

The Outpost

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

VOLUME 73 NO. 19 SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

EDGE 24 held at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground



Held at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) for the second consecutive year, the 2024 iteration of the Future Vertical Lift Cross Functional Team (FVL CFT)'s Experimental Demonstration Gateway Event (EDGE) seeks to optimize the collaborative behaviors of launched effects and unmanned aircraft. "There's no pass or fail at EDGE," said Brig. Gen. Cain Baker, FVL CFT Director. "This is an opportunity for vendors to test their items in a natural environment and show us the capabilities." (Photo by Mark Schauer)

By Mark Schauer

The Army Futures Command's (AFC) Future Vertical Lift (FVL) Cross-Functional Team (CFT)'s 2024 iteration of the Experimental Demonstration Gateway Event (EDGE) took place across three weeks in September.

Held at U.S. Army Yuma Proving

Ground (YPG) for the second consecutive year, EDGE 24 seeks to optimize the collaborative behaviors of launched effects and unmanned aircraft.

"With EDGE last year we learned a lot about payloads and the network: We really looked at the ability to

SEE **EDGE 24** page 7

ATEC's commanding general visits YPG

The Commanding General of Yuma Proving Ground's (YPG) higher headquarters U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command Maj. Gen. Patrick Gaydon and Command Sgt. Maj. Bradford Smith made their first trip to YPG the week of Sept. 23, 2024, since taking over leadership. Turn to page 5 for more photos from the visit. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

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Veteran now serves active duty as a civilian

By Ana Henderson

Joel Ramirez spent 10 years serving in the U.S. Army. That time helped him find his calling careerwise and his passion of serving others when he transitioned into civilian life.

During his time in active-duty Ramirez served as an Abrams Tanker and had various positions within the tank. He initially started as an M1 armored crewman and moved up the ranks quickly.

"I had the pleasure of going straight from a driver to gunner. Which was really nice because I was on the fast track and I was one of the older Soldiers going into basic training," recounted Ramirez.

This gave him increased responsibilities. By his last three years of his active duty, he had transitioned into a leadership role.

"I had the pleasure of being the G3 NCOIC at Division Operations in Fort Steward, Georgia during that time, I was in a much higher leadership role than what my rank supported. So, it helped me learn



Yuma Proving Ground Command Group Executive Assistant, Joel Ramirez enjoys combining his athletic talent with charity work. He's earned big trophies taking part in local charity golf and bowling tournaments. He enjoys his job at YPG because he can help active-duty Soldiers, "I am here to serve those that serve." (Photo by Ana Henderson)

really quickly the admin role, the different type of responsibilities I

had, and being able to manage that in a timely manner."

When his active-duty military career came to an end and he and his family moved back to Yuma, Ramirez knew Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) could offer him the type of work that would fulfill both his callings.

"I knew of YPG and what they did, and I wanted to be a part of that. I am a big advocate in serving those who serve, because without people

that helps us as active-duty Soldiers, we wouldn't be where we are at today. I really commend them for doing that and I am really happy to be here for that," remarked Ramirez. He added, "I am here to serve those that serve."

He came to YPG in 2020 and currently works as the executive assistant to YPG's Command Group. He serves the YPG Commander, Command Sergeant Major, Technical Director and Chief of Staff. Soon after stepping into this role, the

YPG Executive Services Officer, Jim Stickney, noticed Ramirez's skillset and asked him to assist with the VIP visitors during a large-scale demonstration event at YPG. After excelling in that role, Ramirez can now add Protocol Assistant to his resume.

Outside of work he keeps busy with his family, sports and ties that into charity work. He's took part in charity golf tournaments including the Bridget's Gift, Gila Ridge Benefit, Right Turn for Veterans Benefit, Varsity Team Inc. He also uses his bowling skills to compete in charity tournaments benefiting local community youth, veterans, small business, and many more.

"I do all these things in hopes to gain comradery with my teams/teammates, new friendships, personal growth, but most of all to show my kids that with hard work and practice you can achieve anything. I participate in charity events to give back to those who are less fortunate. I am honored to be here as a part of a team of teams to make this happen."

The Outpost

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YPG Fire Department urges residents to make sure their smoke alarms are working

Fire Prevention Week: Smoke alarms: Make them work for you!

Submitted by Tarnell Pritchett

The Yuma Proving Ground Fire Department is teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week (FPW) for more than 100 years to promote this year's FPW campaign, "Smoke alarms: Make them work for you" the week of Oct. 6-12. The campaign works to educate everyone about the importance of having working smoke alarms in the home.

