

# The Outpost

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

VOLUME 71 NO. 20 OCTOBER 10, 2022

## New blast shield at CRTC designed for punishing cold

By Mark Schauer

Safety is always paramount at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground and all three of its constituent natural environment test centers.

Test infrastructure needed by the proving ground to conduct its inherently dangerous mission isn't always commercially available and may not even be interchangeable between the three test centers.

U.S. Army Cold Regions Test Center (CRTC) is the Army's center for testing systems in extreme cold, and the active support of the facility's small Allied Trade shop is crucial to carrying out this important mission in all seasons of the year.

Recently, the shop completed production of several scaled-down armored blast shields similar to what is used at Yuma Test Center, but with added improvements designed with safe operations in subzero temperatures in mind.

The blast shields are used to protect instrumentation and equipment during tests of artillery and other weapons.

"We had a blast shield that Yuma cut and sent up here that was assembled by CRTC folks," said Sam Porter, the shop's lead. "It was designed specifically for some of Yuma's requirements, and it did not translate to some of ours. It was only usable in one configuration, and was extremely

heavy."

The weight made transporting the shield difficult during the coldest times of the year that test officers covet for operations.

"Metal when it is extremely cold moves very fast," said Porter. "Combined with slick ice at 20 or 30 degrees below zero and you can envision concerns of it sliding off of the transport when you are driving into a rough test site."

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U.S. Army Cold Regions Test Center (CRTC) is the Army's center for testing systems in extreme cold. CRTC's small Allied Trade shop is crucial to carrying out this important mission and recently completed production of several scaled-down armored blast shields with added improvements designed with safe operations in subzero temperatures in mind. (Photo by Sebastian Saarloos)



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# YPG honors the Bushmasters



On the morning of Sept. 24, Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) personnel were out in force at Yuma's Desert Lawn Cemetery supporting the annual memorial ceremony honoring the Bushmasters, Soldiers of the 158th Regimental Combat Team. They earned international acclaim for their tenacity in jungle combat in the Pacific Theater of World War II. Soldiers from YPG's Airborne Test Force served as lead color guard, and YPG Commander Col. Patrick McFall, wife Heidi, and YPG Command Sgt. Maj. Herbert Gill participated in the customary Company L honorary roll call. (Photos by Mark Schauer)

## The Outpost

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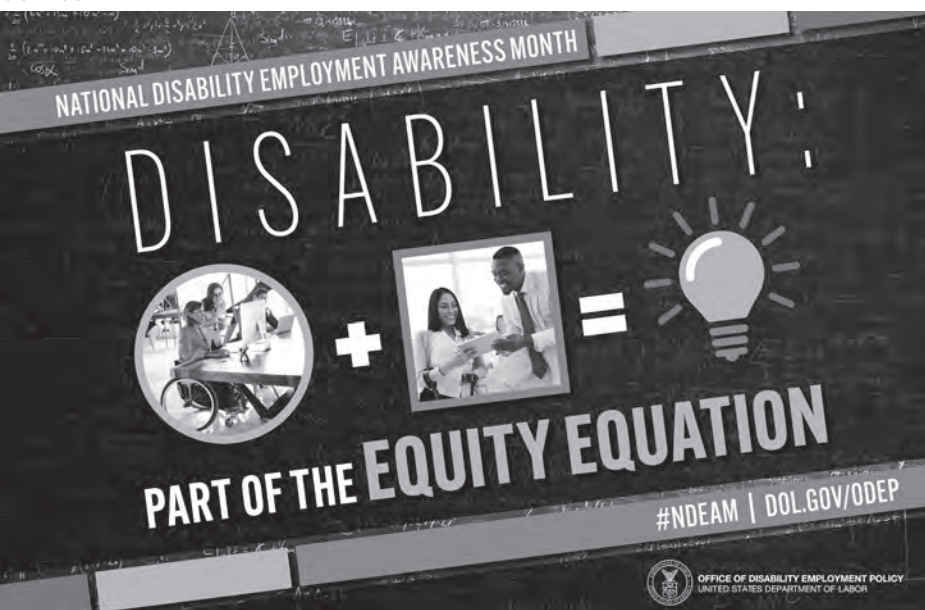




