

The Outpost

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

A NASA

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NASA tests Starliner parachutes at YPG

By Mark Schauer

After more than 25 years in orbit 250 miles above the Earth, some may see the operations of the International Space Station (ISS) as routine.

Nearly 300 astronauts from 21 different nations have been aboard ISS, and all have returned safely from their tours of duty in low Earth orbit (LEO).

To survive their trip back to Earth, astronauts rely on their space capsule safely and reliably decelerating from nearly 18,000 miles per hour in orbit to 350 miles per hour re-entering Earth's atmosphere to speeds slower than most people drive automobiles on residential streets before touching ground.

Boeing's Starliner is the second commercially developed and operated spacecraft intended to ferry humans and cargo to and from the



test of the Boeing Starliner's main parachute system took place at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) on Jan. 9, 2024. The first Starliner-related test at YPG took place in . 2018, and YPG has supported NASA-related testina since the earliest days of the space program. (Photo by Josh Valcarcel)

ISS along with SpaceX's Dragon. The reusable Starliner is designed for up to 10 uses and can be fully reset for another journey within months of its return to Earth.

After a small modification to the main parachute's soft links, which connect the suspension lines to the riser extensions, engineers set out to prove the system in a real-world test on a remote drop zone at Yuma Proving Ground (YPG).

"This was the last of a long series of tests that we've been running for the Starliner spacecraft," said James McMichael, senior technical integration manager with NASA's Commercial Crew Program. "We needed to verify a couple of changes we made to the main parachutes to clear the way for the upcoming crewed flight test later this year."

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YPG Commander speaks at local commemorative ceremony

By Mark Schauer

On the morning of Jan. 13, U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Commander Col. John Nelson spoke at the ceremony commemorating the U.S. Army of the West Mormon Battalion's 1847 crossing of the Colorado River.

The annual ceremony at Yuma's West Wetlands Park honors the Soldiers of the battalion, who

were the first Army presence in what later became Yuma. YPG Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Millare also attended.

Following six months of grueling privation across difficult terrain, the battalion's primary and most lasting contribution to American history was the founding and successful navigation of an all-weather southern route to California capable

of sustaining wagon traffic.

In remarks at the ceremony, Nelson noted that YPG's work at the forefront of Army modernization efforts carries on the battalion's legacy.

"Much of western American history as we know it would not have occurred without the crossing of the Mormon Battalion," he said. "The efforts of this region that have touched all corners of the world ever since likewise would not have occurred as they did. To me, that makes the Soldiers of the Mormon Battalion and what they did very significant to all of us. The Mormon Battalion's contribution to American history deserves to be respected and commemorated."



On Jan. 13, 2024, U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Commander Col. John Nelson spoke at the annual ceremony commemorating the U.S. Army of the West Mormon Battalion's 1847 crossing of the Colorado River. YPG Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Millare sits in the right background. (Photos by Mark Schauer)



u.s. Army furna Proving Ground (PPG) Commander Con. John Nelson and PPG Command Sign Mark Militare fliet community members who attended the annual ceremony commemorating the U.S. Army of the West Mormon Battalion's 1847 crossing of the Colorado River on Jan. 13.

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



The annual ceremony commemorating the U.S. Army of the West Mormon Battalion's 1847 crossing of the Colorado River took place on Jan. 13.



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Bailey is new director of public works

By James Gilbert

As the garrison's new Director of Public Works, Luke Bailey is committed to making Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) the best place it can be. He started in early December 2023.

Bailey comes to YPG from Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, where he was the branch head for the Engineering Department for three years. In this role he oversaw and directed all its planning and construction projects.

Prior to that he led asset management at the air station as the branch head.

"It was a good opportunity for me to move up in a field that I have been directly working in," Bailey said of his new position. "I'm able to take on some new challenges, work towards overcoming them, and have more control over the outcome."

