



The Outpost

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

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U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground marks 80 years supporting Warfighters

By Mark Schauer

From its inception, U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) has relied on state-of-the-art technology to ensure that the equipment issued to Soldiers works as it should all the time, wherever they serve.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers opened the Yuma Test Branch near the present site of the proving ground below Laguna Dam on the Colorado River in 1943.

This location was considered an ideal spot for testing portable combat bridges



(Left to right) Technical director Larry Bracamonte, Command Sg. Major Herbert Gill, retired YPG Commander Col. Robert Filbey and YPG Commander Col. Patrick McFall gathered on May 3 to cut the 80th anniversary celebratory cake provided by the Yuma Chapter of the United Service Organizations.



Members of the community joined U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) in marking its 80th anniversary. Penny Pew, District Director for Rep. Paul Gosar presented YPG with a Congressional recognition of the milestone. (Photos by Mark Schauer)

because of the abundance of swift flowing water that engineers could control.

At the same time the test branch began operating, the Army established Camp Laguna to train troops in mechanized warfare. Camp Laguna was one of 12 major U.S. Army desert training camps in the California-Arizona Maneuver Area, an 18,000 square mile area chosen by then-Maj. Gen. George S. Patton. Upwards of 15,000 troops

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New Deputy Garrison Manager steps into role

By Ana Henderson

U.S. Army Garrison Yuma Proving Ground welcomed a new Deputy Garrison Manager (DGM) in mid-April. Dan Carter has served in the government specifically in the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) directorate for nearly 20-years. This position elevates him to the next level in leadership.

Carter says about the position, "It was a wonderful blessing receiving this job offer."

He was comfortable in his interviews but still "shocked" when he was selected yet knows the work, he's done at remote installations around the world made him a strong candidate.

"Not everyone is made mentally for a remote and isolated community. There are a lot of challenges especially with the hiring."

Carter has worked as the MWR director at three different Garrisons. He did a stint in Puerto Rico's Fort Buchanan for three and a half years and another three years in Soto Cano Air Base in Honduras.

As the DGM, Carter is responsible to overseeing the directorates which make up the Garrison. The Garrison on an installation is the community support functions that are vital for a community to thrive. The directorates that provide quality of life programs such as MWR, Army Community Services, the Fire and Police Departments all fall into this category.



Dan Carter stepped into the role of Deputy Garrison Manager at U.S. Army Garrison Yuma Proving Ground in mid-April. (U.S. Army photo)

Prior to arriving at YPG he worked at Sierra Army Depot in Northeast California which is similar to YPG in the sense that it is remote, and civilians outnumber Soldiers providing Carter with an understanding of challenges unique to remote smaller installations.

"There's a lot of times you have to think outside the box to make it work." He goes on to explain, "When you are in the states you have a lot of luxuries technology and infrastructure wise. Such as credit cards capabilities etc. in remote locations sometimes those are a challenge."

Now in Yuma, Carter is looking forward the warm climate and has been well received by the community thus far.

"Everyone has been very respectful and warm and greeting me hello when I walk my little puppy."

Hear more from Carter in Outpost Outspoken Episode 34, starting May 15 by scanning the QR code.



"When you have Soldiers and service members protecting the country, it's important that we provide them that quality of life and protection similar to if they were living outside of post."

He adds, "We are about people first. A lot of people say that, but actions speak louder than words and my job is to make that action happen so that's my goal."

The Outpost

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Cold Regions Test Center Employee of the Second Quarter



Cold Regions Test Center (CRTC) Employee of the Second Quarter, Isaac Howell was instrumental in bringing multiple testing efforts to the CRTC this Winter test season. Every test customer showered laudatory praise for the testing, and test support provided by Howell and his teams. CRTC Commander Lt. Col. Jonathan Brown remarked "Howell is respected throughout the center and the testing community for this expertise, insight, and operational understanding." (Photo by Sebastian Saarloos)

Quilts of Valor Foundation presents quilts



CRTC thanked the Quilts of Valor Foundation for their commitment to Veterans. CRTC Commander Lt. Col. Jonathan Brown remarked, "The Quilts of Valor Foundation's mission of covering Veterans and service members touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor is truly commendable, and it is heartening to know that there are organizations that are dedicated to honoring the bravery and selflessness of military Veterans." (Left to Right: Dean Lambert, Steve Prewitt, Robyn O'Halloran, Susan Fisher, Lt. Col. Jonathan Brown). (Photo by Sebastian Saarloos)

