

The Outpost

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

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C-sUAS Demo returns to U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground

By Mark Schauer

The importance of small, unmanned aircraft systems (sUAS) in the aviation world is growing with each passing year.

The United States military has used unmanned aircraft for decades to perform dangerous reconnaissance and attack missions that save Soldiers' lives.

As the technology proliferates, however, America's adversaries could potentially use sUAS to target Soldiers, necessitating robust counter-sUAS (C-sUAS) defenses for use anywhere American forces may be deployed. The Joint C-sUAS Office (JCO), established in 2020 to tackle this threat, has hosted industry demonstrations of the latest C-sUAS technology at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) for the past two years. Their most recent event took place across



The Joint Counter-small Unmanned Aircraft System Office (JCO C-sUAS) has hosted industry demonstrations of the latest C-sUAS technology at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground for the past two years. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

four weeks in May and June.

"It's groundbreaking stuff," said Riley Sinek, YPG test officer. "We're looking into solutions to deter the most scary threats you see on TV. It's technology that some people can't even fathom we're using to defeat these threats."

"This is similar to the one we did earlier this year, but with longer distances," added Michael DiGennaro, JCO test lead. "This is focused on defeat of Group 3 sUAS on one-way-attack missions."

The defeat mechanism differed by vendor, ranging from missiles to high-powered microwaves, and at this event, the distances the testers used were significantly greater than in previous demonstrations. During some test rounds, the Group 3 UAS also flew significantly higher and faster than during previous

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YPG provides students the
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YTC Employees of the Quarter

**Mission Employee
of the 2nd Quarter**
Eugene Walters



Lt. Col. Shane Dering, commander of the Yuma Test Center, presented Test Officer Eugene Walters a Civilian Service Achievement Medal on July 25. Walters was selected as the Command's Civilian Mission Employee for the 2nd Quarter of 2023. During this period Walters oversaw four test programs while concurrently assisting fellow test officers conducting four additional tests, which directly supported Future Vertical Lift initiatives. Walters was also recognized for his 20 years of service to the government of the United States. (Photo by James Gilbert)

**Mission Support Employee
of the 2nd Quarter**
Shari Hillsbery



Lt. Col. Shane Dering, commander of the Yuma Test Center, presented Shari Hillsbery with a Civilian Service Achievement Medal for her work serving as a Facilities Manager for the Ground Combat Systems (GCS) Directorate. Hillsbery supported GCS by ensuring that service and work orders for key testing facilities were completed quickly and efficiency. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

**Mission Employee
of the 3rd Quarter**
Tyler Heagney



Lt. Col. Shane Dering, commander of the Yuma Test Center, presented Tyler Heagney with a Civilian Service Achievement Medal for his work serving as a Munitions and Weapons Test Officer leading the effort on a high profile 155-mm test. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

**Mission Support Employee
of the 3rd Quarter**
Herb Kiser



Lt. Col. Shane Dering, commander of the Yuma Test Center, recognized Herb Kiser of the Instrumentation Division as the FY23 Employee of the Quarter for the 3rd Quarter during a Division Brief and Award Presentation held July 20 in the Instrumentation Division building. (Photo by James Gilbert)

Employees recognized for outstanding achievements

The Outpost

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Branch Chief Darrin Dallman, of the Instrumentation Support Branch, Instrumentation Division, Air Combat Directorate was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation on June 20 by Lt. Col. Shane Dering, commander of the Yuma Test Center, recognizing his significant contributions to the overall success of Project Convergence 22 Technology Gateway. He also received an award for 35 years of service to the United States government.



For his outstanding achievement as Team Lead, Instrumentation Division, Air Combat Directorate, Ruben Hernandez was presented with a Civilian Service Achievement Medal by Lt. Col. Shane Dering, commander of the Yuma Test Center, for his overall contributions that led to the success of Project Convergence 22 Technology Gateway. (Photos by James Gilbert)

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Also recognized during the Instrumentation Division Brief and Award Presentation held July 20, but not pictured are; Randy Bolin; Jeffrey Lipp; Brian Michael; Carlos Ibarra; Chris Insko; Daniel Urias; Adam Eliassen; Maria Villegas; Dennis Winterton; Jason Brack; Jesse Nunez; Lance Kerestes; Ray McGowan and Robert Stonum.

