

# The Outpost

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

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## Next Generation Squad Weapon tested at U.S. Army Cold Regions Test Center

By Mark Schauer

It is vital that military equipment work wherever in the world American Soldiers need it, and extreme cold is a weather condition troops have had to contend with frequently in American history.

From Korea to Afghanistan, the lives of American Soldiers have frequently depended on properly functioning equipment in inhospitably frigid environments.

This fact led to a multiweek test of the Army's Next Generation Squad Weapon (NGSW) at the U.S. Army Cold Regions Test Center (CRTC) at Fort Greeley, Alaska early this year.

The XM7 and XM250 are successors to the M4 rifle and M249 light machine gun that American

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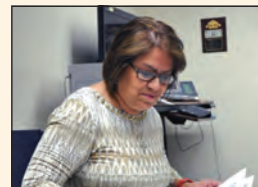
The U.S. Army Cold Regions Test Center staged a multiweek test of the Army's Next Generation Squad Weapon early this year. The XM7 and XM250 are successors to the M4 rifle and M249 light machine gun that American forces have used for decades. The new weapons boast improved accuracy and range, weigh less, and fire with less recoil, even though its 6.8-millimeter (mm) round is larger than the two legacy weapons' 5.56-mm cartridge. (Photos by Sebastian Saarloos)



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# Yuma Test Center rigger inducted to U.S. Army Rigger Hall of Fame

By Ana Henderson

Yuma Test Center at Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) is proud to announce the induction of Thomas Hall into the U.S. Army Rigger Hall of Fame.

This prestigious honor has only been bestowed on 96 parachute riggers since its establishment in 1976.

Hall served 25 years in the U.S. Army as a parachute rigger and retired as a Command Sergeant Major with deployments to Desert Shield/Desert Storm and two tours in Iraq.

After retiring, Hall started a career at YPG as a parachute rigger for the Air Delivery Systems branch and now works as a test officer and test jumper. He's been a rigger for 36 years and has jumped nearly 800 times from an aircraft.

On Feb. 26, 2024, Hall, his wife Diann, and their two daughters, who are also parachute riggers, one at YPG, traveled to Fort Gregg-Adams, Va. for the ceremony.

Hall said of receiving the award during the ceremony, "It was exciting and humbling all at the same time."

During his induction speech he



Yuma Test Center at Yuma Proving Ground is proud to announce the induction of Thomas Hall into the U.S. Army Rigger Hall of Fame on Feb. 26, 2024, during a ceremony at Fort Gregg-Adams, Va. This prestigious honor has only been bestowed on 96 riggers since its establishment in 1976. (Photo by Michael Martin/Rigger Hall of Fame)

told the crowd, "As a young private back at, at the time, Fort Lee, going through parachute rigger school, one of my tasks was to clean the hall of fame, which at the time was the Quartermaster Parachute Warrant Officer Hall of Fame. I thought about how cool it was to be memorialized in the hall of fame."

As a young private Hall had served under the two general officers and one colonel who were also inducted that day.

Now back at YPG, Hall's colleagues celebrated his accomplishment with a luncheon on March 7, 2024.

During the luncheon Hall told the crowd which included Yuma Test Center Commander Lt. Col. Shane Dering, Yuma Proving Ground Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Millare, and colleagues from the Airborne

Test Force and the Air Delivery Systems branch, and his family, "I cannot tell you how humbled I am. It's great to get recognition and it's great to be put in the hall of fame, but when Soldiers and my coworkers and the leadership come around and actually talk, you'll tear an old boy up. I just thank everybody," said Hall with his voice cracking a bit.

Hall explained there are three facets to being an Army parachute rigger. Parachute pack, which packs all the personnel parachutes; Heavy pack and heavy drop, which rigs the heavy equipment loads and packs the heavy equipment parachutes; and maintenance, which maintains and does the sewing and repairs of air items and parachutes.

Hall has done them all throughout his career and said, "As a parachute rigger, that jumper puts their life in your hands and it's your job to make sure their parachute functions and gets them to the ground safely."