Cold Regions Test Center employees recognized



Kevin Cummings, Site Lead for Trax International, recognizes (left) Shawn Rand and (right) Stan Musgrove for their efforts in support of the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command mission with a certification of appreciation. (Photo by Sebastian Saarloos)

Cold Regions teammates take a pause to reflect on winter efforts



Teammates of the CRTC took a break from winter testing to reflect on one another's efforts during the Winter 2023 test season and simply say thanks on April 6. Over a six-month period, the rugged professionals of CRTC conducted and/or supported 17 test events, in temperatures as low as -52 degrees below zero. As part of the employee appreciation meal, CRTC's very own, and the Army's finest, food service specialists prepared a special steak-and-shrimp meal for all to enjoy. (Photos by Sebastian Saarloos)

YPG Installation Safety Office earns 12th Safety Excellence Streamer Award

By Ana Henderson

The U.S. Army Garrison Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Installation Safety Office continues its cultural of safety with its twelfth consecutive Safety Excellence Streamer Award.

The “Streamer” is awarded by the U.S. Army Installation Management Command (IMCOM) based in San Antonio at Fort Sam Houston.

“It is with great pleasure to congratulate you and forward the U.S. Army Excellence Streamer Award to USAG Yuma. This award recognizes the extraordinary efforts and dedication to duty of the Garrison in creating a positive safety culture.

Your accomplishment of completing over 184 consecutive months without experiencing a Class A or B accident; 100% completion of Risk Management training for Garrison Soldiers and Civilians; and completing the Army Readiness Assessment Program survey demonstrates safety excellence. Your efforts to accomplish the mission and educate the community with effective safety



The U.S. Army Garrison Yuma Proving Ground Installation Safety Office continues its cultural of safety with its twelfth consecutive Safety Excellence Streamer Award. (Left to right) Garrison Manager Ken Musselwhite, Mike Morris, Deborah Campbell, and Ron Van Why of the Installation Safety Office celebrate the honor. (Photo by Gene Garcia)

and risk management programs are attributes of first-class organizations. A job well done in taking care of Soldiers, Civilians, and Families! To qualify for the prestigious award, an Army installation must have no instances of Class A or B accidents

which are loosely defined as severe accidents to personnel or property,” detailed memo from Director Brenda Lee McCullough

The YPG Garrison installation has not experienced a Class A or B accident in over 15 years which has

made the Installation Safety Office eligible for the award the last 13 years.

U.S. Army YPG Garrison Director of Installation Safety Ron Van Why credits his staff and the Army’s Safety Management System which empowers directorate leaders be responsible for their employee’s safety. This allows the leaders to implement tailored safety programs based off Occupational Safety and Health Administration and U.S. Army requirements with the help and guidance of the Installation Safety Office.

Van Why remarks that safety is not just about avoiding accidents – it’s educating the workforce, keeping up on safety training and making safe decisions.

“Everyone is a safety officer. I am not successful in my program without the help of everyone else.”

Van Why adds, YPG has a culture of safety, “We are successful due to the fact of everybody’s commitment to our safety program. We have a total buy in.”



YPG Command hosts town hall for workforce



Yuma Proving Ground Command (YPG) Col. Patrick McFall hosted what will most likely be his final town hall at YPG on April 27. McFall’s change of command is coming up this summer. Topics included everything from upcoming testing events, awards, observances, and an open discussion period. McFall, Technical Director Larry Bracamonte and Chief of Staff Minerva Peters are pictured presenting. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

Observing Denim Day

By Ana Henderson

April marks the Army's Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

As a sign of solidarity and support for victims of sexual assault, Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) and Garrison Command Groups, the Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) program coordinator, the Army Community Services team and members of the workforce wore denim on April 26, National Denim Day.

YPG SHARP Coordinator, Arlene Gentry explains the history behind the day. "The campaign began after a 1998 ruling by the Italian Supreme Court where a rape conviction was overturned because the justices felt that since the victim was wearing tight jeans, she must have helped the

person who raped her removes her jeans, thereby implying consent. The following day, the women in the Italian Parliament came to work wearing jeans in solidarity with the victim."

