

The Outpost

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

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Yuma Proving Ground hosts Project Convergence 22 Technology Gateway

By Mark Schauer

U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) was the epicenter of the Army's future force in Project Convergence 20 and 21, and continues to support the Army Futures Command's campaign of learning this year.

The first Project Convergence Technology Gateway was held here by the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command (DEVCOM) over the course of five weeks in September and October.

"Tech Gateway is a portal for non-traditional partners and any novel innovations they have for Army needs," said Rick Deoliveira, Technology Gateway chief of operation. "We saw about 260



Among the remarkable firsts achieved at Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) during Project Convergence 21 was the autonomous flight of a legacy UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter, albeit with a human pilot aboard as a precaution. This year during Project Convergence Technology Gateway, a fully autonomous UH-60 dubbed Alias engaged in complex simulated missions across YPG's vast ranges without a safety pilot onboard, utilizing low level maneuvers that traditional pilots use in combat areas. (U.S. Army photo)

different industry solutions that were technically reviewed by our DEVCOM engineers. The industry partners here are the cream of the crop."

"Gateway is the first of the activities of Project Convergence 22," added Maj. Gen. Miles Brown, DEVCOM commanding general. "It's not just a gateway to Project Convergence, it's a gateway into Army experimentation on the systems and technical side. It gives us the opportunity to have a collaboration with industry in an austere environment that is instrumented and staffed with test officers that are certified to provide good analysis."

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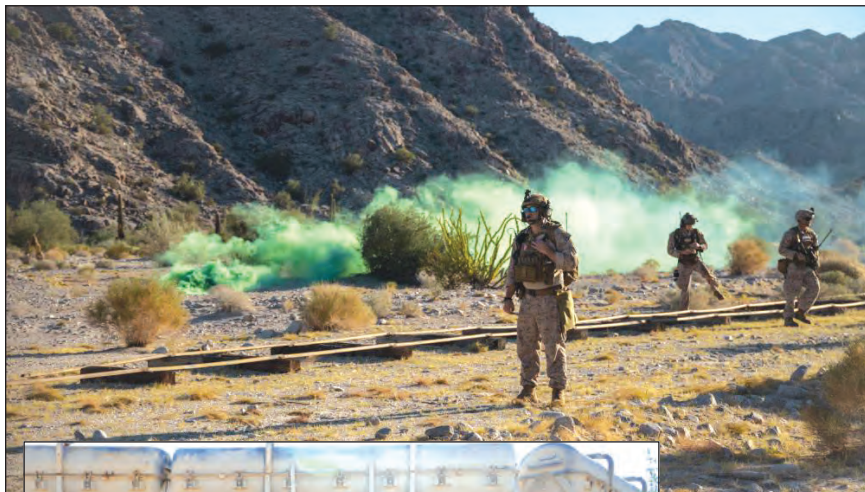
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Marines undergo weapons and tactical training at YPG



U.S. Marines assigned to Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One wait for extraction after a successful mission during Assault Support Tactics 1 as part of Weapons and Tactics Instructor course better known as WTI at Yuma Proving Ground's Combat Village on Oct. 17. (Photo by Lance Cpl. Dean Gurule)

Airborne Test Soldiers march for international medal



Soldiers from Yuma Proving Ground's (YPG) Airborne Test Force completed a 20-kilometer (12.4-mile) march around YPG to earn the International March de Diekirch medal, a foreign medal from the country of Luxembourg. The International March de Diekirch event is traditionally held in person in northern Luxembourg in the rolling terrain of the Ardennes Forest. Due to Covid, the country's defense ministry opted to organize a remote event for those that wished to participate. The medal commemorates a 14th century king of Luxembourg, John of Luxembourg, King of Bohemia, and is awarded to the participants who complete the 20-kilometer march. (Loaned photos)



