

# The Outpost

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

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## Arctic Mobility Sustainment System tested at U.S. Army Cold Regions Test Center

By Mark Schauer

Deployed Soldiers are constantly loaded down with gear, but nowhere more so than when operating in a cold weather environment.

In addition to their conventional weapons, Soldiers need to utilize heavy equipment like space heaters, cooking stoves, fuel, and heavy-duty thermal tents to survive operations in the Arctic.

Candidates to serve as the Army's Arctic Mobility Sustainment System (AMSS) underwent rigorous testing at U.S. Army Cold Regions Test Center (CRTC) this winter with the help of Soldiers from the Army's 11th Airborne stationed at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

"When they go out in zone seven operations, this is the new stuff they



Candidates to serve as the Army's Arctic Mobility Sustainment System underwent rigorous testing at U.S. Army Cold Regions Test Center this winter with the help of Soldiers from the Army's 11th Airborne stationed at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. The system selected as a result of this testing will eventually replace the legacy Ahkio sled and 10-person tent the Army currently uses. (Photo by Sebastian Saarloos)

will be pulling out there with them to set up shelters," said Danielle Schmidt, assistant test officer. "We went through a lot of changes since the test started up here all based on learning what works and what doesn't in the cold."

The system selected as a result of this testing will eventually replace the legacy Ahkio sled and 10-person tent the Army currently uses. Testers expected and coveted extreme cold for the multi-week test, and the interior Alaska winter delivered more than they expected.

"The whole time the test was going it didn't get above minus 20 Fahrenheit," said Isaac Howell, senior test officer. "It was good test conditions for what we were

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# YPG Commissary earns second consecutive U.S. Best Small Commissary title

By Ana Henderson

The Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Commissary team is ecstatic to be selected for a second year in a row as one of the best small commissaries of 2023.

The award is known as the U.S. Best Small Commissary —Richard Paget Award. The awards, given out by the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA), are named after government officials who protected commissary benefits and supported quality-of-life issues for the military.

YPG's Commissary earned the title of second place in the category: coincidentally enough, Marine Corps Air Station Yuma's Commissary placed first, both earning the same titles as the previous year —a first in DeCA history.

Store Manager Reba Maxwell said, "We are excited, and I think it really is a big deal."

The team planned to celebrate with a potluck and was presented with a trophy to display alongside last year's.

Maxwell remarked that even though they did not win first place again, standing out among commissaries



Ricardo Portillo provided the team with this sign to display inside the store, sharing the team's accomplishment of earning second place in the U.S. Best Small Commissary category. The team poses with their trophy (left to right) John Spangler, Reba Maxwell, Stacy Roberts, Bo Judkins, Scott Hill, Gabby Navarro (back, left) George Smith and Javier Ramirez. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

nationwide is a win.

"We only have 10 employees: we have to do everything in our store alone, and when you think about the other 52 stores they are probably in a town, and we are more remote and we still won that, being where we are, with the small number of customers. To me that is something big."

The commissary averages about 100 customers per day, which are made up of active-duty military and retirees residing at YPG or nearby.

It's not hard to see why the supermarket gets high marks. Walking into the commissary, patrons will find spotless glass doors and floors, perfectly arranged fully stocked aisles, colorful produce, and friendly staff.



Produce Representative George Smith happily manages the produce area, and Samantha Chavez keeps the dairy section organized. These details are one of the reasons the supermarket earned the coveted title of U.S. Best Small Commissary two years in a row.

Those are only some of things looked at during the selection process.

In a press release, DeCA detailed how commissaries were judged. "Nominations were judged on tangible and intangible qualities such as a friendly environment, a well-run store, a good work ethic and a sense of a cohesive team. Tangible qualities include sales, commissary customer service survey, organization, cleanliness, and visual appeal. Safety, accountability, photo portfolio, display contests and special events.

The YPG Commissary team is huge on community outreach: they speak at the community town halls and participate in all the Child and Youth Services events like Month of the Military Child, Fall Festival, and parades.

"Anything they are doing for the community; we are always a part of to reach out to our community."



Cashier Gabby Navarro greets customers with a smile. Patrons will find all 10 Commissary employees helpful and welcoming.

## The Outpost

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# Wheels of insight: Transforming YPG's fleet management

By James Gilbert

The General Services Administration (GSA) at Yuma Proving Ground (YPG), where vehicles kick up dust and engines roar against the desert, stands at the forefront of a major transformation.