Currently a Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy Reserves, Bailey also served four years on active duty from 2016 to 2020 as a Civil Engineering Corps Officer. The four preceding years were spent in the U.S. Army, where he worked in military



Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) named Luke Bailey as the new Director of the Public Works Department. He started in early December 2023 and comes to YPG from Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, where he was the branch head for the Engineering Department for three years. (Photo by James Gilbert)

intelligence and reached the rank of Sergeant.

Now that he has the reins of the public works department at YPG,

Bailey said his goal is to continue to do his best to support the mission by ensuring the employees have the equipment and facilities needed to do their jobs.

"As the Director of Public Works, I'm essentially responsible for all of the facilities as well as the lands that are controlled by U.S. Army Garrison YPG," Bailey said. "For me right now it is trying to get a handle on how things work, how things are operating, and how I can improve upon them."

The mission of public works is to not only provide a safe working and living environment, but to sustain, restore and modernize installation facilities and infrastructure. Other responsibilities at YPG include supporting garrison operations and tenant unit missions.

Bailey added that he strongly believes that establishing a vision for the organization and creating a positive workplace culture are important parts of his job.

"Those have been areas where I put a lot of my focus because it is the people who go out there and accomplish their jobs every day so being responsible to them and making sure they have the support they need to be successful is critical," Bailey said.



Distinguished Speaker Series: Yuma Proving Ground

Would you like to learn more about Yuma Proving Ground's (YPG) important mission of testing equipment for the warfighter? The community has two upcoming opportunities at Yuma County libraires. The events are free and open to the public.

When: Tues. Feb. 13, from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Where: 13226 S Frontage Rd.

When: Tues. Feb. 13, from 3-4 p.m.

Where: 2951 S 21st Drive

2024 Transformation Challenge kicks off at YPG

By Ana Henderson

New Year, new me. You've heard the saying. In 2024, Yuma Proving Ground's (YPG) Wellness Program is challenging employees to say, New Year, new healthier me.

YPG Wellness Program coordinator Michele Dominguez announced the Transformation Challenge competition Jan. 4 via email giving three times and locations, between Jan. 8 and 10, for employees to show up for their baseline measurements.

Employees lined up outside the large conference room in the AOC on the Kofa Cantonment, the Sanchez Room in the ROC and at the Health Clinic on Main Post to have their weight and body measurements taken by patient administration officers from the YPG Health Clinic. During that time the clinic also offered flu shots.

In total six teams signed up and

one individual, totaling nearly 40 employees.

With team names like, the Losing Team, Army of One, Maintenance Machine, the Ice Cream Dream Team, and Team Biscuit there's no telling how competitive the teams will get.

Members of the Ice Cream Dream Team were first in line at Kofa on day one of signups. Rafael Padilla who works out regularity hopes the challenge motivates his coworkers to "change their lifestyle" and lose weight the right way. Their Chief in the Systems Test Branch, John Bacon joined the team. "It's great motivation," he said of the commandwide challenge.

The Instrumentation Division's Shawn Sonnentag who is the team organizer for Team Biscuit echoed the sentiment.

"If you have friends doing it along with you, you can encourage each other." His team is made up of seven co-workers.

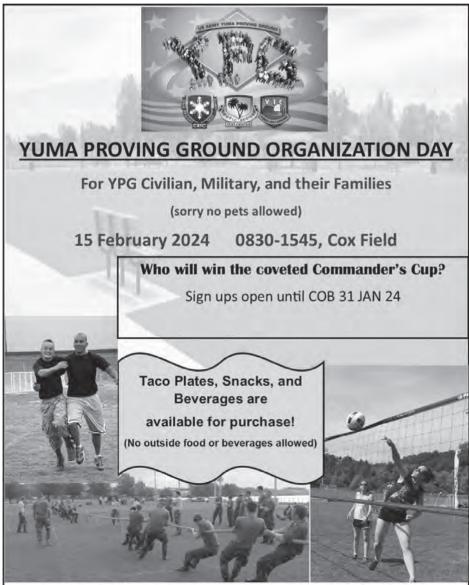
Signups closed Jan. 10 and the competition ends Feb. 28. The Wellness Program will use the before and after measurements to calculate which team or individual had the biggest transformation.







