

The Outpost

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

VOLUME 72 NO. 2 JANUARY 16, 2023

YPG hosts ERCA Soldier touchpoint to get feedback

By Mark Schauer

U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) is at the forefront of Army modernization efforts.

Perhaps the highest profile test projects at YPG in recent years supports the Army's top modernization priority: long range precision fires.

The Army aspires to dramatically increase the range of smart munitions over the 30 kilometers a currently fielded 155mm howitzer shell is capable of when fired at top zone with rocket assistance. YPG testing has already achieved significantly increased distances in test fires conducted at both the proving ground and the nearby Barry M. Goldwater Range.



U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground has conducted extensive developmental testing of prototypes of the XM 1299 self-propelled howitzer, and recently hosted the third Soldier Touchpoint of the system held at the proving ground. This event marked the first time that Soldiers have been able to drive the vehicle in realistic conditions in the natural environment. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

The effort is called Extended Range Cannon Artillery (ERCA), and YPG conducts developmental testing of multiple facets of it, from the artillery shells to the longer cannon tube and larger firing chamber the improved howitzer will need to accommodate them. YPG's ammunition plant has been instrumental in building multiple experimental formulations, shapes, and configurations for new propelling charges to accommodate the improved projectiles.

"It's not a baby step, it is a big leap," said Steve Flores, Long Range Precision Fires Cross Functional Team Integrator. "It's a soup-to-nuts redesign of the artillery system: a

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Housing at YPG tops the list of excellent customer service / Page 4



Air Combat Integrator served in uniform prior to career at YPG / Page 6



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“Integration and Interference Flight Testing”

Presented in Session 1

3:50pm “Integration and Interference Flight Testing”
 Michael Diehl, Tab Wilcox & Jacob Lopez,
 U.S. Army, Yuma Proving Ground



**Team from YPG earn recognition
for technical paper**

Congratulations to three members of the U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground Air Combat Systems Directorate; Michael Diehl, Tab Wilcox and Jacob Lopez. The three teamed up for a ground and airborne test, to detect and document telemetry interferences. The three then detailed the results in a technical

document and presented the document titled “Integration and Interference Flight Testing” during the International Test Conference 2022 in Anaheim, Calif. The session focused on radio frequency spectrum and the technical document earned them the Myron Hiram Nichols Telemetry Spectrum Award.

YPG Commander leads Pledge of Allegiance during City of Yuma inauguration

The City of Yuma welcomed the newest members of the Yuma City Council on Jan. 6, during an inauguration at The Historic Yuma Theater. Yuma Proving Ground Commander Col. Patrick McFall was invited to lead the Pledge of Allegiance for the special ceremony. (Photo courtesy City of Yuma)





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Martin Luther King Jr. Day: National Day of Service

Submitted by YPG's Equal Employment Opportunity Office

The Martin Luther King (MLK), Jr. holiday is an official day of service and celebrates the civil rights leader's legacy.

Jan. 16, 2023, the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday will mark the 28th anniversary of the National Day of Service. This day was established to honor the life and legacy of King, and to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities.

Americans celebrated the first official MLK Day, which is the only federal holiday commemorating an African American, on Mon., Jan. 20, 1986. In 1994, Congress designated the holiday as a National Day of Service and marking the third Monday in January every year as the MLK, Jr. Day of Service - a "day on, not a day off."

King advocated for nonviolent resistance to overcome injustice as a means of lifting racial oppression. He created change with organized sit-ins, marches, and peaceful demonstrations that highlighted issues of inequality. King received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964; he was the youngest person to ever receive this high honor.



He followed in the footsteps of his grandfather and father by entering the ministry to become a Baptist minister. On April 4, 1968, at the age of 39, he was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee as he stood on the balcony of his hotel. King traveled to Memphis, to lead a march in support of striking sanitation workers.

United We Serve

The MLK National Day of Service is a defining moment each year when Americans across the country step up to make communities more equitable and take action to create the "beloved community" of King's dream. While King believed the

"beloved community" was possible, he acknowledged and fought for systemic change. His example is our call to action.

