

# The Outpost

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

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## YTC demonstrates capabilities of new robots used for ammunition recovery

By Ana Henderson

The Ammunition Recovery Section that supports Yuma Test Center has one of the most dangerous jobs on the proving ground.

The Ammunition Recovery Technicians, all former military who attended explosive ordnance disposal school, are called when there's ordnance that needs recovery, removal and or disposal.

To make their mission as safe as possible the section recently purchased three robots. Two Pacbots 525 and one Kobra.

"It's a new technology we have, and we are happy to have it," remarked Ammunition Recovery Technician Brittan Forster. Forster is familiar with the Pacbot 525 robot. "A lot of us used these in the



The Ammunition Recovery Technicians, all former military who attended explosive ordnance disposal school are called when there's ordnance that needs recovery, removal and or disposal. To make their mission as safe as possible the section recently purchased three robots. Two Pacbots 525 (right) and one Kobra (left). (Photo by Ana Henderson)

military. At least the smaller one, the exact same one is utilized in the military so if you got out in the last five to ten years, nine times out of ten you used that on a deployment or stateside training with your unit."

These robots are currently the fielded robot in the U.S. Army and have impressive features. They are equipped with lights for night operations. Each model has three or four cameras to provide different angles, even a camera that rotates back to serve as a backup camera.

"These have the 4k definition on them and the tablets themselves have much better clarity," remarked Ammunition Recovery Operations Chief Josh Laudermilk.

The tablets are used to see what

SEE **ROBOTS** page 7

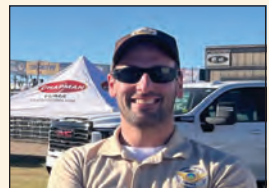
Vietnam veteran  
still working to  
support Soldiers  
/ Page 3



YPG's strategic  
investment in IRSP: A  
precision partnership  
/ Page 4



YPG employee serves  
on YCSO Search and  
Rescue team  
/ Page 5



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# Yuma Proving Ground Command Team active in local community

By Mark Schauer

Following an active community presence that started days after coming into their positions, the uniformed senior leaders of U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) have participated in multiple local events in the new year.

From ceremonies commemorating the service of Soldiers of the past to public talks about the proving ground's current day mission, YPG's command team has been visible in the local community.

"I believe that relationships between an installation and the community are very important, especially when your workforce lives in that community," said Col. John Nelson, YPG commander. "It is very beneficial for leadership to understand how Yuma supports Yuma Proving Ground and its workforce, as well as identifying ways YPG can support the community."

On Jan. 13, Nelson spoke at a ceremony commemorating the U.S. Army of the West Mormon Battalion's 1847 crossing of the Colorado River. The annual ceremony



On Jan. 13, 2024, Yuma Proving Ground Command Col. John Nelson spoke at a ceremony commemorating the U.S. Army of the West Mormon Battalion's 1847 crossing of the Colorado River. The annual ceremony 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. (Photos by Mark Schauer)

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.

On Feb. 10, U.S. Army Yuma Test Center Commander Lt. Col. Shane Dering served as keynote speaker at the 28th annual Camp Bouse Days Commemoration Ceremony in the La Paz County town of Bouse. YPG is the last active Army installation within the World War II-era California-Arizona Desert Maneuver Area, of which Camp Bouse was a part.

The modern-day mission of YPG has a direct lineage with the Soldiers of the 1940s who tested the Canal Defense Light, a 13 million candlepower arc searchlight mounted in the turret of an M3 tank at Camp Bouse during World War II. The system was never fielded, but at the time the project constituted the second-most secret Army program after the Manhattan Project.

"I'm proud that the work done at Yuma Test Center today is at the forefront of current Army transformation efforts," said Dering in remarks at the ceremony. "The cutting-edge artillery, combat vehicles, and unmanned aircraft we test at Yuma Test Center today will ensure our Army retains overmatch against any aggressor nation in the world to keep our nation secure far into the future. It is an effort that I feel is in keeping with the spirit of

each generation of Soldiers that has served—from those of 'The Greatest Generation' who saved the world during World War II, to all that served in the following decades."

