



The Outpost

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

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Yuma Proving Ground hones support of Army's new operational concept



Three instructors from the Army War College devoted an entire day to comprehensive briefings from Yuma Proving Ground's senior leaders and a tour of some of the post's major test facilities to learn more about the mission and tailor their curriculum to ensure it was relevant to the command's specific needs. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

By Mark Schauer

As U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) tests military equipment for the Army of 2030, its leadership has embarked on an ambitious program to prepare for the future mission.

A major component of this preparation is the Employee Modernization Effort for Relevant Growth and Enrichment (EMERGE) program, stood up last year with an initial investment of \$270,000.

The program's efforts at preparing the workforce for the future test mission is wide-ranging and comprehensive, covering everything from developing new test methodologies for advanced

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Silver Spur Rodeo Parade back in the saddle



A Yuma tradition for nearly as long as Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) has existed, the Silver Spur Rodeo Parade returned Feb. 4 for the first time in three years, and YPG Commander Col. Patrick McFall and wife Heidi were there to show the proving ground's support of the community. Parade-goers were delighted by the black 1992 Pontiac Trans Am convertible outfitted with orange strobe lights like the supercar KITT from the classic TV series "Knight Rider." (Photos by Mark Schauer)

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lab worker a national
shooting champion
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Machine Shop receives praise for excellent support

Ground Combat Director Eddy Patchet visited the Machine Shop Feb. 2 to give praise to the welders and machinist on behalf of Project Manager Combat Ammunitions Systems Col. Leon Rogers, for

their work supporting artillery, munition, and mortars testing. "They had nothing but good things to say about YPG," Patchet told the team, adding, "That doesn't happen without what you do".



(Left to right) Trax Dept. Manager Richard Hernandez, Maintains Ops. Group Manager Robert Archiable, Chief of Maintenance Div. Mike Stanton, Phil Brueggeman, Jon Anderson, Bobby Lakey, Martin Toledo, Jeff Thompson, Ground Combat Director Eddy Patchet, Matt Keddy, James Ingram, Andy Pinkerton, Jason Trepanier, Greg Branch. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

37th Vice Chief of the Army sends coins to YPG Soldiers and civilians



TOP: Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Commander Col. Patrick McFall presented coins to Staff Sgt. Billy Vang, Staff Sgt. Zachary Pittman and Sgt. Sean Finley on behalf of the 37th Vice Chief of the U.S. Army Gen. Joseph M. Martin on Feb. 2, for their work as part of the Airborne Test Force. BOTTOM: YPG Commander Col. Patrick McFall presented Lynn Long, Beverly Williams, Robert Fletcher, and Rachael Sanchez with coins on behalf of the 37th Vice Chief of the U.S. Army Gen. Joseph M. Martin for their work during Project Convergence 21. Not pictured are Jonna Pittman and Timothy Quintero. (Photos by Mark Schauer)



The Outpost

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New road rules at Laguna Airfield intersection

By Ana Henderson

Those making their way between Howard and Walker Cantonments will notice new traffic lights at the Barranca and Campo Avion Road intersection.

The junction is directly in front of the Laguna Army Airfield, where aircraft that support Yuma Proving Ground's (YPG) mission depart and land daily.

These three traffic lights are paired with signs that read, "Stop when flashing, danger, low flying aircraft."

The Laguna Airfield air traffic controllers operate the signs and will activate the flashing red lights when an aircraft is approaching.

Drivers need to stop when they see those flashing lights. When the aircraft has landed, and the lights stop flashing, they can proceed. The wait time should only be a few minutes, explains Laguna Army Airfield Manager Jim Walk.

"They won't be turned on until the aircraft is almost landing, when they are on the final approach."

The U.S. Army Aeronautical Services Agency requires 1,000 feet between landing fixed winged aircraft and traffic, so these fixtures are an added layer of precaution to keep YPG's workforce safe.

