

# U.S. Army Tropic Regions Test Center tests German Bundeswehr's G95 rifles

#### **By Mark Schauer**

For Soldiers deployed in a war zone, the natural environment can be as formidable an enemy as their armed human adversaries.

U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG), part of the Army Test and Evaluation Center (ATEC), conducts testing in three of the world's most punishing climates, and tropic testing is gaining additional relevancy.

American military policy has evolved to emphasize the Asia-Pacific region in recent years, and tropical locales are home to more than half of the world's population, comprising nearly 40% of the planet's land surface.

The necessity of testing equipment in these conditions is just as clear

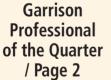


The Bundeswehr, the armed forces of Germany, tested both variants of its recently adopted G95 assault rifle at a Panamanian facility often used by U.S. Army Tropic Regions Test Center. The Bundeswehr had in years past conducted tropical testing of weapons at American Army facilities in Hawaii, but felt the sub-tropical conditions were not truly representative of an extreme jungle environment. (Photo by Carlos Mora)

to the United States' North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) partners. The Bundeswehr, the armed forces of Germany, has tested a variety of equipment at YPG and its constituent test centers in the past decade, from the PzH 2000 155mm howitzer to the MG 5 machine gun and G29 sniper rifle. This year, the Bundeswehr returned to test both variants of its recently adopted G95 assault rifle in the desert of Yuma, followed by testing at a Panamanian facility frequently utilized by U.S. Army Tropic Regions Test Center (TRTC).

The G95 is based on Heckler and Koch's HK416A8, chambered for 5.56 NATO ammunition in both a 16.5- inch barrel rifle and 14-inch

SEE RIFLES page 6





Suicide Prevention Month Pushup Challenge / Page 3



It's a jungle out there: senior engineer represents YPG in the tropics / Page 7





#### Local Federal Retirement Consultant

**Retiring Soon? Questions about your TSP rollover?** We can help!

Adrian Elder CFP® FRC<sup>SM</sup> AIF® PPC® CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER®

Managing Partner & Wealth Advisor



#### YUMA INVESTMENT GROUP

WEALTH MANAGEMENT -

**Retire with Confidence!** 

182 East 16th St. Suite D Yuma, AZ 85364 928.329.1700

Investment advisory services offered through CWM, LLC, an SEC Registered Investment Advisor. Carson Partners, a division of CWM, LLC, is a nationwide partnership of advisors.

#### 2 SEPTEMBER 16, 2024 **Garrison Professional of the Quarter**

Name: Tyler Pitts Years of service: 11 (includes time as contractor and civilian)

Job title: Engineering Technician, Directorate of Public Works

**Recognition:** Civilian Service Achievement Medal for selection as Garrison's Professional of the Ouarter for the second quarter. Garrison leadership recognized Pitts for responding and coordinating response for 32 emergency calls after standard duty hours.

**Reaction:** "I was surprised to hear my name called for

Garrison's Professional of the Quarter Award. I'm grateful to have been nominated and selected to receive this achievement. As a COR in Operations and Maintenance there are a lot of moving parts and coordination that takes place behind the scenes that most people don't see or hear of. The afterhours calls



U.S. Army Garrison Yuma Proving Ground's Garrison Deputy Manager Dan Carter presents Tyler Pitts with a Civilian Service Achievement Medal for selection as Garrison's Professional of the Quarter for the second quarter on Aug. 22, 2024. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

during the weekdays and weekends are a small portion of what we do. I would like to say thank you to my teammates and contractors for all they do to keep our facilities maintained and for willing to respond afterhours to keep our military, customers, and housing residents safe."

# The Outpost

This Department of Defense newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of The Outpost are not necessarily the official views, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the DoD, or the Department of the Army.

Published by RISN Inc., a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Army, under exclusive written contract. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground Public Affairs Office.