NFPA finds that smoke alarms reduce the risk of dying in a home fire by more than half (54 percent). Meanwhile, roughly three out of five fire deaths happen in homes with either no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

"Smoke alarms serve as the first line of defense in a home fire, but they need to be working in order to protect people," said Lorraine Carli, vice president of outreach and advocacy at NFPA. "This year's Fire Prevention Week campaign helps better educate the public about simple but critical steps they can take to make sure their homes have smoke



The Yuma Proving Ground Fire Department is using this education fire house to show people how to get out of a burning house but say the first line of defense is having a smoke alarm. The National Fire Protection Association finds that smoke alarms reduce the risk of dying in a home fire by 54%. (Photo courtesy of YPG Fire Dept.)

alarms in all the needed locations and that they're working properly."

"Working smoke alarms can make a life-saving difference in a home fire, giving people the time to get out safely," said Deputy Fire Chief Matthew Kelly. He adds, "This year's Fire Prevention Week

campaign is a great way to remind everyone about these messages and to act on them."

Fire Chief Gerald Ball, offers these key smoke alarm safety tips and guidelines:

Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate

sleeping area (like a hallway), and on each level (including the basement) of the home.

Make sure smoke alarms meet the needs of all family members, including those with sensory or physical disabilities.

Test smoke alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.

Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.

The Yuma Proving Ground Fire Department is hosting a series of events in support of this year's FPW campaign.

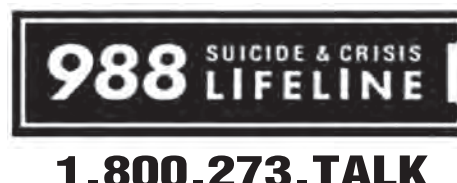
To find out more about FPW programs and activities, please contact the Yuma Proving Ground Fire Department at 928-328-2316. For more information about Fire Prevention Week and smoke alarms, visit fpw.org.



Date	7 October 2024	8 October 2024	9 October 2024	10 October 2024
Event	Educational Fire House Vehicle Static Display Price School YS Visit	Educational Fire House Pancake Breakfast CDC Visit	Educational Fire House Vehicle Static Display	Educational Fire House Vehicle Static Display
Location	Fire Station 2 (Howard)	Fire Station 2 (Howard)	Fire Station 3 (KFR)	Fire Station 3 (KFR)
Time	8:30-2 p.m.	8:30-11:30 a.m.	8:30-11:30 a.m.	8:30-11:30 a.m.



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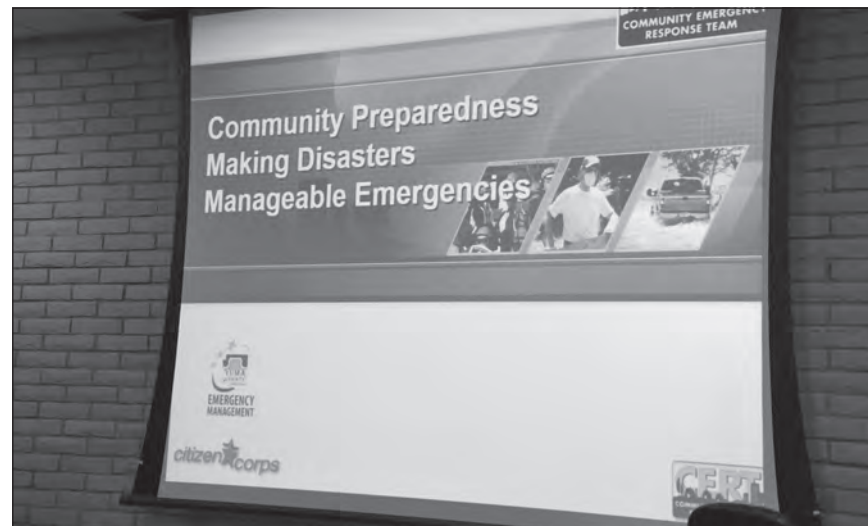
Suicide Prevention awareness and outreach across YPG



September is Suicide Prevention Month and at Yuma Proving Ground a team dedicated themselves to providing information about resources and how to help those thinking about suicide or those looking to help someone who is thinking about committing suicide. The team set up information booths across the installation and reminded people about 988, the 24-hour crisis hotline. They are also encouraging the workforce to use the steps of – ask, care, escort, for those in need of help. (Photos by Eugene Garcia and Mark Schauer)