"It's all for safety," stressed Walk. "If an aircraft by chance doesn't get

to the runway, there is a secure area in front for safety reasons."



Laguna Airfield air traffic controllers operate the signs located at the intersection of Barranca and Campo Avion Road. They activate the flashing red lights when an aircraft is approaching. Drivers need to stop when they see the flashing lights. When the aircraft has landed, and the lights stop flashing, they can proceed. (Photo by Ana Henderson)



Wildlife water catchment installed to help Sonoran Pronghorn

By Daniel Steward

The Arizona Game and Fish Department with the assistance of volunteers and Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) staff constructed a new wildlife water catchment on YPG's East Arm in late January.

The catchment will collect rainwater and hold up to 22,000 gallons for use by all types of wildlife. This tank, called the Xamool Tank, was designed, and placed to benefit Sonoran Pronghorn that now occupy the East Arm.

Projects like this have become increasingly important in recent years with drought and unpredictable monsoons. At 22,000 gallons, this is the largest tank of this type in our region. This large capacity will reduce the expense of emergency water hauls and build resiliency to our habitat for wildlife. Thank you to those volunteers, businesses, and agencies that provided the equipment and labor that made this possible.



The Arizona Game and Fish Department with the help of Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) and volunteers constructed a new wildlife water catchment on YPG's East Arm in late January. The Xamool Tank was designed, and placed to benefit Sonoran Pronghorn and can hold up to 22,000 gallons of rain water. (Photos by John Kulberg)

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No special procedures or vetting is needed to access the Wahner Brooks Historical Exhibit. The display is located off Highway 95 and Imperial Dam Road. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

YPG's Wahner Brooks Historical Exhibit always accessible

By Ana Henderson

The Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Heritage Center is a popular attraction for locals and visitors alike.

In the recent years it's been closed for various reasons. First due to COVID restrictions and recently while it undergoes a transformation.

Those hoping to learn more about YPG's history can still immerse themselves in testing history

by visiting the Wahner Brooks Historical Exhibit. Best of all, visitors don't need to go through any special procedures or vetting for access.

The open-ai red museum sits in the middle of what was once Camp Laguna. It's located in front of the YPG Visitor Control Center and is equipped with paved parking, walkways, and RV access.

You'll find yourself surrounded

by combat vehicles, rockets, and artillery systems all tested at YPG. Each piece has a plaque with a description of the artifact and when and how it was used.

You'll also find a ramada with information displayed about Yuma Test Station, which ultimately turned into YPG.

Visitors can get up-close to take photos and videos, but please don't climb on the artifacts.

Reviews from travel sites describe the display as "great for military enthusiasts as well as children."

To get there, follow Highway 95 to where it meets Imperial Dam Road (IDR) at mile marker 44, where you'll see the iconic Big Guns. From there follow IDR for about a quarter of a mile. The Visitor Control Center's large parking lot will be on the left.



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Visitors will find a ramada with information displayed about Yuma Test Station, which ultimately turned into YPG.



Popular science and technology YouTuber visits YPG



The 572-foot long, 13-unit overland train could haul 150 tons of cargo, from personnel carriers and Jeeps to construction equipment and cargo containers. At the time, the 54-wheel drive welded aluminum beast was the longest rubber-tired vehicle in the world. (U.S. Army photo)



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Science and technology YouTuber Calum Gillies visited Yuma Proving Ground in late January to produce a segment on the TC-497 LeTourneau Overland Train tested at the proving ground in 1962. (Photos by Mark Schauer)

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Familiar face returns to Youth Services and team is ready to re-ignite program

By Ana Henderson

The Youth Services (YS) program at Yuma Proving Ground suffered like many things during and after COVID. While the program did not stop providing services, the services were limited, and the enrollment was low. The teen program was virtually non-existent.

In the recent months, the YS team has been moving forward to bring the services it provided pre-pandemic. Garrison leadership brought back a familiar face as well. Those who have used YS services might recognize Sommer Cloinger who served as the YS Director from August 2017 to November 2020.