This newspaper uses material credited to ATEC and ARNEWS. While contributions are solicited, U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground Public Affairs Office reserves the right to edit all submitted materials and corrections, changes, or deletions to conform with the policy of this newspaper.



News may be submitted to: The Editor, Outpost, Yuma Proving Ground, Yuma, AZ, 85365 Phone: (928) 328-6149 or DSN 899 Visit our website at: www.yuma.army.mil or email to: ana.c.henderson.civ@army.mil



Commander: Col. John Nelson Public Affairs Officer: Mark Schauer Public Affairs Specialist/Outpost Editor: Ana Henderson Visual Information Manager: Eugene Garcia Cold Regions Test Center Photographer: Sebastian Saarloos

### To advertise in **TheOutpost** call (928) 539-5800 or go to advertising@yumasun.com

## **YTC Commander visits Maintenance Team**



On the morning of Aug. 22, 2024, Yuma Test Center Commander Lt. Col. Kevin Hicks visited the team at the Maintenance Shop to introduce himself and to get to know their needs. (Photos by Ana Henderson)



all of Yuma Proving

Ground.

During the shop's town hall Hicks presented . Patrick Kelly, an equipment specialist with the Maintenance Division, a Certificate of Appreciation for his work with fleet management.

# Suicide Prevention Month

We are stronger together, connect to protect



## Pushup Challenge aims to bring awareness to suicide prevention

#### By Ana Henderson

U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC) headquarters is encouraging eight subordinate organizations to take part in the 17day Pushup Challenge with them.

The number comes from the 2023 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual report which show the national average of suicides per day is 17. While that number dropped from the average of 22 per day in 2016, one suicide is too many.

On Sept. 9, 2024, ATEC kicked off the challenge. Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) marked the start of the challenge by steaming live from the YPG headquarters to the workforce via Teams.

YPG Commander Col. John Nelson and Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Millare kicked off the challenge by doing the first set of 17 pushups which motivated several others to get down and do those pushups. Nelson told those watching live and online, "Let's do this and let's raise awareness for suicide prevention."

The challenge goes on until Oct. 2, 2024. The challenge is among ATEC subordinate organizations. ATEC is tracking the total pushups from each organization on its internal SharePoint visible to its workforce. From the home page, scroll down to the FY24 Push-up Challenge to view the current numbers.

YPG is challenging its workforce to compete against each other and group the numbers by test directorates. YPG has its own internal tracker to see which test directorate is ahead. YPG's winners will be announced at the next mission townhall on Oct. 3.

Millare told crowd and viewers, "Always stay connected and watch out for each other."

YPG's workforce can get involved by scanning the QR Code on the flyer and inputting the numbers of pushups they did each day. Participants can do pushups at any time during the challenge, however, to boost participation and enthusiasm, YPG is hosting weekly pushup challenges at the ROC Atrium on the following dates and times.

Pushups in the ROC Atrium 18 Sept. 9 – 10 AM 26 Sept. 10:30 – 11:30 AM 2 Oct. 10:30 – 11:30 AM

Turn to page 11 for more pictures from the challenge and other outreach events.



On Sept. 9, 2024, U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command kicked off the 17-Day Pushup Challenge for its subordinate organizations. Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) marked the start of the challenge by steaming live from the YPG headquarters to the workforce via Teams. YPG Commander Col. John Nelson and Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Millare did the first set of 17 pushups which motivated several others to get down and do those pushups. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

# **Road work on Imperial Dam Road**

By Ana Henderson

Drivers using Imperial Dam Road (IDR) for access to the Walker and Howard access control points and the Visitor Control Center at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) will encounter road work.

On, Sept. 10, 2024, construction began to install culverts to avoid flooding like has been seen after heavy monsoon storms. One culvert is planned closer to the Walker gate and the other will go where the temporary steel plate is currently in place. The speed limit





September

Join us for a presentation on building a 72-hour emergency kit for your home, presented by the Yuma Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). This session will guide you through the critical items and preparation to ensure you and your loved ones are ready for any unexpected situation.