Thomas Hall's colleagues at Yuma Proving Ground celebrated his accomplishment with a luncheon on March 7, 2024. Attendees included Yuma Test Center Commander Lt. Col. Shane Dering, Yuma Proving Ground Commander Sgt. Maj. Mark Millare, his colleagues from the Airborne Test Force, the Air Delivery Systems branch, and his family. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

## The Outpost

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# YPG Installation Safety Office earns 13th Safety Excellence Streamer Award

By Ana Henderson

The U.S. Army Garrison (USAG) Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Installation Safety Office continues its culture of safety, earning its 13th consecutive Safety Excellence Streamer Award.

The Streamer is awarded by the U.S. Army Installation Management Command (IMCOM) based in Fort Liberty, N.C.

In a memorandum sent to USAG Headquarters at YPG, acting IMCOM Director Col. Christopher Ward stated, "This award recognized the extraordinary efforts and dedication to duty of the Garrison in creating a positive safety culture. Your accomplishment of competing sixteen years without a Class A or B accident, 100% completion of Risk Management training for Garrison Soldiers and Civilians; and completing the Army Readiness Assessment Program Survey demonstrates safety excellence."

The YPG Garrison installation has not experienced a Class A or B accident in over 16 years which has made the Installation Safety Office eligible for the award the last 14 years.

"It's unprecedented in the Army. Nobody has that," remarked USAG YPG Garrison Manager Kenneth Musselwhite. "This has to be the best safety program and the best safety officer and office that the installation management command has."

Leading that office is USAG YPG Director of Installation Safety Ron Van Why who credits his staff and the Army's Safety Management System which empowers directorate leaders be responsible for their employee's safety. This allows the leaders to implement tailored safety programs based off Occupational Safety and Health Administration and U.S. Army requirements with the help and guidance of the Installation Safety Office.

"Having the buy-in and support



Garrison Manager Kenneth Musselwhite, Senior Safety Specialist Mike Morris, Director of Installation Safety Ron Van Why, and Deputy Garrison Manager Dan Carter pose holding the 13th consecutive Safety Excellence Streamer Award earned by the U.S. Army Garrison Yuma Proving Ground Installation Safety Office. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

from the directors as well as management, we have a total team here, and it's been great," remarked Van Why.

He goes on to say that safety is not just about avoiding accidents – it's educating the workforce, keeping up

on safety training and making safe decisions.

Senior Safety Specialist Mike Morris said, "Everything we do, we do it from start to finish to make sure our personnel are safe. We do our inspections, our spot checks,

you name it." Adding, "We are very thorough with it."

Because of that thoroughness and safety knowledge, Van Why is trusted to conduct Organizational Inspection Program inspections at other installations.

"I have been chosen to go around to all of IMCOM and Readiness and inspect their programs to make sure they are up to our standards."

Deputy Garrison Manager Dan Carter said the trust that Van Why has earned speaks volumes.

"He goes on these inspections. It's the only directorate that has someone from the garrison that does on these inspections, so that just proves to us even more that we have the best safety program in the Army. I would even go as far as saying possibly the Department of Defense."

The memorandum from Ward closed by saying, "Your efforts to accomplish the mission and education the YPG community with effective safety and risk management programs are quality of first-class organizations. A job well done in taking care of Soldiers, Civilians and Families!"

## A fond farewell to Travel Camp winter visitors



ABOVE & LEFT: Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Millare, Garrison Manager Ken Musselwhite, and other YPG senior leaders attended a farewell BBQ for winter guests of YPG's Desert Breeze Travel Camp on March 14, 2024. RIGHT: In addition to good food and fellowship courtesy of YPG's Morale, Welfare, and Recreation staff, the Travel Camp also received the Military RV Park of the Year award from the Special Military Active Recreational Travelers Club. Approximately 200 visitors reside in the camp during the winter months. Both the direct and indirect revenue generated from the travel camp helps support facilities such as the Cactus Café, Coyote Lanes, and the Post Exchange. (Photos by Mark Schauer)





# Zeroing in on safety: YPG implements bold new safety campaign

By James Gilbert

In a bold fusion of military precision and civilian safety, Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) has launched its latest initiative – the Operation Zero Mills to Safety campaign. Named after the artillery term milliradians, this program aims to reduce or eliminate the occurrence of accidents.