Three days later, Millare interacted with the Yuma community with a presentation at the Foothills Branch of the Yuma County Library, where he discussed the proving ground's position at the forefront of Army modernization efforts and sterling safety and environmental stewardship records before fielding questions from the audience.

"Any opportunity to tell the Army story is something I look forward to," said Millare. "An opportunity to do that is always worth my time."



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Yuma Proving Ground Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Millare interacted with the Yuma community with a presentation at the Foothills Branch of the Yuma County Library Feb. 13, 2024. He discussed the proving ground's position at the forefront of Army modernization efforts and sterling safety and environmental stewardship records before fielding questions from the audience.

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# Vietnam veteran still working to support Soldiers

By Mark Schauer

Gene Eggleston, currently an expeditor at U.S. Army Cold Regions Test Center (CRTC), knows from firsthand experience the importance of ensuring equipment works wherever Soldiers serve.

The Vietnam veteran and longtime Alaska resident also has a long memory of the place he has worked seasonally since 2008.

"I took my kids to ski at Bolio Lake while this complex was being built," he recalls.

Born in northern California, he grew up in Lake Tahoe, where his father had a propane business. From earliest childhood, he loved the outdoors, especially downhill and cross-country skiing, which fit right in with the region.

"School was great. They would let you out two hours early to take physical education up on Heavenly Valley Ski Area."

In 1968, he was working for his father when his draft notice arrived. After completing basic training at Fort Bliss, Texas, Eggleston was briefly a staff car and school bus driver at Virginia's Fort Monroe before being sent to jungle training school at Fort Eustis and, finally, Vietnam as a combat engineer.

"They must have figured out that I loved equipment, construction, and blowing things up. I went through the whole war with a positive attitude, and I think I came out OK. The good lord was on my side that whole trip."

Back in the states, he took up mountaineering at Yosemite National Park, then returned to Lake Tahoe and met his wife, Mindy. Seeking adventure, the young couple bought a book called How to Live



Vietnam veteran Gene Eggleston has worked seasonal jobs for U.S. Army Cold Regions Test Center since retiring from a career with the Alaska Department of Transportation in 2008. "Once I got in and saw all the neat stuff they were testing, it really sparked my interest," he said. "It made me feel good because I was supporting the Soldiers." (Photo by Mark Schauer)

In The Woods on Pennies a Day and by chance were able to claim a homestead in the vicinity of Tok, Alaska. Their property was four miles from the road, so the couple packed in 90-pound rolls of tar paper with an improvised rickshaw made from a discarded bicycle tire, sleeping in a tent and cooking over an open fire as their construction proceeded.

"We cut down trees and built a little cabin: we could cut, drag, and peel three logs in a day. We fell in love with it."

As their family grew, they eventually moved to Delta Junction and Eggleston opted for the stability of a career with the Department of Transportation rather than the significantly higher wages being paid to laborers on the Alaska Pipeline in the late 1970s. Mindy worked as an administrative assistant for the local school district and became heavily involved in the community. He bred and raised sled dogs for nearly 20 years in his spare time. After retiring from a 33-year career with the Alaska Department of Transportation, he took a series of seasonal jobs at CRTC.

"I was good friends with Soldiers from the Northern Warfare Training Center, which used to be here at Fort Greely. I knew them from ski patrolling at Black Rapids ski area, which was open to the public at the time, and they were telling me about CRTC."

He started as a seasonal data collector in 2008. After eight years, he became a test vehicle operator.

"Once I got in and saw all the neat stuff they were testing, it really sparked my interest. It made me feel good because I was supporting the Soldiers."

These days, Eggleston works as an expeditor for CRTC. He and his wife celebrated their 50th anniversary earlier this year, and Mindy is president of the Delta Junction Trail Association and recently co-founded a local cross-country ski association. Eggleston still loves CRTC's mission and plans to keep working for the test center.

"When I see something really cool go through, it makes me feel good inside. I'm proud to have been a part of that."