ABOVE: Employees lined up to have their weight and body measurements taken by patient administration officers, Spc. Anahi Salas, and Sgt. Bryant Hernandez, from the Yuma Proving Ground Health Clinic. During that time the clinic also offered flu shots. LEFT: Members of the Ice Cream Dream Team were first in line at Kofa on day one of signups. Their Chief in the Systems Test Branch, John Bacon said, "It's great motivation," of the commandwide challenge. (Photos by Ana Henderson)



Contractor Disclaimer: "Contractor employees may attend YPG Organization Day at no cost to the government and must make arrangements with their employers for their attendance."

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YPG and YTC leaders recognize ATF Soldiers

Yuma Test Center Commander Lt. Col. Shane Dering, who was joined by Yuma Proving Ground Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Millare, dropped by the Airborne Test Center on Jan. 11 to recognize Soldiers from the Airborne Test Force for their recent accomplishments.

Certificate of Appreciation



The following ATF Soldiers, test parachutist program manager and test officer were recognized for their work on the Project Manager Tactical Radios test. Front row (left) Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Millare, Sgt. 1st Class Drew Oliver, Sgt. 1st Class Billy Vang, Staff Sgt. Jon Contreras, Staff Sgt. Ahmed Elinbabi, Staff Sgt. Jonathan Harris, Staff Sgt. Stephen Moss, Staff Sgt. Sean Finley, and Lt. Col. Shane Dering. Back row (left) Sgt. Efrain Laureano, Sgt. Kwame Scaife, Sgt. Brannon Schieman, Spc. Christian Ramirez, Jose Castillo, and Faith Harbolt (not visible.) Not pictured are Sgt. 1st Class Cody Lavalla and Master Sgt. Donald Bullock. (Photos by James Gilbert)

Army Achievement Medals



Lt. Col. Shane Dering and Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Millare recognized the following ATF Soldiers for providing assistance to . Squadron VMX-1 from Marine Corps Air Station Yuma during a joint Sling Load operation and for another test mission in Fort Greeley, Alaska. Lt. Col. Shane Dering (far left) Command Sqt. Maj. Mark Millare, Staff Sgt. Ahmed Elinbabi, Staff Sqt. Stephen Moss, Sqt. Richard Simmons, Sgt. Kwame Scaife and Staff Sqt. Sean Finley.

Airborne Test Soldier earns promotion





LEFT: On Jan. 11, Airborne Test Force Soldier Sean Finley was promoted from Sergeant to Staff Sergeant. Before switching out his insignia, Staff Sgt. Justin Devaul (center) and Sgt. 1st Class Billy Vang (right) talked a bit about Finley's career. He was also recognized with an Army Achievement Medal for taking part in a training and mentorship with the Sister Service program offered by the Marines. RIGHT: Staff Sgt. Sean Finley (center) with Staff Sgt. Justin Devaul (left) and Sgt. 1st Class Billy Vang (right).

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New air defense system advances Corps' air dominance

By Morgan Blackstock

The Marine Corps is one step closer to defeating unmanned aircraft systems.

In December, Program Executive Officer Land Systems successfully tested the Marine Air Defense Integrated System, or MADIS, low-rate initial production model, hitting several launched drones during a live-fire test at Yuma Proving Ground.

The live fire test subjected MADIS to actual battlefield scenarios, where it detected, tracked, identified, and defeated unmanned aerial threats.

"MADIS can complete the entire kill chain, and we witness that during this event," said Col. Andrew Konicki, program manager for Ground Based Air Defense. "It is a linchpin for mission success and our ability to neutralize airborne threats...which in turn, increases our lethality."

