

The Outpost

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

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Soft recoil of 105-mm Howitzer under evaluation at Yuma Proving Ground

By Ana Henderson

Yuma Test Center (YTC) at Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) is supporting the testing of the soft recoil on a 105-mm Howitzer weapon system mounted on a Humvee. The weapon system is referred to as Hawkeye.

The Hawkeye is intended to be a quick and effective method for the Warfighter to fire and move.

YTC Gun Crew Lead Danny Zendejas says the system is simple to use and only takes a few minutes to set up for firing.

"When we have the center of traverse over the hub that geodetics places, we hit the switch for the outriggers."

The outriggers emplace alongside of the Humvee and stabilize the



This is one of the many tests the Hawkeye underwent while at Yuma Test Center at Yuma Proving Ground. (Loaned photo)

weapon system for firing.

Randy McConnell, Program Management Towed Artillery Systems (PM TAS) test lead for 105characterization explained, "You can have a round out within a minute and a half, so 90 seconds from the time the wheels stop to the first round down range."

YTC Munitions and Weapons Division Test Officer Chad Bloomingdale is overseeing the firing portion of the test.

"One of the benefits of the systems that we look to confirm is its mobility and use of less personnel to operate," he said. At YTC, the typical gun grew is four to five

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Honoring our country and Soldiers



Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year Staff Sgt. Ahmed Elinbabi of the Airborne Test Force and Soldier of the Year Spc. Nathan Britenfeld of the YPG Health Clinic were recognized by Yuma's Military Affairs Council at the Caballeros de Yuma's 36th annual Fourth of July Flag Raising Ceremony at Armed Forces Park, with Elinbabi accepting the awards on behalf of both. (Photos by Mark Schauer and Brandon Mejia)

The Outpost

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New native trees planted by iconic Big Guns

U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground's (YPG) Environmental Division has planted native trees and cactus around the iconic Big Guns along Highway 95.

uns along Highway 95. year, whe Passerby will notice the Willows,

Palo Verde, Ocotillo and Saguaros are being protected with temporary fencing. The burro exclusion fence will be in place for about a year, when the trees will be more established and need less water.







As a natural laboratory for testing virtually every piece of equipment in the U.S. Army's ground combat arsenal, YPG has a vested interest in responsible ecological stewardship. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

PAO team visits Youth Services camp



Members of the Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Public Affairs team, Eugene Garcia and Ana Henderson, paid a visit to children attending the YPG Summer Camp at Youth Services, showing the students the process of putting together the YPG newspaper, The Outpost. The children had an opportunity to draw their own layout and get pictured on the cover. (Photo by CYS staff)



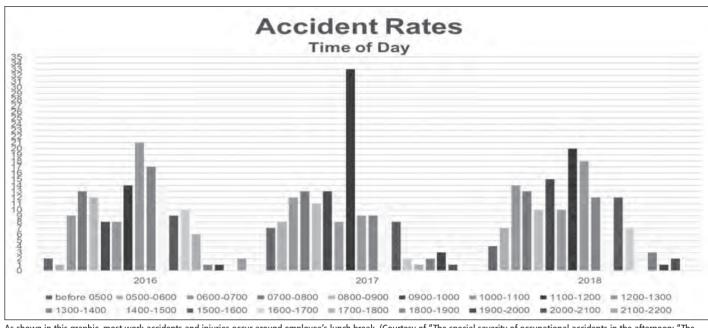
Safety CornerSurvey says...

By Jaysen Lockett

When Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) employees are asked, "What is the most dangerous part of your job," some responses include the drive to and from work, the heat, the donkeys, and deer, working in remote locations, etc. YPG leaders have taken actions to mitigate these and many other safety challenges. The workforce's input/concerns/suggestions have been heard and actions have been taken.

In addition to listening to employee's feedback, YPG leaders are continually inspecting work areas, reviewing standard operating procedures, reviewing data, performing surveys, and looking at trends, to identify ways to keep YPG employees safe.