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## National Disability Employment Awareness Month

### Submitted by the YPG Equal Employment Opportunity Office

National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) and is a time to recognize the contributions of workers with disabilities, educate ourselves, and confront stereotypes. NDEAM discussions

began in 1945 under President Truman and were triggered by World War II veterans returning home with disabilities. A disability is any condition that makes it more difficult for a person to do certain activities or effectively interact with the world around them. A disability can be cognitive, developmental, intellectual, mental, physical, sensory, or a combination.

Today, the Department of Defense (DOD) is committed to providing every person with an opportunity for a meaningful career. The DoD uses a special authority to hire eligible

individuals with disabilities non-competitively for Federal positions. In addition, Federal agencies may provide reasonable accommodations to qualified employees with disabilities to allow successful performance of job duties. The DoD also partners with the Workforce Recruitment Program to connect with students and recent graduates with disabilities.

Have questions about workplace accommodations? Contact the local Yuma Proving Ground Equal Employment Opportunity Office at [usarmy.ypg.atec.list.eeo@army.mil](mailto:usarmy.ypg.atec.list.eeo@army.mil). Carolyn Lauzon, Disability Manager, can be reached at (928)328-2736 or (928)503-7967. For general information concerning accommodations and employment opportunities, check out the Job Accommodation Network at <https://askjan.org/>.

## Lock up before you leave

The U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground Police Department would like to give a friendly reminder to all organizations on the installation to please make sure at the end of the workday that all entrances to your building are secured and that all vehicles parked on the building's parking lot are secured as well.

Do not leave your valuables such as wallets, purses, or cell phone in your car, even if the vehicle is locked. If someone sees

items of value in your vehicle, they may try to gain entry, even with a locked vehicle. Placing items of value in a safe secure place inside your workplace or residence may prevent your vehicle from being burglarizing.

Never leave your vehicles unattended or with keys in the vehicle.

The YPG Police Department ask if you see something or someone suspicious, please contact them at (929) 328-2720.



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# Fire Prevention Week: Fire won't wait. Plan your escape

**Submitted by the YPG  
Emergency Services  
Directorate**

The Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Fire Department is teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)—to celebrate the 100th anniversary of

Fire Prevention Week (FPW), This year's FPW campaign, "Fire won't wait. Plan your escape", works to educate everyone about simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe from home fires.

"Today's homes burn faster than ever. You may have as little as two minutes (or even less time) to safely escape a home fire from the time the smoke alarm sounds. Your ability to get out of a home during a fire depends on early warning from smoke alarms and advance planning," said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy



at NFPA.

The Yuma Proving Ground Fire Department encourages all residents to embrace the 2022 Fire Prevention Week theme.

"It's important for everyone to plan and practice a home fire escape. Everyone needs to be prepared in advance, so that they know what to do when the smoke alarm sounds. Given that every home is different, every home fire escape plan will also be different," said Deputy Fire Chief Matthew Kelly. "Have a plan for everyone in the home. Children, older adults, and people with disabilities may need assistance to wake up and get out. Make sure that

someone will help them!"

Yuma Proving Ground Fire Chief Gerald Ball, wants to share these key home fire escape planning tips:

- Make sure your plan meets the needs of all your family members, including those with sensory or physical disabilities.
- Smoke alarms should be installed inside every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of your home. Smoke alarms should be interconnected so when one sounds, they all sound.
- Know at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows open easily.
- Have an outside meeting place a

safe distance from your home where everyone should meet.

• Practice your home fire drill at least twice a year with everyone in the household, including guests. Practice at least once during the day and at night.

The YPG Fire Department is hosting a series of events in support of this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, including a static display Oct. 11, 10:30-1130 at fire station 2 building 608 and Open House from 4 to 5 p.m. On Oct. 13 a static display from 8:30-11:30 at fire station 2 building 608.