## Now available: Desert Rat Testament, Episode 19



Host Mark Schauer talks with Mike Kingston, who served as a test photographer at U.S. Army Cold Regions Test Center as a Soldier during the Vietnam era and as a civilian from 1989 to 2014. A former wildland firefighter well known as a volunteer firefighter in Delta Junction, Alaska, in his retirement Kingston was recently recognized as the community's volunteer of the year for his work on behalf of the local Meals on Wheels program. (U.S. Army photo)

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# YPG's strategic investment in IRSP: A precision partnership

By James Gilbert

Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) recently took center stage as the host for the semi-annual gathering of the Instrumentation Range Support Program (IRSP). This pivotal forum, known as the Technical Interchange Meeting, brought together experts, engineers, and stakeholders from the world of radar, telemetry, and optical tracking systems.

Held over a three-day period from Jan. 30 to Feb. 1, 2024, at the Pivot Point Conference Center in the City of Yuma, discussions revolved around cutting-edge technologies, system evaluations, and precision in range support.

The 50 plus participants also delved into a multitude of other meeting topics such as current program updates, instrumentation modernization, obsolescence avoidance, instrumentation sustainment, range reports, and training.

Lt. Col Shane Dering, the Yuma Test Center (YTC) Commander, took center stage on the first day. In an hour-long overview he offered insights into its multifaceted operations. His emphasis covered the critical role YTC plays in not just today's testing but that of future testing. YTC plays a pivotal role in assessing military equipment, weapon modernization and



Lt. Col Shane Dering, the Yuma Test Center (YTC) Commander, took center stage on the first day of the Instrumentation Range Support Program, Technical Interchange Meeting. In an hour-long overview he offered insights into its multifaceted operations. His emphasis covered the critical role YTC plays in not just today's testing but that of future testing. (Loaned photo)

technologies to support the modern-day warfighter.

Attendees, however, weren't confined to the conference room for the entire time. On the meeting's final day, they boarded buses to YPG for a briefing and a tour of Mission Control, the nerve center where launches, trajectories and reentries unfold.

They also got to visit the Compact Item Repair Shop where they saw Kineto Tracking Mount radars that had recently been upgraded with parts obtained from the IRSP, and an instrumentation capabilities demonstration that was briefed by

subject matter experts.

"The benefit for us is that we are such a diverse range and can do so many different things. A lot of ranges only do one or two things, where we do air drops, drones, munitions, and direct and indirect missiles," summed up YTC Tracking Radar Subject Matter Expert Herb Kiser. "So, if you look at a lot of other ranges, they aren't as diverse as us and they are sitting there in awe asking how we can do so much. We have almost become the center of excellence in testing because of what we can do here."

The ISRP, administered by BAE

Systems, is a collective of 30 test ranges that includes the Department of Defense, the Department of Energy, NASA, foreign ranges, and three U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command ranges, one of which is Yuma Proving Ground.

Overseen by the United States Air Force, the IRSP also operates a centralized depot and storage site housing critical parts for aging tracking systems. Rather than maintaining individual depots, these ranges rely on this warehouse, stocked with over 10,000 essential components for most of the older range instrumentation systems still in use.

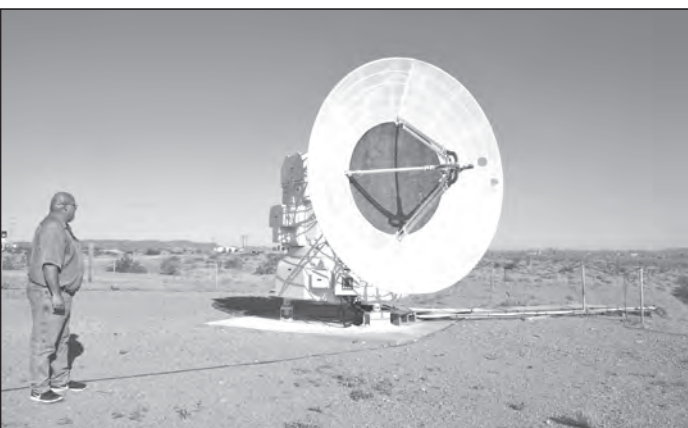
Kiser explained that the IRSP is not just an acronym; it's a lifeline for YPG's testing operations because it provides procurement, sustainment, modernization services, and engineering support for critical instrumentation equipment used across its test ranges.