Throughout the month of April, Army Community Services stepped up outreach efforts with activities such as providing information to the workforce as they entered the installations, themed days such as Denim Day and displaying informational booths.

The Army's SHARP program exists so the Army can prevent sexual harassment and sexual assaults before they occur.

For help call:

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As a sign of solidarity and support for victims of sexual assault, Yuma Proving Ground and Garrison leaders, the Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) program coordinator, Army Community Services team and members of the workforce wore denim on April 26, National Denim Day. (Photos by Ana Henderson and Amanda Chavis)



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YPG Soldiers proudly participate in Special Olympics Torch Run

By Ana Henderson

U.S. Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Soldiers proudly participated in the annual Special Olympics Torch Run on the morning of April 19.

The annual torch run includes local law enforcement and uniformed services agencies gathering to support the Special Olympics in Yuma by each running a leg of the route from San Luis to the Colorado River State Historic Park in Yuma.

YPG's Command Sgt. Major Herbert Gill and Soldiers from the Airborne Test Force, Staff Sgt. Ahmed Elinbabi and Sgt. Casey Simmons, represented YPG during their two-mile portion. Elinbabi proudly took the torch from a member of the Somerton Police Department as they reached the end of Somerton along Main Street.

He then handed it over to Simmons who jokes that he timed it perfectly to give the torch to Gill just before they reached the bottom of the hill leading to Cocopah Casino. They were the only team running up hill

yet managed to do it with ease.

It might have been because they had a huge support system with patrol and motorcycle officers guiding them, bystanders cheering them on and passersby driving slowly watching as they made their way to the next leg of the run.

"It was cool, I didn't expect it to be as big as it was. Seeing the emergency lights and traffic being stopped, I didn't expect that. It was really cool to see." Simmons

Gill passed the Torch to the Cocopah Police Department and remarked "It was outstanding, a great event for a great cause."

Afterwards the Soldiers traveled to the Colorado River State Historic Park in Yuma, by vehicle this time, and mingled with the Special Olympians for a bit.

"Yuma Proving Ground is way out there so being a part of the community gives you a sense of belonging," said Elinbabi. We definitely enjoyed the event and supporting a good cause."



Afterwards the Soldiers traveled to the Colorado River State Historic Park in Yuma and mingled with the Special Olympic Athletes. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

Army recruits get an inside look at YPG



ABOVE & LEFT: The future warfighters of America got an inside glimpse of U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) April 27, following their recent enlistment into the Army. (Photos by Gene Garcia) BOTTOM: YPG Commander Col. Patrick McFall welcomed the recruits with a look into YPG's mission: testing and evaluating nearly everything in the Army's arsenal, equipment that the recruits could someday depend on. "Less than 1% of the American population serves in uniform," he said. "You are part of an elite group, and I am proud of you." (Photo by Mark Schauer)



U.S. Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Soldiers proudly participated in the annual Special Olympics Torch Run on the morning of April 19. YPG's Command Sgt. Major Herbert Gill and Soldiers from the Airborne Test Force, Staff Sgt. Ahmed Elinbabi and Sgt. Casey Simmons, represented YPG during the two-mile portion. Elinbabi proudly took the torch from a member of the Somerton Police Department as they reached the end of Somerton along Main Street.

Yuma Proving Ground commemorates Holocaust Days of Remembrance

By Mark Schauer

Discriminatory laws. Forced labor camps. Execution chambers that killed with deadly gas.

These were the escalating tools of terror the Nazi regime of Adolf Hitler used in a pathological bid to eliminate Jews and others deemed 'inferior' from the face of the Earth.

At the height of Hitler's 12 depraved years in power, more than six million people, representing one-third of the Jewish people in the world and two-thirds of those in Europe, were systematically murdered in camps that spread across the continent.

Particularly heinous was the fact that these atrocities claimed the lives of over 1.5 million innocent children.

A fortunate few made it through, however, including Kurt and Ruth Sax, the late parents of Sandra Scheller, who shared her parents and other relatives' experiences to a rapt audience of dozens at Yuma Proving Ground's (YPG) Post Chapel in mid-April during a Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony.

