

# The Outpost

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

VOLUME 73 NO. 22 NOVEMBER 11, 2024

## Veterans, thank you for serving your country in uniform and now at YPG

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Christopher Jones



Jim Stickney



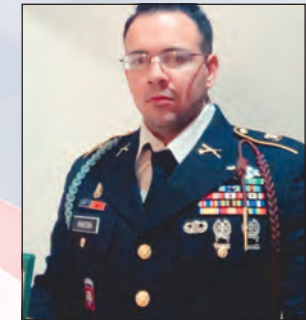
Lizzel Lipumano



Alex Palacio



Roy Gomez



Jose Rivera



William Lloyd



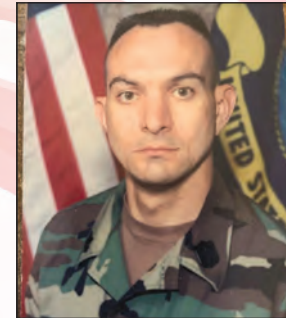
Robyn O'Halloran



Randy Banning



Ernie Hugh

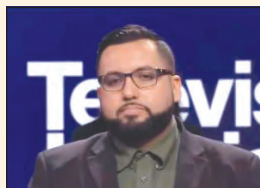


Andrew Cabral



Reginald Boler

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Innovation Command  
brings A.I. to the skies  
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See spooky,  
cute, unique and  
creative costumes  
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# Yuma Test Center names Employees of the Quarter

## — Mission —

**Name:** Edgar Castillo

**Years of Service:** 19  
(includes time as contractor)

**Title:** Aviation Systems and Electronic Test Division Test Officer

**Recognition:** Civilian Service Achievement Medal for selection as YTC Mission Employee of the fourth Quarter for fiscal year

2024. Castillo played a crucial role in overseeing the successful execution of the Experimental Demonstration Gateway Event.

**Reaction:** "I am grateful, that I have had the opportunity to know a bunch of good people. It feels really good to get an "Atta boy" like that. I am deeply grateful that God has given me these opportunities."



Yuma Test Center Commander Lt. Col. Kevin Hicks awarded Edgar Castillo a Civilian Service Achievement Medal on the afternoon of Oct. 29, 2024. (Photos by Eugene Garcia)

**Name:** Toney Brooks

**Years of Service:** 46  
(includes military service)

**Title:** Lead Equipment Specialist

**Recognition:** Civilian Service Achievement Medal for selection as YTC Mission Support Employee of the fourth Quarter for fiscal year 2024.



Yuma Test Center Commander Lt. Col. Kevin Hicks awarded Toney Brooks a Civilian Service Achievement Medal on the afternoon of Oct. 15, 2024.

## The Outpost

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# YPG employee selected to ask both presidential candidates a question during town halls

By Ana Henderson

Carlos Garcia, an Information Technology Specialist at Yuma Proving Ground (YPG), recently seized a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to take part in two town halls hosted by Univision Noticias, where he engaged directly with the 2024 presidential candidates.

Garcia was like many voters who received daily election-related text messages. Most were deleted, but one caught his attention, “This message stood out because it mentioned Univision. I’ve grown up watching Univision in my home; it’s a well-known Hispanic channel,” he explained.

The survey, conducted by a global market research company, was hosted on a legitimate website and offered respondents compensation for their time. After completing the survey he participated in a two-hour Zoom meeting with other selected participants to discuss their own potential questions to ask the candidates. Garcia underwent a screening process that included a questionnaire submitted to the Secret Service. Following approval from

producers after analyzing Garcia’s questions, he learned he would attend both town halls.

“I was excited, shocked, and then immensely grateful to have the opportunity to represent my Latino community, my city and my state,” Garcia reflected.

In the lead-up to the events, Garcia and the other selected participants underwent intensive television training to prepare for their appearances on national television. A videographer from Tucson visited his home to capture footage, offering Univision viewers a glimpse into his life.

When the time arrived, Univision flew Garcia from Yuma to Las Vegas for Vice President Kamala Harris’s town hall on Oct. 10, 2024. Shortly after, he traveled to Miami to attend former President Donald Trump’s town hall on Oct. 16, 2024. The night before each event, Garcia was filled with a whirlwind of emotions.