During the last quarter-century, the MLK Day of Service has grown, and its impact increased as more Americans embraced the idea that citizenship involves taking an active role in improving communities.

Jan. 16, and the days surrounding, AmeriCorps invites you to:

- (a) engage with your community and create constructive action.
- (b) act on Dr. King's legacy of social justice and equity; and
- (c) recommit by volunteering to

serve others. You can clean up a public space, mentor a young person, or help those who are food insecure.

Use the AmeriCorps Volunteer Search <https://americorps.gov/newsroom/events/mlk-day> powered by VolunteerMatch, to find an opportunity near you through one of these organizations: AmeriCorps, Idealist, California Volunteers, Catholic Volunteer Network, JustServe, MENTOR, Volunteer.gov (National Park Service), and VolunteerMatch.

Honor King's memory by organizing, volunteering, and spreading the word. Remember to, "make it a day on, not a day off", for you and those around you.

Disclaimer: This information is provided to help the YPG community celebrate a federal holiday and support the equal opportunity program. Any mention of a non-federal entity is only for these purposes and is not intended as an endorsement, stated, or implied, of any non-federal entity. Volunteering with any non-federal entity must be on personal time and in your personal capacity. The U.S. Government will not be responsible or liable for your actions as a volunteer for any non-federal entity.

Safety Corner

What is desensitization (complacency)?

in our environment when we become complacent in our daily routines. This puts workers in a dangerous position with a high potential for an accident or injury.

There is another layer to desensitization that has the same dangerous effects as working in auto pilot mode. That layer is focusing on personal issues while performing work duties. Nearly everyone experiences life events and issues that distract them from work. A personal issue is anything from your life outside work that might make it more difficult for you to focus and perform well at work. Employees under stress are prone to

mistakes, reduced productivity, and substantially increases the potential for an accident or injury. Even while dealing with personal issues, we still must follow safety procedures and meet our job duties.

How do we overcome this type of desensitization?

It is broken down into three elements. The first answer is within you. It boils down to communication and managing those personal issues to stay focused when at work. It's also vital to communicate your issues with someone in your organization which would include your lead, supervisor, or human resource point of contact.

When sharing those personal issues with someone you feel comfortable and trust, they can exercise several different measures which include getting you help from your Employee Assistance Program, adjusting your work tasks while you manage your personal issue, or giving you some time off to deal with those issues (provided you have time accrued).

The second element is for the leaders to develop and maintain a culture where employees feel comfortable sharing their personal issues with someone in their organization. When

Housing at YPG tops the list of excellent customer service: 2023 plans include park updates and lawn equipment

By Ana Henderson

Desert Oasis Housing at Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) ranks number two out of 43 installations and 383 housing neighborhoods in the 2021-2022 Tenant Satisfaction and Opinion Survey.

Desert Oasis is private housing run

by The Michael's Organization.

"It just fills us with a sense of pride, and we want to live up to that expectation of lifting lives," said Kristel Steib, community director. "This is how we can do it, making sure our service members are provided for and cared for and making

sure their homes are to par. Then we have the civilian staff that the mission relies on heavily. We just want to make them happy."

The team at YPG has been in the top five for the last five years and number two twice.

The CEL & Associates, Inc. survey of privatized housing on Army installations assess topics such as tenant satisfaction with their home, landscaping, quality of maintenance, and customer service.

Desert Oasis personnel are responsible for leasing and maintaining the housing on the YPG installation along with the landscaping exclusively on housing grounds.

The housing team is made up of 10 employees: five maintenance technicians, two grounds maintenance, one housekeeper, and two office personnel. While they are a small team, its members are all familiar with the residents: most of the staff has been in their position for 10 years or more. Their familiarity with the units and residents helps when responding to calls. Those calls can come at any time.

"They always have an on-call phone explained Richard Trelease, Chief of Housing at YPG, "They are on top of it all the time."