YPG teams up with first responders to prepare workforce for emergencies



Throughout September, the Garrison and ATEC Mission Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Emergency Managers worked with first responders and other agencies, like the Yuma County Emergency Response team pictured alongside them to prepare the YPG community for an emergency. They provided presentations on preparing a 72-hour kit, properly using a fire extinguisher, hands-only CPR and heat exhaustion. (Photos by Ana Henderson)



ATEC's commanding general visits YPG...continued



TOP LEFT: Maj. Gen. Patrick Gaydon and Command Sgt. Maj. Bradford Smith received a comprehensive look at Yuma Proving Ground and Yuma Test Center's capabilities. The tour included an overflight. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

LEFT: Gaydon and Smith made stops at several test support shops including the Ammunition Preparation plant where he presented Adrian Fernandez with a Commander's Coin.

TOP RIGHT: Also, recipients of Commander's Coins were (left) Brianna Carlson, Savanna Silva, David Le.

RIGHT: Carlos Anaya talks with leaders about the mission of Aviation Delivery Systems. (Photos by Ana Henderson)



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101st Airborne Division support vital to EDGE 24

By Mark Schauer

The Army Futures Command's (AFC) Future Vertical Lift (FVL) Cross-Functional Team (CFT)'s 2024 iteration of the Experimental Demonstration Gateway Event (EDGE) was made possible by close collaboration with the broader Army and private industry.

Held at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) for the second consecutive year, the data collected at EDGE 24 will optimize the

collaborative behaviors of launched effects and unmanned aircraft that will define future battlefields.

"Once this experimentation is complete, we will work on a requirement update where we will talk about refinement of network performance, refinement of behaviors, and lethality," said Brig. Gen. Cain Baker, FVL CFT Director. "There is a lot to do with lethality that ties back to behaviors: How close can you get to a specific target? How close can we get to the target before the adversary can see us? Will we have to hand the target off to a different system?"

Heavily involving autonomy, YPG's clear, stable air and extremely dry climate combined with an ability to control a large swath of the radio frequency

spectrum makes it a desired location for the type of testing EDGE conducted, as does its long history of testing UAS.

"We're really trying to ensure we are satisfying what the CFT and vendors need," said Lt. Col. Kevin Hicks, Yuma Test Center Commander. "We've been able to provide a lot of range space and test support. Everything from radars, high speed cameras, and accelerometers from our Instrumentation Division that really get after measuring performance and getting that data back to the program managers and vendor teams to help inform future decisions."

Also vital to allowing EDGE to achieve its objectives was the participation of personnel from

the Army's 3rd Brigade Team, "Rakkasans" 101st Airborne Division. The participating Soldiers provided YPG's data collection teams and private industry vendors a warfighter insight on the technology and the needs of the operational force in addition to serving as exercise controllers.

"Some would consider it fairly similar to being a Tactical Air Command, but we're really doing battle tracking," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Joshua Graser, Systems Integrator. "We're tracking what aircraft are flying, when they fly, how long they fly, and making sure everyone involved has the information they need."

The 101st also supported the 2023 iteration of EDGE at YPG, which paid dividends to the efficiency

of this year's operation.

"It helps for everyone to have a familiar face," said Graser. "It's easy for us to coordinate and understand how the organizations out here operate."

Aside from being vital to the demonstration's success, the 101st's participation was also professionally beneficial to their personnel.

"For my job doing airspace management and systems integration at the brigade level, it's

interesting to see where the technology is going and how it could potentially shape how I do my job in the future," said Graser. "With a lot of the capabilities and systems out here doing things autonomously, it will definitely be a big shift in how we think about airspace management as a brigade."

The contributions of all participants across the three weeks of demonstrations are expected to inform the battlefield use of launched effects.

"This EDGE alone will provide back an analysis that we've never had before," said Baker. "It will be very focused in on two of the most important aspects of launched effects. I would say the most important aspects are the autonomy and the behaviors."



Vital to allowing the 2024 Experimental Demonstration Gateway Event (EDGE) to achieve its objectives was the participation of personnel from the Army's 3rd Brigade Team, "Rakkasans" 101st Airborne Division. The participating Soldiers provided Yuma Proving Ground's data collection teams and private industry vendors a warfighter insight on the technology and the needs of the operational force in addition to serving as exercise controllers. (U.S. Army photo)

EDGE 24

FROM PAGE 1

pass data in more of an offensive-defensive capability,” said Brig. Gen. Cain Baker, FVL CFT Director. “Previous EDGES had a lot of requirements and thresholds that we had to experiment with: we were trying to accomplish so much that it was very hard to take feedback in very specific sections and drill down on what we learned.”