MADIS is a short-range, surface-to-air system that enables Low Altitude Air Defense



U.S. Marines with Marine Corps Systems Command, fire a Stinger Missile from a Marine Air Defense Integrated System (MADIS) at Yuma Proving Ground, Dec. 13, 2023. The MADIS Mk1 and Mk2, pictured, form a complementary pair and will be the basic building block of the Low Altitude Air Defense Battalions' ground-based air defense capability. (Photo by Virginia Guffey)

Battalions to deter and neutralize unmanned aircraft systems and fixed wing/rotary wing aircraft. Mounted aboard two Joint Light Tactical Vehicles, the system is a complementary pair. MADIS includes multiple disparate systems, including radar systems, surface-to-air missiles, and command and control elements. In layman's terms, one detects, and the other attacks.

Drones continue to be a threat, especially with the emergence of easily accessible, commercial off-the-shelf products. MADIS uses real-time communication and coordination to destroy or neutralize low-altitude aerial threats in defense of the Marine Air Ground Task Force.

"The importance of countering UAS threats cannot be overstated," said Konicki. "We see it all over the news. MADIS is the key. We're excited to get this out to Marines."

During the test, MADIS successfully tracked each target

from launch. The information passed through the Common Aviation Command and Control System to the Mk1 vehicle for engagement. This allowed the gunner in the Mk1 vehicle to engage the drone while the Mk2 vehicle continued to track other UAS devices. MADIS successfully hit multiple targets upon firing using the Stinger missile and 30mm cannon.

"We've taken multiple disparate commercial off-theshelf and government off-the-shelf technologies and put them together," said Konicki. "This is a capability the Marine Corps has never had, and it was a challenge for the acquisition community. This test event shows we met that challenge."

The program office has additional live-fire testing planned for new equipment training, system verification testing, and initial operational test and evaluation in FY24, prior to the start of fielding, said Maj. Craig Warner, product manager for Future Weapons Systems. The 3rd Littoral Anti-Air Battalion will be the first battalion in the Marine Corps to receive the MADIS.





U.S. Marines with Marine Corps Systems Command, fire a Stinger Missile from a Marine Air Defense Integrated System at Yuma Proving Ground, Dec. 13, 2023. (Photos by Virginia Guffey)



U.S. Marines with Combat Logistics Company-16, 1st Maintenance Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group observe the Marine Air Defense Integrated System at Yuma Proving Ground, Dec. 13, 2023.

OUTPOST

STARLINER

FROM PAGE 1

The first Starliner-related test at YPG took place in 2018, and YPG has supported NASA-related testing since the earliest days of the space program. The precursor to the lunar rover used during the last moon landings in 1971 and 1972, dubbed the 'mobility test article,' was tested at the proving ground in 1966. Astronaut Neil Armstrong, the first human to walk on the surface of the moon, visited YPG to witness developmental testing of the AH-56 Cheyenne Attack Helicopter in 1971. More recently, the Capsule Parachute Assembly System (CPAS) of NASA's Orion spacecraft underwent extensive developmental testing here in the previous decade.

"We've been supporting this testing for a long time," said Steven Mullins, a team lead in YPG's Air Delivery Branch. "They always seem to appreciate all of the support we provide them. We are the only place in the United States they can get all of the support they need for this type of testing."

Drop testing of the Starliner's updated main parachutes took place on a cool, crisp morning in the second week of January.

"We were only gathering data on the mains because that is the only place we've made changes," said McMichael. "The entire rest of the Starliner system has been qualified."

The Starliner's parachute system consists of two forward heat shield parachutes, two drogue parachutes and three pilot mortar deployed main canopies, but for the test only two of the main parachutes were deployed.

"The system is designed so it can operate with only one drogue or two mains and still meet all its requirements," said McMichael. "They can tolerate a drogue or a main parachute failure."

Dozens of personnel were present on the isolated drop zone where the dart was dropped. Dozens of miles away, however, other personnel were



A NASA test of the Boeing Starliner's main parachute system took place at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) on Jan. 9, 2024. The test dart was dropped from a NASA C-130 cargo plane flying at an altitude of 13,000 feet at 145 knots air speed. (Photo by James Blair)

directing all conditions of the test from a mission control center. The personnel in the control room have multiple views of the test item from ground and aerial-based cameras flown on chase aircraft, on this day a pair of Blackhawk helicopters. They can communicate with the ground and air crews, and see air traffic from other tests on monitors.