An example of reviewing data and identifying trends — YPG Leaders were surprised to learn that many of the accidents and injuries occur around the lunch break (before and after lunch break). Like the YPG leaders, you are probably scratching



As shown in this graphic, most work accidents and injuries occur around employee's lunch break. (Courtesy of "The special severity of occupational accidents in the afternoon: "The lunch effect.")

your head and asking the question, why?

The why

Miguel Camino Lopez researcher and author of the "The lunch effect" a study that focuses on the severity of occupational accidents stated, "The gravity and mortality rate of accidents are higher in the hours around lunchtime, regardless of who, how, when, where or with what the accident happens. This phenomenon

can be seen in both young and old workers, those just starting out on the job or those who have been doing it for years."

In separate studies it has shown that some employees get in a rush to complete a task before lunch, and they tend to skip safety steps the closer it gets to the lunch break time to finish a project/task.

There is also information that supports accidents occur more often when a heavy and/or fatty meal is eaten for lunch because the digestive system must work harder and reduces the level of oxygen in our brain. The lower levels of oxygen can make you feel sleepy, sluggish, and decrease the ability to concentrate on tasks.

Take Away

The breaktime period is a high-risk time of the workday. Don't rush to finish projects before the lunch break and/or request supervisor approval to deviate the lunch break. Also, eat healthly/low fat foods to prevent the digestive system from working harder to digest your lunch.

For more information on this topic, contact Mission Safety located at building 3519.

Cold Regions recognized for safety standards



Cold Regions Test Center security team received the 500th Military Intelligence Brigade (MI BDE) commander's coin for excellence in their adherence to local and department of defense wide security standards. This after two special agents from the MI BDE completed an annual inspection. Pictured are Special Agent in charge John Mathews, Richard Reiser and Guy Lene. (Loaned photo)

Members of the

Saint Barbara recipient honored for decades of work at Yuma Proving Ground

By Brandon Mejia

What was supposed to be a regular workday for Curtis Webb, a weapons simulation armament group manager at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG), quickly changed on July 12.

Webb was asked to gather with senior leadership and crew leads to honor his more than 40 years of artillery service with induction in the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara.

The Order of Saint Barbara is an honor society for those associated with artillery in the United States Army and Marine Corps.

"Unbelievable, no words, it was the furthest thing from my mind when I woke up this morning," Webb said in surprise. "It is really quite an honor. If you are in the business, you know what this means: it thrills me to no end that these folks showed they appreciate my work."

Retired Army Lt. Gen. Kenneth Hunzeker presented the distinguished honor, and recognized Webb's impact on artillery systems still fielded to date.

"When I think of what Curtis has done, I think about quiet competence: you always look for the person behind the scenes to just make stuff happen," Hunzeker said. "As I read through the



What was supposed to be a regular workday for Curtis Webb, a weapons simulation armament group manager at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground, quickly changed on July 12 when he was inducted in the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

accomplishments, the ingenuity that you have shown with the rounds, the weapons, and the chambers you have put together is incredible. We wouldn't be where we are if it wasn't for what you have done here on the ground."

Webb has been a part of the YPG



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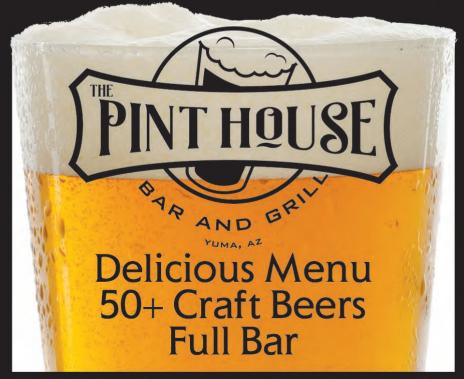
family since 1981. He has worked with conditioning chambers, ammo supply, ammo recovery, artillery, and aircraft weapons.

Having requested his four-page list of accomplishments, Hunzeker highlighted some of his most notable programs worked on, like the Firefinder Radar, a system tested at YPG for over ten years that can detect the point of origin of an artillery round or incoming rocket.

"I can tell you personally I benefited from that fielding and know what it meant to the force," Hunzeker said. "Your service has saved lives. You made a difference, not just to save lives, but to keep artillery in the fight."

