

# The Outpost

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

VOLUME 73 NO. 21 OCTOBER 28, 2024

## YPG tests advanced mortar system

By Mark Schauer

In mountainous terrain, the mortar, capable of firing projectiles at high angles, is the weapon of choice to fight back against opposing forces.

U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) has been at the forefront of improving the venerable weapon for the 21st century, recently conducting a characterization test of the Sling mobile mortar system.

The mortar is a standard 120 mm tube with the sling system and fire control system mounted to the back of a military vehicle: in the case of the test at YPG, a High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV). The weapon can be automatically deployed and emplaced in less than one minute and fire up to 16 rounds in the first minute of fire, four rounds per minute for extended periods of time



U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) recently conducted a characterization test of the Sling mobile mortar system. The mortar is a standard 120 mm tube with the sling system and fire control system mounted to the back of a military vehicle. The weapon can be automatically deployed and emplaced in less than one minute and fire up to 16 rounds in the first minute of fire, four rounds per minute for extended periods of time thereafter. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

thereafter.

Like all large mortars, the weapon packs a powerful punch: a high energy M933 120mm mortar bomb is capable of killing anything within a 60-meter radius of its impact, and send fragmentation as much as ten times as far. The weapon's effective range is greater than four miles.

Testers want to use the item the same way as Soldiers, but are bound by safety procedures such as remote firing. Mortar testing also involves drawing a safety fan around the gun position in which personnel are prohibited when a projectile is being fired. In a combat theater, Soldiers would park the vehicle, get a fire mission and hydraulically deploy the mortar, which is already attached to a base plate.

"This system holds your cannon

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On the afternoon of Oct. 17, 2024, the U.S. Army Garrison Yuma Proving Ground community along with leaders gathered for the ribbon cutting for the Halo Chapel's front yard playground. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

# Halo Chapel celebrates new playground with ribbon cutting ceremony

By Ana Henderson

The Halo Chapel's front yard playground is now open for business...or rather playing!

On the afternoon of Oct. 17, 2024, the U.S. Army Garrison Yuma Proving Ground community along with leaders gathered for the ribbon cutting.

After Chaplain Maj. Ryan Pearse's young daughter, with his help, cut the ribbon with jumbo scissors children ran to play on the structure, and laughter could be heard as they

enjoyed themselves.

Pearse, who initially applied for the Chief of Chaplain's grant two years ago, dreamt up the playground.

He says it suits both younger and older kids and will provide hours of fun for many months of the year.

The YPG community filled the chapel's front yard as they supported the event and enjoyed the shade.

"The shade is key" explained the Chaplain, "There is shade over the entire front yard. Shade over the playground. Shade over where we

are going to have the bounce house. Which will increase the life of the kids being able to play outside."

The shade selected is darker and is supposed to block the maximum amount of UV rays, something important when you live in one of the hottest places on Earth.

As for the bounce house, the playground is strategically placed with the bounce house in mind. In November, when chapel staff bring it out, there is space in the yard.

He said the playground does not belong to the chapel, it belongs to the YPG community.

## The Outpost

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## Breaking the silence on domestic violence



ABOVE: It's never too early to get the message out to "Break the silence. Stop the violence." Before the sun rose on Oct. 22, 2024, U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Family Advocacy Manager Mariah Boykin and Domestic Violence Victim Advocate Gisela Robles invited YPG Commander Col. John Nelson, Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Millare and Garrison Deputy Manager Dan Carter to help spread awareness about domestic violence and resources for help that are available. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

LEFT: They each greeted the workforce as they entered the installation to start their workday. The key message during Domestic Violence Awareness Month is getting people to speak up, because silence means violence. For resources call the YPG Family Advocacy Program (928) 328-3224. (Photos by Mark Schauer)

## Top dog takes honor at Paws for Cause costume contest



The competition was ruff, but only one pooch could be top dog at the annual pet costume contest. Lona the Dalmatian dressed as the Crazy Killer took the title. The Paws for Cause annual event hosted by Yuma Proving Ground's Family Advocacy Program, is a fun way to bring attention to the role pets play in a domestic violence situation. The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence finds, 71% of women in domestic shelters report, their abuser threatened, injured or killed a pet as a means of control. In fact, 48% of domestic survivors delay leaving because they can't take their pets with them. The YPG Veterinary Clinic, Donna Pupcakes Dog Bakery and the Humane Society shared information on their services at the event as well. (Photos courtesy of ACS staff)



# Stay alert: driving in the fall is even more dangerous

By Ana Hendeson

Once fall arrives and daylight hours get shorter, driving, especially along Highway 95, leading to and from U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground, becomes even more dangerous.

There are many elements that contribute to the dangers.