“There were a lot of emotional moments the day before—nervousness, excitement—every possible feeling was present. It was meaningful to me to have this once-



Yuma Proving Ground Information Technology Specialist Carlos Garcia was selected to attend two town halls hosted by Univision Noticias where he asked both 2024 presidential candidates a question. (Screenshots from Univision Noticias town hall)



Yuma Proving Ground Information Technology Specialist Carlos Garcia was selected to attend two town halls hosted by Univision Noticias, where he asked both 2024 presidential candidates a question. Garcia (third in from the right) is pictured with others chosen to attend the town halls. (Photo courtesy of Carlos Garcia)

in-a-lifetime experience,” he shared.

When it came time to meet both candidates in person, Garcia felt empowered, knowing his questions could help shape how Americans vote. He stood before a live audience, only 10 to 15 feet away from the potential future leaders of the United States, and confidently asked his questions.

“In those moments when I was asking the questions, my focus was solely on the task at hand. We had practiced our questions countless times. All I hoped for was that the candidates would answer thoughtfully and inspire young adults and Americans like me to exercise

their right to vote,” he reflected.

Garcia shared how honored he feels to be part of the election process. “It’s like I’m building a legacy, setting an example for future generations, especially my nephews and nieces. I want to show them what’s possible, and I take a lot of pride in that,” he commented.

Videos of the town halls, featuring Garcia’s questions and the candidates’ answers, continue to circulate on television and online.

A lot of people have reached out to me lately to thank me for asking bold, informative questions and for representing our community,” he said.

# YPG's Family Advocacy team supports Domestic Violence Vigil



The Family Advocacy Program Manager Mariah Boykin and Victim's Advocate Gisela Robles from Yuma Proving Ground took part in the recent Yuma Victim Counsel Domestic Violence Vigil on Oct. 24, 2024. Yuma County Attorney Jon R. Smith served as the master of ceremonies. A domestic survivor shared her story, and another survivor recited a poem. The ceremony concluded with a candlelight vigil. (Photos courtesy of the YPG Family Advocacy Program)

## Cycling fun for community unity



U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground Commander Col. John Nelson and Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Millare joined Yuma Mayor Douglas Nicholls and hundreds of other cyclists at the Eighth Annual Mayors' International Bike Ride on Saturday, Oct. 26, 2024. The ride began at the Yuma Civic Center and passed through Somerton, Gadsden, and San Luis to unite communities and highlight the region. (Loaned photo)

## YPG takes part in drug take back event



The DEA's National Prescription Drug Take Back Day aims to provide a safe, convenient way for people to dispose of outdated or unwanted medication. This year, on Oct. 26, 2024, the Yuma Police Department along with the Yuma Proving Ground Army Substance Abuse Program representative William Lloyd and representatives from Marine Corps Air Station -Yuma, teamed up to collect the unwanted medication. In total, they collected five boxes worth of medication. (Photo courtesy of the Army Substance Abuse Program)



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## YTC Commander recognizes Aviation test officer



Yuma Test Center Commander, Lt. Col. Kevin Hicks presented Andrew Habegger with a Civilian Service Commendation Medal for his performance in support of a Marine Corps test. Habegger undertook the major role of planning, coordination and cleanup of the test event. (Photo by Eugene Garcia)

## New employees get familiarization tour of YPG



Nearly a dozen employees from various departments throughout U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) took a day off from their new job to get an extensive tour of YPG. Many employees were familiar with YPG's mission because they had previously worked as contractors, yet some were completely new to the government civilian workforce. The group is pictured receiving presentations from Combat and Automotive Systems and the Instrumentation Division. (Photos by Ana Henderson)



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Continued from page 1



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John Bacon



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JR Ramos



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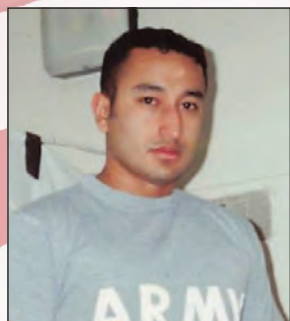
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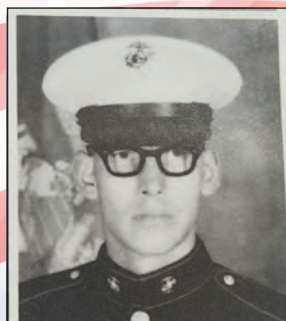
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Ellen Cunningham



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Joel Ramirez



Wayne Schilders

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(Content gathered by Ana Henderson)

# 75th U.S. Army Reserve Innovation Command brings A.I. to the skies at EDGE 24

**By Sgt. 1st Class John L. Carkeet IV**

In today's rapidly evolving battlespace, aviation and automation are increasingly interconnected, driving the Army's push to modernize its air-assets. From autonomous drones to artificial intelligence-driven aircraft systems these cutting-edge capabilities enable faster decision-making and greater operational reach. Nowhere is this more evident than in Experimental Demonstration Gateway Event (EDGE) 24, where about a dozen 75th U.S. Army Reserve Innovation Command Soldiers played a pivotal role in testing the next generation of aerial combat and reconnaissance.