It all began with a stroke of the presidential pen. In 2022 President Joe Biden signed an executive order mandating that every vehicle used by the federal government, including the military, be equipped with telematics.

The initiative aims to enhance fleet management, optimize vehicle efficiency, and achieve cost savings across government agencies. So, by 2026, all government vehicles should have it in place.

YPG Fleet Manager Adam Wood explained that telematics is a method of monitoring a vehicle by using GPS technology and on-board diagnostics to plot its movement on a computerized map.

It involves installing a small device, often referred to as a black box, in the vehicle to provide real-time data, such as its location, average speed, idling time, seatbelt usage, aggressive driving behavior, hard cornering, fuel consumption, and engine diagnostics.

"The vehicle's computer has always been capturing this information,"



At Yuma Proving Ground (YPG), the General Services Administration (GSA) is spearheading a transformative shift. It all began with a stroke of a pen in 2022, when President Joe Biden signed an executive order mandating telematics for all federal vehicles, including military fleets. Telematics combines GPS and onboard diagnostics, providing real-time data on location, speed, and more. So far, YPG has equipped 500 of its 700 GSA vehicles, with the rest to follow as older models are replaced. (Photo by James Gilbert)

Wood said. "Now, using telematics, we have a user interface system that makes it available to see on a website."

YPG has made remarkable progress so far in becoming compliant. Out of the 750 GSA vehicles in its fleet, 500 have already been outfitted

with telematics. But what about the remaining 250 vehicles?

According to Wood, those remaining vehicles – mostly older models – will receive the device once they have been replaced with newer counterparts.

"We are already ahead of schedule," Wood said. "We are installing more and more every day, but it still may take a year or two to fully integrate."

The transformation is also already paying off, with months of data revealing promising trends.

Initially, speeding incidents were high, but since word has spread about telematics, they have decreased, contributing to safer operations.

Regarding maintenance, continuous monitoring of the vehicle's performance allows for the early detection of issues, leading to cost savings.

"Some of the check engine lights we've had have been very severe, and we wanted the vehicle to stop operating so the engine didn't get blown," Wood said.

Hoping to dispel any rumors, Wood clarifies that YPG's telematics does not record audio.

He added that telematics is essential a tool to make sure vehicles are being used effectively and maintained to support critical testing efforts.

## Cybersecurity Information Technology Expo on post



The Southwest Chapter of the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA) held a Cybersecurity, Information Technology, and Tactical Tech Expo at Yuma Proving Ground's Fitness Center on March 21, 2024. Organizers say the first-ever event on post sought to promote innovation and technology.

"What a great learning experience for NDIA," said Michael Shivers, southwest chapter president. "We're definitely interested in doing something in Yuma in the future."

"The importance of this event is really about showing how technologically advanced and forward-thinking Yuma Proving Ground is, and by affiliation, the whole Yuma community," added Yuma Mayor Douglas Nicholls, who attended the expo. "We're definitely looking to have future events to build on this success." (Photos by Ana Henderson)



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## Staff delegates learn about YPG and Military Freefall's mission



Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) hosted staff delegates Travis Schulte and Jooeun Kim from Senator Kyrsten Sinema's office, who were escorted by Master Sgt. Kahlil Warner. YPG Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Millare provided a briefing about YPG's capabilities, and Garrison's General Manager Kenneth Musselwhite spoke about the post's infrastructure



Following the briefing, the staffers visited the Military Freefall School Wind Tunnel and received a briefing from Commander Maj. Nicholas Garver about the school's importance to special forces, and met with YPG Commander Col. John Nelson. (Photos by Mark Schauer)

## April is Alcohol Awareness Month

By Scott Zaehler

Please join the Yuma Proving Ground Army Substance Abuse Program in observing Alcohol Awareness Month in April. Alcohol Awareness month was established in 1987 with the goal of raising awareness in the community and to help understand the causes and treatment available for one of the nation's biggest health issues. The campaign also aims to reduce the stigma associated with alcoholism and how to educate people on how to find assistance for this deadly disease.

The research shows that most adults who consume alcohol do so responsibly, and without negative effects to components of their lives. However, it is estimated that about 15 million U.S. adults are affected by an Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD), and over 88,000 people die annually from alcohol-related causes, making alcohol a leading preventable cause of death.