Safety Specialist Scott Fenstermacher provided the key remarks at the campaign's kickoff event at Post Theater during a Feb. 1 town hall meeting, stressing the importance connecting with Soldiers and the workforce across the installation and educating them on the program for it to succeed.

Afterwards, YPG Commander Col. John Nelson stepped forward, pen in hand, and became the first to sign the banner. He was followed by Yuma Test Center Commander Lt. Col. Shane Dering.

"Safety is never going to be perfect, but you can always keep striving for it," said Fenstermacher, one of the driving forces behind the campaign. "There is always room for improvement."

From that moment on, safety wasn't just a word; it was a shared responsibility etched in ink on that



LEFT: Yuma Proving Ground Commander Col. John Nelson was the first person to sign the Operation Zero Mills to Safety campaign banner following a kickoff event held in the Post Theater during a town hall meeting on Feb. 1, 2024. RIGHT: Yuma Test Center Commander Lt. Col. Shane Dering was the second to sign the banner. By signing it, members of the workforce actively endorse the campaign and acknowledge they are participating in it. (Photos by Ana Henderson)



banner, visible to anyone who works at the proving ground.

At its core, the safety campaign serves as a pledge to ensure a safer testing environment. Just as artillery teams calculate firing data to precisely hit their mark, Fenstermacher explained that everyone on base must make pay attention to the details that often escape notice.

"Every base does some type of zero target theme, but what fits better here at YPG then using an artillery term to create a culture of safety?"

Fenstermacher asked.

Director of Safety Michael Demcko explained that the safety campaign is also unique in that it is intended to be a year-round campaign, and instead of replacing other safety topics, it will be enhancing them in a new light.

Also making it different is that it is directly tied to the 12 monthly safety awareness modules that everyone must complete as part of their annual training and the senior leader's monthly safety board meeting.

"It ties in directly to those action prevention measures," Demcko said. "One for each month."

Now that the safety campaign has officially begun, posters will be put up in workplaces and the banner will be taken around to all the shops on post to be signed by everyone who works there.

"Safety is a mission enhancer," Fenstermacher said. "That is the great thing about this campaign. It gives us a voice to get all this information out."

By signing the banner, workers actively endorse the campaign and acknowledge they are participating in it.

Many incidents are the result of not recognizing the hazard or complacency, as workers get focused on a task or lose track of what is happening around them.

Fenstermacher said the safety campaign can help alleviate that and keeps everyone up to date by tapping into real-world experiences of the workforce.

Throughout the year, Fenstermacher and his colleagues from the safety office will venture into the field, closely observing personnel in action and actively listening to their concerns.

Beyond assessing task performances, he also wants to know what challenges they face and how he can help them.

"I hope to eventually get invitations from all the shops to come by. Give me five or 10 minutes during your normal safety briefings to talk," Fenstermacher stated. "I think this is a program everyone can use."

These informal gatherings are more than just coffee breaks; they're knowledge-sharing hubs where trends and patterns that have been observed since the campaign banner was signed can be shared.

Fenstermacher doesn't stop at identifying problems; he also provides resources, solutions, and a roadmap for improvement. To empower front-line supervisors, OSHA-aligned checklists have been developed.

These checklists help them assess safety practices, pinpoint gaps, and take corrective action.

## Father and son survival learning hike



More than two dozen fathers and their sons gathered on the morning of March 16, 2024, for a survival hike in the desert area behind Yuma Proving Ground's housing. The group met at the Halo Chapel and then made their way over to the trailhead, where they hiked to the spot where a cross sits on the hilltop. Air Force Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape instructors led the hike and showed the participants various survival techniques. (Photos provided by Chaplain Ryan Pearse)





# YPG Chief of Staff retires

By Mark Schauer

U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Chief of Staff Minerva Peters retires this week after 24 years of employment on the post.

A Department of the Army employee since 1985, she held several positions at YPG prior to assuming her final post in 2015.

