

The Outpost

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

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YPG hosts cutting edge artillery demonstration



In mid-September, Yuma Proving Ground hosted a demonstration showcasing the use of the United States' most cutting edge 155mm artillery munitions with the South Korean K9A1 Thunder Self-Propelled Howitzer and K10 Ammunition Resupply Vehicle. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

By Mark Schauer

It has become well-known that U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) testing actively supports six of the Army Futures Command's Cross Functional Teams building the Army's future force.

In mid-September, YPG hosted a demonstration showcasing the use of the United States' most cutting edge 155mm artillery munitions with the South Korean K9A1 Thunder Self-Propelled Howitzer and K10 Ammunition Resupply Vehicle.

SEE **ARTILLERY** page 7

Project Convergence Technology Gateway comes to YPG



Project Convergence Technology Gateway was a collaborative experiment between industry partners and the Army, intended to enable collective innovation and identify novel technology capabilities that will help the Army achieve its modernization goals. The inaugural experiment was held at Yuma Proving Ground from mid-September to mid-October. Media was invited to a press conference with Lt. Gen. Thomas Todd and Maj. Gen. Miles Brown and to view the demonstrations Oct. 17. Read more about the experiment in the next Outpost. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

**Airborne
Test Soldiers
promoted**
/Page 2



**Fire
Prevention
Week**
/Page 6



**YPG represents
at G.A.I.N
community event**
/Page 8



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Airborne Test Soldiers promoted

By Ana Henderson

It was a day of celebration for the Airborne Test Force (ATF) Soldiers at Yuma Proving Ground.

Three Soldiers were promoted from Staff Sergeant to Sergeant First Class.

ATF Soldiers Cody LaValla, Cody Shew and Billy Vang lined up proudly to have their rank switched out on their uniform to bear the new rank of Sergeant First Class.

Lavalla's family could not attend, and he asked ATF's Test Parachutist Program Manager Joe Castillo to do the honors. Christie Shew and Ryoko Vang made the switch for their husbands.

They each said a few words about the honor.

"We are a very small MOS, we start to pyramid at the top. So, it was said if you made it to sergeant first class — that's a successful career. To finally have made it feels really good. It's bittersweet I don't have my family to be there to share

it with me. I know my Dad would have been proud. He passed away recently. I want to thank all of you," said LaValla.

Shew said, "I want to thank my family, for always being there throughout the years during all the deployments and TDYs. It's been hard but we made it. I want to thank my leadership for pushing me and having my back when a school slot opened last minute and making sure I got there. I want to thank my guys for having my back."

Vang closed out the speeches saying, "To make it this far in our field is a rarity. Making this rank is a big honor. I would like to thank most importantly my wife. She's been a big inspiration for me and has motivated me to better myself."

Yuma Test Center Commander Lt. Col. Shane Dering presented each Soldier with a coin and ATF Chief David Minnis congratulated the three along with their fellow Soldiers.



Airborne Test Force Soldiers Cody LaValla, Cody Shew and Billy Vang were promoted from Staff Sergeant to Sergeant First Class on the afternoon of Oct. 6. (Photos by Ana Henderson)



Yuma Test Center Commander Lt. Col. Shane Dering and ATF Chief David Minnis congratulated the three along with their fellow Soldiers.

The Outpost

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Antiterrorism Awareness Corner

The resilient YPG ATEC workforce

**ATEC Mission
Antiterrorism
Officer**
Alfonzo Brown



As the Army enters another fiscal year, the antiterrorism (AT) themes and ideas have changed as well. This year AT's first quarter theme is Community Resilience. Here within the Army Test and

Evaluation Command (ATEC) we are one of the largest consumers of energy resources on the installation. With few exceptions most of our testing missions rely on some level of energy/fuel and water sources to accomplish our mission. Uninterrupted access to energy and water is essential for readiness and the Yuma Proving Ground ATEC testing mission to ensure our Warfighters are ready to deploy, fight, and win.

We must practice resilience in how we use energy/fuel and water sources. One of these ways is ensuring we are not leaving doors propped open. This causes two problems. First, it is a violation of Army Regulations, AR 525-13, and AR 190-13, additionally it is an unnecessary waste of an energy source. Turning off lights when not in our office is another way to help with resilience.

