

The Outpost

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

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X-Ray shop is the hub of simulation testing at YTC

By Ana Henderson

The mission workforce at Yuma Test Center (YTC) evaluate how the weather and other environmental elements affect items under developmental testing. At YTC, elements such as rough cargo handling, vibration, extreme cold/hot/humid, rain, and sandy/dusty environments can all be replicated by YTC's Simulation Branch in the Metrology and Simulation Division within the Ground Combat Directorate.

Within the Simulation Branch is the Radiography Shop, which is basically the main hub of safety for simulated environments testing. After each simulated environment, test items are taken to radiography to have their internal components x-rayed to analyze how the simulation affected the test item.



Radiography Technician Lindsey Carter holds a 155-round on the TXR panel for digital radiography. The machine can perform a nose and base x-ray. The team usually takes a 0- and 90-degree x-ray of each round. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

This is called non-destructive radiography.

"Our ultimate goal is to help the customer see any phases of what's going on through any of our dynamic testing," explains Lindsey Carter a Radiographer with YTC for the last 11 years.

That means looking for signs of distress on the test item. The test cycle allows technicians and customers to see which phase of the test caused the damage.

"We might be looking for cracks, separation, voids, any type of damage or missing items," notes Carter.

In the case of ammunition, it is brought to the Simulation Branch upon arriving at the installation.

"X-ray is one of the busiest sections because when we first

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U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground Commander Col. John Nelson addresses the Cold Regions workforce on Oct. 10 during his first visit since taking command this summer. (Photos by Ana Henderson)



Cold Regions Test Center (CRTC) Technical Director Jeff Lipscomb gives Col. John Nelson and Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Millare a tour of the Mobility Test Complex.



Test Support Division Chief Kyle Anderson (left) and CRTC Commander Lt. Col. Jonathan Brown (center) provide a tour for Col. John Nelson and Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Millare at CRTC.

YPG Command Team visits Cold Regions Test Center to meet the rugged professionals

By Ana Henderson

U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) oversees three extreme weather test centers. Yuma Test Center for extreme hot weather, Tropic Regions for tropical jungle testing and Cold Regions Test Center (CRTC) in Alaska for extreme cold weather testing.

The cold name may be deceiving because when temperatures drop below -25°F its arctic conditions explained CRTC Technical Director Jeff Lipscomb, “The word cold means different things to different people based on their experience

and perspective - to someone whose winter experience is all south Texas, 40°F is cold. Here, we tend to think of cold as -25°F and colder. We believe using Arctic instead of cold, is more likely to invoke the environment we intend to portray.”

YPG Commander Col. John Nelson and Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Millare who both came into command this summer at YPG in their respective positions made the over 2,000-mile trip the week of October 9 to meet the team who works in these conditions.

Nelson said the trip was for, “not

only gaining an understanding of what they do and how they do it, but what’s unique about the arctic conditions and why it’s important to test in the arctic. What unique about it compared to a temperature-controlled chamber.”

YPG’s Commander also noted that the visit was helpful in identifying opportunities for CRTC to support the Army’s Arctic Strategy.

Nelson emphasized one cannot appreciate the work and understand the challenges by looking at briefs. The challenges that come with the arctic conditions and Delta winds, the strongest recorded at 104 miles an hour, include data collectors marching in thigh high snow, plugging parked vehicles into heaters so the oil, engine and battery won’t freeze and keeping heavy equipment in warm buildings instead of outdoors, so they are ready to use when called upon.

After touring CRTC’s various shops and test sites Nelson said, “What really stood out for me is the number of personnel they have and the responsibilities that they have. They basically accomplish the mission of five people with one person.”

It’s for that hard work that Millare wanted to visit in person to thank the CRTC team telling them during the introductory all hands meeting on the first day of their arrival, “You all have a distinct and important role, for that I appreciate and applaud you for your dedication to the

organization.”

Millare hopes meeting the rugged professionals on their home turf will help build a bond.

“Being here shows the commitment of the Command to the people here. Sometimes from far away, if you don’t see us there’s no connection. So, coming here allows them to engage with us if they have any concerns and two, allows me and Col. Nelson to communicate and reinforce what they know and what they hear. Seeing us here in person just gives a little more oomph to their mission here and the last things is to be able to tell them in person how much we appreciate what they do for the team,” explained Millare.