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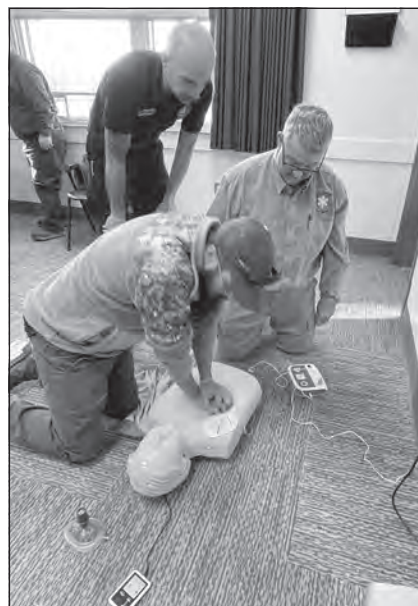


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CRTC staff learn life saving techniques



Cold Regions Test Center (CRTC) conducted its annual Safety and Medical Preparedness training in preparation for its test season. It is also when the arctic Alaskan weather is at its worst – which requires CRTC to be at its best when testing in the Arctic natural environment. Ryan Campbell of the Ft. Greely Fire Department provided classroom and hands-on instruction on first aid basics, medical emergencies, adult CPR and AED use and more. (Photos courtesy of CRTC)

YPG supports community expo




The Yuma Proving Ground booth at the annual Yuma Community Expo at the Yuma Civic Center was a hit with well over 1,500 visitors who had the chance to learn about the proving ground's position at the forefront of Army modernization efforts. (Photos by Ana Henderson and Mark Schauer)

Keep an eye out for housing survey


Greetings to all on-post military families,

It's that time again, we within YPG Housing are asking you all to keep an eye out for an email announcing the upcoming Tenant Satisfaction Survey OMB # 0704-0553. We greatly appreciate everyone taking the time to go through, fill out the survey and state your opinions. Responses are taken with the utmost importance (positive or negative). It is a great tool to help understand where Housing stands in relation to the satisfaction of our residents. In 2022, YPG Housing - Michael's Military Housing placed second in the nation. It is always great to hear how amazing the maintenance staff is performing day-in and day-out but also the importance of dissatisfaction, remember we can't fix what we are not aware of. So once again, please fill out your survey and help us better understand your overall experience in YPG Housing.

Thank you all, YPG Housing



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Price Elementary School marks Red Ribbon Week



In observance of Red Ribbon Week, Yuma Proving Ground's (YPG) Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) organized a ceremony at PFC James D. Price Elementary School on Oct. 24. The students gathered in the front of the school by the flagpole and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Fifth grade students then read the history of Red Ribbon Week, which started in 1985 and expanded nationally in 1988. YPG Commander Col. Patrick McFall took a knee so he could talk to the children and express appreciation for their hard work. The ASAP program had several activities throughout the week at Price School to encourage kids to stay away from illegal drugs. (Photos by Maiko Black)

Child Development Center costume parade



Children from the Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Child Development Center (CDC) and PFC James D. Price Elementary School paraded around YPG during the annual costume parade hosted by the CDC Oct. 27. The YPG community, including Commander Col. Patrick McFall and his wife Heidi, the Fire Department, Police Department, Military Freefall School, and many other entities handed out candy to the older children while the little ones' teachers collected theirs to provide to their parents. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

Annual Fall Festival



Child and Youth Services hosted the Annual Fall Festival on the evening of Oct. 21. The Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) community was invited out to play games and win prizes, bounce in the bounce houses, enjoy shaved ice and popcorn, enjoy a hayride, win cakes in the cake walk and participate in a costume contest hosted by the IHG hotel. The YPG Fire Department, Army Community Services, Chapel, and Police all volunteered their time to make the event a success. More than 200 residents were in attendance. (Loaned photos)



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Domestic Violence Awareness

Thought out the month of October Yuma Proving Ground's Army Community Services program representatives hosted and participated in a variety of activities to promote awareness about domestic violence.