“The focus is narrower this year,” said Justin Crutch, YPG FVL CFT integrator. “From our perspective it is much more traditional in the sense of how we traditionally conduct testing here, with isolated, independent systems demonstrating capabilities.”

Supporting a wide variety of unmanned aircraft and launched effects testing is commonplace at Yuma Test Center (YTC), but the questions being explored during the experimentation are the most cutting edge in the Army. If a fleet of unmanned aircraft are operating at extended ranges against a near-peer adversary and can’t get back into a secure network, what behaviors are necessary to be able to collect outside of that network autonomously, for example, and what are the behaviors to successfully get back in the network and report back what the aircraft have discovered? Multiple private industry partners



Lockheed Martin tests platform agnostic software as part of the Experimental Demonstration Gateway Event (EDGE) 24 that took place in mid to late September 2024 at Yuma Proving Ground. (Photo by Nelson Ballew)

have demonstrated potential answers to questions that will help to mature and inform UAS and launched effects moving forward.

“There’s no pass or fail at EDGE,” said Baker. “This is an opportunity for vendors to test their items in a

natural environment and show us the capabilities. If a vendor can’t meet the objectives at this time, we will bring them back in when they are ready.”

In the weeks leading up to the event, Yuma Test Center personnel emplaced representative threat systems on the installation’s vast ranges. The test center provided radars, high speed cameras,

and other equipment to gather performance data, along with experienced support personnel to collect it. YPG’s clear, stable air and extremely dry climate combined with an ability to control a large swath of the radio frequency spectrum makes it a desired location for the type of testing EDGE was interested in.

“With EDGE we are getting to experiment and allow the vendors to show off their capabilities,” said Lt. Col. Kevin Hicks, YTC Commander. “We’re able to supercharge that environment to make it as close to realistic as possible. If they need to go kinetic, we’re able to put the whole system into function against its intended target and really see if it is working the way it is supposed to work.”

YPG’s vast institutional UAS and counter-UAS testing knowledge and the presence of a wealth of other infrastructure meant for other sectors of YPG’s broad test mission are once again being utilized to support the aviation evaluations: YPG is home to things like technical and tactical targets, as well as generator and combined maintenance shops that benefit the experimentation.

“The Yuma personnel have once again knocked it out of the park,” said Baker. “Our industry partners have already reached the objectives we set for them in the first week. The broader Army support from DEVCOM Aviation and Missile Center and the Army Test and Evaluation Command to help us capture test data has really come together well.”

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Fort Liberty employee takes developmental opportunity in YPG's moral and welfare division

By Ana Henderson

There's a new Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation (FMWR) Director on post. U.S. Army Garrison Yuma Proving Ground's leadership selected Olga Hester for the temporary developmental assignment until a permanent director is selected just before or after the new year.

Hester's permanent position at Fort Liberty in North Carolina is the Food and Beverage Director. With this three-month developmental opportunity Hester hopes to expand her knowledge of FMWR especially the helping and learning programs like Army Community Services and the child and youth division programs.

She hopes to contribute to the organization with her vast experience.

"When I finish, I want to have

made an impact in each MWR division...even a small impact."

Hester says her experience in business, marketing and bringing ideas from another installation can all make an impact. As a newcomer she has experienced what many individuals or families experience when they first arrive at YPG, so she's already implemented changes to existing advertising.

Hester arrived at YPG just in time for the temperature to drop and the number of activities around post to rise. The busy holiday season at YPG will offer the wide view of the Garrison which provides services to Soldiers and their families that she hasn't been able to experience at the Garrison level.

"I will get to see the entire Garrison. Everything there is and everything they do under the Garrison umbrella because in a big



Olga Hester is on a temporary developmental assignment as the Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation (FMWR) Director until Dec. 4, 2024. Hester brings a wealth of experience as the Food and Beverage Director at Fort Liberty in North Carolina. (U.S. Army photo)

installation I am part of the MWR and we pretty much stay where we are. The director, yes, goes and sees the whole picture."

If you see Hester out and about say hi and welcome, her to YPG. She will serve in the position until Dec. 4, 2024.