Webb's ingenuity has also impacted anti-tank rockets, howitzers, and precision guided artillery rounds.

Sept. 1 will mark Webb's 41st year of service at the proving ground.



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HOWITZER

FROM PAGE 1

members. However, to operate the system in a military setting would require as few as four — two to operate and two for support.

The second part of the test taking place concurrently at YTC is the mobility portion. Combat Automotive Systems Division Test Officer Oliver Ramos has focused his efforts on the road testing for several months.

"We are trying to get the value of the vehicle, so the customer knows that everything is good with the vehicle," explained Ramos.

The mobility characterization and endurance portion of the test includes driving the Humvee equipped with the weapon system on various graded roads and slopes while monitoring speed, acceleration, and braking. Additional testing includes steering, handling, and endurance – meaning the test item will be driven for a predetermined number of miles at the road courses around YTC.

Congress provided the funds to specifically characterize the 105-mm soft recoil technology. Characterize means to monitor how the equipment reacts to tests and document the



The crew at the gun position checks the weapons system prior to firing. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

performance. The Army does not have a requirement for a mobile 105-mm Howitzer system, the test is exclusively to evaluate the soft recoil.

"We are learning what the soft recoil is on the weapon system and also the emplacement and displacement of the vehicle," stated McConnell.

With a conventional recoil all

the power goes to the rear of the weapons system, while the soft recoil goes forward. The advantage of that is the amount of impulse load on the vehicle or weapon system explains Brandon Timper, Director of Product Development and Training at Mandus Group. He adds, "It reduces the load up to 80 percent. Another advantage is that it allows for a lighter weight platform."

YPG's large range almost 1200 square miles and various road courses made it the ideal center for testing.

"It's easier to come to YPG instead of having the vehicles separated completely in two different states. It was easier to come to YPG and do the characterization for mobility and firing as they have everything that we needed," remarked McConnell.



Test Officer Oliver Ramos uses white chalk to mark the tire and wheels to see if there was any slipping "When you apply force sometimes you get slips from the wheel on the tire. So, I mark it to verify that it didn't' move when the full weight is applied," explained Ramos.



Test Officer Chad Bloomingdale points out the soft recoil on the Hawkeye weapons system.

U.S. Army Tropic Regions Test Center engineer wears many hats

By Mark Schauer

Conducting natural environment testing in the world's most extreme jungles requires the concerted efforts of rugged professionals.

Testing in extreme environments always presents difficult obstacles, but the punishing jungles where the personnel at U.S. Army Tropic Regions Test Center (TRTC) spend their work life are especially challenging.

"Everybody in this organization is multi-hatted," said Ernest Hugh, TRTC director. "Not only are they engineers, they're photographers, they're vehicle operators, they clear trails. They do a little bit of everything, are very good at it, and have a lot of experience doing it. Carlos Mora is a prime example of this."

After 17 years at TRTC, Mora has conducted developmental tropical tests on everything from military vehicles and small arms to tents and radios

"Testing in the tropics is a continuous fight against environmental elements," he said. "We encounter rain, fungi and fauna, lightning storms, and humidity, and the combination of some at the same time."

The high humidity and precipitation of tropical regions aren't the only factors that need to be considered when designing things for troops. High heat and a salt-rich atmosphere also contribute to rapidly-growing jungle molds and fungi. How will an item fare in acidic jungle mud, surrounded by insects that eat anything organic and seek warm areas to nest?

"As in any other test, it is our responsibility to address any issue that could affect the performance of the item during a mission or threaten a Soldier's safety," said Mora.

He began the job as a recent graduate of the Technological University of Panama, where he had earned a civil engineering degree after a nearly lifelong interest in the subject.

"I always liked construction, since I was a kid," Mora said. "Everything started with Legos—that has to be a part of every kid's life. I've always loved math and was very curious."

In addition to testing in the tropics, Mora has traveled to Yuma Test Center to support testing or for training on systems bound for TRTC after undergoing evaluations in the desert.