The Army Installation Energy and Water Strategic Plan aligns with Army Installations Strategy, establishing resilience, efficiency, and affordability as strategic goals. The strategic objectives of this plan are measurable through 12 metrics that clearly depict the Army's progress in achieving resilient,

efficient, and affordable installation of energy and water infrastructure. Building and measuring resilience improve the Army's capability to prevent and recover from any disruption to energy and water utility services. Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Commander Col. Patrick McFall, along with the ATEC Antiterrorism Officer (ATO) want all YPG ATEC employees to show resilience in how we are using energy and water resources, so we can use monetary allocations on producing the best testing environment in the world.

Contact your YPG ATEC Mission ATO for more information on AT Community Resilience: Alfonzo D. Brown, Alfonzo.d.brown@army.mil or 928-328-6498.

Energy Action Month: Power to win

By Jacob Kuntzelman

October is the Army's Energy Action Month. This year's theme, "Power to Win", reinforces the importance of resilient and secure energy and water at Army installations to enable Warfighters to accomplish their mission.

The Army has overall annual efficiency goals to reduce energy use by 2.5% per year, water use by 3%, and energy costs by 5%. What actions do we all need to take to improve efficiency? There are only four things that we need to do:

Pay attention to thermostat settings. The Army temperature standard for an air-conditioned space is 74.F when occupied and 85.F when unoccupied, such as nights and weekends. For heat, the standard is 68.F when occupied, and 55.F when unoccupied. The number one action to save energy at YPG is to set thermostats to the Army policy.

Turn off the lights and equipment that you are not using. Remember to turn off lights in offices and conference rooms at the end of the

day and when unoccupied. Also remember to shut down equipment if it is not being used.

Buy energy efficient equipment. Department of Defense policy is to purchase only Energy Star rated equipment, when available. If you are purchasing equipment, first check to see if Energy-Star versions are available.

Prevent waste of energy and water. Keep doors and windows to air-conditioned areas closed. Submit a service order to repair any issues that may cause energy or water to be wasted such as failed weather stripping, broken windows, and leaking water fixtures. Service orders may be submitted through armymaintenance.com to have issues corrected.

We can have an impact on larger, Army-wide resilience issues by taking actions every day to reduce energy and water consumption and lower utility costs. Please remain mindful of our energy and water use throughout the year to reduce consumption, and you too can help improve Army resilience.

YPG attends community job fair



Members of the Yuma Proving Ground Workforce Development Directorate and the Yuma Police Department represented the installation at the Yuma Community Job & Education Fair, on Oct. 5. The job fair was open to the public but gave service members transitioning into civilian life, veterans, military spouses, and family members priority admission. (Loaned photo)



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Paws Against Domestic Violence



Yuma Proving Ground's (YPG) Army Community Services partnered with the YPG Veterinary Clinic to host Paws Against Domestic Violence. Several pet related vendors participated in the event along with the local safehouse for victims of domestic violence. A victim's advocate spoke about how an abuser will also abuse a pet and wants victims to know they can bring their pets to the safehouse in Yuma. Pet owners and their pooches enjoyed treats and a tour of the vet clinic. The pooch dressed as a shark won first place in the costume competition. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

Safety Corner

Safety at work means safety at home

By Jaysen Lockett

As we slowly come to the end of the summer, we enter the time when the winter visitors return, which increases vehicle activity, along with winter activities such as off-road riding, fishing, hunting, BBQing, etc.

Safety shouldn't stop at quitting time

There are several reasons why safety training at work should be applied as a standard away from work:

- Paying attention to safety always makes safety a habit and builds a good safety attitude/culture.

- Preventing accidents at home means fewer lost workdays and fewer employees who can't do their work properly because of off-the-job injuries.

- An off-the-job death or serious injury to an employee or family member is a real tragedy that will affect families, co-workers, and your work team.

What are the top five causes of fatal accidents at home?