Born in Texas, Peters' road to success was difficult. When she was 10 years old, her father was severely disabled in a car accident, placing a significant hardship on the family. Peters credited her mother with keeping the family afloat.

"My mother, a 5'2" woman from Mexico who had married a U.S. citizen and knew very little English, continued to find a way to feed us, get us to school, and make it clear to us that our one and only priority was to succeed in school. It was a very private demonstration of courage that she continued the rest of her life."

Peters excelled in school, particularly in math, but encountered gender-based prejudice even from people whose supposed purpose was to facilitate her success.

"My high school guidance counselor straight-out told me, 'people who are good at math usually are engineers, but you can't be because you are a woman.' That's literally what she told me, and this was a female counselor. Why I couldn't be an engineer, I don't know, but I was a very obedient Hispanic girl: somebody in authority told me I couldn't do something, therefore it must not be allowed."

In college she earned a degree in mathematics, which made her eligible to be an operations research analyst. She started working at the Army's Operational Test and Evaluation Command in 1985.

In the subsequent years, Peters traveled to YPG to support testing of the Apache attack helicopter. Liking the desert, she randomly applied for a position here and was surprised the lark ended in a job offer. As fate would have it, her husband Bill was



U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground Chief of Staff Minerva Peters is retiring at the end of March after 24 years of employment on the post in a variety of positions. (U.S. Army photos)

retiring from active duty, making it an opportune moment for the family to move elsewhere. She started working at YPG in 2000 in support of the Crusader self-propelled howitzer program. In the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States and the presence of U.S. forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, she moved to high-priority heat and ventilation testing of multiple variants of the Stryker Combat Vehicle.

"Most of the people were working 70 hours a week for multiple months. I remember there were times when people were absolutely exhausted, but everybody was doing their best to make sure the program was being tested properly because we knew where they were taking them."

Following this, in 2006 she was made head of a newly established process improvement office with six people working under her.

"When you work at a place like YPG, supervisors or directors will select you for a project or an effort based on what you do. The best thing you can do is go with it, because you don't know where it will ultimately bring you."

The Army's Lean Six Sigma program focused on eliminating waste and inefficiency and had the additional dividend of creating a safer workplace as a precursor to productivity gains. As implemented by Peters' office



Chief of Staff Minerva Peters has worked for the Department of the Army since 1985. She held several positions at YPG prior to assuming her final post in 2015. Her first job was as an operations research analyst because she holds a degree in mathematics.

the program positively impacted a variety of facets of YPG's workload, from minor projects that simplified the in-processing experience for new employees to major ones responsible for millions of dollars in cost avoidance that were ultimately adopted across the entire Army Test and Evaluation Command. When Peters' predecessor as chief of staff retired in 2015, she applied for the job

and was promoted.

"I don't know that I knew what I was getting into it, but being the chief of staff was an amazing experience."

Peters says the decision to retire was made less difficult by the abundance of talent within the YPG workforce.

"It gets to the point where you realize somebody else needs to have a chance. There are good people here at YPG who can have the chance to be chief of staff who could do an excellent job. I feel like I can leave with good people who can apply and succeed."

Peters is confident that YPG's combination of infrastructure, institutional knowledge, and can-do attitude will keep it viable into the distant future.

"My main advice is to accept challenges. If a challenge is given to you, take it and do the best you can with it, because more than likely you will succeed. If you are being asked to do it, it is because people already have confidence in you."

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# Yuma Proving Ground supports 2024 MCAS Yuma Air Show



U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) showed their support for the 2024 Marine Corps Air Station Yuma Air Show on March 9, 2024. Instructors from the Military Freefall School located at YPG provided the opening entertainment with a jump on to the flightline. Soldiers from YPG's Airborne Test Force, the local Army Recruiter office and the Freefall School greeted eventgoers. YPG's display allowed visitors to get up close with a variety of military vehicles and equipment, like the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle, a Bradley Fighting Vehicle, and a High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle towing a M119 105mm howitzer. The PUMA unmanned aerial system, inert munitions, and replica firearms were also on display. The crowd learned about YPG's important mission testing equipment for the Warfighter from the Public Affairs Office team and about job opportunities and STEM outreach from the S1 team. (Photos by Ana Henderson and James Gilbert)