When a radar element needs replacing, optics requires engineering service or a telemetry system requires an upgrade, and the parts are obsolete or not made anymore, the IRSP service are called for support.

"The way the program works is kind of like an umbrella. It covers a lot of instrumentation we depend on daily to support the ranges and meet the test mission," Kiser said. "A lot of systems tend to date from between the 1960s and the present day. For any one range to be able to store all the parts and retain that level of knowledge is cost prohibitive. It would be exorbitant."

YPG invests a significant portion of its annual sustainment funding in IRSP support, placing it among the top three participating ranges in the IRSP Program.

That financial support, according to Kiser, echoes across the proving ground, ensuring that all instrumentation areas remain finely tuned and operational.



When Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) joined the Instrumentation Range Support Program back in 1976, the program only supported radars. The decision to do so was driven by YPG's use of an MPS-25 digital instrumentation radar, which is seen in the photograph alongside Herb Kiser, the tracking radar subject matter expert for Yuma Test Center. (Photos by Ana Henderson)



Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) relies on the AN/FPS-16 radar system as part of its rigorous testing and critical parts from the Instrumentation Range Support Program (IRSP) to keep its radar systems running. A substantial portion of YPG's annual sustainment funding is dedicated to IRSP support, making the proving ground one of the top three ranges participating in the program.



# YPG employee serves on YCSO Search and Rescue team

By Ana Henderson

A Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) employee is putting his outdoor survival skills to good use. Adam Ghannoum is a volunteer with the Yuma County Sheriff's Office (YCSO) Search and Rescue team.

During the workweek, Ghannoum has a relatively white-collar job as an engineer with YPG's Directorate of Public Works. His background is in mechanical engineering, and he describes his position as, "anything to do with base readiness essentially. So, anything from waterlines, HVAC [heating, ventilation, and air conditioning], concrete, things like that. Just making sure the base is up to speed and operational, so we can support the mission."

Ghannoum grew up in Ohio and volunteered with the City of Hudson's volunteer Emergency Medical Services (EMT) team and earned his basic EMT certification which allowed him to help on ambulances. When Ghannoum and his wife

moved to Portland, Ore. there wasn't a lot of opportunities to volunteer because the world shut down due to COVID.

When the couple moved to sunny Arizona, after Ghannoum's wife, a Marine pilot at Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Yuma, got orders to MCAS, he looked to return to his passion of helping.

"I reached out to the different areas and saw what was available. I love hiking, I love being in the outdoors and in the desert. Search and rescue seemed like a good fit," he explained.

For the most part, YPG runs on a four-day, ten-hour work schedule. Outside of those hours Ghannoum is part to the YCSO Search and Rescue team where he's been able to enhance and share his skills.

"Anything with experience outside with camping, hiking, climbing is a plus, but we have on-going training that the county will help pay for and get you up to speed. So really just a want to help and volunteer, and

there's many roles throughout the search and rescue team to support it."

He explains that not all the roles are physical. There's tracking, planning, and a variety of support roles.

Ghannoum's background is in rope and high angle rescues. This gives him the opportunity to share that knowledge, "We get to teach a lot of the police who are supporting the mission how to stay safe on ropes."

Now, you'll find Ghannoum helping with rescues across Yuma County's diverse terrain.

"Yuma County is unique because we have an urban place within the city. Then we have mountains and the desert. Because of the extreme environment and some of the population, you have anything from people who get in too deep and are stuck in the desert or you have people who are struggling with issue like dementia and wander."

He notes that the several entities around collaborating and sharing information aids in search and rescue missions.

"There's a lot of knowledge about the area, in ways we can work together and foster those relationships, to help these searches to a close quickly."

Most recently Ghannoum was on standby during the Yuma Silver Spur Rodeo. Ghannoum encourages others to get involved in their community to enrich their lives. The experience has helped him, and his wife become part of the Yuma community.

"We have been really enjoying



Yuma Proving Ground runs on a four-day, ten-hour work schedule. Outside of those hours Adam Ghannoum is part to the Yuma County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue team. Most recently he was on standby during the Yuma Silver Spur County Rodeo.

it. In any way that people want to volunteer, there's all sorts of options. So, I encourage people to go out and try to see what can spark their interest."