The YPG Fire Department will be hosting a fire extinguisher presentation. This session will cover the techniques for proper use of a fire extinguisher, including hands-on practice. Learn how quickly and effectively you can extinguish a small fire, ensuring the safety of your home or workplace, helping you stay prepared to protect those around you.



We invite you to attend a crucial hands-only CPR presentation, by the American Red Cross. This hands-on session will teach you the technique of hands-only CPR, empowering you to act confidently in an emergency. Gain the knowledge to potentially save a life and make a difference in your community.

September

We will be honored to see you at the closing event of YPG's National Preparedness Month. This engaging event will be hosted by Child & Youth Services and ACS starting at 2pm-3pm. The feature presentation will be an informative session in extreme heat, along with fun and interactive activities for the kids. Come learn valuable tips to protect yourself and your family





All events are from 1pm-2pm, except 30 Sept. Participation is FREE and open to the YPG Community and Employees, Join us at the Palm conference room, inside the YPG public library. For more information contact: YPG Office of Emergency Management at 928-328-2336 / alejandro.villasenor3.civ@army.mil

On Sept. 10, construction began on Imperial Dam Road to install culverts to avoid flooding like has been seen after heavy monsoon storms. The work area is approximately a one mile stretch from Highway 95 to near the Walker gate. The speed limit will drop to 15 MPH nearest to the road work.



#### will drop to 15 MPH.

The work area is approximately a one mile stretch from Highway 95 to near the Walker gate.

David Daggett with the YPG's Directorate of Public Works urges drivers to, "Please pay attention

and be mindful of the construction workers, heavy equipment entering and exiting the roadway, and the traffic control signs." Also, allow extra travel time.

This project is expected to continue until February of 2025.



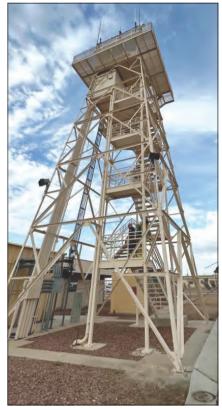
Military Equal Opportunity (MEO) Commander's 24/7 Hotline (443)-910-1680

## YPG Commander gives in-depth interview to NPR affiliate



YPG Commander Col. John Nelson (right) recently chatted with KAWC Host Chris McDaniel for an episode of the station's weekly public affairs news show Arizona Edition. Nelson spoke extensively about YPG's position at the forefront of Army modernization efforts and the decades of excellence demonstrated by the workforce, the largest in Yuma County. The episode is slated to air on Sept. 20, 2024. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

## YPG Firefighters make annual 911 tribute stair climb





It's been 23 years since more than 3,000 of our fellow citizens died at the hands of terrorists in New York City; Washington, DC; and Shanksville, Pennsylvania. To pay tribe to the firefighters who lost their lives saving others, Yuma Proving Ground Firefighters suited up and climbed the tower on Laguna Airfield 22 times (equivalent to 110 flights of stairs and 2071 steps) in honor of the firefighters who climbed those 110 floors of the Twin Towers and never came back. (Photos by Barry Wise)

# ASTRION

Our Advanced Test & Evaluation capabilities deliver **Results with Impact**, empowering the Army and the nation to take on what's next.

"Our measure of effectiveness is our customer success."

ASTRION.US/YUMA

**Scott King** Army Business Development Account Exec **6** SEPTEMBER 16, 2024



barrel carbine. The pistol grip, trigger guard, and cheekpiece of the weapons are slightly different from the civilian model.

For the tropical portion of the testing, 55 German soldiers spent two wet and extremely humid weeks on the ground in Panama utilizing a firing range and muddy jungle trail that traversed two creeks flowing beneath a triple canopy of vegetation, bordered with large trees bearing thorny vines and tall grasses. The trail contained pop-up and stationary targets as the soldiers conducted mock patrols as part of their simulated missions that put the weapons under test through their paces.