To find out more about Fire Prevention Week programs and activities please contact the Fire Department at 928-328-2676. For more general information about Fire Prevention Week and fire prevention in general, visit [fpw.org](http://fpw.org) and [sparky.org](http://sparky.org).

## Watch out for wildlife

**By Daniel Steward**

After another long hot summer, we are all welcoming fall. As our day-length shortens and temperatures drop we will encounter a lot more wildlife on and around Yuma Proving Ground.

Very soon many of us will be commuting to work in the dark, and as we all know, the deer and burros can be a hazard along the highway. Especially in the dark!

As we will start our workday near sunrise, we will also see more coyotes. The pups that were born in spring are nearly grown and are roaming around now. These youngsters still have a lot of lessons to learn. It takes time for them to find out what is dangerous, and that often gets them too close to people. We also don't want to teach them the wrong lessons by giving them a free

meal from our garbage or pet food. If you see a coyote getting a little

too friendly, give it a shout, make noise or anything to scare it away.



As our day-length shortens and temperatures drop we will encounter a lot more wildlife on and around Yuma Proving Ground. This deer was spotted near the library on the Howard Cantonment. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

Remember coyotes are wild animals so always keep your distance and never feed them.

As we are getting a break from the high summer temperatures, so too are the rattlesnakes. We always have an uptick in snake sightings in fall as they can be more active in daylight. As it gets cooler in October and November, we will see less snakes as most will go dormant for winter. It is important to note that snakes don't truly hibernate. They enter a state called "brumation" which is a dormancy period with intermittent activity. So, it is possible for a snake to be out sunning on a warm day in December. The best way to protect yourself living in snake country is to be aware of your surroundings. Also removing clutter around the jobsite or at home will give snakes, and their prey, less places to hide.



# Domestic Violence Awareness Month

## Submitted by Gisela Robles

Domestic violence is gaining more coverage in our society today. We hear about it on most news outlets and social media. The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence reports, more than one in three women and one in four men will experience rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by the hands of their intimate partner.

The question that most people ask is, "What can I do to help out with this epidemic?" The most effective way to help victims of domestic violence is learning to be an active bystander in your community. Bystander intervention is a vital part of the fight against domestic violence. An engaged bystander will be able to help someone by intervening before, during or after the situation. Many people will hesitate to intervene if they do not know the proper way to handle it. Warning signs that a situation may be abusive is if the person you think is an abuser is acting excessively jealous of his/her partner, insulting or embarrassing his/her partner in public or yelling at or trying to intimidate his/her partner.

How to be an effective bystander. Depending on the situation, it may not always be safe to confront the perpetrator. Here are some tips on how to be involved at every stage of a situation. When you witness the altercation, simply pretend to ask for directions, or act as if you know the victim and start a conversation. Confront the perpetrator. You can interfere by respectfully telling the harasser that their actions are not OK. Request assistance from others. The more people who can assist you in stopping the situation, the more likely the violence will end. Call in professionals. If the situation is a threat to your safety or the safety of others, it is best to contact law enforcement to assist. The best way to assist someone after the fact is to give them contact information to a local domestic violence shelter to seek safety and resources.

How can you make a difference? With the staggering statistics of domestic violence, we all may know someone who is affected by it. Most of the time, violent situations remain behind closed doors, but if you pay



close enough attention, you will see that perpetrators will also act aggressively in public. It is important to educate yourself on red flags to look for and spread the word in the community about helping.

Recognize that domestic violence is a real problem in the community.

Recognize the warning signs of violence or the precursors to abuse.