Cold Regions employee recognized



U.S. Cold Regions Test Center Commander, Lt. Col. Jonathan Brown, Fort Greely Garrison Security Manager, Amanda Schwinn, and Fort Greely Garrison Commander, Lt. Col. Keith Marshall take time to pose for a picture outside Garrison Headquarters following a coining ceremony held on July 19. Schwinn is recognized for her more than four years of support. (Photo by Cold Regions Test Center)

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT: REAL ID ACT

Persons not possessing a DOD issued ID card must have a valid reason to access U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (USAYPG), must undergo a criminal history background screening, and be issued a USAYPG pass. Person(s) operating a vehicle are required to have in possession a current driver license, proof of current vehicle insurance and current vehicle registration.

IMPORTANT REAL ID ACT INFO: Beginning 1 August 2023, USAYPG will no longer accept for access purposes, state issued driver licenses (DL) or state issued IDs that do not meet the Real ID Act of 2005 standards. Person(s) requesting access with a non-compliant state DL or ID will need to present, along with the non-compliant DL/ID, one of the documents below to prove identity to be issued a pass or given access to USAYPG.

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- Vehicle Registration with name

and address

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- Social Security Card (not a photocopy)
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- US military or draft record (DD Form 214)
- US Coast Guard Merchant Mariner Card
- Transportation Worker Identification Card (TWIC)
- US Native American tribal document
- NEW VA health card
- Permanent Resident Card/Alien Registration Receipt Card (Form I-551)
- Foreign passport with a temporary (I-551) stamp or temporary (I-551) printed notation on a machine-readable immigrant visa
- Foreign passport with Form I-94 or Form I-94A bearing same name as passport and containing

Cold Regions hosts Army Aeromedical Research Lab



The team at Cold Regions Test Center (CRTC) welcomed Lt. Col. Sara Snyder, Director of Medical Research, Enroute Care Group, from the Army Aeromedical Research Lab at Ft. Rucker, Alabama, July 19. Snyder was joined by three flight medics from Charlie CO., 1-52 Aviation, Ft. Wainwright, Alaska: Sgt. First Class Lim Yang, Staff Sgt. Christopher Edwards, and Staff Sgt. Samuel Gulley. Snyder coordinated the event as part of her ongoing work to improve medical equipment and supplies used across Army aviation. The visit consisted of a command and mission overview brief presented by the CRTC Commander Lt. Col. Jonathan Brown and a tour of the CRTC environmental. (Photos courtesy of CRTC)



an endorsement of the alien's nonimmigrant status, as long as the endorsement has not expired and proposed employment is not in conflict with restrictions or limitations identified on the form. Visitor(s) requesting access without a REAL ID Act compliant form of identification or cannot provide supplemental identity proofing documents as listed above are subject to denial of access. All persons requesting unescorted access will continue to be vetted through the

National Crime Information Center, prior to being issued an installation pass.

Digital driver's licenses or identifications are not accepted and cannot be used as a form of identification for the purpose of identity vetting to gain escorted or unescorted access to Army Installations. Driver's licenses and Identification cards presented for gaining access to Army Installations must be a valid State issued physical document/card.

Longtime YPG employee is new mission Antiterrorism Officer

By James Gilbert

When the Pentagon confirmed in early July that the U.S. Government had destroyed the last of its declared chemical weapons, Robert Barocio, who was recently promoted to be the mission Antiterrorism Officer (ATO) at Yuma Proving Ground (YPG), knew he had once played a small role in eliminating stockpiles of them from around the world.

As a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) Specialist while serving in the U.S. Army with the Defense Threat Reduction Agency at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, one of Barocio's tasks included conducting inspections in countries run by governments that were either known to have made or stored chemical weapons.

"I have been to 48 countries: It was a lot of traveling," Barocio said. "I would go there and make sure they weren't producing chemical weapons anymore."

Many countries stockpiled chemical weapons until the Chemical Weapons Convention, which was signed by 193 countries, took effect in 1997.

Eliminating stockpiles of them, however, has been a decades-long effort.



Robert Barocio, a longtime employee, was recently promoted to be the new Antiterrorism Officer at Yuma Proving Ground. He previously held the position of Emergency Management Officer for nine years.