AUD is a medical diagnosis, with severity based on clinical criteria. Alcohol becomes a problem when it impacts a person's life in a negative way. Examples provided by the National Institute of Health



include, "is your personal or work life deteriorating because of your drinking? Have you had times when you drank more, or longer, than you intended? Are you drinking to feel better? Are you drinking to cope with stress or other problems? Do you feel anxious or irritable without a drink?"

The Journal of the American Medical Association finds, alcohol-related deaths increased 25 percent in 2020, significantly higher than in

previous years. Researchers believe several factors have affected this rise, including increase in drinking to cope with stress, higher rates of binge drinking, more emergency room visits due to alcohol withdrawal, and delays in receiving treatment.

Alcohol misuse and abuse is an issue that affects us all. The effects can be felt in the home, the workplace, our social lives, and our health. To reduce the risk of negative

outcomes of alcohol misuse the Army Substance Abuse Program will be providing a variety of informational programming and events throughout the month of April.

The Army Substance Abuse Program also offers training, and educational programming to recognize and prevent substance abuse issues. Contact Scott Zaehler at [scott.r.zaehler.civ@army.mil](mailto:scott.r.zaehler.civ@army.mil) for more information. No-cost resources for substance use as well as a variety of issues service members face are also available at [militaryonesource.mil](http://militaryonesource.mil) for eligible users.

For more information about Alcohol Use Disorder scan the QR code







Sgt. 1st Class Ian Tyrrel (right) and his wife Andrea (left) use their smartphones to capture their daughter Ailyn's beaming smile as she experiences weightlessness inside the vertical wind tunnel during a family day at the Military Freefall School at Yuma Proving Ground, held on March 30, 2024. (Photos by James Gilbert)



Defying gravity with a grin, the daughter of a service member training at the Military Freefall School earns a triumphant thumbs-up from her proud father during a family day event held at the school's vertical wind tunnel.



Beaming parents record a video of their child's exhilarating adventure in a vertical wind tunnel for the very first time.



A young girl shares a moment of joy inside a vertical wind tunnel, guided by her flight instructor. Every second counts as she learns to defy gravity.

## Soaring bonds: A day at the Military Freefall School

By James Gilbert

The Military Freefall School (MFFS) at Yuma Proving Ground, which is part of the United States Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center, opened its doors recently to the heartbeats behind the uniforms - the families of the Soldiers who leap into the sky.

Spearheaded by Maj. Nicholas Garver, commander of the MFFS, the special event was aimed at not only at forging bonds among the Soldier's families, but also to showcase the demanding yet thrilling work undertaken daily by the school's instructors and support personnel.

"Bringing in the families, giving them an opportunity to fly in the wind tunnel, they get to experience what their spouses do every day," Garver said. "It's an incredible opportunity, and the families absolutely love it."

Throughout the day, families eagerly signed up at the wind tunnel, their hearts aflutter. Garver watched as wives and children of all ages, wide-eyed and fearless, stepped inside, anticipating the thrill.

The invisible currents lifted them, spun them, and painted smiles across their faces. For a time, they were

defying gravity while suspended between a net flooring and the roof of the building.

Outside the wind tunnel, several husbands wielded smartphones like magic wands, making videos as they captured their children and wife's weightless grins.

Andrea Tyrrel, wife of Sgt. 1st Class Ian Tyrrel, expressed her enthusiasm for the event while she and her husband watched their daughters Ailyn and Everleigh when it came their turn.

"This is a great experience for the children," she said. "They get to see what their daddy does every day."

An instructor at the MFFS, Tyrrel beamed with pride afterward, adding that his daughters did better than he did his first time in the wind tunnel.

Air Force Sgt. Darren Tobyansen and his wife Lacie were also in attendance with their two children, Bodhi and Maverick.

Lacie Tobyansen, who admitted to experiencing a mixture of excitement and nervousness beforehand, stated afterward that the moment was "way too much fun," and that she would "most definitely do it again."

The day, however, was not just about turning the wind tunnel into a shared playground. It also served as

a valuable training exercise for the instructors.

Sgt. 1st Class Bryan Reed, of the U.S. Army's 75th Ranger Regiment, underscored the value of the event, noting that it enhanced the technical skills of the instructors by teaching them how to guide spouses and children through the wind tunnel experience.

"It's not just about fun; there is a lot of learning going on," Reed remarked. "Teaching civilians and children require a different approach, and this event provides a unique opportunity for our instructors to hone their skills."

While some civilian instructors from San Diego had been hired to help, their military counterparts

had to undergo specialized training from the International Bodyflight Association to become certified to fly novices safely through a wind tunnel.