Hosted at Yuma Proving Ground, EDGE 24 was the fourth iteration of a multi-domain annual exercise hosted by the Army to evaluate the latest technologies that will dominate the skies over the future battlefield. The event brought together service members and defense contractors to experiment with advanced systems in a realistic, combat-like environment.

"At its core, EDGE 24 fosters collaboration among military and industry partners, leveraging innovative solutions to improve decision-making and operational effectiveness in complex

environments," said Army Brig. Gen. Phillip C. Baker, director, Future Vertical Lift Cross Functional Team. "It represents a paradigm shift in how we approach military operations by melding autonomous systems and collaborative behaviors that empower our Soldiers to work seamlessly in joint missions and adapt to evolving threats."

The 75th USARIC's participation in EDGE 24 bridged the gap between concept and capability, ensuring these advanced technologies support the Army's modernization initiatives.

"We're providing critical insights on a variety of technologies," said Army Reserve Col. Christopher M. Christian, commander, Army Applications Group, 75th USARIC. "We're helping to shape the future of military operations by having a say on how new technology will support it."

The 75th USARIC Soldiers who participated emulated this approach by offering frontline feedback to align these technological wonders with the practical needs of Soldiers in the field.

"We are not just passive observers," said Army Reserve Capt. Kenneth N. Fischer, innovation officer. "We are actively contributing to the

conversation about what works and what doesn't ... This kind of direct engagement with the equipment and technology is what makes for a successful experimentation environment."

The 75th USARIC Soldiers faced several challenges during EDGE 24, pushing them to fully leverage their combined military and civilian expertise. Observing numerous experiments with unique goals and applications demanded that every Soldier adjust schedules and tailor evaluations to address rapidly evolving conditions. The 75th USARIC Soldiers overcame these challenges by identifying the capabilities of every technology and how each could integrate into the Army's current aviation assets and future demands.

"You don't usually grow from your successes; you grow from your failures or missteps," said Army Reserve Lt. Col. Martin Plumlee, officer in charge, Huntsville Detachment, AAG, 75th USARIC. "EDGE 24 allows us to make mistakes, but it also enables us to learn from them quickly. There are smart enemies who

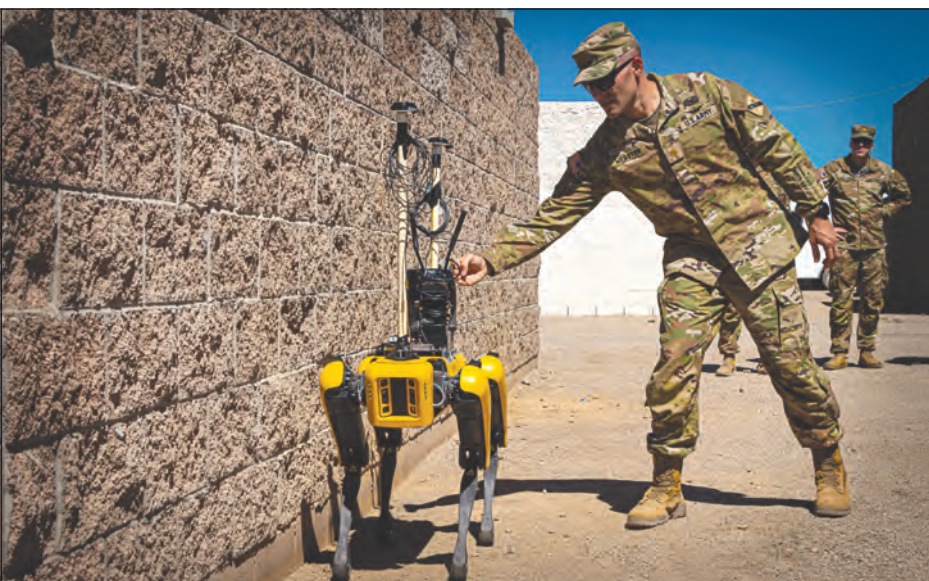
seek to destroy us. If we don't evolve, we may not like the outcomes."