In 2022, the team received nearly 160 air conditioner calls and they replaced 16 units. The maintenance team strives to perform routine maintenance requests within 24-hours, if not the same day.

Trelease is the liaison between the privatized housing and the government. He is responsible for making sure Desert Oasis Housing upholds the Army standards.

The survey provides Housing feedback on how they can improve the lives of their tenants.

Steib gave the example, "Last year comments we had seen said that people drive too fast on Halo and Quick, so we reacted, worked with

DPW [Directorate of Public Works], and we got speed bumps."

The Desert Oasis community can expect new amenities in 2023. A new playground set in Cutter Park is expected in February. Other parks will get updates such as new mulch. The plan is to allot money in the budget to replace the playground equipment in a second park.

A self-help program will start up in the spring, which will allow tenants to sign out lawn equipment to use to maintain their yards.

"We'll have two electric lawn movers, two weedwhackers, two trimmers available," remarked Steib.

They will also be adding a third grounds maintenance employee. Desert Oasis is responsible for the common areas within the housing department. Landscaping of the garrison and test locations on the installation is upkept by Shearwater.

Overall, the Desert Oasis staff and the YPG Housing Department are pleased to see the survey results.

"I attribute it to us being able to work closely," added Trelease. "The maintenance team and Kristel and Christie are amazing."



Desert Oasis Housing at Yuma Proving Ground ranks number two out of 43 installations and 383 housing neighborhoods in the 2021-2022 Tenant Satisfaction and Opinion Survey. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

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The housing team is made up of 10 employees: two grounds maintenance, one housekeeper, two office personnel and five maintenance technicians pictured. (Back, left to right) Matthew Bowie, Zach Zemeites (Front, left to right) Maintenance Supervisor Rickey Johnson, Ruben Pena, Luis Samaniego. (Loaned photo)

YPG welcomes and briefs special visitors

The Army Test and Evaluation Command's Command Sgt. Maj. Bryan Otero and inbound Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Millare recently visited the proving ground. The visitors met with Soldiers from YPG's Airborne Test Force, took an overflight of the vast test ranges, visited numerous test support shops and test facilities, and witnessed a mortar test. They also received comprehensive briefings about the proving ground from YPG Commander Col. Patrick McFall,

Command Sgt. Maj. Herbert Gill, Technical Director Larry Bracamonte, and other senior leaders.

"I was completely impressed with the professionalism, the passion, and the cohesion amongst the teammates here and everywhere I've been traveling around ATEC," said Otero. "It is a unique organization: they all believe in what they do. They know what they do has a purpose, even though they may not see the results of it in the short term."

(Photos by Gene Garcia)



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Continuous service: Air Combat Integrator served in uniform prior to career at YPG

By Mark Schauer

Conducting natural environment testing in the most extreme hot weather conditions requires the concerted efforts of rugged professionals.

U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) boasts many hundreds of such people, and David Bates' deployments to the Middle East while in uniform gave him particular experience in what it takes to succeed here.

Born in Turkey to a Turkish Air Force officer father and an American mother who worked as a Department of Defense contractor and was descended from a prominent military family, Bates grew up in Santa Monica, Calif. and joined the Army in 2006, at the height of the surge in Iraq.

"The Army really changed my life in a lot of different ways. It was definitely the best decision I ever made. I was a good fit, but I also had a lot of growing up to do and I think the Army was what I needed to mold me into that."

After his enlistment, he earned a degree in electrical engineering from California State University—Northridge and sought employment outside of the Los Angeles area. It was then that he first heard of an Army proving ground that needed engineers.

"I never heard of YPG while I was in uniform, but I definitely utilized some of the equipment. A lot of the equipment that has come through here I've seen downrange and have experienced some of the upgrades that came about from YPG testing."

He had other job offers, but YPG was an easy choice.

"I was right back in the desert and serving the Department of the Army. I wanted to be on the helping end of it, helping to improve things. Seeing what the Yuma Proving Ground did for the military and what the mission is here really inspired me."