Essentially, the wind tunnel was their classroom, and the lessons were priceless. "The instructors learned, adapted, and became safer, more capable," Reed said.

As the day waned, Garver had seen it all - the happy faces and the high-fives, saying "I don't think you can ever see anyone who is not smiling. It is one of those things that you never see a sad face in a wind tunnel."

He added that there are plans to make the event a regular occurrence, possibly two or four times a year, so hearts can soar together more often.

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# Congressional Medal of Honor Day

By Mark Schauer

On Congressional Medal of Honor Day which lands on March 25 yearly, U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) remembers the late Command Sgt. Maj. Bennie G. Adkins' visit to the post in 2015.

During his stay, he visited the operations of the Military Freefall School and met board members of the 'Yuma 50' military support group.

"From what I've seen of the personnel here and people from the community, they are quality folks, highly patriotic Americans," he said during his visit.

Adkins, who originally entered the Army in 1956 as a conscripted clerk, served three tours in Vietnam as part of Army Special Forces, spanning the days prior to the deployment of combat troops to the waning days when American withdrawal was in progress. He recalls arriving for the first time as an advisor in 1963, dressed in civilian clothes and being told to get an international driver's license. By the end of his last tour in 1971, his driver's license photo was receiving far more attention than he ever imagined.

"They had a poster, 'wanted, dead or alive,' for me, and my photograph from that international driver's license showed up on those posters," he said.

When his second tour began in late 1965, Adkins served in a Special Forces camp in the A Shau Valley,



National Medal of Honor Day lands on March 25 yearly. Yuma Proving Ground remembers the 2015 visit to post of the late Command Sgt. Maj. Bennie Adkins, who was decorated for extraordinarily valorous conduct during a harrowing four-day battle in Vietnam in 1966. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

close to the Laotian border. The region was a significant entry point for men and materiel travelling along the so-called Ho Chi Minh trail, and the isolated camp was only accessible by air. In early March 1966, the camp was attacked by waves of Viet Cong and North Vietnamese forces.

Blindsided by the attack and immobilized by bad weather that made air travel impossible, Adkins and the other men of Camp A Shau frantically engaged in the fight of their lives. A company of South Vietnamese soldiers associated with the camp defected to the North Vietnamese during the attack, creating a gaping hole in their defense. Adkins took an 81 mm mortar pit as a fighting position and continued his counter-barrage even

after sustaining intense enemy fire, going so far as to use ammo boxes to make a makeshift bipod when the weapon's bipod was damaged. At one point, adversary forces began lobbing hand grenades into his pit: a South Vietnamese soldier took the brunt of one blast, losing a leg, and Adkins miraculously caught another in mid-air and threw it back.

"They lost interest in hand grenade fighting for a little while after that."

The battle continued, however. At one point Adkins and a South Vietnamese soldier had to run into a mine field to retrieve an errant re-supply drop. His comrade was wounded by gunfire, then shot dead while Adkins struggled to carry him back to safety. Exhausted and battered, the men of Camp A Shau were eventually favored with a break in the weather and an order to totally evacuate the post. Marine Corps helicopters were dispatched to facilitate the exit.

"They put 18 helicopters in the air, but only eight made it," he said with a grimace.

There wasn't enough room on the helicopters for everyone. With the executive officer, four South Vietnamese soldiers, and a mortally wounded American Soldier, the exhausted Adkins took to the surrounding jungle. They had little in the way of gear except for a then-state

of the art FM radio.

"The antenna was shot off of it, but I was able to take that radio, use my weapon for an antenna, standing in water, and communicate with an aircraft."

Their luck still hadn't turned, though: enemy forces shot the helicopter down. Night was falling, and they were completely surrounded. The men finally caught an unexpected break from a four-legged inhabitant of the jungle.

"We started hearing a noise, and then started seeing an eye. We were so bloody and smelled so bad that a tiger stalked us. The North Vietnamese were more afraid of the tiger than they were of us - they backed off, and we were gone again. Fortunately, we were picked up the next day," he explained.

It is reckoned that Adkins killed in excess of 100 adversary troops through the grueling four-day ordeal and saved at least a dozen of his own men. He sustained 18 different wounds, from shrapnel to gunshots. Through it all, he maintained an unshakeable will to survive.

"It was not my day to go," he said. "I didn't have any fear or any doubt in my mind that I would make it out, even if I had to walk. That would have been about 40 miles."