Adam Ghannoum's background is in rope and high angle rescues. This gives him the opportunity to share that knowledge, "We get to teach a lot of the police who are supporting the mission how to stay safe on ropes." (Loaned photos)



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# Garrison employees recognized

The U.S. Army Garrison Yuma Proving Ground workforce gathered on Feb. 22, 2024, for the state of the Garrison presentation by Garrison Manager Kenneth

Musselwhite. During the presentation Musselwhite presented several employees with years of service and recognition awards. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

## Professional of the Year Calendar year 2023



**Tarnell Pritchett**



## Professional of the 4th Quarter Calendar year 2023



**William Lloyd**

## Civilian Service Achievement Medal



**Danielle Compton**



**Cheryl Holda**

## Years of Service Awards



**15 years  
Kammula Wesson**



**15 years  
Christine Saladin**

Also recognized but not present:

**30 years**  
Peter Efroymsen  
**10 years**  
Lemesha Miles

**5 years**  
Beatriz Ramirez  
Victoria Craun  
Brian Hardy

Matthew Dinwiddie  
Keanu Nakasawa  
Richard Schaar  
Guillermo Zendejas

## YPG Workforce Development team attends AWC Transfer and Career Expo



Students at Arizona Western College had the opportunity to mingle with educational institutions and organizations to learn about opportunities. Yuma Proving Ground's (YPG) Workforce Development team members, Teresa Elizalde and Patricia Conley, attended the event on March 4, 2024, and provided information on YPG's science, technology, engineering and mathematics outreach programs and career opportunities for both students and graduates. (Photos by Janett Rios)





Technicians chose which robot to use depending on the situation and the weight of the item. The Kobra can lift a 155 round and reach higher. The Pacbot 525 has more maneuverability and it's lighter. The team utilizes the robots for various reasons which include, dragging the ammunition away to allow a safety buffer or lifting it for inspection. (Photos by Ana Henderson)



## ROBOTS

FROM PAGE 1

the robot's cameras are sending back and provide sharp color images. This is vital when looking for signs of arming which include color of lights and parts out of place. They also have another bonus feature explained Lauder milk.

"Each one of these will link to any one of robots which is something new. The older robots had their individual systems, and they were big heavy and bulky. These are small easy to transport, ready to go."

This allows a team lead to monitor the mission from another location and provide guidance if needed. The team has a Robot Operations Trailer which travels to test sites with a command center used to monitor the test site.

"I can be sitting here; they can take off in the MRAP [Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle] over there and I can still see what they are doing and if they have questions or I have questions we can communicate that way. It's something we've never had."

Because these robots are the Army standard, repairs are not an issue. "The parts and replenishment systems is in place for the Army. If anything goes down or parts need to be ordered we got the backup for all of that," explained Lauder milk.

While the robots are tactical, they are not clunky.

"One uses like an Xbox controller it's super user friendly. The other one uses the touch screen," explained Forster.

There is no lag in movement, and operators can modify the speed, and sensitivity of movements. That

feature works for the arms, grippers, and track wheel speed. It's all adjustable.

Forster explains, "If you need to pack it up and go, you can turn the speed up, put it in its pack up position, it will itself go into its position, then you can drive out of there. Or if you are down on an ordnance and you need fine movements, you just turn the speed down."

Technicians chose which robot to use depending on the situation and the weight of the item. The Kobra can lift a 155 round and reach higher. The Pacbot has more maneuverability and it's lighter. The team utilizes the robots for various reasons which include, dragging the ammunition away to allow a safety buffer or lifting it for inspection.

Lauder milk explains the scenarios, "We utilize the robots to move items

to a safe disposal area, safe holding area, or remote disassembly area. We can also move explosive charges to the item and blow it in place if necessary."

He further explains, "If the item needs to be remotely recovered and disassembled, we have remote procedures in place for that too. We incorporate the robots, in combination with other remotely operated equipment, to accomplish various disassembly tasks. The smaller robots are typically used for the more precise movements required during the disassembly process."

These features plus the mesh networks that allows technicians to extend the communication range by placing the radios as relays to give more distance between them and the explosives keep the Ammunition Recovery team away from danger — which is YPG's top priority.