Evaluators used a test dart as opposed to the actual Starliner capsule.

"We were trying to run a stressing test which is much, much easier to get on a dart because the dart will fall a little faster than a capsule will," said McMichael. "For the test objective, the dart was the right vehicle and dropping it from a C130 was the right test technique."

The dart was dropped from a NASA C-130 cargo plane flying at an altitude of 13,000 feet at 145 knots air speed. The dart was extracted from the cargo bay on a pallet, then separated from the pallet and slowed by two CPAS drogue parachutes used as programmers, followed by two of the Starliner main parachutes deploying. The two 104-foot diameter main parachutes with Kevlar risers attached to it slowed the hurtling dart down to a

landing speed of less than 24 miles per hour.

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Once landed, YPG and NASA personnel fanned out across the drop zone to carefully recover the deployed parachutes. As the packed parachutes made the journey back to the Air Delivery Complex, where they were suspended from a high shakeout tower and inspected, workers from YPG's motor pool used a large crane to lift the massive test dart onto a lowboy trailer for transport back to NASA's leased hangar at Yuma International Airport.

"They were extremely happy with our support," said Mullins of the NASA personnel. "It is always interesting and complicated when they come out to test."



After a small modification to the Boeing Starliner's main parachute's soft links, which connect the suspension lines to the riser extensions, engineers set out to prove the system in a real-world test on a remote drop zone at YPG. (Photo courtesy of Steven Siceloff)

Chaplain's Corner

Chapel visits Soldiers, provides lunch and ministry

Chaplain's Corner Chaplain Maj. Ryan Pearse



The Army Chaplain's mission is to bring God to Soldiers and Soldiers to God. One tenant of this mission is to conduct a ministry of presence. This is where unit ministry team members are present at work with their fellow Soldiers, develop relationship and trust to be able to better minister to them in the future.

On Jan. 16, after a four-day holiday weekend, the Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Religious Services Office initiated "Operation Lord's Chicken" where they got to meet all the Soldiers of YPG where they work.



Proving Ground's Garrison Religious Services Office memhers Chaplain Maj. Ryan Pearse, Staff Sqt. Nicole Covington and Sgt. D.J. Suggs visited Soldiers at their place of work and provided ministry and lunch. (Photos courtesy of Chaplain Pearse)

Yuma



We met the Soldiers where they were and surprised them with free

chicken sandwiches and handed out various spiritual literature.
Staff Sgt. Nicole Covington said,
"This unconventional ministry style produced multiple smiles and much

joy throughout post. We visited the Airborne Test Force, Medical Clinic, flight detachment, and all the Freefall committees. Everyone was super appreciative. We look forward to doing this again soon."

The next Spiritual Fitness Luncheon is tentatively planned for the month of April.

Remember, the YPG Halo Chapel offers weekly Sunday services: 9:30 a.m. Catholic and 11 a.m. Contemporary Christian.

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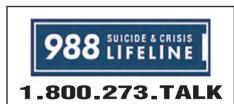


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Resource Teachers

- · Have a teaching certificate or degree in a STEM subject
- · Want to introduce students to hands-on learning
- Receive a stipend based on experience and education level

(2) - 1 Week STEM Camp Dates

Week 1: 03 - 06 June 2024 Week 2: 10 - 13 June 2024

Near-Peer Mentors

- · Local college and high school students 16 years and older
- · Want to mentor students with hands-on
- Receive a stipend based on experience and education level

Contact/Registration Information









Gains in the Education of Mathematics & Science (GEMS)





GEMS is a free summer enrichment STEM education program hosted by U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) that provides 5th - 7th grade students unique hands-on learning experience. Our program provides STEM exposure utilizing hands-on activities led by YPG engineers and scientists. Activities focus on age and grade-appropriate labs in areas such as science. robotics and coding, engineering, mathematics, environmental sciences, chemistry, and biology.