"The jungle trail and its tactical targets were outstanding," said Sgt. Maj. Ernest Tretow of the Bundeswehr. "We tested the new night vision goggles inside the jungle trail at night and utilized the trail for live firing in the daylight."

In addition to piggybacking a night vision goggle test onto their activities at TRTC, the Bundeswehr took the opportunity to conduct tests with their G22A2 sniper rifle, and



In addition to piggybacking a night vision goggle test onto their activities testing the G95 rifle at U.S. Army Tropic Regions Test Center, the Bundeswehr also took the opportunity to conduct tests with their G22A2 sniper rifle, and MG4 and MG5 machines guns. (Photos by Carlos Mora)

MG4 and MG5 machines guns.

"The test area was exactly what we were looking for, and the support from the Tropic Regions Test Center team was outstanding," said Sgt. Maj. Michael Diehl of the Bundeswehr. "We had no problems with the testing of the weapons."

"We go a lot of times to Almeria

in Spain, but it is very hot there for just two or three weeks of the year and you can't shoot tracer ammunition there," added Tretow. "Here, everything was possible."

The Bundeswehr had in years past conducted tropical testing of weapons at American Army facilities in Hawaii, but felt the subtropical conditions were not truly representative of an extreme jungle environment. The success of the MG5 testing at Yuma Test Center a decade ago, and YPG's jurisdiction of test facilities in wide ranging natural environments, made future evaluations comprehensive, rigorous, and efficient.

"The test of the machine gun in 2014 was the first time where we had contact with YPG, and they provided us the possibility to test in every climate area," said Tretow. "That is unique, to be able to test under one organization like ATEC

under one organization like ATEC and Yuma Proving Ground." YPG officials expect to

conduct additional testing for the Bundeswehr in the future.

"It was an excellent opportunity for security cooperation and support of our NATO partners in testing their equipment in the challenging natural environment of the tropics," said Col. John Nelson, YPG commander. "They have already tested it in the desert environment in Yuma and plan to test it at our Arctic Regions Test Center in the winter."



During testing at U.S. Army Tropic Regions Test Center, 55 German soldiers utilized a muddy jungle trail that traversed two creeks flowing beneath a triple canopy of vegetation, bordered with large trees bearing thorny vines and tall grasses. The trail contained pop-up and stationary targets as the soldiers conducted mock patrols as part of their simulated missions that put the weapons under test through their paces.

## It's a jungle out there: TRTC senior engineer represents YPG in the tropics

#### By Ana Henderson

At one time Gilbert Moreno was a single father, a full-time student and a full-time employee.

His hard work and perseverance paid off. Now a decade later, he's enjoying his grandkids and has stepped into the role as the senior engineer for Tropic Regions Test Center (TRTC), U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground's (YPG) test facility in the jungle.

Moreno came to YPG in 2013 from New Mexico where he was working as a security guard at White Sands Missile Range.

"I took a night job so I could work at night and go to school during the day to finish my engineering degree."

After interviewing for several jobs, he chose YPG because it was close to family. He started with the Pathway program since he was a recent graduate with a civil engineering degree. Pathways provides recent graduates with one to two-year developmental experiences in Federal agencies.

"Since I was already a GS employee at White Sands, you couldn't jump from a GS 5 to an 11 engineering position. You have to work your way up through the ladder as it was."

And that's how he started his career as an engineer at YPG's Munitions and Weapons Division, hired by current Division Chief Kermit Okamura.

During his six years in the division, he worked a variety of programs in the Artillery team.

"It was a really good team. It's a really good environment to work and come into. They were friendly and had a very good work ethic."

Moreno mentions a few of his coworkers, Richard Bloomfield, Jered Ford, Steve Flores, Juan Elizarraras and Mike Dickerson, who stepped up to mentor him.