His work in the Instrumentation Division of the Engineering Support Branch earned high plaudits, and he now works as a Cross Functional Team Integrator in the Air Combat



David Bates grew up in Santa Monica, Calif. and joined the Army in 2006. After his enlistment, he earned a degree in electrical engineering from California State University—Northridge. It was then that he first heard of an Army proving ground that needed engineers.

Systems Directorate. He was Yuma Test Center's lead coordinator in the inaugural Project Convergence 22 Technology Gateway event last autumn.

"It was a humbling experience and definitely a fun experience," he said. "When you look at the large picture of what Project Convergence and specifically Technology Gateway is for the Army, it really is very exciting: you are part of the transformation of the Army."

"He's an individual who isn't afraid of a challenge and will jump right in with both feet to solve any problem

you give him," said Jeff Rogers, Air Combat Systems Directorate director. "Sometimes even when he isn't delegated a responsibility, he'll try to find a solution to a problem. Those are the kinds of people we need."

He enjoys designing electrical circuits and fishing for recreation. He has no plans to leave YPG.

"I could do without the heat, but I certainly do enjoy the mission here. There are some very knowledgeable, driven individuals here that I can learn from and grow with. I love my country and what I do."



David Bates' deployments to the Middle East while in uniform gave him experience in what it takes to succeed at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground. "I never heard of YPG while I was in uniform, but I definitely utilized some of the equipment. A lot of the equipment that has come through here I've seen downrange and have experienced some of the upgrades that came about from YPG testing," explained Bates. (Photos by Ana Henderson)



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TOUCHPOINT

FROM PAGE 1

new cannon, a new platform, and new ammunition.”

YPG has also conducted extensive developmental testing of prototypes of the XM 1299 self-propelled howitzer, and recently hosted the third Soldier Touchpoint of the system held at the proving ground. This event marked the first time that Soldiers have been able to drive the vehicle in realistic conditions in the natural environment.

“It’s meant to get equipment into the hands of Soldiers earlier,” said Flores. “It gets user feedback for the development of the weapon system and the munition.”

“They validate the Soldiers’ crew drills, get them used to it, and see what they think,” explained Hector Magana, test officer. “They ask if it is going to help them or not, what about the new system that they like and don’t like. Based on that, they make changes to the vehicle before it gets fielded.”

The Soldiers who participated in the week-long event hailed from the unit that will do operational assessments of the platform in fiscal year 2024.



YPG conducts developmental testing of multiple facets of the Extended Range Cannon Artillery (ERCA), from the artillery shells to the longer cannon tube and larger firing chamber the improved howitzer will need to accommodate them.

“Each one of them was handpicked specifically for the skills that they have shown in the line of duty,” said Giancarlo Torres, test officer. “Any recommendations they may have will be taken with high value.”

YPG support included personnel to drive and operate the weapon, data collectors, test officers, instrumentation personnel. Though Soldiers will ultimately fire the

weapon, this touchpoint focused on other aspects of operation, such as breech and tube maintenance, and YPG gun crews performed all firing.

“We make sure the vehicles are ready, that they have all of the ammunition and propellant they need to do live fires and make sure they have support from drivers and test officers to ensure everything is done safely,” said Magana.

“Our personnel are the ones

trained on how to operate the prototypes,” added Flores. “It makes sense to bring the Soldiers here to be trained by our trained personnel as well as the developers.”



