testing, high speed optics, water balloon ballistics, robotic building and programing, bacteria analysis and much more.

Andrea Santiago, a student heading into sixth grade heard about the program through her fifth-grade teacher. "It sounded interesting to me, so I wanted to see how it would go," Santiago shared.

One lab challenged students to see who could get the most balls through a hoop using a catapult system for launching. Santiago said that was her favorite, "because I won the



Students, alongside subject matter experts made up of scientists and test engineers at Yuma Proving Ground took part in rocket and catapult testing, frog dissections, solar oven testing, high speed optics, water balloon ballistics, robotic building and programing, bacteria analysis and much more during the two, one-week long GEMS camps. (Photos by Brandon Mejia)

challenge."

All the labs conducted represented a smaller, safer version of testing that is done on a much larger scale at YPG. Giving students a glimpse of what happens on the installation.

"I know now that they [YPG] do like a lot more military testing than I thought. I thought initially that it was just a military base for families," said Asher Lachcik who took part in the program and is heading into seventh grade next year.

Asher said all the labs were fun, but his favorite was building and testing gliders. After constructing his, he was able to fly it across the designated area successfully. "I learned that if you have the weight in front with the weight of the wings counterbalancing it, it puts it in the middle and was easier to glide it," Lachcik shared.

However, these labs wouldn't be possible without the workforce behind it, according to Paula Rickleff, the YPG STEM Outreach Manager and GEMS coordinator. "It is truly a team effort and it's good to hear from them that they enjoy giving back to the kids and seeing them learn," she said.

There are about 40-50 subject matter experts made up of engineers and scientist that work at YPG applying their expertise to our future generation.

Three resource teachers that work at Yuma-area schools were also on-board the two, one-week camps. "These are people here to assist our engineers, scientists, and students," Rickleff said.

On-top of that near peer mentors made up of some college and high school students assisted throughout the camp in efforts to keep the students engaged with each workshop.

"This program would not be what



it is without everybody," shared Rickleff.

GEMS started in 2018 with around 60 students and in small increments over the years has now reached 70 kids with the hopes of breaking 80 next year.

"It is so rewarding to see them make friends with everyone, learning, laughing, and having fun with all the hands-on activities and cool stuff we have planned, while tying it back to STEM education and what we do here at YPG," Rickleff said.

Unfortunately, students can't take GEMS 1 twice, however there is a work in progress to bring on another level.

"I am trying to establish a GEMS 2 which is the next level of GEMS, more advanced and for older kids," she said. "Just a way to give back something from YPG, to the students of the community and its free."

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Chaplain's Corner

Summer of transition

Chaplain's Corner
Chaplain Maj.
Jeffrey Crispin



or to assist personally with religious support needs and referrals. He is available at the chapel during duty hours and his contact information is (928) 328-3465 or justin.d.neubert.mil@army.mil.

Catholic Mass will proceed as usual during the gap in coverage; however, Protestant worship services will not occur on July 3 or 10. Chaplain Ryan Pearse, the incoming Garrison Chaplain, arrives mid-month July with plans to lead the Protestant worship service on July 17.

It has been my honor being part

of your team and part of YPG's historic mission. My hope is that the sense of community continues to grow regardless of the weather and that YPG will be the best "small town" in the Army for years to come.

May the God of Heaven and Earth prepare you and preserve you for the good things. He has prepared to give you and the good works he has called you to do for yourself and for others. Cactus Shepherd signing off the net.

For God and Country, Chaplain Maj. Jeff Crispin.

YPG Family,

The Garrison Chapel team is in transition this summer. My last day was June 26 and we drove off post June 27.

There is no chaplain on post from June 28 to July 15. However, Sgt. Justin Neubert can coordinate chaplain assistance for emergencies

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MWR Staycation 2022

Week 1

MWR Staycation is 2 weeks of fun filled events everyday. Check out each week's calendar flyer to see what events we have! To register, download the registration form from yuma.army.com and 1. send an e-mail to yuma.armymwr.marketing@gmail.com or 2. drop your form off to bldg. 300 2nd floor. *One registration form per person is required.

July 5:

Desert Oasis Open House & BBQ 11:30-13:30 Desert Oasis Housing Office	Trivia Night with ACS 17:30-19:30 Cactus Cafe
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July 6:

Ethics and the Military Family 11:30-12:30 Coyote Lanes Theater	Zumba with Zumba in the Foothills 16:30-17:30 - Ages 13+ Fitness Center
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July 7:

Open House at the Chapel 09:00-12:00 Bldg. 1100	Bachata with United with Rhythm 17:15-18:15 - Ages 13+ Fitness Center
---	--

July 8:

Pizza Making with Chef Carlos
& Heat Safety Training
10:00-12:00
Coyote Lanes Bowling Center

MWR Staycation 2022

Week 2

MWR Staycation is 2 weeks of fun filled events everyday. Check out each week's calendar flyer to see what events we have! To register, download the registration form from yuma.army.com and 1. send an e-mail to yuma.armymwr.marketing@gmail.com or 2. drop your form off to bldg. 300 2nd floor. *One registration form per person is required.

July 11:

Fire Dept. Open House with Special Guest Sparky 09:30-10:30	Salsa with Fuego Dance Studio 18:30-20:00 - Ages 13+ Fitness Center
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July 12:

Estate Planning and the Military Family 11:30-12:30 Coyote Lanes Theater	Adult MMA Class 17:30-18:30 Fitness Center
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July 13:

Youth MMA Class 17:30-18:30 - Ages 13+ Fitness Center	Ukulele Class 17:30-18:30 Post Library
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July 14:

Aquatics Aerobics with
Michele Dominguez
15:30-16:30
Kahuna Lagoon

July 15:

MWR Amazing Race
08:00-12:00 - Ages 7+
Various Locations



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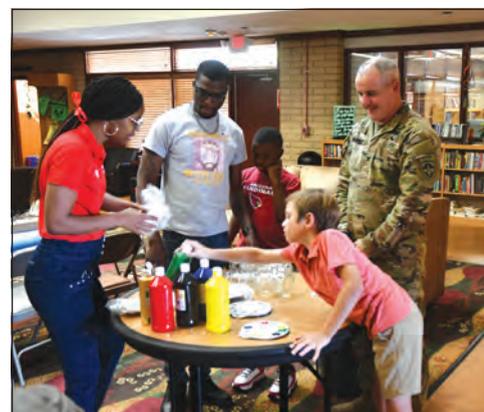


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Donuts with Dad for Father's Day



In honor of Father's Day weekend, dads living and working at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) got to spend some quality time with their kids June 16, engaging in crafts, building gliders, and enjoying donuts at the library. On behalf of YPG we thank all the hard-working fathers throughout our community and hope they got to enjoy the Father's Day weekend. (Photos by Brandon Mejia)



Patriotic Slime Making



Tuesday, July 5th
12-1:30 p.m.
Post Library



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Skate night is a community favorite



There is no doubt that the Yuma Proving Ground community enjoys skate night. Every few weeks the Fitness Center transforms into a roller rink and during the last event on June 24 about 100 community members attended. No, skates? No problem. The Fitness Center can provide them. The next events are July 15 and 29. (Loaned photos)

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