Wear purple to support victims



To show their support for victims of domestic violence members of the YPG workforce wore purple on Oct. 20. (Photos by Ana Henderson and YPG staff)



YPG supports domestic violence vigil



Army Community Services program representatives hosted an informational booth at the Domestic Violence Vigil held at the Yuma Main Library Oct. 20. (Loaned photos)



Cold Regions provides domestic violence awareness



Cold Regions Test Center (CRTC) personnel fully embraced the Army's Domestic Violence Awareness month. On Oct. 19 CRTC's support was on full display as the organization wore purple to work, as well as brought their pets to work in support of the PAWS Against Domestic Violence initiative. The team also heard information about the Army Community Service program and resources. (Photos courtesy of CRTC)



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Civilian Service Achievement Medal recipients



Yuma Test Center (YTC) Commander Lt. Col. Shane Dering presented Nathan Zufelt with a Civilian Service Achievement Medal for his extraordinary performance in support of a test program for the Electronic Warfare Branch. Zufelt successfully led in planning, coordination, and execution of the test event. His work ethic professionalism and commitment reflect great credit upon himself and YTC. (Photo by Ana Henderson)



Yuma Test Center Commander Lt. Col. Shane Dering presented Kari LaRose with a Civilian Service Achievement Medal for her exceptional service as the Air Combat Systems Directorate Administrative Assistant between 2018 and 2022. Her ability to lead and ensure efficiency of operations are a few of the qualities that ensured constant success of the Directorate. LaRose also provided support to the Yuma Test Command Group for three months until a new admin was hired. (Loaned photo)

Civilians recognized for length of service



5 years
Reginald Boler and Garry Rosene



10 years
Andrew Cabral, Sylvia Duran, Durred Francher, Timothy Quintero, Michael Scarboro, Mark Schauer, Susan Simpler



15 years
Iris Espinoza, Ilene Evangelista, Patrick Flynn, Derek Hairston, Sandie Hipp, Sharon Holmes, Stefanie Jacobs, Paula Rickleff



20 Years
Pierre Bourque



25 Years
William Hamilton and Jeff Tatar



30 years
Sylvia Hughes and Susan Lantzy



35 years
Murle Long, Minerva Peters, James Stickney, Martha Wright



40 years
Eva Burgess
(Photos by Gene Garcia)

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GATEWAY

FROM PAGE 1

Project Convergence 22 is interested primarily in utilizing the successful experiments of Project Convergence 20 and 21 in an operational environment with international partners. YPG's infrastructure is intended to support developmental testing of equipment: thus, perfectly suited for Technology Gateway's ambitions while the Army's National Training Center at Fort Irwin and the Marine Corps' Camp Pendleton host the operational aspects of this year's campaign of learning.

"There were many places we could have gone to, but at the end of the day Yuma had the capability and experience we needed," said Deoliveira. "Yuma carried out Project Convergence 21 last year, and we really felt that they had the facilities and personnel to make a difference for us here."

YPG's vast size includes nearly 2,000 square miles of restricted airspace. The proving ground's clear, stable air and extremely dry climate combined with an ability to control a large swath of the radio frequency spectrum makes it a desired location for the type of testing Tech Gateway was interested in: counter-unmanned aircraft solutions, extending network access, and flying autonomous and semi-autonomous aircraft. YPG's vast institutional UAS and counter-UAS testing knowledge and the presence of a wealth of other infrastructure meant for other sectors of YPG's broad test mission were utilized to support the aviation evaluations: YPG is home to things like technical and tactical targets, as well as generator and combined maintenance shops.