YPG recently hosted a Soldier Touch point. “It’s meant to get equipment into the hands of Soldiers earlier,” said Steve Flores, Long Range Precision Fires Cross Functional Team Integrator. “It gets user feedback for the development of the weapon system and the munition.” (Photos by Mark Schauer)



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Antiterrorism Awareness Corner

Antiterrorism and social networking sites

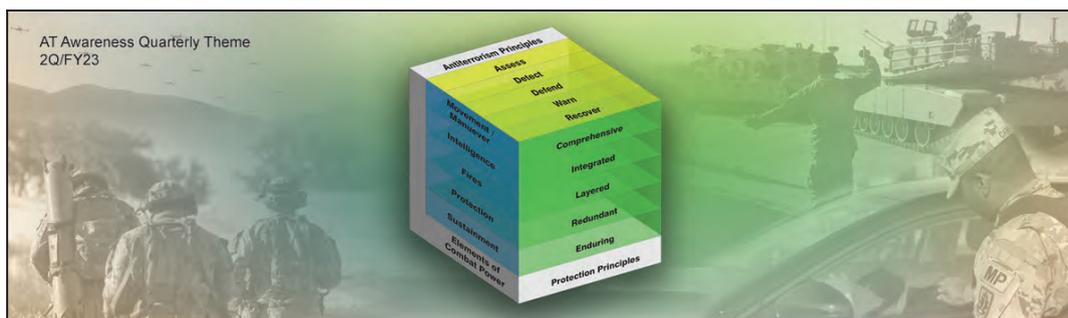
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Alfonzo Brown



not use them.

Some of the most popular social networking sites include Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, LinkedIn, Instagram, WhatsApp and TikTok. These and many other platforms are designed to build social networks or social relationships with other

Most of us have visited some form of social networking sites. Due to how far reaching these sites can be, they potentially pose a threat to our Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC) testing mission. It is important that we don't overlook these threats and spend time focusing how to use them and, in some cases,



people who share similar personal or career interest. The problem is you don't always know who you are connecting with, nor do you know their full intent for any information you give. Being able to notice suspicious questions about our testing or questions about contracts related to our test mission could prevent spillage and divert potential problems.

The most vital piece in preventing spillage of ATEC testing information on Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) is our employees. Our discipline when using and awareness of social networking sites is pivotal in security and protection. Our misuse of social networking platforms whether

known or unknown could cause long term shutdowns of testing or a breach in classified information. As the ATEC Antiterrorism Officer (ATO), I know that prevention is crucial because we cannot definitively assess impact if a social networking breach happens within YPG ATEC.

In most cases you should not be using social networking sites while performing your duties as an ATEC employee. However, some situations may call for you to and you should be confident that you know what to do if a threat to the ATEC Testing Mission were to happen while on a social networking platform. The only wrong way to approach this is not reporting an incident as required.

Remember: See something – say something, applies to all threats to include social networking threats.

Contact your ATEC ATO for more information: Alfonzo D. Brown, Alfonzo.d.brown.civ@army.mil or 928-328-6498.

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SAFETY CORNER FROM PAGE 1

there is an environment where someone feels comfortable enough to share their issues, in confidence, then that leader can determine the best course of action to help the employee and remove the risk of accident or injury.

The third element is getting to know your employees and employees getting to know their co-workers. This process allows for a leader and/or a co-worker to identify when someone is not performing the same as they normally do and is a good indicator there may be something going on that needs to be addressed.

Desensitization is a safety issue and there are no OSHA regulations that apply to it. We cannot control the thoughts within the employee's mind, but

we can help to change their mindset through training, ensuring they understand the importance of staying focused and following safety procedures. Organizations that focus on getting managers and workers to avoid both types of desensitization will prevent accidents and injuries.

Safety is a consistent effort. A quality, well-engaged and communicated safety program will help prevent that perilous slide into desensitization. It's not enough to talk about safety; it needs to be a consistent effort by all. Its each of our responsibility to work in a safe manner and to report any work that's observed being performed unsafely.

For more information on desensitization safety, contact Mission Safety located at building 3519.

Chaplain's Corner Chaplain Capt. Ryan Pearse



In his book "Ageless: The New Science of Getting Older Without Getting Old", author Andrew Steele talks about not just lifespan, but healthspan, or the prolonging the period of life lived without disease or disability.

The average person gets approximately one billion beats of their heart before they die. Steele not only talks about ways to increase the quantity of your heart beats (your lifespan), but also the quality of the life you live (your healthspan). He explains this through biogerontology, the study of the biology of aging, as well as, through physics.