Moreno had an intense firing schedule and said for one program he



Gilbert Moreno is the senior engineer for Tropic Regions Test Center, U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground's test facility in the jungle. (U.S. Army photo)

fired nearly 6-thousands rounds in a span of four to five months.

"I took two brand new 155-mm gun tubes from band new to completion."

He worked for a brief stint at YPG's Technology and Investments Directorate's (TID) development division under Branch Chief Gary Rosene.

"I learned a lot about everything that went on behind the scenes. People don't realize how bases get their funding. So that's what I learned



a lot about. It was a good experience."

The experience from working as an engineer and at TID is now helping him in his new position as the Senior Test Engineer and Contract Officer at TRTC where he's involved with the total operation. In addition to testing weapon systems TRTC tests military equipment like boots, clothing, helmets, radios and more.

"I applied for this position with Tropic Regions Test Center so I could travel and to get back in the field."

And that he has. Moreno now travels often to South America for test programs in what's called the true tropics. He explains.

"Panama has a lot more humidity. It's a lot closer to the equator. The vegetation there is what they refer to as a triple canopy of growth there. The trees and the vegetation there and the humidity is just way above and beyond anything you would find in Puerto Rico, Hawaii and even Florida."

He adds, "It's a true jungle environment."

#### Hear Moreno's complete

interview on Outpost Outspoken by scanning the QR code with your phone's camera.



# **Garrison Employee Recognition Ceremony**

U.S. Army Garrison Yuma Proving Ground employees gathered on the afternoon of Aug. 22, 2024, to celebrate the many accomplishments of their team. Deputy Garrison Manager Dan Carter presented the following employees with various recognitions

Length of Service awards

Civilian Service Commendation Medal



Albert Wheaton III, Deputy Chief of Police



Shayn Tinseth, Supervisory Security Guard

Civilian Service Achievement Medal



Paulina Romero, Police Officer

Not pictured: Raguel Overstreet, Barry Wise Jr., Miranda Choate. (Photos by Ana Henderson)



Reinhard Brenneis Jr., Energy Manager

45 years



Ron Rodriguez, Director of Operations



William Clark, Physical Security Specialist



Sonia May, MWR server 20 years



Maria Spolski, MWR Assistant Business Mgr.



(928) 726-5882 | www.defensetesting.com



SEPTEMBER 16, 2024 9



(Not a contractor License)

OUTPOST

10 SEPTEMBER 16, 2024

OUTPOST



## Pushups continued from page 3...



Participants can do pushups at any time during the challenge, however, to boost participation and enthusiasm, YPG is hosting weekly pushup challenges at the ROC Atrium like the one on Sept. 9, 2024. (Photos by Ana Henderson)





## Leaders provide information on resources

Ask, care, escort is the phrase you were hear when learning about suicide prevention. U.S. Army Yuma Proving ground leaders are ensuring the workforce knows how to find resources if they or someone they know is struggling.







Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Millare joined William Lloyd at the Howard gate along with Officer Efren Huerta. (Photos by Ana Henderson)



Yuma Test Center Commander Lt. Col. Kevin Hicks and Amanda Chavis greeted the workforce at the Kofa gate as they made their way to supporting the mission of testing equipment for the warfighter. (Photo by Mark Schauer)



## in the power of progress

## We're aspiring for better, one mighty lift at a time.

Progress and purpose. Two words that drive every effort and every decision. We are committed to constantly and consistently advancing healthcare, creating meaningful experiences and improving the lives of everyone around us. And we promise to put in the quality time and hard work, and to always strive for better. Because we believe always improving means delivering better care today than yesterday, and even better care tomorrow.





# ALLTHE FUN, UNDER THE SUN.

Through the gateway to the Great Southwest, you'll find a place where the fun never sets. Welcome to the land of slots, blackjack, bingo, delicious food and ice-cold drinks. All surrounded by bowling, 18-hole golf, rock walls for climbing, arcade games and gorgeous pools.



South Highway 95 in Somerton | CocopahResort.com