The tablets are used to see what the robot's 4k cameras are sending back and provide sharp color images. This is vital when looking for signs of arming which include color of lights and parts out of place. Ammunition Recovery Technician Brittan Forster is pictured operating the robots.



The team has a Robot Operations Trailer which travels to test sites with a command center used to monitor the test site. Ammunition Recovery Technician Brittan Forster (front) and Ammunition Recovery Operations Chief Josh Lauder milk (back) are pictured walking into the trailer.



## YPG Fire Department supports 28th Annual Burn Foundation Golf Tournament



Each year the Yuma Child Burn Survivor Foundation holds an annual golf tournament to raise funds for Yuma child burn survivors, including transportation to Phoenix with food, lodging, post-operative care, education, and home services. Yuma Proving Ground Fire and Emergency Services with sponsorship from IAFF Local F-142, assembled two teams. Team Captain Heather Banda led the way with firefighters Christian Pimentel and Anthony Rios, Fire Captain Jairo Magana, Assistant Chief of Training Chris Cape, Station Chief Jessie Aguirre and two community members. They all successfully conquered 18 holes for the cause. (Loaned photos)

## Yuma Proving Ground Fire Department helps during Camp Inferno



U.S. Army Garrison Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Fire and Emergency Services, along with five local fire departments, participated in the City of Yuma Fire Department's Annual Camp Inferno 2024 from Feb. 13-17. The three-day camp was geared for female teens between 14 and 19 years old. This year nearly 30 teens participated. YPG Firefighter Heather Banda and Quality Assurance Support Assistant Kami Martin helped during the camp where the teens were able to get hands on experience and mentorship through this program that stems from the need for a diverse workforce. Currently, only a small percentage of women serve in the fire service community. (Loaned photos)

# Outpost outspoken

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## YPG law enforcement hosts booth at Midnight at the Oasis



The Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Police Department hosted a recruiting booth at the 2024 Midnight at the Oasis event on March 1 and 2. Police Sgt. David Thompson, Conservation Law Enforcement Sgt. Gregory Harper and Police Officer Austin Howard, mingled with the event goers and talked to them about the career opportunities at the YPG Police Department. (Loaned photo)



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## Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain Maj.  
Ryan Pearse



The words of the day are blink and think. In describing how we think and make decisions, modern psychologists often deploy a dual-system model that partitions our mental universe into two domains.

System One, is largely a stranger to us. It is the realm of automatic perceptual and cognitive operations — like those you are running right now to transform the print on this page into a meaningful sentence. We have no awareness of these rapid-fire processes, but we could not function without them. We would shut down.

System Two, is the familiar realm of conscious thought.

## Chaplain's Corner

### Blink versus think

It consists of everything we choose to focus on. The numbering of the two systems is not arbitrary. System One comes first and it is fast and constantly running in the background. System Two is charged with interrogating that answer. This process takes time and effort. Another way to explain this process is System one, is blink and System Two, is think. System Two doesn't happen without System One, yet we rely on System One far too often than we should. Certain people draw a dichotomy between intuition and analysis — blink versus think — and pick one or the other as the way to go.

The choice isn't either/or, it is how to blend them in evolving situations. Sometimes System One is all you need.

But let's not forget about our System Two processes. It doesn't hurt to get the other half of our brain — System Two - involved to make sure we have the right answer. We need to analyze and

think and activate System Two to make sure System One is right. Isaiah 26:3 tells us, "You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you."

**Halo Chapel hours:**  
Mon-Thu: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sunday services:  
9:30 a.m. Catholic  
and  
11 a.m. Contemporary  
Christian

## WOMEN WHO HAVE MADE GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH  
MARCH

## CYBERSECURITY, IT, & TACTICAL TECH EXPO AT YUMA PROVING GROUND

YPG PHYSICAL FITNESS CENTER  
ON THE HOWARD CANTONMENT AREA

THURSDAY 21 MAR 2024  
1000 - 1400 HRS

REGISTER TO ATTEND AT  
[WWW.NDIASWEVENTS.ORG](http://WWW.NDIASWEVENTS.ORG)

The National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA) Southwest Chapter will sponsor the first ever Cyber, Tech, & Tactical Expo at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) on Thursday 21 MAR 2024 from 1000 - 1400 hrs. The event will take place at the YPG Physical Fitness Center - On the Howard Cantonment Area, 301 C Street, Building 519.