It's now pitch dark at 5:30 a.m. when many employees are making their commute to start their 10-hour shift. Daylight is dwindling as they make their way home in the afternoon.

Also, during the fall, large agricultural work vehicles are on the road heading to their job site because Yuma County is the lettuce capital and harvests other produce. The moist conditions especially in the agricultural fields make for dense fog which adds another element of danger.

YPG Instrumentation Metric Photographer Brian Michael knows this all too well. November will mark a year since his near deadly accident on 95, which he is still recovering from. He was driving in dense fog when hit by three cars.

Also, this time of year, large recreational vehicles are on the road as winter visitors head to their destination. Arizona's near perfect winter climate brings many seasonal visitors.

Adding to these potential hazards is the road improvement work along Highway 95. When complete the improvements will make driving the long stretch safer yet in the meantime bring heavy machinery, work crews, lower speed limits and at times backed up traffic.

YPG Police Officer Austin Howard points out a few laws that drivers need to keep in mind.

## Left lane is only for passing

In Arizona the left lane of a multilane road is strictly for passing or turning. It's not for drivers in both lanes to keep the same speed and not



Road improvement work along Highway 95, which when complete will make driving the long stretch safer in meantime means lower speed limits, concrete barriers and at times backed up traffic which can add to frustrated drivers, road rage and unsafe driving maneuvers. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

let other cars pass.

"That's a big trigger for road rage, being stuck behind someone," remarks Howard.

"In Arizona, you are supposed to drive in the right lane unless you are passing."

Passing in the right lane is also an infraction.

## Passing multiple cars is reckless driving

"Aggressive driving is a driving infraction," explains Howard.

Aggressive driving includes, speeding, weaving in and out of traffic, passing multiple people and not signaling intent. Any combination of these acts can

lead to reckless driving charges. Reckless driving can lead to road rage.

## Road rage is illegal

"Road rage is a criminal act," explains Howard.

"If you are tailgating someone, flashing your lights, going around them, and you are mad enough to swerve at their vehicle. Now you are falling under endangerment which is criminal charges."

If a person is indicted of a criminal offense they can lose their security clearance which would mean losing their job too.

## Poor time management is not an excuse to speed

Howard points out, "You driving 10 miles over the speed limit is only going to get you at a maximum, five minutes earlier. So, you getting where you want to go five minutes earlier — is it really worth getting into an accident that could cause you to lose your life or somebody else's."

It's important to note, Agricultural vehicles do not have to move out of your way. The orange placard they display signals they are driving below the speed limit.

## Words of caution to drivers

Howard and his fellow officers have seen one too many car accidents and gives these words of wisdom, "The main advice is drive the speed limit. It's there for a reason."

He adds, "Knowing when to slow down, when to operate your high and low beams. Being aware of your surroundings. Keeping your eyes not just in the middle of the road but the sides as well," and watching for wildlife and not swerving causing your car to roll if you do encounter wildlife will improve your chances of getting to your destination safely.



YPG Instrumentation Metric Photographer Brian Michael's vehicle was totaled last November after an accident while driving in dense fog along Highway 95. A year later, he is still recovering from his injuries. (Loaned photo)



The Yuma Proving Ground Fire Department used the education fire house (center) during Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 6-12, 2024, to show the YPG community how to get out of a burning house. Children and the workforce alike, was able to practice exiting through a window. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

## YPG Fire Department uses fun tools to teach about fire safety

By Ana Henderson

During this year's Fire Prevention Week, the U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground Fire Department (YPG FD) made sure the YPG community, regardless of age, learned about fire safety.

New this year was an extra emphasis on teaching the workforce.

The department used an inflatable house with printed images of household dangers and tips of what action to take if found in those scenarios. YPG Fire Inspector Brad Henderson led students through the Education Fire House when students visited Fire Station #2 on the Howard Cantonment.

The FD placed that same house at the Kofa Cantonment Area station so the mission workforce could learn about household fire dangers, too. The adults received a tour from firefighters and the fire prevention inspector. The workforce and children alike practiced exiting

through the inflatable fire house's window, which they all appeared to enjoy.

To kick off Fire Prevention week, which ran from Oct. 6 -12, 2024 James D. Price Elementary School students visited YPG Fire Station #2 as did the children for YPG's Child Development Center later in the week.

The elementary students toured the fire house where YPG firefighters live during their 24-hour shifts. Fire Prevention Inspector Tarnell Pritchett spoke to them about fire safety and answered their questions.

The Munition and Weapons test officers who visited the fire house also got a tour, were able to see the inside of the fire truck and checkout the tools firefighters use. They also picked up some goodies from the promotional items table.

Back on the Howard Cantonment, students got to hold and aim the

fire hose at a bucket to see if they could hold it steady enough to move the bucket, while water gushed out. Firefighters of course helped them handle the powerful hose.