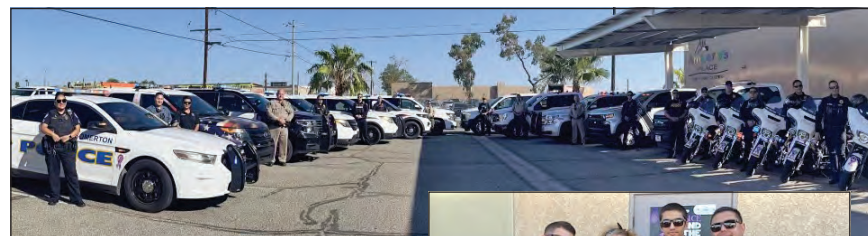
Speak up about bystander intervention and the importance of helping others.

Do not brush off uncomfortable situations; say or do something.

Throughout the month of October

your Family Advocacy Program will be providing ways to safely deliver more information about domestic violence topics and how to connect to protect your YPG family and community. If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence and need immediate victim advocacy assistance, please call your YPG domestic violence hotline at 928-287-3361 or victim advocate 928-328-3350. Your YPG Family Advocacy program has many other resources available to promote healthy relationships, healthy families, and resiliency and can be contacted at 928-328-3224 or visited at Bldg. 309 on the Howard Cantonment.

## YPG Police Department stands against domestic violence



Yuma Proving Ground Police Department Lt. Joe Higuera and Sgt. Salvador Aviles attended the Amberly's Place Domestic Violence Awareness Ceremony Sept. 28. The ceremony was an opportunity for local and surrounding area law enforcement agencies to take a stand against domestic violence and abuse in the community and show victims that they are not alone. They all received purple ribbon magnets to display support. If anyone is a victim of domestic abuse or knows someone who might, contact YPG Police (928) 329-2720, or 911 for emergency. (Loaned photos)



## Cold Regions Commander signs Domestic Abuse Awareness Proclamation



Cold Regions Test Center (CRTC) Commander Lt. Col. Jonathan Brown signs the Domestic Abuse Awareness Proclamation on Sept. 30 in Fort Greely, Alaska. Brown's signature affirms his, and his team's, commitment to eradicate domestic violence at Fort Greely, within CRTC, and within the Army. Brown was joined by Fort Greely Garrison Commander, Lt. Col. Joey Orr, and 49th Missile Defense Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Christopher Stutz. The proclamation will be kept on display throughout October in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. (Photos by Jim Verchio)

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# Price Elementary School: a valuable part of Yuma Proving Ground

By Ana Henderson

As you walk up to James D. Price Elementary School located on U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG), the small elementary school takes you back to simpler times.

The five-classroom school was built in 1954 and looks nothing like the more modern schools within Yuma School District One (YSD1).

Yet, inside those classrooms a handful of educators are teaching the children of Soldiers and civilians in a small classroom setting you don't see anywhere else in the district.

It's the small class sizes that first appealed to Aide Estrada, who was on the brink of quitting her teaching career exhausted with large classroom sizes. Most YSD1 classrooms are made up of about 30 students. At Price, the class sizes are between 15-20 students. Her current kindergarten class has 11 students.

"As a teacher you love it because you have undivided attention for each student. You can ask me anything about my kiddos and I can tell you where they are at academically."

The average enrollment at Price is between 70 and 75 students. The elementary school utilizes combo classes: combining students in first and second, second and third, and fourth and fifth grades. The mixed grades add a layer of difficulty for



Most Yuma School District One classrooms are made up of about 30 students. At Price, the class sizes are between 15-20 students. Aide Estrada's current kindergarten class has 11 students. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

the teachers, yet the small class sizes help.

Price School Principal Jarrod Norris, who is also the Assistant Principal at Desert Mesa Elementary School, explains the challenge.

"A combo class can be extremely challenging but is more manageable with our small class sizes. It allows the teacher to personalize the instruction."

He adds, "They can do one on one instruction, very small group instruction, differentiated learning where students are learning together."

Yet the level of education is not

compromised and is on par with other schools in the district. In fact, three third graders at Price had perfect scores on the state math test, joining 33 other third and fourth graders district wide with that achievement. All of Price's teachers are highly qualified and state certified.