Adkins retired from the Army a dozen years after his harrowing experience in the A Shau Valley. His last post was as Command Sergeant Major at Fort Sherman, Panama, which these days is sometimes used by YPG's Tropic Regions Test Center to test equipment in a realistic jungle environment.

Despite his substantial heroics, Adkins was humble about the extremely rare honor he possessed.

"A person does not attempt to earn any type of medal," he said quietly. "That's something bestowed upon you by your command and other individuals in battle with you."

Adkins passed away at age 86 in 2020.

## CRTC senior test officer speaks during panel discussion



A Cold Regions Test Center (CRTC) senior test officer was asked to chair a panel discussion on the topic of Mounted Military Movement Over Snow. Vern Heintz (left) is one of two senior test officers employed at CRTC. As a former two-time Alaska-assigned noncommissioned officer and current CRTC senior test officer, his experience in Arctic operations has become widely respected and relied upon across the military community. His expertise led to an invitation to the 11th Airborne Division's Arctic Warfare Summit on March 19-21, 2024, at Fort Wainwright, Alaska. (Photos courtesy of CRTC)



## TESTED

FROM PAGE 1

doing, but it was difficult on the Soldiers. Sustained movement in the Arctic day in and day out at those temperatures is not easy.”

On a typical day, Soldiers would pack the AMSS sled under test with the tent, a heater, and their basic standard issue items for Arctic infantry operations, then pull the sleds in either nine-Soldier squads or four to five Soldier teams as CRTC’s test personnel led the way. Moving the heavy sleds across CRTC’s hilly tundra and thickly forested areas is challenging in any conditions, but particularly so in the extreme cold and deep snow of winter.

“Our snow is so dry and powdery,” said Howell. “You don’t stand on it at all, whether you are in skis or snowshoes—you don’t go across the top of it, you go through it. You are plowing snow the entire day regardless of whether you are wearing snowshoes or not.”



LEFT: On a typical day, Soldiers would pack the Arctic Mobility Sustainment System sled under test with the tent, a heater, and their basic standard issue items for Arctic infantry operations, then pull the sleds in either nine-Soldier squads or four to five Soldier teams as U.S. Army Cold Regions Test Center’s test personnel led the way. RIGHT: Moving the heavy sleds across U.S. Army Cold Regions Test Center’s hilly tundra and thickly forested areas is challenging in any condition, but particularly so in the extreme cold and deep snow of winter. (Photos by Sebastian Saarloos)



After a two-and-a-half-hour movement, testers kept track of how long it took the Soldiers to emplace and erect each tent and get the space heaters operating. Following a cold weather Meal Ready to Eat for lunch, the Soldiers disassembled the tent and heater and returned to their day’s starting point following a different route. Following a survey and hot

meal, the Soldiers reassembled the tents and heaters and prepared to sleep in the long, cold Arctic nights, which sometimes approached minus 50 degrees Fahrenheit.

“The Soldiers were instrumented for safety purposes to make sure they didn’t get too cold or hypothermic,” said Schmidt. “If they did get too cold, they could pull themselves. We

had noxious gas sensors in the tents where the heaters were operating as another safety precaution.”

Despite the hardships, the participating Soldiers gave high marks to CRTC’s test crew.

“It was pretty cool being able to experience that and see what all the new equipment is like,” said Pvt. 1st Class Tyler Worrell.

## ATEC Commanding General visits Cold Regions



Army Test and Evaluation Command Commanding General Maj. Gen. James J. Gallivan recently visited teammates of the Cold Regions Test Center (CRTC).



The Commanding General’s intent was to interact with the CRTC family, observe current test efforts, and engage acquisition stakeholders and mission partners. As part of what turned out to be a jam-packed day, Gallivan made time to visit CRTC employees, the Arctic Mobility Sustainment System, and Next Generation Squad Weapon test events.



Gallivan gave high praise to teammates, presented Commander’s Coins for excellence, and recognized the efforts of the test teams and the Soldiers supporting each test event.



The Commanding General could not have chosen a more emblematic day to visit the Arctic, as temperatures hovered at minus 48 degrees Fahrenheit. As a result, Gallivan and his aide-de-camp, Capt. Jacob Wisdom, were presented the highly coveted CRTC Extreme Cold Weather certificate of recognition by the CRTC Commander, Lt. Col. Jonathan Brown.



# Plant a pinwheel for Child Abuse Prevention

Army Community Services and the Family Advocacy Program joined efforts with the Yuma Proving Ground Fire Department, Child and Youth Services, and James D. Price Elementary School to bring awareness to child abuse prevention.