Robert Barocio, (left) who was recently promoted to be the Antiterrorism Officer at Yuma Proving Ground, is seen in this Sept. 2019 photo during an appearance on the Today in Yuma radio show with Tony Badilla, (center) the Director of Emergency Management for Yuma County. (Photos by Mark Schauer)

After retiring from the Army, Barocio was hired at YPG in October 2008 as a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High Yield Explosive (CBRNE) officer.

"I was told that there was a need for somebody out here with my type of experience," Barocio said. "I came here so I could be closer to my children, who live in El Paso, Texas. I really missed them and was looking for someplace that was more permanent."

When an Emergency Management Officer position was created several years later Barocio wasted no time applying for the opening.

"It just fell into my lap," Barocio said of the job he had held the past nine years. "I was told that since I had dealt with catastrophic events and explosives I could slide right in and that is what I did."

As the new mission ATO, Barocio is responsible for developing force protection measures that ensures the YPG test mission is postured to defend against an array of threats against its personnel while working alongside the garrison's ATO.

To do so, he continually tracks and identifies trends while working with

state and federal law enforcement agencies to identify threats, develops

threat identification strategies for the test mission, and recommends any course of action changes to reduce vulnerability.

"In emergency management you deal with responding to an event and the recovery afterwards," Barocio said. "The object of antiterrorism is to stop a threat from ever happening or discourage those who pose a threat to our testing mission. It's going from taking a respond and recover approach to a prevention and protection approach."

One of his main goals in addition to increasing antiterrorism awareness is helping civilian employees become more conscious about protecting vital information.

"I want to take steps to put it in the forefront of people's minds," Barocio said. "It is about constant vigilance. The constant theme of, 'if you see something, say something,' no matter how trivial it may seem."

August is Antiterrorism Awareness Month

By Mark Schauer

A common theme in successful counterterrorism operations is people reporting and following up on suspicious activity, be they law enforcement officials or ordinary citizens.

"See something, say something" is the perennial message of the Army's annual Antiterrorism Month, and since its inception Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) personnel have sought to raise awareness as creatively as possible.

One example of these efforts is the YPG-designed Antiterrorism Awareness Flag that sports the griffin-in-a-shield official logo of the Army's antiterrorism efforts accompanied by antiterrorism month's theme of flexibility, preparedness, and awareness. The intended purpose of the flag was to get people talking about anti-terrorism, on post and off, and it has succeeded.



To bring awareness, Antiterrorism Officer Robert Barocio raised the flag outside YPG's Range Operations Center, where it will fly during the duty day for the remainder of the month. (Loaned photo)

C-sUAS DEMO

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events, making the target sets more challenging to defeat.

“We’re trying to engage these threats earlier and at longer distances so that they don’t have an opportunity to do harm to our forces,” said DiGennaro.

During the scenarios, the aggressor drones approached the defended area at different speeds and altitudes to test the system under evaluation’s ability to defeat the threats. The testers watched for any anomalies and also took note of the individual systems’ ease of use, among other things. The larger distances involved in these test cases required the support of additional YPG personnel to conduct the test safely.

“It’s great to work with so many people across YPG,” said Sinek. “The teamwork is what made this a success. It increases the exposure of what YPG is capable of doing.”



JCO C-sUAS was established in 2020 and its most recent event at YPG took place across four weeks in May and June. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

YPG is the most capable of a limited number of test ranges able

to accommodate this type of work. The proving ground’s clear, stable

air and extremely dry climate along with vast institutional UAS testing knowledge makes it an attractive location to testers, as does the ability to control a large swath of the radio frequency spectrum. YPG has more than 500 permanent radio frequencies, and several thousand temporary ones in a given month.

“This facility is designed to do exactly what we are doing,” said DiGennaro. “The support from the entire test crew and the range infrastructure itself gives us the ability to focus on our test objectives.”

The demonstrations are expected to continue for several more years, with each subsequent test focusing on different types of sUAS threats and C-sUAS systems.

“We continue to engage with industry to find new solutions they are able to demonstrate for us so we can rapidly prototype these solutions and put them in the hands of the Warfighters,” said DiGennaro.