This is a question you can ask employees to lead off a training session. According to the Home Safety Council, the answer, in order of frequency, is:

- Falls
- Poisoning (ingesting or inhaling toxic substances)
- Fires
- Suffocation (often involving choking on food)
- Drowning

Interesting facts about the importance of safety that some people do not know

- More than 38,000 people died in car crashes each of the last three years

- ✓ Distracted driving kills, on average of the past few years, nine people every day

- ✓ Distracted driving injuries, on average over the past few years, more than 1,000 every day

- More than 250 people died taking selfies while operating a vehicle over the past few years

- 75 % of preventable accidents take place in the home

- Almost 20,000 people head to the emergency room each year due to grill-related injuries

- Approximately one in 25 patients in a health-care facility develops a secondary infection

Make the connection between work safety and home safety

The list of parallels between home hazards and workplace hazards is

almost endless: tripping and falling, hazardous substances, electric shock, fire, power tools, falling and flying objects, eye injuries, back injuries, etc. It is extremely important to take

the same precautions against these hazards at home as they do at work, including reading labels, wearing personal protective equipment, and removing tripping hazards.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month



One of the many outreach activities during Domestic Violence Awareness Month was greeting employees as they entered the installation with information on resources. Army Community Services Director Jamie Amon is seen providing a flyer to an employee. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

Yuma Test Center recognizes Employees of the Fourth Quarter



Glen Pinnell was recognized by Yuma Test Center Commander Lt. Col. Shane Dering during a small ceremony where Pinnell was awarded the Civilian Service Achievement Medal for his contributions. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

Employee of the Fourth Quarter: Mission
 Name: Glen Pinnell
 Years of service: 37 years
 Job title: Test Safety Specialist at Aviation Systems and Electronic Test (ASET) Division
 Recognition: Civilian Service Achievement Medal for playing a

crucial role in overseeing the ASET Division safety process.
 Reaction: "I would like to take credit for doing a bunch of stuff by myself, but I am surrounded by all kinds of people that make this thing happen. Without being surround by all the great people we work with I couldn't get this done. I am really proud of our safety record here at ASET. We do good things."



Jose Guevara with recognized by Yuma Test Center Commander Lt. Col. Shane Dering during a ceremony in front of his teammates where he was awarded the Civilian Service Achievement Medal for his contributions. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

Employee of the Fourth Quarter: Mission Support
 Name: Jose Guevara
 Years of service: 18 years
 Job title: Heavy Equipment Automotive Mechanic
 Recognition: Earned a Civilian Service Achievement Medal for providing efficient, ongoing reliable automotive operations and

maintenance support for the Ground Combat Systems.
 Reaction: "I didn't do this by myself. The contractors and the government employees and my lead Mr. Ben Bendele, and my supervisor Robert Rodriguez. If it wasn't for them and the help of the team, I wouldn't have received the award."

Cold Regions Test Center Employee of the Fourth Quarter



Cold Regions Test Center (CRTC) selected Donald Carroll as the Employee of the Fourth Quarter. To mark the honor, CRTC Commander Lt. Col. Jonathan Brown awarded Carroll with the coveted EOQ Championship belt. Carroll is normally employed by CRTC as a seasonal cook supporting the Cold Weather test mission. This year, Carroll was kept on beyond the normal cold weather test season, working well outside of his job description of cook as a general expeditor, providing much needed relief and support to the Test Operations Division, and CRTC in general. During this time, Carroll willingly took on and accomplished a myriad of tasks in which he performed spectacularly well on all counts. (Photos by Sebastian Saarloos)

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YTC Commander recognizes employee's efforts



Yuma Test Center Commander Lt. Col. Shane Dering awarded Carlos Garcia and Sarah Mitson, both with the Instrumentation Data Division a coin for their work with complex scoring of munitions. The work was extremely tedious, taking days in some cases, to process a single shot. The work performed in scoring will assist in eventually automating this process via future development work. (Photos by Ana Henderson)



Yuma Test Center Commander Lt. Col. Shane Dering awarded Steven Taylor a certificate of appreciation for his involvement in the TRMC Summer Internship Program from June 2022 through August 2022. Taylor served as the technical sponsor and mentor to the TRMC engineering intern and ensured the intern was postured to succeed. The citation stated Taylor's role as a mentor was a critical part of the internship program's success.