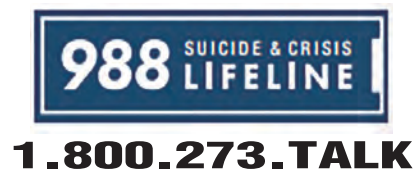
## YPG supports first Yuma Military Appreciation Day since 2019



Yuma's first Military Appreciation Day since 2019 took place on March 16, 2024, and the community came out in force as always to show its support for those who defend our nation. Following opening remarks from Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Commander Col. John Nelson, he and YPG Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Millare joined Soldiers from YPG's elite Airborne Test Force and other YPG personnel in interacting with eventgoers. Representatives from Yuma's Army Recruiting Station were also in attendance, and a wonderful time was had by all! (Photos by Mark Schauer)



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## Yuma Test Center Mission Employee of the First Quarter

**Name:** Rebekah Babb

**Years of Service:** 14 years

**Job title:** Program Analyst for Combat & Automotive Systems Division

**Recognition:** Civilian Service Achievement Medal. The citation stated, "Her ubiquitous presence, availability, and knowledge significantly enhanced the Division and Test Center's mission metrics, technical competency, and wellbeing."

**Reaction:** "I'm very grateful for the recognition. I am proud to support our mission test efforts and truly enjoy working with the people in Combat & Automotive Systems Division and across YTC. Everyone is friendly and appreciative, which makes this a welcoming place to work. The people I work with are always quick to help and take the time to provide thoughtful responses when I request information to complete a tasker. The program analysts from other areas are always helpful, and I've enjoyed collaborating with them. A lot of what I do is accomplished through teamwork, and I appreciate everyone's effort."



Yuma Test Center Commander Lt. Col. Shane Dering presented Program Analyst Rebekah Babb with a Civilian Service Achievement Medal on March 12, 2024. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

## Combat & Automotive Systems employees recognized for years of dedication to mission

— 35 years —



Dean Shimizu

— 20 years —



Ben Atili

— 15 years —



Isaac Rodriguez

— 10 years —



John Barczynski



Steven Wilson

(Photos by Ana Henderson)

## High Praise for Child and Youth Services staff

The Child and Youth Services program at Yuma Proving Ground received recognition during the Annual Higher Headquarters Inspection conducted in August 2023. This acknowledgement highlights the center's commitment to providing quality care and education for young children. On March 6, 2024, Garrison Manager Kenneth Musselwhite and Deputy Garrison Manager Dan Carter paid a visit to its facilities to recognize the staff and present them with Certificates of Achievement for their accomplishments.

Not pictured but recognized: Charles Echandia, Marcela Rodriguez, Meghaan Flood, and Crystal Martinez.

### Management and support staff



Amanda Brooks, Sandra Zambrano, Garrison Manager Kenneth Musselwhite, Stephanie Arcides, Jessica Bailey, and Army Child and Youth Services Coordinator Sommer Cloinger. (Photos by James Gilbert)

### Strong Beginning teachers



Garrison Manager Kenneth Musselwhite, Debra Ashcroft, Dayani Romero (front), and Army Child and Youth Services Coordinator Sommer Cloinger (back).

### Infant room teachers



Hailey Faz, Garrison Manager Kenneth Musselwhite, Marilyn Zepeda, Army Child and Youth Services Coordinator Sommer Cloinger, and Bertha Moreno.

### Preschool teachers



Garrison Manager Kenneth Musselwhite, LaMeisha Miles, Karama Miller, and Army Child and Youth Services Coordinator Sommer Cloinger.

### Toddler room teachers



Cayla Mullins, Garrison Manager Kenneth Musselwhite, Shanenallynn Willett, and Army Child and Youth Services Coordinator Sommer Cloinger.

### Youth Services Team



(Front, from left to right) Kasandra Bedoya, Amira Dessaso, Sasha Monge, Jay Simmons, Cheryl Reinert. (Back, left to right) Garrison Manager Kenneth Musselwhite, Chester Wilton, Andres-Max Vidal and Child and Youth Services Coordinator Sommer Cloinger.