"It was great to see the community and it was great to see my kids," said Cloinger. "They went from being kinders and first graders to now third, fourth and fifth graders. And my teens who were just coming into fifth and sixth grade, some are driving, and some are taller than me."

In addition to Cloinger's re-hiring, in mid-September Meghaan Flood filled the newly created YS Assistant Director position. This allowed the YS program to move out of the Child Development Center facility and back into the original YS building. Together the ladies are rebuilding their team by adding two new positions and programs such as the teen



(Back, left to right) Youth Sports Max Vidal, Chester Winston. (Middle) Youth Services Director Sommer Cloinger, Assistant Director Meghaan Flood, Program Assistant Kassie Bedoya, Lead School Aged Kids Specialist Cheryl Reinert. (Front) Admin Assistant Sasha Monge, Cook Amanda Brooks. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

program. If the first teen event is an indication of its success, they are going to have a full house.

"Just in my first week we had about 15 new teen enrollments. Twenty-two middle school and teens showed up to the recent New Year's ever party," tells Cloinger, "I don't think I even had that many

when I ran just middle school and teens events."

Many might not beware that the teen program is provided by YS for free to kids in sixth grade or higher. Their visit includes food, snacks, games, and transportation from Ron Watson School if needed. For their first visit teens do not

need to be enrolled. If they want to continue to attend, they can self-enroll, and staff will then verify their information with their parents or guardians.

Flood who is a former science teacher looks forward to providing an outlet for teens.

"I am excited to build a program where they feel safe, have a place to hangout, a place that is theirs, where they can have experiences to help their teen years. We need to provide them with a place to do that especially with YPG being so small."

Cloinger urges parents of school aged kids and teens to actively keep an eye out for emails and Facebook posts about upcoming events. They want to partner up with YPG community services such as the Morale, Welfare and Recreation program, Desert Oasis Housing, and other community programs to provide fun for the community.

"We are excited for the future and have lot of stuff planned. We have our hands in a lot of pots right now, but we are excited to build this community and YS back up," said Cloinger.

Additional goals the YS team include, increasing enrollment, bringing back field trips and camps, expanding the home school P.E. program to younger non-school aged kids and building a team of sport coaches for the sports program.



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Physical scientist Larry Nelson is a competition shooter, proficient in all manner of firearms. He holds a national junior championship record for black powder shooting he received when he was 15 years old and he competed in the Junior Olympic Championships twice, placing in the top 15 both times. (Loaned photo)

On target: petroleum lab worker a national shooting champion

By Mark Schauer

Precision fires are common at Yuma Proving Ground, the Army's busiest test center, but are usually seen on the vast ranges, not the petroleum lab.

For physical scientist Larry Nelson, however, being right-on-target has been a nearly lifelong pursuit.

Nelson, you see, is a competition shooter, proficient in all manner of firearms.

"I've been shooting competitively since I was 13 years old," he explained. "My dad saw a shooting match on ESPN called the Chevy Truck Sportsman's Team Challenge. He thought it was the coolest thing ever, and called to find out where or when he could shoot this thing: they said, 'we don't have one on your side of the country, how would you

like to run one?'"

His dad did so, giving young Nelson and his friends the chance to hone their skills and meet multiple famous sports shooters like two-time Olympic gold medalist Lones Wigger. In high school, he worked at the Boy Scouts' Camp Geronimo in Payson, Ariz. during summer breaks, running one of their rifle ranges. Among other competition victories, he holds a national junior championship record for black powder shooting he received when he was 15 years old.

"It'll never be broken," he said with a smile. "They no longer hold that match."

He was good enough to receive a NCAA shooting scholarship at Jacksonville State University, where he pursued degrees in molecular biology and biochemistry. His

demanding studies were punctuated by almost constant practicing and competitions.

"In college you practice about four days a week for three hours a day, then two matches every weekend."