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

During Fire Prevention Week, the Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Fire Department made it their mission to spread education on how to escape a fire and familiarizing children with all things fire related to ease any fears.



YPG leadership visited Fire Station 2 to kick off Fire Prevention Week and learned how the fire department planned to reach the community with the safety message. (Photos by Ana Henderson)



Firefighters joined by Sparky the Firedog visited the YPG Child Development Center. The outreach is a way for children to feel comfortable seeing firefighters so that if an emergency happens, they are less frightened. By the looks of those hugs and high-fives most children loved Sparky.



Children enrolled in the Youth Services after school program visited Fire Station 2 and had the chance to try on fire gear, see the inside of the fire truck and train to extinguish a fire.



Price Elementary School students were shown how to handle the firehose, practiced extinguishing a fire, shown a firefighter in full gear, and shown life saving equipment like the jaws of life.

ARTILLERY

FROM PAGE 1

Both platforms are manufactured by Hanwha Defense Corporation (HDC), South Korea's largest defense contractor. Recently, the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Armaments Center (DEVCOM AC) signed a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) with HDC to assess the feasibility, performance and capabilities of carrying and firing the American munitions by the two platforms.

"The purpose of our partnership is to check the compatibility of our munitions with those two vehicles," said Sam Perez, who serves as Principal Investigator for the CRADA. "We've been working on this effort for the last year and a half to ensure we can safely fire the munitions from those two vehicles."

On the demonstration day, about 60 visitors from across the Army and several friendly foreign nations observed the K9A1 undergo loading from the K10 and then embark on multiple realistic fire missions across two adjacent gun positions. The K9A1 demonstrated its ability to shoot and scoot, in which a self-propelled howitzer fires artillery, then immediately departs to a different location to evade possible

counter-fire from an adversary. Weapons operators on board the howitzer also demonstrated the platform's ability to burst fire three rounds within 16 seconds, and fired six rounds within 45 seconds. The K9A1 fired both XM1113 and M795 155 mm rounds, the former of which with rocket assistance. The testers also demonstrated the K10 capability of transferring the U.S. Artillery munitions and Inert Korean Modular Charge System to the K9A1 Thunder.

"These are the things within the scope of work of the CRADA with Hanwha that they wanted to demonstrate in terms of the capabilities," said Anthony Sebasto, Acting Director of Combat Capabilities Development Command's Armaments Center at Picatinny Arsenal. "While the systems were here, they also wanted to have the opportunity to show the U.S. and other foreign nations the capability of their system."

Preparing for the demonstration took months of test planning and coordination, even prior to a pre-demonstration test in July that involved every scenario the visitors saw in September. Weapons operators from YPG and South Korea both participated.

"We did some safety testing leading up to this demonstration event to collect data to prove out



On the demonstration day, about 60 visitors from across the Army and several friendly foreign nations observed the K9A1 undergo loading from the K10 and then embark on multiple realistic fire missions across two adjacent gun positions. (Photos by Mark Schauer)

the compatibility and safety for the crew since they are doing on-board operations," said Jered Ford, Artillery and Mine Branch Chief. "It's not easy to work on the technical test side with the planning and preparations involved in that on top of the logistics of many visitors coming together at a gun position."

"There were several tests that we had to do just to ensure the safety of the South Korean crew that did the man-firing," added Jonathan Bazua, the YPG test officer who ran the event. "There was a lot of pre-demo work that had to be done to accomplish the actual demonstration safely. You've got to get a lot of small details right to make everything work."

Following the demonstration, the DEVCOM personnel gave high marks to the support they received from YPG.

"We received great support from YPG personnel in the planning of this demonstration," said Perez. "We

really appreciate the capabilities of YPG in all different kind of munitions testing. YPG is the prime testing ground for us for indirect fire munitions."

"What's really important is that Yuma Proving Ground and all of the test sites under ATEC have procedures for safety so that we could ensure we had a safe demonstration for the test crews and all those involved," added Sebasto. "They've been very timely to allow this to come off on schedule."

The K9A1 is used by nine other nations in addition to South Korea, and more may acquire the platform in the future.