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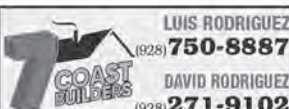
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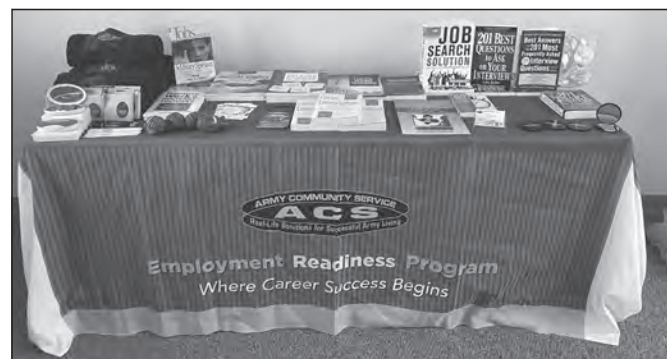
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Army Community Services hosts resume and interview workshop



Army Community Services partnered with local non-profit, Cristina's Closet to help job seekers. The two agencies hosted a resume and mock interview workshop on the afternoon of Sept. 19, 2024. The practice allowed the participants to build confidence and skills for the interview process. (Photos courtesy of ACS)

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Water delivery to Trigo Mountains area for wildlife



The Arizona Game and Fish Department coordinated a water haul on the weekend of Sept. 14 and 15, 2024.

Daniel Steward, Wildlife Biologist with Yuma Proving Grounds's Environmental Sciences Division who helped with the haul, describes the impactful work saying, "We had a big weekend, hauling about 7,000 gallons on Friday and 8,000 on Saturday. We also sent crews to install water sensors and conduct maintenance."

The photograph shows the helicopter dropping water into a tank used to pump the wildlife water into three storage tanks. Each bucket carries about 180 gallons and takes several trips to fill the tanks. (Photo courtesy of Daniel Steward)

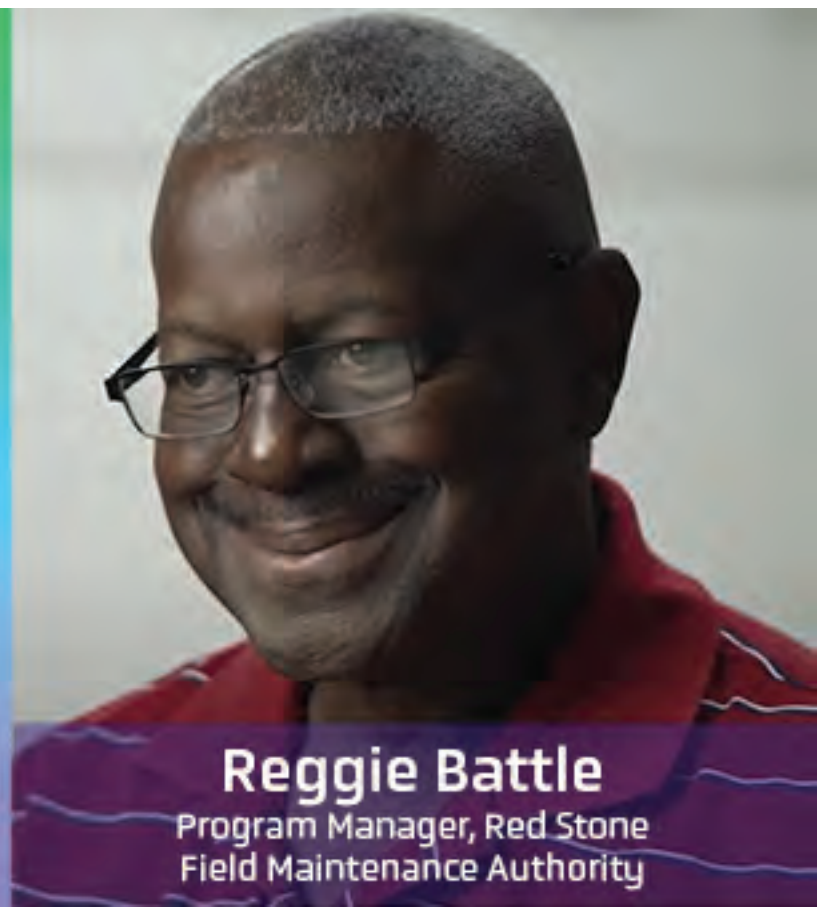


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