CRTC’s Commander Lt. Col. Jonathan Brown who provided the weeklong extensive tour to the Command Team said, “The YPG Command Team’s inaugural visit to the Cold Regions Test Center was incredibly necessary for several reasons. The first, and most important, was to meet the exceptional team of rugged professionals who have made CRTC what is today – nothing at CRTC... nor the Army for that matter, happens without the collective efforts of a dedicated team. The command visit was also an opportunity for our leaders to walk-the-ground, use their senses to touch, feel, and understand CRTC’s operating environment, and come to a few realizations that you just can’t get over MS Teams or from PowerPoint briefs.”

The Outpost

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News may be submitted to:

The Editor, Outpost, Yuma Proving Ground, Yuma, AZ, 85365

Phone: (928) 328-6149 or DSN 899

Visit our website at: www.yuma.army.mil

or email to: ana.c.henderson.civ@army.mil

Commander: Col. John Nelson

Public Affairs Officer: Mark Schauer

Public Affairs Specialist/Outpost Editor: Ana Henderson

Public Affairs Specialist: James Gilbert

Visual Information Manager: Eugene Garcia

Cold Regions Test Center Photographer: Sebastian Saarloos



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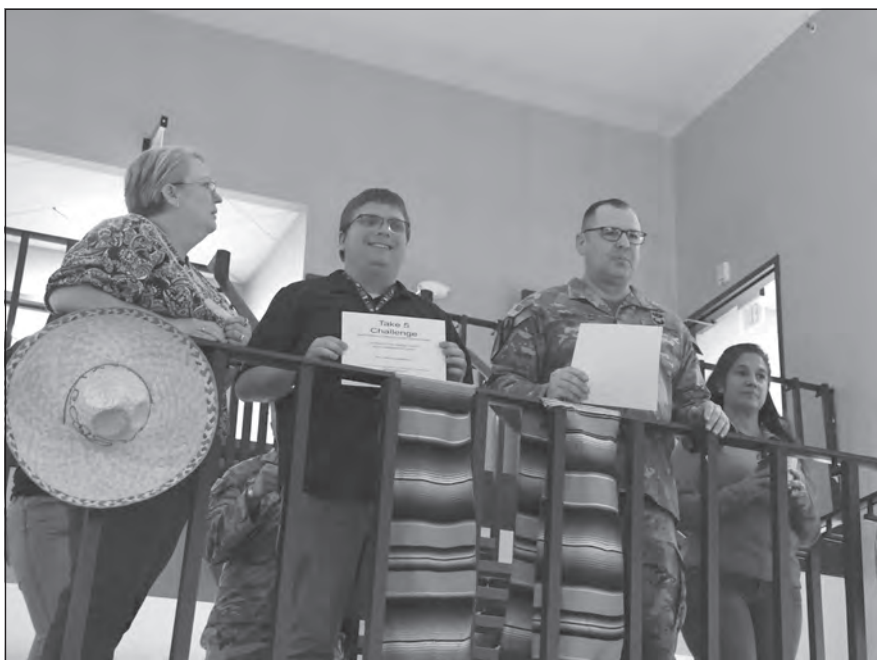
Commander hosts first town hall



ABOVE: U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Commander Col. John Nelson, Technical Director Larry Bracamonte, and other YPG senior leaders addressed mission personnel from across YPG at a town hall meeting Oct. 5. The audience crowded into the Post Theater to hear updates on the command and ask questions on current topics. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

LEFT: Nelson praised the workforce for their dedication to the warfighter and their sterling reputation across the Department of Defense and stressed his commitment to ensuring a good work-life balance across the command. "I've always had the same philosophy at every level of command," Nelson said. "I've always believed you can accomplish the mission without sacrificing the welfare of your Soldiers." (Photo by James Gilbert)

Take 5 Challenge winners



Austin Rudolph and Erik Reta are the winners of the Take 5 Health and Wellness Challenge. The challenge began in September for Suicide Prevention Month to help employees with their mental health. The winners received a certificate for a weekend canoe or paddleboard rental from the Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation program at Yuma Proving Ground. Commander Col. John Nelson presented Rudolph with the certificate as Minda Federmeier (left) and Michele Dominguez (right) look on. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