Through its commitment to experimentation, the 75th USARIC continues to prepare the Soldiers of today for the challenges of tomorrow. Through critical eyes, the 75th USARIC Soldiers watched American ingenuity soar across the skies and demonstrated their technical proficiency.

"You just get humbled when you hear them articulate complex subjects and ask powerful questions," said Plumlee. "It's pretty cool to serve with these guys."



Two Soldiers from the 75th U.S. Army Reserve Innovation Command (USARIC), observe a V-BAT Unmanned Aerial System vertically descend on a landing pad Sept. 17, 2024, at Yuma Proving Ground. Soldiers from the 75th USARIC participated in EDGE24, an Army exercise focused on integrating unmanned systems, data-sharing innovations and network resilience to strengthen air-combat capabilities in complex environments. Through direct collaboration with industry experts, the Soldiers provided frontline insights to refine these cutting-edge technologies, bridging the gap between concept and real-world application.



Army Maj. Philip J. Webster of the 75th U.S. Army Reserve Innovation Command, adjusts an antenna attached to a quad-legged unmanned ground vehicles, better known as military robot dogs, during a demonstration of the dog's autonomous capabilities Sept. 17, 2024, at Yuma Proving Ground. (Photos by Sgt. 1st Class John Carkeet)

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# Students at Price School learn to say no to drugs during Red Ribbon Week

By Ana Henderson

The week of Oct. 23-31, 2024, schools across the nation, observed Red Ribbon Week. At James D. Price Elementary School, students had a week of activities to teach them the dangers of drugs in a fun way.

Kicking off the campaign Monday, Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) acting Manager Bill Lloyd, in conjunction with Price School,

hosted a rally at the flagpole. YPG's Commander Col. John Nelson, Spc. Mary Jo Flores of the YPG Health Clinic, and McGruff the Crime Dog attended to support the event. ASAP gave students a pledge to sign saying they would not do drugs.

Throughout the week students wore neon to symbolize they are "too bright to do drugs." Wednesday, students went through an obstacle course wearing impairment goggles



The week of Oct. 23-31, 2024, schools across the nation, including James D. Price Elementary School, took part in Red Ribbon Week activities. The activities taught students the dangers of drugs in a fun way. The Red Ribbon campaign is the oldest and largest drug prevention and awareness campaign in the nation. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

to show how drug use negatively affects their ability to do ordinary things safely.

On Thursday they took part in YPG's annual Spooky Costume Parade representing, "Don't be Tricked, Treat Yourself to a Drug Free Life!"

One question Lloyd received is, "What are drugs?" He showed students different types of drugs using a display board.

The Red Ribbon campaign is the oldest and largest drug prevention and awareness campaign in the nation.



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Ryan Pearse



when the strong person is at their best. We need to embrace chaos and grow from stressful situations. Necessity really is the mother of invention. The record shows that, for society, the richer we become, the harder it gets to live within our means. Abundance is harder for us to handle than scarcity.

To make lemonade, we must be willing for life to give us lemons. We must embrace the lemons and the traumatic events that come our way so we can learn to grow and wake up our genius. Let us not get soft but continue to grow and build good character.

Luke 16:10 tells us, "He who is faithful in a little will be faithful in much."

**Halo Chapel hours:**  
Mon-Thu: 9 a.m.- 5 p.m.  
Sunday services: 9:30 a.m. Catholic  
11a.m. Contemporary Christian

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-----or-----

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USAG Yuma Proving Ground CFC Code: AL05JX

## Annual YPG Spooky Costume parade brings out all sorts of characters



Children filled the streets of U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) for the annual Spooky Costume Parade on the morning of Oct. 31, 2024. Children from YPG's Child Development Center and James D. Price Elementary School paraded around the community collecting candy from community members who lined the streets to see the display of spooky, funny and unique costumes. The YPG Fire Department, Police Department, Military Freefall School, Medical Clinic, Education Center, Commissary, Army Community Services, IGH Army Hotel and other entities handed out candy to the older children while the little ones' teachers collected theirs to provide to their parents. (Photos by Ana Henderson)



## Workforce enjoys dressing up too



Little kids were not the only ones enjoying dressing up for Halloween. The workforce had fun sporting costumes, perhaps giving us a glimpse of their alter egos. (Photos by Ana Henderson, right loaned photo)



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ALWAYS ON



**Tony Vahle**

Program Manager  
Test & Engineering Services



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