"This is early technologies we would like to bring out of the lab and get it into the dirt to see how it works," said Lt. Gen. Thomas Todd, Chief Innovation Officer of Army Futures Command. "The beauty of that is we really iterate in the prototyping stage and demonstration stage at the same time we are writing



LEFT: "To be able to autonomously launch an aircraft in all weather in a contested, hot threat environment and deliver key, critical supplies to our Soldiers in need is huge for us," said Lt. Gen. Thomas Todd, Chief Innovation Officer of Army Futures Command of the UH-60 dubbed Alias. "We don't want weather or the enemy to be an impediment for us from achieving that in the future." BELOW: Yuma leaders were invited to tour the Project Convergence Technology Gateway demonstration hanger and were briefed on the various capabilities. (U.S. Army photos)

what could be a future requirements document."

Facilitating the ambitious demonstrations and experiments took months of planning.

"We worked with our DEVCOM partners diligently on a day-to-day basis to make sure that we're capturing all requirements for the industry participants," said David Bates, Cross Functional Integrator for YPG's Air Combat Systems Directorate. "Every day our personnel at YTC set up a ready operational environment for DEVCOM and industry to execute their missions."

Among the remarkable firsts achieved at YPG during Project Convergence 21 was the autonomous flight of a legacy UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter, albeit with a human pilot aboard as a precaution. This year, a fully autonomous UH-60 dubbed Alias engaged in complex simulated missions across YPG's vast ranges without a safety pilot onboard, utilizing low level maneuvers that traditional pilots use in combat areas.

"The last time an autonomous vehicle similar to this flew at several thousand feet high because the safety aspect was not as mature as this," said Scott Crane, systems engineering and technical assessment contractor with the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. "We wanted to show that we could do the same survivability that real pilots do."

In one scenario, the aircraft carried a sling load of a heavy bundle to one location prior to being loaded with supplies needed at a different location miles away. While en route, the autonomous Blackhawk's destination came under notional enemy attack that prevented a safe landing.



"They re-tasked it with just one little click to go further out and wait until the area was clear," said Crane.

Finally landing, the scenario further imagined that a critically-wounded Soldier from the recent attack had to be evacuated to a hospital immediately, and no other aircraft were available. The testers re-tasked the autonomous Blackhawk to fly a realistic casualty mannequin to a simulated field hospital.

"To be able to autonomously

launch an aircraft in all weather in a contested, hot threat environment and deliver key, critical supplies to our Soldiers in need is huge for us," said Todd. "We don't want weather or the enemy to be an impediment for us from achieving that in the future."

The size of the payloads and complexity of the missions were both unprecedented for a fully autonomous UH-60.

"YPG has the facilities, restricted airspace, and test officers that we require to do this safely, because it has never been done before," said Crane.

Whether facilitating complex autonomous flight or kinetic defeats of unmanned aircraft, YPG personnel ensured safe and seamless operations for all participants.

"The vast experience that YPG personnel possess has been the key to the success of this exercise as it's happening," said Bates. "YPG's support of Project Convergence is leveraging the knowledge we have attained over the years working both with industry and the government to make sure we are meeting the requirements set out for us and facilitating industry testing here. YPG from the bottom up has been outstanding in facilitating this effort."

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Youth Services offers P.E. for homeschoolers

By Ana Henderson

Being a homeschooler doesn't mean students are stuck at home all day. They have many unique learning opportunities and one more can be added to that list.

Yuma Proving Ground's (YPG) Youth Services Sports Program is offering these students an opportunity to get outdoors and enjoy group sports.

Sports Specialist Dylan Black recently came to YPG from another installation in Alaska and brought a program he saw success with there to YPG. In October Black started a physical education program exclusively for homeschooled students. Each month a new sport will be taught, and students meet once a week.

"I knew there was a big homeschool community on base, so I just wanted to get them out."

While the program is not accredited it still benefits the



In October Youth Services Sports Specialist Dylan Black started a physical education program exclusively for homeschooled students. Each month a new sport will be taught, and students meet once a week. (Photos by Gene Garcia)



children.

"It's a good opportunity for them to get out meet other kids that are homeschooled and to play some sports."

During October, Youth Services offered soccer and six homeschool

kids participated from about three different families.