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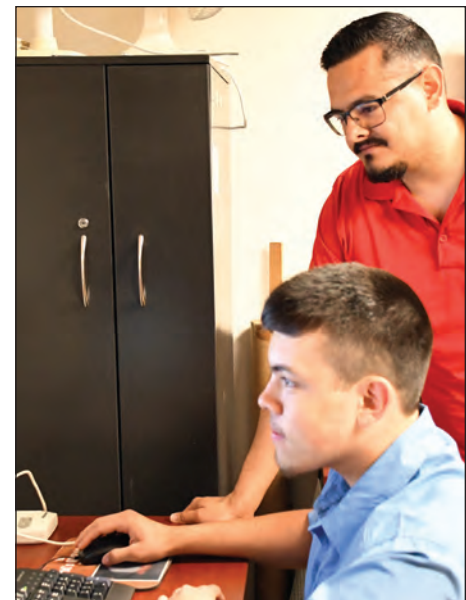
Air Delivery intern Jay Clark checks tags on a tub, verifying the weight which simulates the weight of a test vehicle and that the parachutes are connected. (Photos by Ana Henderson)



Munitions and Weapons Division interns Dorian Noriega and Gabriel Sepulveda were on site of a test for the M119A3 digital fire control system. Noriega looks through the optical sights to view the line of fire and impact.



Combat and Automotive Systems Division intern Richard Santiago performs an inspection on the track and sprocket of an Abrams M1A2 SEPv3.



Austin Arroyo is attending Arizona State University majoring in computer systems engineering. He was paired with mentor Jose Rodriguez in the Instrumentation Division.

YPG provides college students the opportunity to experience real-world testing

By Ana Henderson

U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground strives to educate the community about its test mission and one method of doing that is reaching out to students of all ages.

Each summer a handful of college students and recent graduates spend their summer interning at the proving ground. This summer students received hands-on real-world experience supervised by mentors in the Instrumentation Division (ID), Sensors Branch, Air Delivery Systems Branch, Combat and Automotive System Division, Technology and Investments Directorate, and Munitions and Weapons Division.

While all the student interns are majoring in engineering, they have different areas of focus. Austin Arroyo is attending Arizona State University (ASU) and is majoring in computer systems engineering.

"I have always loved working with computers and technology growing up, so it was a passion that I was able to seamlessly find my major in."

Arroyo was placed in the Instrumentation Division and mentored by Jose Rodriguez.

"In ID we are always looking to develop and enhance different capabilities. We were working on a project to start tracking different metrics for a project. We wanted to tweak a current form that existed in Sharepoint."

That's where Arroyo put his coding skills to use. Rodriguez had a colleague create a digital sandbox so Arroyo could work yet not break the current live system. In addition to the technical skills Arroyo worked on his intrapersonal skills communicating with his colleagues to understand their needs.

"Sometimes you just want to work on what you are being tasked to do but it's part of a bigger picture so you are working with a customer that will be operating the tool you are developing so you need to work on those people skills," explained Rodriguez.

Richard Santiago who is also attending ASU is following his

brother's footsteps studying engineering. He is majoring in civil engineering and interned within the Combat and Automotive System Division. He learned that at YPG engineering is only one aspect of the job.

"The test officers here manage different people, money, and the projects so I have been learning about project management."

Dorian Noriega who is entering his freshmen year at the University of Arizona (UofA) was impressed with the amount of people involved in a test effort.

"It's not just shooting, it's so much more like data collecting, cameras, gunners. It's a lot of team effort."

Jay Clark's internship is a bit different; he's imbedded for the next four years working full-time in the summer and part-time during the school year. He's majoring in engineering management at UofA-Yuma.

"When I start my classes I will have actual live experience to start seeing exactly what I should

be looking for from my teachers, then talk to my teachers and get the information to apply here. I am excited to work those two together."

Mentors and the organization also benefit from this partnership. Rodriguez is experienced in the mentor role and looks to have a "win-win" experience for the mentor and mentee.

"I want to provide the mentee an opportunity to learn, to be exposed to what we do at YPG and to contribute. That's a win for the mentee. For the mentor I always like to gain something from the experience. I always try to think of tasks and challenges that we have that can be scoped to the time a mentee has on the range."

The wide range of exposure to the developmental testing at YPG has left an impression on the interns and helped solidify their career roadmap.

ASU junior Gabriel Sepulveda is majoring in mechanical engineering, and said, "Before this internship I didn't know what I wanted to do, now I want to get into defense."

YPG welcomes new Workforce Development Program Specialist

By James Gilbert

Miranda Choate is the new Workforce Development Program Specialist within the Human Resources Directorate (HRD) at United States Army Garrison Yuma Proving Ground (YPG). She made the leap from government contractor to civilian employee for the Army this past May after having worked on post as TRAX's Information Management Officer (IMO) for the past six years.