Having a more manageable school population allows Norris the opportunity to engage more.

"I make it a point to go into every classroom every week, even if it's just a few minutes, to see the students at recess, lunch, and greet them before and after school and make myself available to families."

Because Price is uniquely located on the YPG installation, Norris and Price students can also count on the support of YPG leadership. It's not uncommon for YPG's leadership to be present on the first day of school.

Norris shares that YPG leaders helped him through his first school year post-COVID quarantine. They were also instrumental in helping bring school lunches to Price.

Talking about YPG Commander Col. Patrick McFall and Command Sgt. Major Herbert Gill, Norris said, "They helped us think outside of the box of what were the obstacles to bringing meals here and how we

could address them and remove the obstacles, and we did."

Hot school lunches are now provided at Price and were also provided during the pandemic as grab and go, something that was not possible in the past because there is no cafeteria on site. Getting school lunches to the students at Price was a monumental collaboration between YPG leaders, Price's administrative secretary Stacie Oliver, YSD1 Child Nutrition Services, and the Castle Dome Middle School and Desert Mesa Elementary School cafeteria staffs who cook the meals.

In the next few years, not having a cafeteria will be a thing of the past. Price is slated to have a new school built, equipped with an attached library, cafeteria, kitchen, and kitchen staff to prepare meals.

Early this year the school received fiber wire for better internet connectivity, and the Parent Teacher Organization is starting up. There are bright things in store for the students at Price and the YPG community who values its services.

Estrada plans to be around for it all.

"I love my job. This is where I am retiring. I am not going anywhere."



It's not uncommon for Yuma Proving Ground leadership to be present on the first day of school. Seen here is Norris, with the YPG Police Chief Donnie Lucas, the former Garrison Manager and YPG Commander Col. Patrick McFall in August of 2021, post quarantine. (Photo by Ana Henderson)



Price School Principal Jarrod Norris, who is also the Assistant Principal at Desert Mesa (pictured) has led the school for the last three school years. "I make it a point to go into every classroom every week, even if it's just a few minutes, to see the students at recess, lunch and greet them before and after school." (Photo courtesy of AWC)



# BLAST SHIELD

FROM PAGE 1

Multiple shields means that set-up crews can emplace them far in advance of bad weather, or at least minimize the number of moves necessary. The new shields also have spacers at their base to serve as guides for a forklift, eliminating the need for set-up crews to hand place them in position at the test site, another significant increase in safety.

"We're going to retrofit the old blast shields with these to eliminate that person having to be on the ground," said Porter.

The new shields are lighter than their predecessors, but still weigh about 10 tons.

"The shield itself is smaller, but it can be used in side-by-side configuration and laid either on its side or vertical," Porter explained. "To say they are substantially overbuilt is an understatement."

The shield's versatility required additional bracing to make it structurally sound, but the construction

time was shorter than that of their predecessors.

"The welding went much, much faster on these because we have better equipment than we had in the past," said Porter. "We've altered the consumables we have to better match this type of work."



"We're going to retrofit the old blast shields with these to eliminate that person having to be on the ground," said Porter. The new shields are lighter than their predecessors, but still weigh about 10 tons.



"The shield itself is smaller, but it can be used in side-by-side configuration and laid either on its side or vertical," Porter explained. "To say they are substantially overbuilt is an understatement." (Photos by Sebastian Saarloos)

## U.S. ARMY YUMA PROVING GROUND Domestic Violence Awareness Month Calendar of Events

### PAWS Against Domestic Violence Event

Thursday, October 13th

1530-1700

Location: Vet Clinic

### Wear Purple for Domestic Violence Awareness Day

#PurpleThursday

Thursday, October 20th

### Carve Out Domestic Violence

Thursday, October 27th

1600-1700

Location: Post Library

### Domestic Violence Awareness at the Chapel

Sunday, October 30th

1100-1200

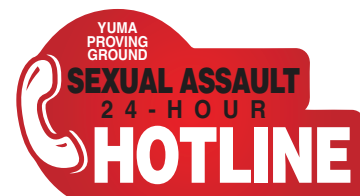
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# YPG employee named among Yuma County's '20 Under 40'

By Mark Schauer

He may be young, but Sean Franklin has decades of experience in responsibility and dedication.