Nourishing Connections event



The New Parent Support Program, Family Advocacy Program, Exceptional Family Member Program, Military Family Life Counselor, Chapel, Yuma Regional Medical Center, and Community Partners joined efforts for the Nourishing Connections expo Sept. 20. The YPG Chapel provided light refreshments, and presentation topics presented included, parental depression and the importance of resilience, safe sleeping and how to prevent Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). The event was in honor of National Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Awareness Month and SIDS Awareness Month. (Loaned photo)

Salsa contest to celebrate Hispanic Heritage month



In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month which ran from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, Yuma Proving Ground's (YPG) Plans and Operations Division hosted a salsa competition. The 11 salsa entries ranged from green to red, chunky to juicy, spicy to salty, mild to hot and the YPG workforce enjoyed them all. Jonathan Armijo's salsa no. 2 won first place. Adrian Silva placed second (no. 6), Jackie Joslin placed third (no. 5) and Savanna Silva (no. 16) came in fourth. (Photos by Ana Henderson)



Yuma Proving Ground Protocol Officer finds service rewarding

By Mark Schauer

At the forefront of Army transformation efforts, U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) has hosted more high-level visitors in the past five years than at any point in its history.

YPG Protocol Officer Jim Stickney, a career Marine Corps veteran, has been at the forefront of making each of these visits a success.

A Michigan native, Stickney's first encounter with the post was while stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma in the 1990s.

"I had heard of Yuma Proving Ground, but just that it was a small Army base," he recalled. "I came out here a few times to get some uniform items: at that time the Army had nicer boots than the Marine Corps had."

At the tail end of his active-duty career, Stickney, an adjutant, and operations non-commissioned officer, had done protocol work in theater in Iraq as a collateral duty.

"I looked at it as a mission to do and get done, but didn't look at the big picture protocol-wise as I do at YPG."

The experience served him well when he retired from uniform and started working in his current position 15 years ago.

"The basic handling of military officers and senior executive service members pretty much remains the same across services," he said. "Here, working with civilians was new to me when I first came.

Working with Senior Executive Service members was new to me, too."

While YPG has always had its share of high-level visitors, the creation of the Army Futures Command in 2018 and YPG's subsequent hosting of Project Convergence (PC) 2020 and 2021, along with PC 2022 Technology



U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground Protocol Officer Jim Stickney, a career Marine Corps veteran, has been at the forefront of making each of making military officers and senior executive service members visits a success. He's pictured here during YPG's 80th anniversary celebration. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

Gateway and the 2023 Experimental Demonstration Gateway Event (EDGE) brought dozens of Army senior leaders and prominent elected officials. Since 2018 the last three Secretaries of the Army have visited YPG, marking the first time since the 1990s that someone in that position come here.

Most of these high-level visitors to YPG came to visit a specific test event or project: In the case of PC 2021, the visits occurred while between 1,500 and 2,000 additional test personnel were working on the range at any given time throughout the six weeks of experimentation. During EDGE 2023, there were also high-level visitors from many of the 10

international partners that were participating in the event, such as the Vice Chief of Staff of Germany's Army.

"I'm usually the first phone call that the aides or executive assistants make letting me know that they're coming here," said Stickney. "My goal is to handle all distinguished visitor functions, take care of their needs, get them out to the test site and see the program. I want to take the logistical and administrative burden off the hands of the test officers."

Stickney's efforts toward this end have been recognized at the highest levels of the Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC), YPG's senior command: he was named ATEC Civilian of the Year in 2021.

"It kind of took me by surprise: I was just doing what I love to do," he said. "Being a retired Marine being able to stay connected to the military services and military members is reward enough for me. I appreciate rewards and accolades, but they come secondary to taking care of the people who come to YPG to get them to see what they came to see."

Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Month

Spreading awareness about domestic violence



The U.S. Army Family Advocacy Program is dedicated to domestic and child abuse prevention, education, prompt reporting, investigation, intervention, and treatment held an event in partnership with the Post Library on Oct. 3. The event, named "No more skeletons in the closet," included a family craft activity where participants assembled and painted skeletons made of milk jugs in support of domestic violence awareness. (Photos by James Gilbert)

Paws Against Domestic Violence event brings awareness



U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground's (YPG) Family Advocacy Program and Veterinary Clinic partnered to hold a Paws Against Domestic Violence event outside YPG's Fire Department on Howard Cantonment Area on the afternoon of Oct. 12. The event was full of pet-friendly activities like a barking contest and featured domestic violence education and resources. (Photos by Mark Schauer)

FMWR extends services for visiting troops

By James Gilbert

While the Yuma Proving Ground's (YPG) reputation is that of a premier testing facility at the forefront of the U.S. Army's transformation efforts, part of its mission also includes supporting training for every branch of the military.

At any given time of the year there can be anywhere from hundreds to more than a thousand troops temporarily at YPG for scheduled training. Those troops include Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, Airmen, Guardians and even military personnel from allied foreign nations from all over the world.

Oftentimes, these troops are confined to places such as the Laguna Army Airfield, where a forward operating base (FOB) has been established, and they don't have access to the services they would normally have at their base.

Business and Recreation Chief Steve Ward, of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation (FMWR) Programs and Services, said since these troops can't leave the site, it was important that those amenities were being brought to them.

Just outside FOB Laguna is the Wild Horse Café, a semi-permanent food trailer that was built to give visiting troops a place to buy breakfast and lunch favorites hot off the grill.

"It's comfort food," Ward said. "Things like hamburgers, hot dogs, burritos, salads and french fries."

Troops can also call and order pizzas from the Coyote Lane Bowling Alley, which will then

deliver all the orders at three pre-scheduled times throughout the day.

"This is also another option for them," Ward said. "There has been a lot of pizzas going out the door the past couple of days. Our team has probably perfected pizza preparation."

Ward explained that before, visiting troops would have to call multiple orders in to a pizza place in the Foothills, adding that they would have to pay exorbitant delivery costs.

"We saw a need, so we made a plan to accommodate them," Ward said. "That is not to say it still doesn't happen. We want to be their first choice so we can make money and turn it back into our community here on base."

Operations Asst. Manager Julie Shields, of FMWR, said the bowling alley is open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekends and on any given day they make anywhere between 40 and 50 pizzas.

"We are here to provide for the troops," Shields said. "If there is something that we can do for them, we are going to do it."

Getting cool drinks or a snack had also been a problem for troops here for training until Army Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) store Manager Chuck Walmsley said a Mobile Field Exchange (MFE) and two storage trailers were set up at the FOB.

"There is pretty much nothing there that you can get at the MFE that you can't get here," Walmsley said comparing the mobile exchange

to the AAFES store. "You can't get everything that is here there, because I don't have the space."

In addition to keeping cold beverages stocked, such as Gatorade, sodas, bottled water, muscle milks, as well as protein and energy drinks, the MFE carry's a small variety of hygiene products intended for troops who are deployed.

"We also carry a standard assortment of snacks. Stuff that is salty, spicy, and cheesy, which is all your major food groups," Walmsley said. "When they are out here, they are basically living in combat conditions in a tent, so it is probably a taste of home for them."

The MFE used to be considered a temporary facility managed by corporate, but due the volume of training happening at YPG, it was made into a permanent shop under the base's AAFES store for Walmsley to staff and supply.

Business is so good at the MFE that the cooler for drinks sometimes must be filled three times on a busy day. Once training is over the trailers are emptied until the next group



Troops visiting YPG for training can call and order pizzas from the Coyote Lane Bowling Alley, which will then deliver all the orders at three pre-scheduled times throughout the day. Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation Programs and Services Assistant Business Manager Jose Garcia making a delivery.



Cashier Rayne Thomas rings up two Marines who made purchases at the Army Air Force Exchange Service Mobile Field Exchange trailer set up at FOB Laguna.

arrives.

Cashier Rayne Thomas explained that there is always a steadily flow of customers coming to the MFE, which is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

"We stay busy most of the day, if not all day," Thomas said.

The barber shop at the AAFES store also closes on selective days and give hair cuts inside a trailer at the FOB site.



Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation Programs and Services Assistant Business Manager Jose Garcia makes a pizza in the kitchen at the Coyote Lanes Bowling Alley, which he later delivered to a Marine at the FOB at Laguna Airfield. (Photos by James Gilbert)



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Logistical and Tactical vibration



Employees perform both Logistical and Tactical Vibration in the same facilities with the same equipment (vibration tables). Logistical Vibration mimics transportation of ammunition before theater and Tactical Vibration mimics transportation of ammunition during theater. (Loaned photo)

Climactic Cold/Hot



The Climactic Cold/Hot facility can simulate different environments. Cold, hot, humidity, icing, salt fog, altitude, and solar explains Frank Aguilar adding, "By doing it in a chamber we can simulate it in a controlled environment to repeat it over and over." Pictured left to right: Carlos Anaya and Frank Aguilar. After this process the test items moves to Loose Cargo with no radiography in between. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

X-RAY

FROM PAGE 1

receive the ammunition for testing it gets x-rayed to ensure when it gets here it's safe and to capture any

issues ammunition might have from the manufacturer, so we can catch it before any tests. We want to know if something happened because of the test or if it already came like that," explains Simulation Branch Chief, Carlos Anaya.

The ammunition follows a sequence from radiography to logistical vibration, back to radiography, then to climatic testing and so on.

"They see the rounds up to seven times," remarks Anaya.

Because the rounds are inspected as they arrive and are still needed for testing is why non-destructive radiography is key.

"We do radiography instead of having demo tear it apart because it keeps the item whole and it keeps

Loose Cargo



The Loose Cargo Simulation shop mimics rounds left unsecured in the back of a vehicle and driving downrange. "The idea is to mimic with our equipment the way a round might be handled out in the field," explains Albert Ortiz. The test items can be placed in two orientations, vertical and horizontal. The table moves "pretty aggressively" in a circular motion at 300 revolutions per minute and rounds are tested in 10-to-20-minute increments. Extreme temperatures can be simulated in the same chambers as Loose Cargo. Simulated temperatures range from minus 65 Fahrenheit to 160 Fahrenheit. (Photos by Ana Henderson)



Drop Testing includes 2.1 Meter package drop and 1.5 Meter bare drop



Test Items can be tested in either bare or packaged configuration. Packaged drop test simulates ammunition falling from the top of vehicle and bare configuration drop simulate ammunition falling from hands waist high. (U.S. Army photo)

it so they can actually fire that item instead of completely destroying it.”

The Radiography Shop has the capability for various modalities; computed tomography better known as CT’s take about four hours to complete. The team also performs

static x-ray, flash x-ray and remote x-ray. They have two remote systems that can be taken to a gun position.

Carter explains, “Anytime we have an item that duds out on the field and we know it’s not safe

to handle and bring back to our facility, we work hand in hand with Radiation Safety and our Demolition personnel and that way we go out on the impact zone with them, and we can set up and we x-ray out on the field.”

Ultimately, safety is the reason behind the cycle and meticulous evaluation for these test items.

“We want to make sure our workforce is safe and that the Soldiers are when they get the final ammunition,” remarks Carter.

Tactical Vibration



Tactical vibration uses chambers to move rounds in three axis; horizontally, transverse/longitude and vertical (up and down). Adolfo Noriega explains, the chamber, “Mimics what these rounds would naturally see during transportation anywhere from where they are manufactured and ultimately to the Warfighter in the field and everything in between.” Pictured left to right: Adolfo Noriega, Anthony Yoakum, and Nick Ford. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

Sand & Dust Testing



Dust facility personnel perform tests to evaluate the ability of test items to resist the effects of dust. The Blown Air Dust and Sand System is a mobile unit that has the capability to perform outdoor testing of blown sand, dust or mixed sand and dust. This test is performed to determine whether the test item may be stored and operated under extreme blowing dust conditions without degrading performance, effectiveness, reliability, maintainability. (U.S. Army photo)

Rain Testing



YTC’s Rain facility can simulate static and wind-driven rain and high winds for testing the effects of wet weather and near-hurricane conditions with nozzle pressure at 40 pounds per square inch and produces up to 50 miles per hour of simulated wind. (U.S. Army photo)

Fire Prevention: Cooking safety starts with you, pay attention to fire prevention

Fire Prevention Week ran from Oct. 8 -14

and was intended to educate the public about simple but important steps that can be taken to reduce the risk of cooking fires in the home.