Physics explains aging through the second law of thermodynamics which says that entropy tends to increase, in other words things become more disordered and fall apart with time. The risk of death in humans doubles every eight years. The key is finding ways to lessen this risk and ways to increase one's quality of life.

While much of what Steele discusses in his book is novel, most of it reinforces what most of us should already know. His key advice is summed up in the following: don't smoke, don't eat too much, get some exercise, get seven to eight hours of sleep a night, wash your hands, take care of your teeth, wear sunscreen, monitor your heart rate and blood pressure, don't bother with supplements and be a woman (an explanation comes later).

Chaplain's Corner Increase your healthspan

Most of this advice is just a good reminder. We know we should avoid smoking and eating too much. Calorie-restricted mice in studies were healthier and less fragile than mice who had unrestricted eating habits. It seemed almost as though eating less slowed down the aging process itself.

Studies also prove that the best treatment for a high resting heart rate, incidentally, is almost certainly to do more exercise. Interestingly, researchers found that old mice tied to young mice in cages were benefactors of the young mice enforcing their exercise regimen on the older mice. It seems that the older you get, the more you should hang around younger people to keep you active.

Skin researchers equate skin aging with sun exposure, so be sure to wear your sunscreen. Steele also claims that most supplements are pointless, and their only benefit is that of a placebo treatment.

His final advice is harder to follow for half of the population —be a woman. Women have less testosterone than men and "testosterone is conspiring to

kill us." This hormone has certain benefits but can also increase the aging process. Secondly, women have XX chromosomes, while men have XY chromosomes. The Y chromosome is a third of the size of the X, containing dramatically fewer genes. This means that men don't have a "backup" copy of a gene if there's a problem with one of those on their single X chromosome. This is why, for example, color blindness is more common in men. While changing your chromosomes isn't possible, taking steps to slow down aging, for example by reducing chronic inflammation is.

As the old saying goes, "The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago, the second-best time is today." Another great quote is, "The candle that burns half as bright burns twice as long."

Start today to follow the steps to increase your healthspan. Go slow. Make a plan and stick with it. 1 Kings 3:14 says, "If you walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and commandments, as your father David walked, then I will prolong your days."



YPG CHAPEL



SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES

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1100 Contemporary Christian

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Lunch provided after 1100 service

 facebook.com/ypgfreefallchapel

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Ft. Greely holiday decorating contest winners



Cold Regions Test Center (CRTC) participated in the 2022 Ft. Greely Morale, Welfare and Recreation sponsored decorating contest on Dec. 21. CRTC's National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation themed tree and hallway decoration took home the award for the Most Creative decoration. Much of the thanks for constructing the scene went to CRTC's Rachel Saatkamp (left) and CRTC's Commander Lt. Col. Jonathan Brown helped too. (Loaned photos)

YPG recreational sports questionnaire

The U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground Garrison Morale, Welfare and Recreation team wants to hear from you. Please send the responses to the following questions to Yuma. armymwr.marketing@gmail.com by Thurs., Jan. 26.

1. What sports programs do you participate in currently?
2. What program would you like to see at YPG?
3. Where do you find information about our programs?

54-wheel drive in the desert



On April 2, 1962, the LeTourneau Overland Train arrived at Yuma Test Station for evaluation. With a crew of six, the 572-foot long, 13-unit land train could haul 150 tons of cargo: if you look closely, you can see the full compliment of cargo cars loaded with a M113 armored personnel carrier, a bulldozer, a Jeep, and multiple cargo containers. At the time, the 54-wheel drive welded aluminum beast was the longest rubber-tired vehicle in the world. The result of logistical support problems encountered in World War II in areas without adequate highway and rail networks, the land train performed well, but was rendered obsolete by heavy lift helicopters like the S-64 Skycrane before it could be fielded. Today, the land train's prime mover is a crowd-pleasing display item on YPG's Howard Cantonment Area. (U.S. Army photo)

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