An Eagle Scout and nearly six-year member of the U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) workforce, his achievements are being recognized beyond the borders of the proving ground.

Franklin was recently surprised to learn that he was named by the Yuma Sun newspaper as one of Yuma County's top '20 Under 40' young professionals.

"I got a phone call and email several months back that I had been nominated," he recalled. "I didn't think too much of it with so many other people nominated."

He was nominated by retired YPG employee Mary Lacey, who lauded Franklin's expertise in his former role as an Information Technology Management Specialist in YPG's Ground Combat Systems Test Directorate.

Franklin, the son of YPG pilot Patrick Franklin, grew up in Yuma in a military family. Involved in Scouting since early elementary



Sean Franklin was named by the Yuma Sun newspaper as one of Yuma County's top '20 Under 40' young professionals. He's been involved in Eagle Scout since early elementary school and has performed more than 2,000 hours of community service in Yuma County. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

school, he has performed more than 2,000 hours of community service in Yuma County.

"My dad and his dad were active duty Army, and my mom's dad was active duty in the Marine Corps. I was very interested in finding some way to

contribute back. This is my home."

Franklin long dreamed of working at YPG, and began applying after graduating from the honors college at Arizona State University. It took 38 tries before he landed a federal position, a moment he still considers the best of his professional career.

"I have a very long understanding of the history and what goes on out here, and really wanted to be a part of it someday. If it took 38 tries or 100 tries, I was going to continue trying. I kept persisting and was finally able to get my foot in the door: I definitely thought it was a mission worth pursuing."

Now working in YPG's Technology and Investments Directorate, Franklin plans to stay at YPG for the long haul.

"I love that we're able to help the Soldiers. At the end of the day, that is what the installation's duty is."

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Contact a staff member to find out  
how you can advertise in this spot!

## Chaplain's Corner

### Chapel activities planned for October

**Chaplain's  
Corner**  
Chaplain Capt.  
Ryan Pearse



Good day YPG community,  
For those who haven't met me  
yet, my name is Chaplain Ryan  
Pearse, Garrison Chaplain here  
at YPG.

Please take a close look at  
these two flyers regarding  
chapel ministries, activities,  
and events. The first flyer  
gives the times of our Catholic  
and Contemporary Christian  
services on Sunday morning.  
A priest from Yuma comes to  
YPG every Sunday morning to  
perform the Catholic service  
and I lead the Contemporary  
Christian service.

After the 11 a.m. service, at  
approximately noon, the Chapel  
pays for lunch every week.  
You are invited to stay for this


free lunch and fellowship with  
others in the community. There  
are three ongoing chapel events  
that occur bi-monthly. YPG  
Parents' and Kid's Playgroup  
is the first and third Monday  
of every month; Youth of the  
Chapel is the first and third  
Wednesday of every month;  
and YPG Ladies' Social is the  
second and fourth Wednesday  
of every month. Youth of the  
Chapel is for middle and  
high schoolers, starts after bus  
drop-off and goes until 1900.  
We will serve the kids dinner,  
play games, and conduct an  
age-appropriate Bible lesson.  
Finally, there is a weekly Bible  
study I will be leading that  
corresponds to my sermon on  
Sunday morning. This Bible  
study will be on a rotating basis  
at different locations throughout  
YPG. Bring your own lunch  
and come study the Bible with  
me. On the other flyer shows  
special events we will be

conducting this Fall.