# TESTED

FROM PAGE 1

forces have used for decades. The new weapons boast improved accuracy and range, weigh less, and fire with less recoil even though it's 6.8-millimeter (mm) round is larger than the two legacy weapons' 5.56 mm cartridge.

"The big idea behind this weapon is for close-combat forces," said Test Office Steven Prewitt. "It's a capability gap-filler for infantry and special forces, not necessarily an M4 replacement. It gives them a different tool."

Even when outfitted with a flash suppressor, the XM7 weighs less than 10 pounds. The new weapon has a standard rifle scope with an etched reticle, but also much more.

"It has adjustable modes of

operation where it can act like a red dot or close combat optic," said Prewitt. "It also has a corrected aimpoint: it has a ballistic calculator and range finder built in, so if you range a target it takes into consideration your environmental conditions, the distance to target, and the attitude of the weapon to ensure first shot accuracy."

Soldiers from the Army's 11th Airborne stationed at Alaska's Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson supported the testing.

"We had an organic troop, which was nice," said Senior Test Officer Isaac Howell. "We had the entire leadership from the company commander on down."

The Soldiers and testers utilized the weapons in rigorous scenarios, from static and kinetic ranges at Fort Greely and Fort Wainwright to maneuver live fires and ultimately

a 72-hour simulated mission across CRTC's vast ranges. All the while, a team of 16 data collectors recorded information in the weapons' battery life, hit-miss data on targets the Soldiers engaged, and a variety of human factors data involving utilizing the weapons in extreme cold.

"We knew it was going to be extremely fast-paced and that usually means there will be changes," said Senior Data Collector Monica Gaschler. "We settled on 16 data collectors, which meant one data collector per three Soldiers. Fourteen went out in the field, and two stayed in house to do quality assurance on the data and write test incident reports."

Extreme cold was a coveted commodity for this test, and the weather forecast delivered beyond the highest hopes of the testers.

"We were fortunate to have some pretty substantial cold weather for the duration of the test," said Prewitt. "The last urban rifle marksmanship course we did was -54 degrees Fahrenheit when we started, so it was incredibly cold."

"The Soldiers really got to experience what a long, cold day was," added Howell. "Every day they went out one week it didn't get above -20. The next week it was hovering in the -30 to -40 range all day, every day."

Most data collectors who supported the test traveled from Yuma Test



Even when outfitted with a flash suppressor, the XM7 weighs less than 10 pounds. The new weapon has a standard rifle scope with an etched reticle and adjustable modes of operation where it can act like a red dot or close combat optic.

Center in Arizona, which like CRTC is under the command of U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground.

"It was an endurance challenge for data collectors from the desert," said Gaschler. "It's rare for data collectors to be out in the field in temperatures below -50 degrees, but they did it without complaints. They got every bit of data, and I am so proud of every one of them."

"We've got a lot of data that is informing decisions," added Howell. "It's very fortunate that we had a good block of cold to test this equipment, especially something as prominent as the NGSW is going to be. It has definitely been a successful test."



The Soldiers and testers utilized the weapons in rigorous scenarios, from static and kinetic ranges at Fort Greely and Fort Wainwright to maneuver live fires and ultimately a 72-hour simulated mission across Cold Regions Test Center's vast ranges. (Photos by Mark Schauer)



Soldiers from the Army's 11th Airborne, stationed at Alaska's Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, supported the testing. "We had an organic troop, which was nice," said Senior Test Officer Isaac Howell. "We had the entire leadership from the company commander on down."

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# Antiterrorism Awareness Corner

## Minimizing workplace violence — practical steps for a safer environment

**By Robert Barocio**

Workplace violence is a serious concern that affects employees' well-being, productivity, and overall organizational health. By implementing proactive measures, employers can create a safer work environment. Here are seven daily steps to minimize workplace violence.

1. Analyze your workplace:  
Assessment: Regularly evaluate your workplace to identify potential risk factors. Consider physical layout, high-stress areas, and interactions between employees and customers.

Security measures: Implement security protocols based on your analysis. For example, ensure well-lit parking lots, secure entrances, and surveillance cameras.