The children were excited to be a part of the program and Black enjoyed teaching them.

"It was a great opportunity to teach them the fundamentals."

As long as children keep participating Black hopes to continue offering the opportunity. In November archery is being offered. If you would like your homeschooled child to participate, contact Parent Central Services at 928-328-3130.

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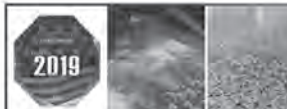
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On May 31, 1889, heavy rains led to the collapse of the South Fork Dam on Lake Conemaugh in Cambria County, Pa. The lake was 14 miles and 400 feet above the stream that passed through the City of Johnstown. Though collapse doesn't quite describe what happened. Eyewitnesses reported that the dam did not break, it simply moved away. The lake covered about 450 acres, and when it broke apart the dam released 20 million tons of water, about the amount that flows over Niagara Falls in 36 minutes. The wall of water at times reached over 80 feet as it rolled along the steep hills above the Little Conemaugh River, engulfing everything in its path.

When it slammed into Johnstown, this moving, mountainous mass of fury was over 40-feet high, a slurry of hundreds of houses, thousands of trees, livestock, and human remains, cascading into Johnstown at 40-miles an hour.

Four square miles of Johnstown were destroyed. A fire started in the debris that piled up against a railroad trestle, killing some of the people who had ridden out the terrible rush of water. The death toll from the waters, fires, and debris was 2,209 people killed, including 99 entire families and 396 children. 170,000-pound locomotives were swept off their tracks. Mile after mile of railroad track simply disappeared. The bodies of 750 victims of the disaster, some found as far away as Cincinnati, could never be identified.

In the aftermath of the collapse of the South Fork Dam on Lake Conemaugh, many were blamed, but many lawsuits and years later, no one was held responsible. Cyrus Elder survived the flood, but his wife and daughter were drowned when the deluge swept their beautiful home into the river. Though deeply grieving the loss of his wife and child, Cyrus Elder did not blame the club, or the mayor, or anyone in particular. Elder took a different and wiser view of the disaster. Acknowledging that the citizens of the town had long known

and been concerned about the dam, Elder said, "Therefore, if anybody be to blame, I suppose we ourselves are among them, for we indeed ourselves have been very careless in this most important matter and most of us have paid the penalty of our neglect."

When the narrative you are trying to bring about in your life doesn't go according to plan and is disrupted, the natural instinct is to blame others. This course of passivity obscures your ability to recognize your own neglect and your failures to act. Passive people turn away from their own responsibility, blame, and flee. Passivity breeds irresponsibility and blaming others is a symptom of that condition. Rejecting passivity and accepting responsibility are the antithesis of passivity and blame. The adversities we encounter, the difficulties we face, the dangers we see, are first and foremost our own responsibility to acknowledge, embrace, and, where possible, resolve. Remember Romans 2:1 warns us, "For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things."

YPG Chaplain leads Spiritual Fitness luncheon

Yuma Proving Ground Chaplain Capt. Ryan Pearse (right) led a spiritual fitness luncheon for interested members of the workforce at the Post Chapel on Oct. 31. Sharing a lunch of Chik-fil-A chicken sandwiches, Pearse spoke on the importance of spiritual fitness as part of holistic health. "Life is a marathon, not a sprint," he said. "You can be physically fit, but what about the other spokes in the wheel?" (Photo by Mark Schauer)



Library hosts fun and informative Halloween activities



ABOVE: The Yuma Proving Ground Family Advocacy Program in partnership with the Post Library hosted the Carve Out Domestic Violence event Oct. 27. YPG community members were able to carve a pumpkin and learn about domestic violence resources.

LEFT: The Post Library hosted a Halloween embroidery class with the help of volunteer teacher, Simone Duval. A handful of patrons were taught beginner friendly embroidery with different techniques to start stitches when doing embroidery and how to fill in when necessary. (Loaned photos)

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