In her new role, Choate's responsibilities will include providing planning, instruction, support and assistance regarding the Army's training and professional development programs to civilian employees of YPG's Installation Management Command (IMCOM) Garrison.

Among the programs under her purview are the Army Career Tracker, the Army Learning Management System, the Defense Performance Management and Appraisal Program, and the Civilian Education System.

She will also serve as the coordinator and facilitator for the Garrison's Operation Excellence (OPEX) program: courses designed to introduce new hires and leaders to a standardized way of conducting world-class customer service.

"I just returned from a highly intensive, weeklong course at IMCOM Headquarters in San Antonio that certified me to deliver



Miranda Choate is the new Workforce Development Program Specialist within the Human Resources Directorate at US Army Garrison Yuma Proving Ground. She made the leap from government contractor to civilian employee for the Army this past May after having worked on post as TRAX's Information Management Officer for the past six years. (Photos by James Gilbert)

this suite of trainings customized to IMCOM's specific mission and focus of excellent customer service," Choate said. "It was a highly sought-after train-the-trainer program, and I was thrilled to be given the opportunity to attend so early on in my position."

Facilitating these courses, which are a Service Culture Campaign spearheaded by Lt. Gen. Omar Jones and Command Sgt. Maj. Jason Copeland of IMCOM headquarters, YPG Garrison Manager Ken Musselwhite, and Deputy Dan Carter, will be a very important part of her position.

"I had the pleasure of attending

a town hall and meeting with Gen. Jones when he spoke to our class at Headquarters. His commitment to providing top-notch customer service was inspiring and clearly a career-long passion of his," Choate said. "I am very, very excited to bring what I learned to YPG."

New IMCOM employees are required to complete the initial OPEX training within 90 days of their start date and must also complete a refresher course annually thereafter.

A woman wearing many hats, other additional duties she has include being the YPG Transition Assistance Program Coordinator, which provides resources to Soldiers and their Families who are returning

to civilian life.

Additionally, she serves as HRD's IMO and as YPG Garrison Wellness Coordinator and administering the Civilian Health Promotion & Physical Fitness program for Garrison employees.

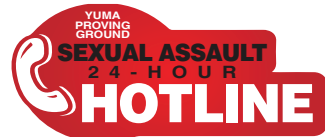
Under this program, civilian employees at YPG are allotted one hour a day, three times a week, to engage in a physical fitness activity of their choosing during normal duty hours, which is something she highly encourages.

"The employee will need to work out and agree upon a schedule with their manager, and the fitness activity must take place while on post," Choate said.

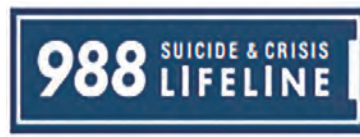
"It is all about promoting IMCOM's values and principles of leadership and service to create a healthy and productive organizational culture which, in turn, supports the Army's home and allows each and every IMCOM professional to take the utmost pride in their work," Choate said.

Whether it be through Morale, Welfare, and Recreation, Base Exchange, restaurant services, the Child Development Center, Police and Fire Departments, or the CAC Office, Garrison employees touch each aspect of everyday operations on post and each interaction is an opportunity to provide support and service to others.

Choate's office is located in Building 2100, Room 50, and she can be reached at 928-328-2167.



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YPG's archeologist supports the mission while preserving cultural resources

By Ana Henderson

U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) is known as a natural laboratory for extreme hot weather testing.

YPG's Environmental Sciences Division employs an archeologist to manage the protection and preservation of cultural resources across the range.

YPG Archeologist Jane Poss is a Columbia University graduate in Anthropology and attended graduate school at St. Antony's College at the University of Oxford.

Poss has worked on excavations around the world yet says the archeological work at YPG is different because of our desert landscape.

"Almost all of our archeological work is by foot survey. We are walking along the ground looking for what's lying on the surface of the desert," explains Poss.

The team scans the surface for signs of past human activity.

"It's common on YPG for us to find rock cairns, rock alignments,



During Earth Day earlier this year, Archeologist Jane Poss showed Price Elementary School students 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)

cleared circles, and evidence of historic and pre-historic trails. We are also looking for artifacts, signs there was a dropped pot, a place where people made stone tools, a place where people made fire.