On the morning of March 28, 2024, during the Plant a Pinwheel for Child Abuse Prevention event, children from Price Elementary School and the Child Development Center had a chance to meet Sparky the Fire Dog and plant a pinwheel in the lawn of the elementary school.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, and Yuma Proving Ground's Family Advocacy Program is hosting events around post to raise awareness. For more information on the program, call 928-328-3224.



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# Chaplain's Corner

## Learn to remain calm

### Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain Maj. Ryan Pearse

The word of the day comes from a quote from Bruce Lee, "One of the best lessons you can learn in life is to master how to remain calm."

There are a couple other similar quotes for example, "Be quick, but not in a hurry" and

"Slow is smooth, smooth is fast." The only way we can be quick but not in a hurry and be smooth, is if we remain calm.

One of the big five personality traits is neuroticism. Those who are neurotic are not calm and can seem like they're in a hurry without really getting anything done. They are anxious and easily stressed out.

Have you mastered how to remain calm or would those close to you accuse you of being

neurotic? If we master how to remain calm, then we will be better equipped to operate in a quick and smooth manner.

Philippians 4:6-7 tells us, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

## YPG community enjoys Easter Egg Hunt

The Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) community gathered for one of its most popular events — the annual Easter Egg Hunt. The hunt took place on March 23, 2024, on Cox Field. Families flooded the area in search of candy-filled eggs and had the opportunity to meet the Easter Bunny. The Child and Youth Services (CYS) team, along with community partners, Army IHG Hotels, Desert Oasis Yuma, Army Community Services, and YPG Police, made the event possible. (Photos courtesy of CYS)



# YPG Education Center provides vital link to higher education on post

By Ana Henderson

The Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Education Center is the link between higher education and Soldiers.

The center also provides services for retirees, spouses, firefighters and just about anyone who wants to enhance their learning. Tami Ramos, test examiner at YPG's Education Center will guide you through the process.

"YPG is a spoke of the hub for Fort Huachuca Education Center. I am, unfortunately not a counselor so there are a lot of questions I cannot answer, however, if there are any questions regarding tuition assistance, credentialing assistance, or Army Ignited you can call me, and I can get you in contact with a Fort Huachuca counselor."



The Yuma Proving Ground Education Center is located on the Howard Cantonment, building 501, room 102, on the first floor. Hours of operation are Monday-Thursday, 6 a.m.-4 p.m. Tami Ramos can be reached by calling (928) 328-3926. (Photos by Ana Henderson)



For Soldiers, the Education Center provides the tests needed to advance their career.

"The most crucial tests for the Soldiers are those that provide them promotion points. Those tests

are DLPT [Defense Language Proficiency Test] and OPI [Oral Proficiency Interview], which are language tests."

Ramos also provides, Defense Language Aptitude Battery and Selection Instrument for Flight Training which is a flight test and the Armed Forces Classification Test which is a multi-part test used to identify individual aptitudes and areas of greatest career potential.

In addition to helping Soldiers, Ramos works with the Assistant Fire Chief for Training Chris Cape to offer YPG Fire Department firefighters career development training and she proctors exams for the YPG Military Police.

The Education Center also provides a link between other educational entities. Since YPG is remotely located on the outskirts of the City of Yuma, Ramos books regular visits with representative from colleges and universities to make the trip to YPG.

Those representatives can answer questions specific to their educational institution.

"We have a Veterans representative that comes out at least monthly from our local college, Arizona Western College. They have a memo of understanding with our post and I also have regular visits when needed with Northern Arizona University and Grand Canyon University reps. They are here when they are needed either from students or potential students. We can set up visits either one on one or through phone calls."

This service is provided for the purpose of informing students about higher learning and is not intended as an endorsement by YPG or the Education Center. For testing Ramos urges people to make an appointment.

The Education Center is on the Howard Cantonment, building 501, room 102 (first floor). Hours are Monday-Thursday 6 a.m.-4 p.m. The number is (928) 328-3926.

## Read Across America celebrated at YPG library



The Yuma Proving Ground Library staff hosted a Read Across America Dr. Seuss event throughout the day on March 21, 2024. Nearly 40 community members stopped by to participate in the fun, which included games, writing, and art activities. They also took the opportunity to take pictures with the Dr. Seuss backdrop and walked away with free books. (Photos courtesy of Dani Compton)

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