General Information

- YPG will be hosting (2) 1 week STEM Camps 40 Students each week
- Student applicants must be entering 6th 8th grade in '24 '25 school year (currently in 5th - 7th grade) *military association not required*
- Transportation is provided to and from YPG

(2) - 1 Week STEM Camp Dates

Week 1: 03 - 06 June 2024

Week 2: 10 - 13 June 2024

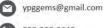
(Pick up locations Week 1: Mary Otondo, Week 2: Gila Vista)

- Student Application window is from February 1 7 April (Only 80 applicants will be accepted)
- Selected students will be notified no later then April 19th
- Parent Meetings for selected applicants will be held May 1st & May 4th

Contact/Registration Information



www.usaeop.com/program/yuma/





928-328-3648







OUTPOST JANUARY 29, 2024 **11**

YPG encourages use of ArMA app to submit service orders

By Ana Henderson

Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) and its higher headquarters the Army Test and Evaluation Command, is encouraging civilians and Soldiers to utilize the Army Maintenance Application (ArMA) to streamline the process for repairs and maintenance.

The Army Materiel Command and Army Installation Management Command launched ArMA in 2021. Initially at YPG it was being used to enable Soldiers to submit barracks maintenance requests from the convenience of their phone or computer.

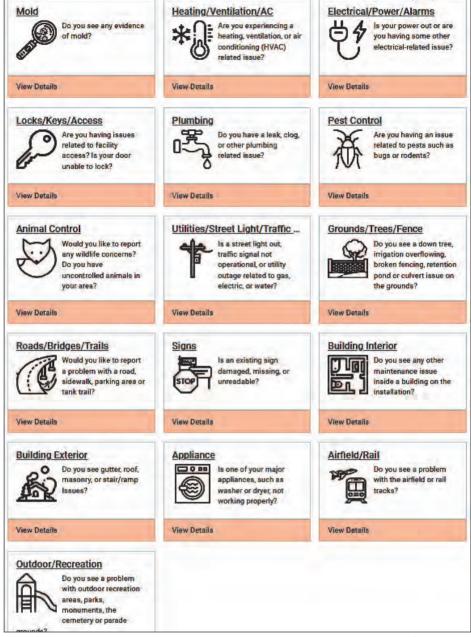
Recently there's a push to have civilians use ArMA to report building and infrastructure issues.

Sarah Crump, a Program Analyst in the YPG Facilities department explains, "This online resource allows users to submit service order requests, including photos, from any smartphone or computer (CAC is not required)."

At that point the Shearwater service desk clerk will verify the request is an actual service order, and then put it into the system. ArMA makes the process much more convenient and transparent.

"It also tracks the progress of the request as it goes through the DPW system and provides technician feedback about the support provided," tells Crump.

ArMA is for non-emergency situations, maintenance repairs, including plumbing, electrical, HVAC, among others. If a user has an



ArMA is for non-emergency situations, maintenance repairs, including plumbing, electrical, HVAC, among others for Army/government buildings and infrastructure. If a user has an emergency maintenance issue related to life, health, and safety, they need to call Directorate of Public Works at YPG for immediate support. (ArMA screen capture)

emergency maintenance issue related to life, health, and safety, they need to call Directorate of Public Works (DPW) at YPG for immediate support.

Another caveat is that ArMA is for Army/government buildings and infrastructure.

Desert Oasis housing at YPG is privatized, and ran by Michael's Military Housing so repairs for upper and lower housing cannot be requested through the app.

Crump also points out, "ArMA is exclusively for repair and maintenance requests. Other types of requests (ground support, fuel, custodial, etc.) are still submitted via the internal YPG service request site."

If you have any questions about ArMA or repairs and maintenance around YPG, reach out to DPW at 928-328-2060.









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