"I have been in Yuma a lot of times, but my last trip was the one where I really went out to see nature. I think every human being should go to the desert and have that experience. It totally changes the way you think and really makes you appreciate the resources we think are given at no price."

Aside from shooting test photos and video regularly at work, Mora is an avid photographer in his spare time.

"Carlos' real passion is photography," said Rolando Ayala, TRTC senior test officer.

Artistic photos of his family, stunning vistas of tropical beauty, and arrestingly composed slice of life vignettes from city streets are all part of his portfolio.

"It started as a hobby and grew into a very good part of my life," he said. "I'm very active with it and

always trying to give the most time I can to it."

He was exposed to the art all his life through his father, who retired in 2015 from service as an official photographer for the President of Panama.

"For the past six or seven presidents of Panama, he was part of the personnel who took care of photography," said Mora. "It gave him the opportunity to travel all over the world and meet all types of people. It's something I'm very proud of."

As for his photography at work, samples of some of his more dramatic images of combat vehicles plowing through a muddy jungle test course have found homes on display at Yuma Proving Ground.

"I know some of the pictures have made it to the command group and other places in Yuma. It makes me feel very good that people are able to have a perspective on how things look here in the tropics."

Mora enjoys his work and has no plans to leave the rugged jungles where TRTC conducts tests.

"I really never had an idea I was going to end up working where I work, to the point that I call myself a test engineer instead of a civil engineer when people ask me what I do," said Mora. "It's been my whole career."



Carlos Mora is one of the many multi-hatted employees at U.S. Army Tropic Regions Test Center (TRTC). After 17 years at TRTC, Mora has conducted developmental tropical tests on everything from military vehicles and small arms to tents and radios. (Photo by Mark Schauer)



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MWR's Staycation at Yuma Proving Ground is a success

By Ana Henderson

The Family Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) Staycation at Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) proved to be a success — the proof was all the smiling faces of attendees.

From July 5 through July 15, YPG's MWR team planned 15 activities in a two-week period at the various MWR facilities.

Classes included pizza making, ukulele lessons and aquatics aerobics. The Desert Oasis Housing office kicked off the first event with a BBQ and open house. The YPG Chapel and Fire Department also hosted open houses.

Adding to the fun, the MWR team invited Yuma area instructors to teach salsa dancing, Zumba and youth and adult MMA at their

facilities.

"All of the feedback we received was positive. The attendees were especially impressed with the instructors from town coming out to share their time," said Shauna Nunn, Child and Youth Services Coordinator.

The MWR Staycation idea came about because many families stationed at YPG were not traveling home during the summer block leave period due to rising travel costs and COVID. This gave MWR an opportunity to show the community the services it offers.

Nunn noted, "Leadership is always proud of MWR and the hard work they put in all events they hold for the community. But especially this time - from the employees who were

actively participating in these events, to the Marketing, the numerous employees working long hours behind the scenes to make sure every event went off with ease."

Nunn also pointed out the efforts of the local organizations that made the trip to YPG.

"It was great that numerous organizations from Yuma generously stepped up and came out here to share their expertise with the YPG residents. The interactions were valuable on both parts - showcasing what is available in town while letting the Yuma organizations get a glimpse into the lives of the Soldiers and families here on YPG."









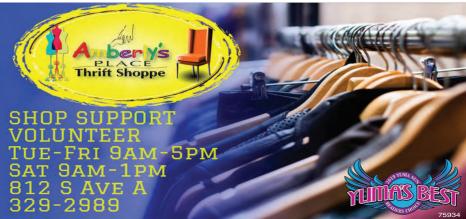


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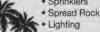
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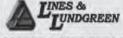


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YPG education center hosts education fair

Putting education first. those from: the University of Arizona, Arizona Western College, Northern Arizona University, **Grand Canyon** University, and American Military University came together July 20 to answer questions and help those living on the installation that want to further their educational (Loaned

photos)







YPG students gear up for class!



ing Ground active-duty children and teens living on base got geared up for school July 20 thanks to Army Community Service's annual Back2School Backpack and School Supply. (Loaned Photos)







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