On one of the days the FD hosted a pancake breakfast where firefighters made pancakes and mingled with community members who stopped by for breakfast. They used the breakfast as a time to educate the community about fire dangers and how to survive them.

The YPG FD also urged everyone they encountered to have working smoke alarms in every bedroom and outside each sleeping area, test alarms once month and replace any that are 10 years old. The National Fire Protection Association finds that smoke alarms reduce the risk of dying in a home fire by 54%.

With fire prevention week wrapping up remember, the slogan this year, Smoke alarms: Make them work for you!

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## YPG display impresses at annual Yuma event

By Mark Schauer

Though the United States Army's presence in Yuma dates back to 1850, some in the local community are surprised to learn that Army Soldiers are stationed in Yuma.

For more than 1,000 people who attended the Yuma Police Department's Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods event on Oct. 12, 2024, however, the community's Army presence was clear as can be.

Soldiers from YPG's Airborne Test Force were accompanied by

YPG Commander Col. John Nelson, members of YPG's Police Department, and staff from the post's public affairs office who spent over

three hours interacting with a steady stream of eventgoers.

YPG's exhibit consisted of a Joint Light Tactical Vehicle, YPG

police vehicles, and table displays of parachute packs, helmets, and other gear used by Airborne Test Force Soldiers. The Soldiers and

police officers themselves, however, were the star attraction, especially with the youngsters.

YPG personnel participate in a variety of major community events throughout the year, from the Yuma Air Show to the Yuma Military Appreciation Day and others. YPG Soldiers will march in the vanguard of Yuma's upcoming Veterans Day Parade on Nov. 11, 2024.



U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground's (YPG) Commander, Soldiers and other entities supporting YPG mingled with the more than 1,000 people who attended the Yuma Police Department's Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods event on Oct. 12, 2024. (Photos by PAO staff)

## YPG has big display at annual Yuma Community Expo



U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Millare and personnel from the YPG Public Affairs Office engaged with eventgoers at the heavily attended Yuma Community Expo on Oct. 19, 2024. YPG's footprint at the event was the largest in five years, consisting of a large photo display, a dynamic video of the mission in action in a seating area at the rear of the booth, vintage Army helmets to get up close and personal with, and plenty of giveaway items. (Photos by PAO staff)



## ATEC General recognizes YPG employee



U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command Maj. Gen. Patrick Gaydon sent Yuma Proving Ground's (YPG) John Gloschen a personal letter thanking him for his contributions to the mission. YPG Commander Col. John Nelson surprised Gloschen with the Star Note and a Commander's Coin inside the Range Controller area in the presence of his colleagues on the morning of Oct. 16, 2024. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

## Logistics Readiness Center employees celebrate years of service

The 407th Army Field Support Brigade Command team visited U.S. Army Proving Ground to recognize its employees at the Logistics Readiness Center –

— 45 years —



J.R. Ramos

— 35 years —



Victor Brown

Yuma. Col. Stacy Moore-Callaway and Command Sgt. Maj. Chesa Freeman awarded the following employees length of service awards. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

— 40 years —



Patty Stallings

— 5 years —



Phylisa Arellano

## YTC Maintenance personnel thanked for crucial role



The 407th Command Team also stopped by the Maintenance Division to thank their personnel for supporting the Logistics Readiness Center (LRC) -Yuma. Moore-Callaway and Freeman presented personnel with coins for playing a crucial role in delivering maintenance from July to September 2024. (Left to right) Jaysen Lockett, Toney Brooks, Robert Rodriguez, Arturo Roman, Ricardo Gutierrez, and Robert Valencia. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

## YTC Commander recognizes maintenance personnel

— Certificate of Appreciation —



(Left to right) Alex Rubio, Jason Ferguson, Francisco Ayala, Roy Gomez, Alex Rivas. (Photos by Eugene Garcia)



William Sanchez

Years of Service:

— 10 years —

— 20 years —



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## Local Army recruits tour YPG



Six future Soldiers who are ready to commit to serve their country visited U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) on the afternoon of Oct. 16, 2024. The tour familiarizes the recruits with YPG's mission and gives them an understanding of the testing YPG performs on behalf of the Department of the Army to ensure that the equipment they use will not fail them. The group received a briefing from YPG's commander, toured a test site, watched live-firing and visited the Maintenance Shop to see combat vehicles. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

## YPG Commander takes congressional staffers on comprehensive tour



U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Commander Col. John Nelson hosted chiefs of staff and other senior aides from the offices of multiple U.S. Congressional representatives for a comprehensive briefing and tour of YPG activities and capabilities on Oct. 11, 2024. The bipartisan group work for congressional representatives from a wide variety of states and got up close and personal with a variety of military vehicles before taking an overflight of YPG's vast ranges and visiting the Military Free Fall School's vertical wind tunnel. (Photos by Mark Schauer)