In 2005, his team were runners up to the Army Academy in one of the two NCAA Championships he participated in.

"That was actually the tightest competition that has ever happened in NCAA. Until that point, typically the winner was 10-20 points apart from everyone else: that year the spread between first and fourth place was one point each."

He also competed in the Junior Olympic Championships twice, placing in the top 15 both times, along with four appearances in the USA Shooting National

Championships.

Nelson says he has never been much of a hunter. He practices at Yuma's Adair Range, but not with the same frequency he did in his college days.

"You have to do it every day if you want to be at the tip-tip top. If you want to be competitive, once you attain a certain level of proficiency you need to polish off the rust and refresh the skill, not keep developing it."

As for advice for other shooters interested in improving their marksmanship, Nelson offers this:

"The biggest thing that everyone forgets to do is natural point of aim. The rifle wants to naturally point somewhere: if you adjust your body so that the rifle points where you want it, you don't fight your body as much to make accurate shots."

CONCEPT

FROM PAGE 1

technologies to leadership strategies and critical thinking.

"I wanted to start a program that modernizes our workforce," said Col. Patrick McFall, YPG Commander. "It was important to me that this program be made by our workforce, for our workforce."

In October 2022, the U.S. Army announced a revised Operations Field Manual 3-0 that discussed multidomain operations (MDO) as the force's new operational concept. The strategy concerns successfully defending against near-peer adversaries able to oppose America's joint forces in all domains: land, sea, air, space, and cyber.

With a significant testing workload on behalf of the Army Futures Command and experience hosting Project Convergence 2020 and 2021, as well as Project Convergence Technology Gateway last year, YPG's efforts have been at the frontline of ensuring American forces can retain overmatch against any potential adversary. Still, YPG



The proving ground arranged for instructors from the Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania to lead a two-day seminar on multidomain operations at the proving ground to provide leaders with a formal understanding of the new doctrine essential. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

senior leaders deemed a formal understanding of the new doctrine essential to maintaining the post's position at the forefront of Army modernization efforts. Toward that end, the proving ground arranged for instructors from the Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania to lead a two-day seminar on MDO at the proving ground.

"In order to support the Army operating in this way, we have to understand it," said Paula Rickleff, YPG Workforce Development Coordinator. "This is the first step in getting our people from the staff level to the testers educated on the doctrine."

Senior leaders from across the Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC) were invited to participate, and ultimately more than 40 individuals were enrolled in the seminar.

"Everyone having that basic knowledge of the doctrine will really facilitate conversations on how we in test and evaluation will support an MDO environment—what are our constraints, what do

we need, what do we need to start thinking about now," said Rickleff. "It is here, and only going to get bigger."

Three instructors from the Army War College arrived early and devoted an entire day to comprehensive briefings from YPG's senior leaders and a tour of some of the post's major test facilities to learn more about the mission and tailor their curriculum to ensure it was relevant to the command's specific needs. The instructors also held a nearly hour-long conference with YPG senior leaders after the first day of instruction for additional feedback and input concerning the subsequent day's discussion topics and activities. The curriculum was heavy on practical exercises to draw out specific aspects of the MDO concept that developmental testers will have to adapt to in the future.

The seminar got rave reviews from those who attended.

"It was good in two ways," said Omar Silva, YPG Range Operations and Training Division Chief. "First, the Army War College instructors brought a baseline level of what the Army understands multidomain operations is. Secondly, now that we as an ATEC senior leader group have a common understanding, we can have discussions about what MDO means for us and plan accordingly."

"There was a lot of energy in the room," added McFall. "People came alive during the discussions and were really taking this in."

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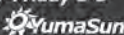
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Ryan Pearse



In his book, "The 80/20 Principle: The Secret to Success by Achieving More with Less," Richard Kock explains an empirical law which nobody can fully explain. The 80/20 principle is ubiquitous in every aspect of life. In literally every domain that human beings occupy - both good and bad - the 80/20 principle is present and is repeated consistently.