The goal of this event is to provide the latest cybersecurity updates, to promote innovation in technology, and to explore new concepts in tactical technology and interoperability. All interested YPG military personnel, civilian employees, and contractors are invited to attend. There is no fee. Visit exhibits, network, and learn.

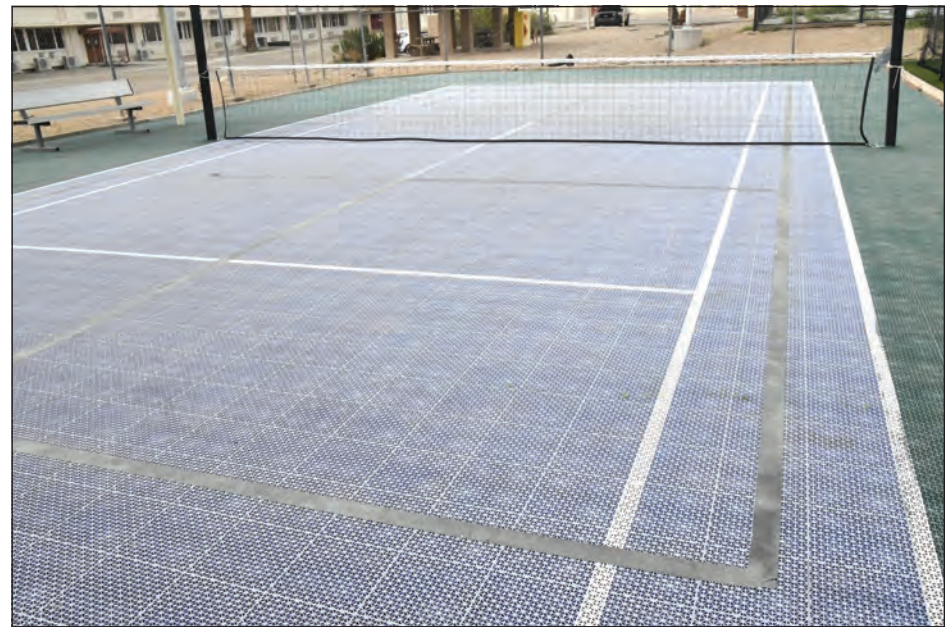
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Yuma Proving Ground's Fitness Center has a pickleball court and paddles and balls to loan. The court which can be used as a tennis and volleyball court as well is available during Fitness Center hours, which are Monday-Thursday 6 a.m.-7 p.m. and Friday-Sunday 10 a.m.- 6 p.m. (Photos by Ana Henderson)



## Pickleball smashes its way to Yuma Proving Ground's Fitness Center

By Ana Henderson

Pickleball kamikazed on to the sports scene and is here to stay.

Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) brought the popular sport to the installation at the urging of its residents.

"A lot of people in the community were really interested in it," explained YPG's Supervisory Recreation Specialist Dylan Black, adding that both year-round and winter residents asked about the sport.

One pickleball enthusiast and YPG community member, Joel Holsinger went so far as using his precise measuring skills to mark the current multi-use court at YPG with the

pickleball court measurements.

Black recounts, "He came out on his own time. He put some duck-tape down, he had all the measurements. It was about a two-to-three-day process for him."

Now, with an official size court and paddles and balls to loan, YPG's Fitness Center has a tournament planned for mid-March.

The court which can be used as a tennis and volleyball court as well is available during Fitness Center hours, which are Monday-Thursday 6 a.m.-7 p.m. and Friday-Sunday 10 a.m.- 6 p.m.

The YPG community can expect more of these types of tournaments. Supervisory Recreation Assistant

Dani Compton, says the Fitness Center team wants to "provide more options and more variety" so they will be offering more unconventional sports like cornhole and archery

tournaments in the upcoming months.

For more information on the sports or what the Fitness Center offers call extension 928-328-2400.

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