Although her parents and maternal grandmother survived the ordeal, her great grandmother and other relatives died in Nazi death camps. Scheller showed photos of her maternal grandparents and their pre-Holocaust life in Czechoslovakia prior to the Nazi occupation, where her grandmother ran a dress shop, and her grandfather was a traveling salesman who sold then-novel elastic socks. The photos that bore witness to their lives were saved by her grandfather's non-Jewish sister-in-law, but nothing else of their old life made it through the horrors of World War II.

"When they were liberated in 1945, they came home to nothing: it was gone, it had been bombed," she said.

There was a long buildup to that point, however: restrictions on movement and confiscation of property, betrayals by non-Jewish friends. She also showed the audience things like the compulsory yellow badge her mother was forced to wear, and the plain black dress worn by her



YPG Commander Col. Patrick McFall and Command Sgt. Maj. Herbert Gill thanked Scheller for her presentation, "We're losing our history with each passing year, and we can't forget," McFall said. "The day you forget is the day it happens again, and we pray it never does."

maternal grandmother at Auschwitz. Her grandmother made holes in the hem where she secreted the gold caps from her teeth to protect them from seizure by the Nazis. Scheller now wears the gold from them as part of a ring.

"There are no buttons," Scheller told the audience of the dress. "The Nazis removed the buttons because if you swallowed a button, you might be able to commit suicide, and they wanted to control that as well."

Her family members experienced the typical horrors of the camps, becoming emaciated as the brutalization continued. They were forced to work to survive, and Scheller recounted moments of love for family that endured even in the worst circumstances. When her mother was forced to work in a bullet factory, she surreptitiously made earrings out of bullet casings as a birthday gift for her mother, which Scheller showed the audience. Some of the adaptations endured for the remainder of her life: As an elderly woman, her mother sometimes made dolls out of bread and spit at mealtimes as she did as an adolescent in the camps.

"Did she ever get out of the Holocaust? She left the worst parts behind, but she still thought about it. She didn't have nightmares after she started sharing her story with students."

The family's ultimate liberation came from the hard-fought efforts of Allied troops. After the United

States entered the war, 20 divisions of Soldiers trained in then-Major Gen. George S. Patton's California-Arizona Desert Maneuver Area (CADMA), of which YPG is the last active Army installation. When the training was established, it was assumed the Soldiers would ultimately deploy to the North African Theater. In the case of the 8th Infantry Division of IX Corps, for five spring and summer months in 1943 the men trained at Camp Laguna, sweltering in uncooled tents within eyesight of what is now YPG's Walker Cantonment Area, eating combat rations, drinking chemically-treated water, and enduring sandstorms as they engaged in intense maneuvers in the area's deserts and mountains across months.

Within a year, the Allies had achieved victory in North Africa, and the division was deployed to Normandy. In the fall of 1944, it fought from Belgium into Germany in the Battle of Huertgen Forest, the longest single battle in the history of the U.S. Army. On May 2, 1945, the

8th Infantry Division liberated 3,000 inmates from a Nazi concentration camp near Wöbbelin, a small town in northern Germany, one of ten divisions trained in the CADMA that liberated Holocaust survivors from their cruel captors.

Scheller told the audience she believed it is vitally important that all Holocaust victims be remembered.

"We have to remember that it wasn't just Jewish people who were killed: Homosexuals were killed, people that were handicapped were killed, military and political prisoners were killed," she said. "It started with Jews, but it became infectious."

"We're losing our history with each passing year, and we can't forget," added Col. Patrick McFall, YPG Commander. "The day you forget is the day it happens again, and we pray it never does."



Dozens of people attended the YPG Chapel on April 20 as it hosted a solemn Holocaust Remembrance event organized by YPG's Equal Opportunity Employment Office. Fred Brown of Yuma's Beth HaMidbar Congregation held a candle lighting ceremony followed a presentation by keynote speaker, Sandra Scheller. (Photos by Mark Schauer)



Following the remembrance ceremony attendees stayed on to enjoy a kosher meal in the chapel's Fellowship Hall.

80 YEARS

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were stationed at Camp Laguna at any one time for periods generally lasting six months.