Twenty percent of criminals account for 80 percent of all the crime. Eighty percent of motorists accidents are caused by 20 percent of drivers. Twenty percent of carpet in a home is walked on 80 percent of the time. Twenty percent of your clothes in your closet are worn 80 percent of the time. Twenty percent of all resources (people, goods, time, skills, or anything else that is productive) make up 80 percent of the market share.

These forces seem to behave at random but produce a predictably unbalanced result. While this unbalance seems to produce inequality, Koch is enormously hopeful in the 80/20 principle. He believes there is a tragic amount of waste everywhere and if we look closely enough, we can focus our time on the 80 percent of life that matters most. Imagine only spending 20 percent of your time on what really matters. Now imagine cutting out the 80 percent that doesn't matter and increasing your focus on what really matters to 100 percent.

The 80/20 principle says that we should act less. Action drives

out thought. Most successful people have no more than three priorities and often only one. Then they focus just on what really matters. Things that matter most must never be at the mercy of things that matter least.

General Von Manstein of the German Officer Corps said this, "There are only four types of officers. First, there are lazy, stupid ones. Leave them alone, they do no harm. Second, there are the hard-working intelligent ones. They make excellent staff officers, ensuring that every detail is properly considered. Third, there are the hard-working, stupid ones. These people are a menace and must be fired at once. They create irrelevant work for everybody. Finally, there are the intelligent, lazy ones. They are suited for the highest office."

This line of thinking is best visible in "The Van Manstein Matrix." Van Manstein is not saying laziness is a virtue. He

is saying that we should "work smarter, not harder." We need to do what works best, especially in those parts of life that are themselves supremely important. In the West, we are now able to feed ourselves, yet agriculture has gone from employing 98 percent of the population to employing around 3 percent. George Bernard Shaw told us, for progress, we must, "be unreasonable in our demands. We must search out the 20 percent of everything that produces the 80 percent and use the facts we uncover to demand a multiplication of whatever it is that we value."

Philippians 4:8 tells us, "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things."

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MILITARY CHILDREN

The Scholarships for Military Children Program is now open and accepting applications for the 2023 school year.

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HOW TO APPLY

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Thank you for reading
today's Outpost!

Safety Corner

Nutrition matters

By Jaysen Lockett

The modern diet, which is full of processed ingredients that usually lack essential vitamins and minerals, can lead to the inadequate intake of the proper nutrients. This is more of a concern when working in a challenging environment (high temperatures, down range, remote locations), like we do at Yuma, Cold Regions and Tropic Regions Test Centers and all units at Yuma Proving Ground.

Your body needs the proper amount of nutrients, which include vitamins and minerals, to carrying out hundreds of life-supporting physiological functions. Vitamins are essential nutrients that regulate metabolic functions throughout your body. Minerals are chemical elements found in food that have various functions in your body.

An unhealthy diet does not provide you enough energy for your everyday needs. On the

contrary, it leads to fatigue, causes poor mental health, provokes irritability, increases stress and depression, decreases your energy level, and reduces your ability to think clearly and work effectively. The lack of the proper amount of vitamins and minerals have a negative impact on your productivity, especially if you work in a creative environment.

Healthy eating means consuming a variety of foods from all food groups with right quantities of nutrients to maintain your health and have energy. These nutrients should include protein, carbohydrates, fats, water, vitamins, and minerals. Healthy eating has a positive impact on cell development in the brain, and the benefits of keeping a healthy diet are numerous.

Another source of valuable proper nutrition will be in March, which is the National Nutrition

Month. This National Nutrition campaign is held annually to focus attention on the importance of making informed food choices and developing sound eating and physical activity habits. The 2023 theme is "Fuel for the Future".

For more information on some of the vital vitamins and minerals that are tied to staying healthy, the negative effects when not consuming the right amount, and examples of sources that are rich in each of them, can the QR code.



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