"There will be opportunities for countries that are acquiring the K9A1 to see that the U.S. munitions are compatible with the system," said Perez. "This is just the beginning of our collaborative efforts. There is the potential for more demonstrations like this in the future at Yuma Proving Ground."



The K9A1 demonstrated its ability to shoot and scoot, in which a self-propelled howitzer fires artillery, then immediately departs to a different location to evade possible counter-fire from an adversary. Weapons operators on board the howitzer also demonstrated the platform's ability to burst fire three rounds within 15 seconds and sustain two to three rounds per minute.

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YPG represents at G.A.I.N community event

More than 1,500 people passed through Yuma Proving Ground's (YPG) display at the annual Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods event at Yuma Palms Mall on the evening of Oct. 8 meeting Soldiers from YPG's Airborne Test Force and police officers from the YPG Police Department. They also had a unique opportunity to get up close and personal with a Hawkeye, a HMMWV with an integrated 105 mm cannon. (Photos by Mark Schauer and Ana Henderson)



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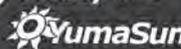
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In James Surowiecki's best-selling book "The Wisdom of the Crowd," the author argues that the collective is better than the individual.

Imagine that a large number of observers are shown a glass jar containing pennies and are challenged to estimate the number of pennies in each jar. Some individuals greatly overestimate the true number, others underestimate it, but when many judgments are averaged, the average tends to be quite accurate. All individuals look at the same jar, and all their judgments are independent of the errors made by others, and (in the absence of a systematic bias) they tend to average to

zero. However, the magic error reduction works well only when the observations are independent and their errors uncorrelated. If the observers share a bias, the aggregation of judgements will not reduce it. Allowing the observers to influence each other effectively reduces the size of the sample, and with it the precision of the group estimate.

The counterargument to the wisdom of the crowd is what's known as groupthink. One nuanced definition of groupthink is, "Members of any cohesive group tend to maintain esprit de corps by unconsciously developing a number of shared illusions and related norms that interfere with critical thinking and reality."

Is a cohesive group a good thing? Is esprit de corps good? As a rule of thumb, yes. However, as it relates to the dangers of groupthink, groups that always go with the

flow, never question anything, and try hard to please others in the group can be a bad thing. Groups that get along too well don't question assumptions or confront uncomfortable facts, and thus stunt growth. Research has shown that when teams work together, devoid of the dangers of groupthink, their problem-solving increases by 25%.

Teams can cause terrible mistakes due to groupthink. They can also sharpen judgment and accomplish together what cannot be done alone. Teams require leaders, whether at the team, squad, platoon, company, etc. level. Leaders need to guard against groupthink, take the unbiased wisdom of the crowd, and make informed decisions to be the most effective we can be. Proverbs 11:14 says, "Where there is no counsel, the people fail: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety and wisdom."

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)

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Salsa competition gets spicy



In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month which runs from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15th, the Yuma Proving Ground Equal Employment Opportunity Office along with personnel from the Plans and Operations Division, Resource Management, Range Operations & Training Division, and the Technology & Investments Directorate all chipped in to host a salsa competition. The competition was fierce with 20 entries. The salsa ranged from green to red, chunky to juicy, spicy to salty. In the end there could only be three winners. Lynn Long with salsa number five came in first, Savanna Silva with salsa number 10 came in second, and Melissa Rossi-Schultz with salsa number three came in third. (Photos by Ana Henderson)



Kick, punt, pass



Children enrolled in the Yuma Proving Ground Youth Services, punted, kicked, dashed, and jumped as part of the Kick, Punt, Pass national skills competition. This competition is the first step. The top finisher of each local group then will qualify for the sectional competition. From there, they can advance to the team championship. The five events this year were pass, punt, kick, 40-yard dash and broad jump. (Photos courtesy of CYS)

The 1st/2nd/3rd place overall were as follows:



Age - Girls
6/7 - Eva N. / Haley M.
8/9 - Tatum M.
10/11 - Karrington C.
12/13 - Zoey C.

Age - Boys
6/7 - Brody N. / William D.
/ Alexander P.
8/9 - Ryan E. / Nathenn M.
/ Arihaan S.
10/11 - Jorge N. /
Jeremiah C.
14/15 - Noah C.



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