2. Create a supportive environment:  
Open communication: Encourage open dialogue between management and employees. A supportive workplace fosters trust and reduces tension.

Conflict resolution: Train supervisors and team leads in conflict resolution techniques. Address disputes promptly to prevent escalation.

3. Offer communication and empathy training:  
Prevention: Effective communication can prevent violence before it occurs. Teach employees how to express themselves assertively and listen empathetically.

De-escalation: Provide tools for handling tense situations.

Active listening and empathy can defuse potential conflicts.

4. Establish a clear workplace violence policy:

Policy development: Create a comprehensive policy that outlines zero tolerance for violence. Specify consequences for violations.

Training: Ensure all employees understand the policy. Regular training sessions reinforce its importance.

5. Commit to a non-violent workplace:

Leadership buy-in: Leadership sets the tone. Demonstrate commitment to a respectful and non-violent workplace.

Model behavior: Lead by example. Show respect, patience, and professionalism in all interactions.

6. Train employees to

recognize warning signs:

Behavioral changes: Educate employees about signs of potential violence. Abrupt personality shifts, increased aggression, or withdrawal may indicate trouble.

Reporting: Encourage reporting of concerning behavior. Employees should feel safe reporting incidents without fear of retaliation.

7. Create an action plan and practice:

Emergency preparedness: Develop an action plan for handling violent incidents. Include evacuation routes, emergency contacts, and crisis communication.

Drills: Regularly conduct workplace violence drills. Practice responses to different scenarios to build confidence and preparedness.

Remember, workplace violence prevention requires ongoing effort. By fostering a culture of respect, providing training, and staying vigilant, organizations can significantly reduce the risk of workplace violence.

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## Transformation Challenge Winners



Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Wellness Officer Michele Dominguez announced YPG's 2024 Transformation Challenge winners on March 5, 2024. The YPG Wellness Program, with the help of Garrison Wellness Officer Miranda Choate and the YPG Health Clinic, recorded over 100 pounds and 243-inch reductions on 41 people in the past two months. The overall winners, with the highest reduction of 14.89% was The Losing Team. In second was Army of One with a reduction of 9.77%, and in third place was S4 with a reduction of 7.61%. YPG's Commander Col. John Nelson and Command Sgt. Maj. took a victory picture with first-place winners (left to right) Shannon Fenzel, Jacob Kuntzelman, and Shannon Schmidgall. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

## YPG's B-ball season comes to an end



LEFT: Yuma Proving Ground's intramural basketball season had four teams made up of six players each. The six-week-long season ended with a one-day single-elimination tournament in mid-March. The season's winners are Nothing but Net, with a record of 4-2. Players from the winning team are (left to right) Mekhii Mcterry, Jason Yang, D.J. Suggs, and Sedric Rash. RIGHT: Team No-D won the overall tournament. The winning team players are (left to right) Nate Geoghegan, Mark Ochoa, Archie Aragon, Evertt Castro, Reed Rider, and Abe Cortes (not pictured). (Photos by Dani Compton)

## 2024 Pi Day celebrated with pie

Yuma Proving Ground celebrated Pi Day in a delicious way, with a potluck smorgasbord of 14 different pies available to lunchtime passersby in the Range Operations Center. An annual celebration of the mathematical constant "Pi" (3.14159...), the day occurs each year on March 14, which is 3/14 in the month/day date format. (Photo by Ana Henderson)



In the competition organized by the Plan Division, the winners are as follows:



LEFT: First place, sweet category – Viviana Lopez with a Blueberry lime. CENTER: First place, savory category- Austin Rudolph with an Aussie meat pie. RIGHT: Tied, Grandma's favorite category – (center) Minerva Peters with a classic Apple Pie and (right) Pierre Bourque with an Apple Crumble.

## Themed yoga classes a hit



Supervisory Recreation Assistant Dani Compton offers yoga with a twist. While the usual place for fitness classes on post are at the Fitness Center, Compton hosted two recent classes at the Cactus Café. One with a Mardi Gras theme and another called Twist and Stout. Both classes were a hit. (Loaned photos)

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