Anything that can tell us that people once lived in or used this area."

Poss explains that the Cultural Resources team is not always performing the field side of archeology. Another aspect of the job is the documentation of findings.

"Once we collect the data out in the field, we have to process that data. Weather that is writing reports, processing geographic data or drawing maps or preparing to present out findings to outside parties."

The team must collect all the data they can about their findings. That includes measurements, photographs, detailed notes, and precise location information for identification purposes.

YPG's Environmental Sciences Division and Cultural Resources subdivision works with outside entities including the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office and 17 Native American Tribes to gather input on the culture resources whether they be a historic building or an archeologic site.

After the teams performs an archeological survey and research, they can determine how best to proceed with YPG's mission requirements.

Poss explains, "Once we have done all that, if we can we can, plan aiming firing fans around them, moving roads slightly, shifting project plans so they don't have an undue impact to these cultural resources."



Archeologist Jane Poss is photographed holding a pottery sherd up while attending field school in Ecuador. (Loaned photo)




Archeologist Jane Poss is pictured during an excavation in Ireland. (Loaned photo)

To learn more about YPG's Cultural Resources Branch, listen to Poss' Outpost Outspoken interview by scanning the QR code.





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Chaplain's Corner

Rule No. 6, Don't be a hypocrite

Chaplain's Corner
Chaplain Capt.
Ryan Pearse



Rule No. 6 in Dr. Jordan Peterson's book, "12 Rules for Life: An Antidote to Chaos" is "Set your house in perfect order before you criticize the world."

This rule harkens back to Matthew 7. In his well known, "Sermon on the Mount," Jesus told those listening to remove the plank from their own eyes before they tried to remove the speck from their neighbor's eyes. The technical term for someone trying to fix other people when they are struggling with the same sins, is hypocrite.

The etymology of the word hypocrite is an actor who puts on

a mask. You want other people to believe you have it figured out, and all the while you are more messed up than the person you are correcting. So, you put on a mask to deceive people into thinking you have it all figured out when you don't. How silly would it be to walk around with a huge 2X4 sticking out of your eye, while going around telling someone else they have a tiny little speck in their

eye?

How many Soldiers think, "If I was in charge, things would be better," and yet go home and can't even keep their room clean? Thinking we can solve massive complex issues and not be able to keep our house in order is just as comical as walking around with a large log in our eye telling others about their problems. Fix yourself first, then help others.

Chapels hosts Vacation Bible School



Children filled U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground's (YPG) chapel the week of July 24, for the first full week of Vacation Bible School (VBS) since the pandemic. The Chapel was transformed into an ocean including a large ship sitting in front of the pews to capture the 'shipwrecked' theme led by Garrison Chaplain Capt. Ryan Pearse. Down the hallway the children will find a jungle as they make their way through. Nearly 40 children enrolled in VBS, and two dozen volunteers were on hand for the week as the children enjoy games, songs, and snacks. (Photos by Ana Henderson)



To close out the week the YPG fire department made a stop and cooled off the kids with some water and even joined them during tug-of-war. (Photos courtesy of Chapel staff)



Operation Homefront provides backpacks and supplies to children of Soldiers



School bells around the nation are ringing and Operation Homefront is ensuring children of those who are serving or have served our nation are well-equipped. The non-profit provides backpacks and partners with Yuma County Dollar Tree stores to provide school supplies in pre-made kits to children of active duty Soldiers, post 9-11 wounded or injured Service Members (serving and not serving), active duty Guard and Reserve on any duty status, and transitioning service members within 12-months of their retirement date. The supply kit includes pencils, markers, erasers, crayons, rulers, notebooks, binders, composition books, scissors, pencil sharpeners and more. (Photos by James Gilbert)



Post library hosts summer reading program



The Yuma Proving Ground Library's summer reading program was themed, "Find Your Voice" and had more than 20 kids participated. The program ran from June 14-July 24 and during that time the top reader log in over 11,000 minutes. Each participant received a prize bag with lots of fun goodies, and top readers received a prize of their choosing from the library's prize vault, most chose a book or book series. (Photos courtesy of Dani Compton)



Price Elementary School starts new school year



The James D. Price Elementary School at Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) welcomed students back to class on Aug. 7. While, the first day of school can be exciting and filled with learning, it can often bring out a range in emotions in the students, teachers and parents. (Photos By James Gilbert)



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