

The Outpost

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

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Spike missile integrated into Apache at YPG

By Mark Schauer

A primary responsibility of U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) is to support developmental testing to improve existing weapons systems, even on platforms considered the most lethal of their kind.

A recent example of this is testing in support of an airworthiness release that will allow the Spike non-line of site missile to be integrated into the AH-64 Apache attack helicopter.

Always identified with state-of-theart sensors and precision guidance systems, as well as lethal air-tosurface missiles like the Hellfire, the Apache will now boast a precision weapon with more than four times the range of the iconic missile.

"Our plan is to field next summer," said Maj. Brian Haley, Assistant Product Manager for Program Manager Apache. "We are going rapidly from this culminating test



Always identified with state-of-the-art sensors and precision guidance systems, as well as lethal air-to-surface missiles like the Hellfire, the Apache will soon boast the Spike, a precision weapon with more than four times the range of a Hellfire, after testing at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground. (U.S. Army photo)

event to fielding. It is an awesome capability that I think will be a game-changer."

Over the course of five days in December 2023, testers fired eight full-up rounds in a variety of test scenarios at the proving ground: day and night shots, against both moving and static targets such as a mock SA-22 and a real Dodge Dakota truck, at different distances, from hovers close up to more than 30 kilometers away. In more than one fire, the Apache dropped down in altitude and even turned 180 degrees as the missile sped toward its target to intentionally lose link with the round to verify it would still hit the target on its automatic track: the link was reestablished before impact in one test, intentionally not reestablished in another.

The Spike missile is also able to

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YPG command team keynotes local Wreaths Across America ceremonies

By Mark Schauer

Yuma Proving Ground's (YPG) command team served as keynote speakers at both of Yuma's local Wreaths Across America ceremonies on Dec. 16, 2023.

Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Millare appearing at Desert Lawn Cemetery in the morning and YPG Commander Col. John Nelson speaking at Sunset Vista Cemetery in the afternoon.

The annual ceremony holds a seasonal significance by remembering the fallen, honoring those who have served, and teaching the next generation the cost of freedom.

Both men noted that in decades past most Americans either served in uniform themselves or had at least one immediate family member who did, which changed after the adoption of an all-volunteer force in



the early 1970s.

"Although there are many benefits to having an entirely professional fighting force, there is one great risk: namely, that the American people will grow alienated from the military and the Soldiers who sacrifice so much on their behalf," said Nelson in his remarks. "That would be a staggering tragedy, and I'm grateful that events like this exist to help ensure that doesn't ever happen."





The Outpost

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ABOVE: U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground Command Sqt. Maj. Mark Millare provides keynote remarks at a Wreaths Across America ceremony at Yuma's Desert Lawn Cemetery on Dec. 16. (Photos by James Gilbert)

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YPG Command Team thanks Military Comfort Center volunteers

By Mark Schauer

Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Commander Col. John Nelson and Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Millare took time to thank the volunteers of the Yuma International Airport's Military Comfort Center at a ceremony at the airport on Dec. 12. The pair presented a plaque in the volunteers' honor as Yuma International Airport Director Gladys Brown looked on.

"The selflessness of what you do for service members is appreciated so much," said Nelson in his remarks. "I know it means a great deal for our

folks and veterans of all services in this veteran-rich environment."

Millare remarked on the very early or late hours YPG's Soldiers often depart at when traveling on temporary duty and praised the welcome atmosphere provided by the Military Comfort Center's volunteers as he presented the post's new challenge coin in appreciation.

Since opening in 2010, the Military Comfort Center's volunteers have logged more than 62,000 hours of service and interacted with over 55,000 military personnel, family members, and veterans.