Everyone is invited to come  
to a Spiritual Fitness Luncheon  
on Mon., Oct. 31. at the Chapel.  
There will be free Chick-  
fil-A and you'll get to hear a  
spiritually uplifting message.  
I will be leading a Couples  
Date Night for Soldiers and  
their Spouses on Sat., Nov. 5.  
Childcare will be provided by  
the Chapel. Please RSVP with  
the Chapel staff. For those who  
are around on Thanksgiving  
Day and want to join us for a  
Thanksgiving meal and football  
(play and watch), please come  
to the Chapel at noon. Finally,  
Vacation Bible School will be  
a one-day event on Sat., Dec.  
17. This will be for 5-year-old  
through 5th grade.

Please RSVP with the Chapel  
staff. As always, if you have  
any questions or need anything  
please do not hesitate to stop by  
the chapel or give us a call at  
928-328-3465.

**YPG CHAPEL SPECIAL EVENTS**





**Spiritual Fitness Luncheon:** 31 OCT, 1145-1245, free Chick-fil-A lunch  
(no RSVP required)

**Couples Date Night:** 05NOV  
(RSVP with Chapel Staff)

**Thanksgiving Day Noon Lunch and Football at the Chapel**  
(no RSVP required)

**Vacation Bible School (VBS):** K-6th grade, 17DEC  
(RSVP with Chapel Staff)

 [facebook.com/ypgfreefallchapel](https://facebook.com/ypgfreefallchapel)  YPG Freefall Chapel

**YPG CHAPEL**

**SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES**  
0930 Catholic  
1100 Contemporary Christian  
Childcare available Sunday morning  
Lunch provided after 1100 service



**ONGOING CHAPEL EVENTS**  
(CHAPEL AND VARIOUS LOCATIONS)

**YPG Parent's and Kid's Playgroup:**  
First and third Monday of the month: 0930-1130 (Snacks and drinks provided)

**Youth of the Chapel (6-12th grade):**  
First and third Wednesday of the month: bus drop-off-1900; dinner,  
games, Bible lesson

**YPG Ladies' Social:**  
Second and fourth Wednesday of the month: 1800-2000 (Dinner provided)

**BYOL WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY WITH THE CHAPLAIN**  
Every Monday starting at 1130  
Cactus Café (first Monday)  
ROC Garden Café (second Monday)  
Roadrunner Café (third Monday)  
Desert Breeze Travel Camp Office (fourth Monday)

 [facebook.com/ypgfreefallchapel](https://facebook.com/ypgfreefallchapel)  YPG Freefall Chapel



## Students learn emergency preparedness



The local chapter of the Red Cross visited James D. Price Elementary School to teach students about the importance of being prepared in the case of an emergency. Students in kindergarten through second grade received a booklet called "Prepare with Pedro the Penguin" and students in grades third through fifth were given a pillowcase with toiletries they can grab and go. YPG Installation Emergency Manager with the Directorate of Operations, Robert Barocio, organized the activity to mark National Preparedness Month. (Photos by Ana Henderson)



## Library hosts STEM activity



Arizona Science Center based out of Phoenix made a visit to the post library to conduct table-top science activities for the YPG community. A whopping 60 community members participated in fun and educational hands-on science experiments about a variety of topics such as the weight of the planets, rock formations, and creating their own cactus using pool noodles, tissue paper, and toothpicks. After the event, the science center representative, gave attendees free books and school supplies. (Photos courtesy of library staff)



## Palm Garden Library now a proud ambassador for Welcoming Library



The Yuma Proving Ground Palm Garden Library now a proud ambassador for Welcoming Library. Welcoming Library carries the "I'm Your Neighbor" books, which strives to build a stronger America where people of all ages and ethnicities are welcome. "We feel these books are a great addition to our library and are excited to promote them to our YPG community," remarked Bianca Carpenter, Library Supervisory Library Technician. (Photos courtesy of library staff)

## YPG welcomes its newest employees



Providing the newest employees at Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) with a firehose of useful information and resources was YPG Commander Col. Patrick McFall, Command Sgt. Maj. Herbert Gill, Yuma Test Center Commander Shane Dering, along with other leadership as they welcomed the new employees into the YPG family. (Photos by Brandon Mejia)





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