After World War II, the Yuma Test Branch remained in operation, but testing activities were turned toward the effect of the desert environment on engineering equipment, such as high-speed tractors, semi-trailers and revolving cranes. In 1950, the test branch closed, only to reopen one year later with a new name, Yuma Test Station, and a greatly expanded mission that saw the facility take on the lion's share of the nation's artillery testing workload. Additionally, armored vehicles, armored systems, and air delivery systems began to be tested.

The post was renamed Yuma Proving Ground in 1963. In 1971, the aircraft armament testing mission was permanently relocated from Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., to YPG after the most highly instrumented helicopter armament test range in the United States was constructed. Known as the Cibola Range, it is uniquely suited to support testing of aviation systems and munitions, armed helicopters, air delivery systems, unmanned aircraft, and precision navigation systems. The iconic AH-64 Apache helicopter underwent all developmental testing in Yuma.

YPG's testing of unmanned aerial systems dates to the late 1950s, when the first hangar at Castle Dome



ABOVE: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers opened the Yuma Test Branch near the present site of the proving ground below Laguna Dam on the Colorado River in 1943. This location was considered an ideal spot for testing portable combat bridges because of the abundance of swift flowing water that engineers could control. BELOW: Camp Laguna was one of 12 major U.S. Army desert training camps in the California-Arizona Maneuver Area, an 18,000 square mile area chosen by then-Maj. Gen. George S. Patton. Upwards of 15,000 troops were stationed at Camp Laguna at any one time for periods generally lasting six months. (U.S. Army photos)



Heliport, one of the proving ground's multiple airfields, was constructed to support a drone competition. With nearly 2,000 miles of restricted airspace, the proving ground is as close to an ideal venue for unmanned aircraft testing as can possibly exist. The clear, stable air and extremely dry climate where inclement weather is a rarity makes it highly coveted by both military and commercial customers.

From 1974 to 1990, developmental work on the global positioning system (GPS) took place here. The testing came to YPG after the proving ground demonstrated it could conduct development at a lower cost and provide test data in a way no other

test facility could at that time. GPS testing involved three flights a day for over ten years following the completion of significant upgrades to range instrumentation.

Over 200 miles of automotive test courses and other test facilities capable of handling nearly all types of field performance and controlled engineering tests have been established at the proving ground. These include paved inclines, side slopes, obstacles, calibrated ride and handling courses, a skid pad for dry and wet pavement handling, various material mud courses with adjustable moisture content, and cross country courses. Hundreds of thousands of testing miles have been put on significant military systems like the M1 Abrams tank, the M3 Bradley Fighting Vehicle, the Stryker Armored Vehicle, and the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle.

Before and during the Persian Gulf War, all the primary ground weapon systems deployed to Saudi Arabia underwent tests at the proving ground. YPG also played a decisive role in supporting Soldiers deployed to Southwest Asia after the 9/11 attacks. When mortar attacks constituted the deadliest threat to

American forces in the early days of operations in Iraq, the proving ground's rapid testing of Counter Rocket and Mortar technology neutralized the danger. When insurgents shifted to the use of deadly roadside bombs and other improvised explosive devices, YPG constructed highly instrumented mock villages that simulated not only the physical characteristics of Southwest Asian urban areas, but the electromagnetic environment that affects electronic equipment.

Needing an upgraded track to test combat vehicles, YPG partnered with the automaker General Motors (GM) in 2007. The deal resulted in the construction of paved and unpaved courses used by GM for hot weather testing of commercial vehicles, and the Army for military vehicles. GM's Desert Proving Ground opened at the proving ground in 2009 and today tests virtually all vehicles manufactured by the company.

Today, the proving ground actively supports six of the Army Futures Command's Cross Functional Teams building the Army's future force, which seeks to retain overmatch with near-peer adversaries in a high intensity conflict while maintaining the competency in waging irregular warfare that has been achieved since the 9/11 attacks. YPG hosted Project Convergence 20 and 21, and Project Convergence 22 Technology gateway.

Desert natural environment testing takes place at YPG's Yuma Test Center, with cold weather testing taking place at the Cold Regions Test Center, at Fort Greely, Alaska, and tropic testing at the Tropic Regions Test Center, which operates in Central and South America.