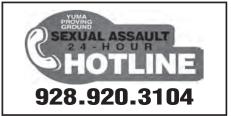


ABOVE & LEFT: Yuma Proving Ground Commander Col. John Nelson and Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Millare attended a recognition ceremony for the Yuma International Airport's Military Comfort Center on Dec. 12, 2023. (Photos by Mark Schauer) RIGHT: Yuma Proving Ground Commander Col. John Nelson and Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Millare enjoyed the Comfort Center before a trip to Alaska in October. (Photo by Ana Henderson)





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Trees for Troops donates to military families









The holiday season is the time for giving, and Yuma Proving Ground's Army Community Services (ACS) provided real trees to active-duty Soldiers and their Families thanks to the Christmas Spirit Foundation's Trees for Troops. Nearly 50 trees were up for grabs Dec. 7 on Cox Field. Clarissa Benavides and Gisela Robles from the ACS team were on hand to help shoppers make their selection. (Loaned photos)

Operation Homefront donates toys to military families









The upper level of Army Community Services looked like Santa's workshop on the afternoon of Dec. 13 when the directorate provided stocking stuffers for active-duty Families. The toys came from the Operation Homefront Program, which is made up of customer donations to Dollar Tree. In total more than 2,000 toys were donated to Yuma Proving Ground. (Photos by James Gilbert)

Price hosts holiday concert





It was showtime for the students at James D. Price Elementary School! The children donned their red and green holiday appeal and hit the stage at Post Theater on Dec. 13 for their holiday performance. (Photos by Stacie Oliver)



Annual Community Tree Lighting

By Ana Henderson

It's the most wonderful time of the year and at Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) the community celebrated in the most wonderful way – the Annual Community Tree Lighting.

Chaplain Wayne Hunter kicked off the event on Dec. 6 with an invocation, followed by opening remarks from Garrison Manager Kenneth Musselwhite and Business and Recreation Director Clarissa Vargas. YPG Commander Col. John Nelson told the crowd it was his first time at the tree lighting and was "ecstatic" to be there.

The festive fun continued with the announcement of the tree decorating contest winners. Five Garrison offices entered yet it was the Religious Services Office that took the glory of first place.

The night's entertainment included YPG's Youth Services singing carols as the crowd joined in.

The moment that all had been waiting for was Santa's arrival. Santa parachuted onto Cox Field with the Grinch sneakily following behind. The fantastic jumps were made possible by the Military

Freefall School.

Moments later the Grinch ran off while Santa arrived by fire truck to greet the children. Milla Zepeda had the honor of placing the ornament on the tree as it was lit.

This event was made possible by the team in the FMWR directorate.



The 2024 Annual Community Tree Lighting took place at Cox Field on the Howard Cantonment on Dec. 6. The event brought out hundreds of community members and provided entertainment such as Santa and the Grinch parachuting on to the field, caroling, hot coco and cookies, and gifts for the kids. (Photos by Ana Henderson)









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YTC Commander thanks Aviation and Electronics team

Yuma Test Center Commander Lt. Col. Shane Dering visited the Aviation Systems and Electronic Test Division team on Dec. 14 to thank them for their work during several large-scale test events and demonstrations. Dering presented the following employees with awards on behalf of Army Test and Evaluation Command Commander Maj. Gen. James Gallivan. He also recognized several employees for their years of service to the government. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

Civilian Service Commendation Medal





David Bates

Brianna Carlson

Certificate of Appreciation



Lt. Col. Shane Dering, Robyn Tiaden, Michael Stoltenberg, Scott Fromm, Bert Evans, Yogendra Shrestha and Mayra Angulo. Not pictured Robert Fletcher.

Civilian Service Achievement Medal



Lt. Col. Shane Dering, Walter Aims, Ervin Rosales, Glenn Pinnell and Aaron Wise. Not pictured Carlos Molina and Jose Ramirez

Certificates of Appreciation



(Left to right, back row) Eugene Walters, Jorge Zavala, Jared Musselman, Salomon Sanchez, Rodolfo Soto, David Bates, Andrew Getman, Michael Stoltenberg, Scott Fromm, Yogendra Shrestha, Andrew Habegger, Aaron Wise, Walter Aims, Bert Evans. (Left to right, front row) Ervin Rosales, Lt. Col. Shane Dering, Mayra Angulo. Not pictured, Edgar Castillo, Richard Gillmore, Jonathan Green, Ruben Hernandez, Edgar Hurtado, Sean Lamorena, Daniel Schoenborn, Riley Sinek and Cole Sutter.

Years of Service Awards 25 years



Bert Evans

20 years



Scott Fromm, Howard Gwynn, Robyn Tiaden, Nathaniel Geoghegan, Lt. Col. Shane Dering.

10 years



Steven Mullins, Salomon Sanchez, David Bates, Glenn Pinnell, Lt. Col. Shane Dering.