Students from James D. Price Elementary School visited Fire Station 2, Oct. 10 as part of a series of events the Yuma Proving Ground Fire Department hosted in support of this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign.



In addition to receiving gift bags with educational materials about preventing fires, the students got to watch a safety video and meet Sparky the Fire Dog. They also received a demonstration about all the equipment on a fire truck, tried on firefighter gear, and learned how to use a fire extinguisher to put out a simulated fire. (Photos by James Gilbert)



The U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground Fire Department also hosted a pancake breakfast for the community Oct. 11, at Fire Station 2, on the Howard Cantonment Area. Firefighters cooked the pancakes and coffee, and juice were also available. The National Fire Protection Association, which is the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week and has been for over a century, has chosen "Cooking safety starts with YOU! Pay attention to fire prevention" as its theme this year.



Jumping in a bounce house was just one of the many activities that 4th, 5th, and 6th graders from Yuma Proving Ground's James D. Price Elementary School got to experience on the morning of Oct. 12 at Fire Station 2 as part of this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign. Other activities included trying on firefighter's personal protective gear, checking out vehicles and using a water hose from one of the fire trucks. Children from the Child Development Center also stopped by.



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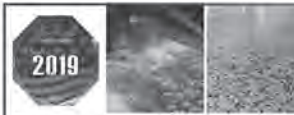
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Antiterrorism Awareness Corner

Risk management for everyone

By Robert Barocio

As the new Antiterrorism Officer, I have had the opportunity to meet with several ATEC facility managers to get an understanding of the status of existing Risk Management Plans at each respective building. I was pleasantly surprised on how many excellent well produced documents there were.

I want to share the following list of steps you can take in your workplace and even at your residence to maintain a ready and resilient workplace and a safe living environment.

1. Identify Risks: Start by identifying potential hazards and risks specific to your workplace or home. This could include physical hazards, such as slippery floors or faulty equipment, as well as non-physical risks like cybersecurity threats or other vulnerabilities such as unlocked doors and faulty security systems.

2. Assess Risks: Once you've identified the risks, assess their potential impact and likelihood of occurrence. This helps prioritize which risks need

immediate attention and which ones can be addressed later.

3. Mitigate Risks: Develop strategies to mitigate or minimize identified risks. This could involve implementing safety protocols, providing proper training to employees, or investing in security measures like data encryption, alarms, and facility emergency response plan or family plan of action.

4. Employee Involvement: Encourage employees to actively participate in risk management. They are often on the front lines and can provide valuable insights and suggestions for improving safety and reducing risks.

5. Regular Inspections: Conduct regular inspections to identify any new risks or potential hazards that may have emerged. This includes checking and reviewing safety procedures and assessing the overall workplace environment.

6. Emergency Preparedness: Develop and regularly update emergency response plans. Ensure employees are trained on procedures for

evacuations, first aid, and handling critical incidents. Regular drills and simulations can help reinforce preparedness.

7. Communication and Training:

Effective communication is vital for risk management. Clearly communicate safety protocols, procedures, and expectations to all employees. Provide regular training sessions to ensure everyone is aware of potential risks and how to address them.

8. Continuous Monitoring: Risk management is an ongoing process. Regularly monitor and review the effectiveness of risk mitigation strategies. Stay informed about new industry standards, regulations, and best practices to ensure your risk management approach remains up to date.

9. Reporting and Investigation: Establish a system for reporting and investigating incidents, near misses, and potential risks. Encourage employees to report any concerns promptly and ensure that incidents are thoroughly investigated to prevent future occurrences.

10. Documentation and Review: Maintain detailed records of risk assessments, mitigation strategies, and incident reports. Regularly review these documents to identify trends, areas for improvement, and update risk management protocols accordingly.

By implementing a comprehensive risk management approach, we can create a safer environment for everyone. Remember, it's a team effort, so let's stay proactive and committed to maintaining a secure environment. "See something, say something."

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YPG supports annual G.A.I.N. event



More than 2,000 people passed through YPG's display at the annual Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods (G.A.I.N.) event at Yuma Palms Mall Saturday, meeting Soldiers from YPG's Airborne Test Force and police officers from the YPG Police Department. They also got up close and personal with the all-terrain variant of the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle tested extensively at YPG. (Photos by PAO staff)



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