YPG's mission today, as throughout its history, is to ensure that weapon systems and equipment issued to American Soldiers function safely and as intended wherever in the world they are called upon to serve. This work on behalf of America's national defense is a source of intense pride for each of the over 2,400 Yuma County residents who work at the proving ground.

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Chaplain's Corner

Rule #3, make friends with people who want the best for you

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Rule #3 in Dr. Jordan Peterson's book, "12 Rules for Life: An Antidote to Chaos" is to make friends with people who want the best for you.

Rule #3 seems so self-evident, but unfortunately it needs to be said. If you have a problem with alcohol, and your friend invites you out to the bar to drink, he doesn't want the best for you and he isn't your friend. If you're on

a diet, and your friend drives you through the Burger King drive-thru and offers to pay for your meal, he doesn't want the best for you and he isn't your friend. Examples like this are numerous, but you get the idea.

Jordan notes that people will often accept or even amplify their own suffering, as well as that of others, if they can brandish it as evidence of the world's injustice. These types of people do not want what's best for you and only want to pull you down.

The world is full of injustice, yes; but that doesn't mean

that we shouldn't want the best for those around us. If those around you don't have your best interest in mind, get new friends. You are not morally obliged to support someone who is making the world a worse place. Quite the opposite: you are morally obliged to disassociate yourself with them.

Proverbs 13:20 tells us, "He who walks with the wise, grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm." First, be the friend that truly wants the best for others. Second, make friends with people who want the best for you.

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Yuma Proving Ground celebrates Earth Day 2023

By Mark Schauer

At U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG), every day is Earth Day.

As a natural laboratory for testing virtually every piece of equipment in the U.S. Army's ground combat arsenal, YPG has a vested interest in responsible ecological stewardship.

Located within North America's most diverse desert, the proving ground is home to a vast array of wildlife, including Sonoran pronghorn, desert tortoises and one of Arizona's healthiest and most genetically diverse populations of bighorn sheep. More than a hundred unique bird species pass through or call YPG home.

Last year, YPG's Environmental Sciences Division began a pilot project to plant native species of plants and trees around populated areas of post and sustain the saplings without irrigation systems. Toward this end, the workers have planted the saplings using Groasis Waterboxxes, three-gallon lidded polyurethane buckets that slowly wick water onto the plant's roots over the course of months and are refilled by rainwater or condensation. Planting saplings in vertical shafts in the center of the devices also shields them from the intense heat of the desert floor until they grow hardier.

"The goal behind this is to plant



To celebrate Earth Day, U.S. Army Yuma Proving (YPG) Ground Environmental Sciences Division personnel got a hand from school children at YPG's PFC James D. Price Elementary School to plant a variety of trees in one of the parks in YPG's Howard Cantonment Area. (Photos by Mark Schauer)

native trees without the need for irrigation," said Daniel Steward, YPG Wildlife Biologist. "There won't be any cost associated with managing these trees in the future, and they are great for wildlife and ourselves."

To celebrate Earth Day, YPG Environmental Sciences Division personnel got a hand from school children at YPG's James D. Price Elementary School to plant a variety of Palo Verde, Ironwood, Honey Mesquite, and Desert Willow in one of the parks in YPG's Howard Cantonment Area. The YPG employees showed the kids how to assemble the plastic apparatus, topped with a protective sleeve to keep the saplings safe from nibbling rabbits and other creatures looking for a snack.

"We're planting these trees for them," said Steward. "It's going to take 10 or 15 years for these trees to



even look like trees. These kids will be able to enjoy the trees we plant today for a lifetime to come."

YPG officials vow that the annual Earth Day events and efforts to reintroduce native flora will persist into the foreseeable future,

particularly given the success last year's trees have shown. With the exception of trees planted in an area that had been inundated with invasive salt cedar trees for many years, all of last year's batch have survived so far. Even in the inhospitable soil left by the salt cedars, 60% of the saplings continue to grow.

"The water boxes have done a good job of helping those little plants along," said Steward. "Hopefully in the fall we can remove the water boxes and let the trees grow naturally. If we can do things to help make our environment a little better for wildlife, we benefit: we're part of the environment, too."



The students also learned how people used stones to crush seeds from trees to make fine powder. They each had a turn grinding the stones over the seeds. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

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