Not pictured: 25 years of service, Daniel Schoenborn and Thomas Hall

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A primary responsibility of U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground is to support developmental testing to improve existing weapons systems, even on platforms considered the most lethal of their kind. A recent example of this is testing in support of an airworthiness release that will allow the Spike non-line of site missile to be integrated into the AH-64 Apache attack helicopter. (U.S. Army photo)



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SPIKE FROM PAGE 1

disable the warhead mid-flight, and one test verified this, hitting a target board like a slug. The test included acoustic sensors to gather sound data on its impact.

"The flight restriction algorithm on the Spike is pretty robust," said

Cole Sutter, YPG test officer. "It has an intended and expected flight area, and when it leaves that expected flight area it induces a roll to land within the surface danger zone."

Aviation testers appreciate YPG's vast ranges and variety of realistic targets as they put the weapon through its paces in a variety of situations and altitudes. YPG's natural desert environment also

contributes significantly to the realism of the testing. The Spike had three successful test shots in January 2023 for integration qualification, and had been demonstrated at the proving ground in 2019 and during Project Convergence 2021.

"We've had a relationship with Yuma for four years now," said Haley. "It has the range space, the facilities, and frequency management requirements that are specific to us. Other ranges have different resource challenges that we don't have here."

Information gathered during the test will not only validate fielding the weapon, but also contribute new insights into reconfiguring existing pods on the Apache to accommodate more missiles, as well as in training combat pilots on how to use the Spike for maximum effect.



Over the course of five days in December 2023, testers at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground fired eight full-up Spike non-line of sight rounds in a variety of test scenarios against both moving and static targets such as a mock SA-22 and a real Dodge Dakota truck. (U.S. Army photo)

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Tis the season for holiday office décor



Employees at Yuma Proving Ground got into the holiday spirit by decorating their office spaces. Resource Management personnel hosted an office decorating competition. They collected votes from anyone who toured the various offices during lunchtime. This year the Systems office took first place. (Photos by Ana Henderson)









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Chaplain's Corner

Rule No. 11, Kids need to learn how to fail to succeed

Chaplain's Corner Chaplain Mai. Ryan Pearse



Rule No. 11 in Dr. Jordan Peterson's book "12 Rules for Life: An Antidote to Chaos" is. "Do not bother children when they are skateboarding."

In his hometown of Ontario.

Peterson would observe kids skateboarding in local skate parks. From time to time, they would fall and injure themselves. One day, he noticed the skate parks had been roped off and signs posted saying that they were permanently closed due to the hazards they poised to the children skating.

Rule No. 11 teaches us we need to leave the kids alone and let them fall. even if it means they get injured. Kids need to learn how to fail. That's the only way they're going to learn how to succeed.

This is also true of most young Soldiers. As leaders, we need to give new Soldiers enough leeway

to fall if it means they learn and grow from their experiences. We cannot allow them to fall so hard they don't get up, they hurt others, or they get so discouraged that they quit. But we can and should find new ways to teach our subordinates.

In Army terms, this is what's loosely known as Mission Command. Mission Command gives subordinates latitude in

accomplishing the mission. They may not complete the mission exactly how you would, and they may even fall in the process, but if they complete the mission in the end, they have learned a valuable lesson, and the entire organization grows.

Proverbs 16:9 tells us, "The heart of a man plans his ways, but the Lord establishes his steps."



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Team building trivia challenge









Members of the S1 and S2 Directorates squared off Nov. 28 in a in the first round of the Yuma Proving Ground 2023 Trivia Challenge. Despite trailing early on S2 rallied from behind in the final round to come away with the win. Visual Information Manager Eugene Garcia, who donned a suit for the event and played the role of game show host, asked the contestants pop culture questions from the 70s and 80s. The challenge falls in line with the command's mission to foster comradery among employees. (Photos by James Gilbert)



Price School hosts family hot cocoa social







What better way to wrap of the last days of school before the winter break than with a hot cocoa social. The student council at James D. Price Elementary School hosted the family event Dec. 14, where students and their families could enjoy a bit of time together before the start of the school day. Officers with the Yuma Proving Ground Police Department stopped by to mingle with the children as well. (Photos by Stacie Oliver)





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