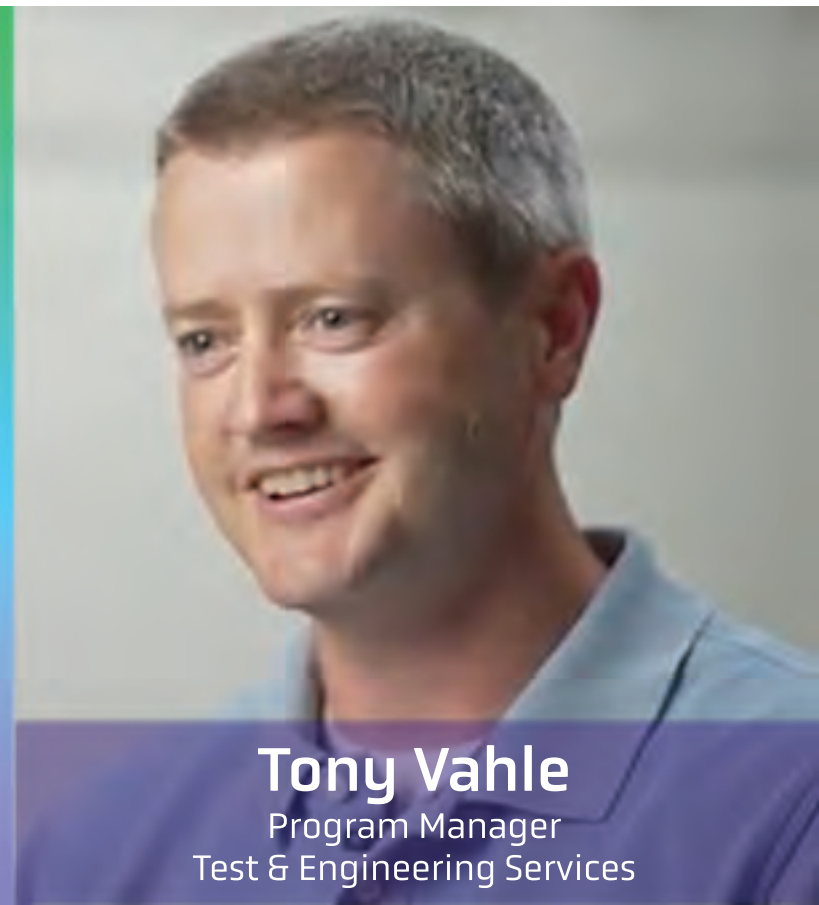


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## YPG Police Officer promoted to sergeant



On the afternoon of Oct. 17, 2024, the Yuma Proving Ground Police Department (YPG PD) held a promotion ceremony for Officer Paulina Romero where Chief of Police Donnie Lucas and her wife Regina pinned the sergeant insignia which brought smiles and tears to those in attendance. Lucas praised Romero in remarks, "This promotion is a testament to her commitment to our community and her exemplary service. She has earned and deserves this promotion." Romero, who has served with the YPG PD for two-years, expressed gratitude to her family and colleagues. "I'm honored and excited to step into this new position. I appreciate everyone who has trained and mentored me," she said. (Photos courtesy of YPG PD)

## MORTAR

FROM PAGE 1

in place and acts as your bipod. It can traverse the cannon 180 degrees," said Matthew Lukas, YPG test officer. "The base plate is a little different from the standard—it has additional eye hooks to keep it in place when it is stowed. The base plate hangs off of a socket and needs a way to retain it."

The weapon's fire control system sets the weapon's elevation and traverse before

the Soldiers begin to fire. With the mission completed, the operators can hydraulically stow weapon and automatically lock the weapon in place before driving away.

YPG testers were particularly interested in verifying it could handle the stress of repeated firings without cracking or breaking. As is typical in mortar tests, the system was fired numerous times at different elevations and using rounds with different powder charges. The testers also fired rounds with excess propellant

to put additional strain on the system as high-speed cameras recorded each mortar bomb as it launched from the tube. Two traditionally emplaced 120mm mortar tubes were fired in the same volleys to compare their range and accuracy.

"They're trying to characterize the accuracy of the sling mortar compared to regularly emplaced mortars," said Lukas. "We're shooting strictly to see if the sling mortar matches the firing tables that already exist for the M933 cartridge."

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## Youth Services center gets a bright mini-makeover



Those walking the halls of the Yuma Proving Ground Youth Services (YS) building will notice things look a lot brighter. From colorful geometrics accents on the wall, to new bright white cabinets and colorful wobble chairs, students attending the before and after school program will get to enjoy it all. YS hosted an open house on Oct. 10, 2024, to showcase the upgrade. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

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