

Oil analysis lab brings new capability to Yuma Test Center

By Ana Henderson

Yuma Test Center (YTC)’s Combat and Automotive Systems Division test engineers have seen combat vehicles like the JLTV, AMPV, Bradley, Paladin, Abrams and many more come through for testing. The combat vehicles are put in extreme conditions, driven thousands of miles, driven up and down extreme-grade hills and more.

When it’s time to assess how the vehicles are performing, oil analysis is one of the metrics used.

“One of things that is important is knowing how well the engine’s oil lubricated system of the vehicles performed. That they are not being degraded by the loads we put on them,” explained Larry Nelson, Physical Scientist at YTC’s Material



Yuma Test Center (YTC)’s Combat and Automotive Systems Division test engineers see combat vehicles like the JLTV, AMPV, Bradley, Paladin, Abrams and many more come through for testing. When it’s time to assess how the vehicles are performing, oil analysis is one of the metrics used. YTC’s Material Analysis Lab team is now certified to perform that work. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

Analysis Lab.


The lab looks for characteristics in the oil that indicate wear compared to industry and current fleet operated by the Army.

Drivers and maintainers take samples at various milestones, in some cases every 25 hours, to provide to the analysis lab. When the vehicles undergo maintenance samples are pulled again. In addition to the in-house analysis, the team would collect separate samples to send to an outside lab for compliance with the Army Oil Analysis Program (AOAP). Considering tests can run for months at a time, that’s a lot of samples.


“At that time, we would literally

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Multiple leaders visit Arctic Regions Test Center



Stars shown over U.S. Army Arctic Regions Test Center the week of Jan. 20, 2025, as Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC) Commanding General Maj. Gen. Patrick Gaydon spent two days visiting the post and its personnel, launching a weather data radiosonde attached to a balloon and visiting Soldiers from the 11th Airborne who have been supporting winter testing. He also found time to host Deputy Chief of Staff, G-8 Lt. Gen. Karl Gingrich for a visit to the rugged professionals. Also visiting were Yuma Proving Ground Commander Col. John Nelson, ATEC Command Sgt. Maj. Bradford Smith, YPG Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Millare, YPG Technical Director Ross Gwynn, YPG Chief of Staff Omar Silva, and YPG Chief Data Officer Richard Hernandez. (Photos by Mark Schauer)



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National Engineers week



Feb. 16-22, 2025, marks National Engineers Week. At Yuma Proving Ground engineers have degrees in aerospace and aeronautical, agricultural, chemical, bioengineering, civil, computer, electrical, mechanical, general, materials, nuclear and systems engineering. Each play an important role in our mission which is testing equipment for the Warfighters. (Collage by Ana Henderson)



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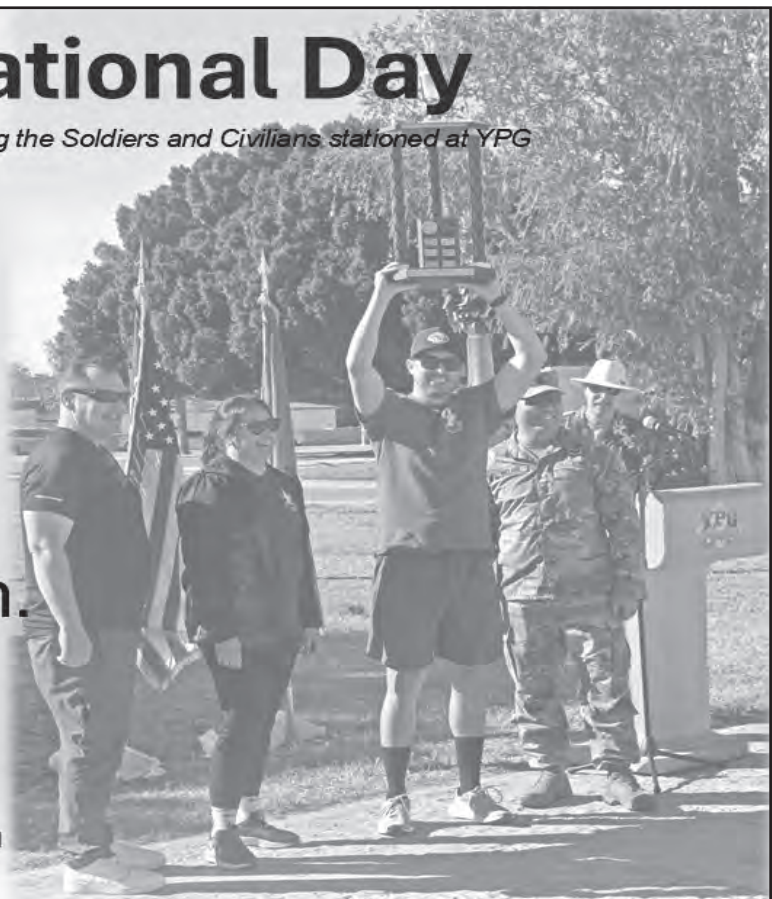
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8:30 a.m.— 3:30 p.m.



*Contractor employees may attend YPG Organization Day at no cost to the government and must make arrangements with their employers for their attendance.

Combined Federal Campaign raises nearly \$10,000 for charities



A huge thank you goes out to the federal employees who help raise nearly \$10,000 dollars for the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) between Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Garrison, YPG command and directorates, Yuma Test Center, Arctic Regions Test Center, and Tropic Regions Test Center. At the beginning of this year's campaign YPG Commander Col. John Nelson (right) set a \$10,000 dollar goal for YPG and he and Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Millare (left) donated the first amounts. The CFC enables federal employees and retirees to come together to raise money for their favorite charities. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

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Wear Orange!

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February 6th

Family Advocacy Program is asking the YPG work force and community to wear orange in support of Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. The FAP staff will be looking for those wearing orange throughout the day and you might receive a special treat!

U.S. ARMY MWR @YumaMWR

2025 Transformation Challenge underway

By Ana Henderson

Twelve teams signed up for the 2025 Transformation Challenge at Yuma Proving Ground.

"The goal is to have the most improved body transformation, and the best way to achieve a goal is to compete against someone else," said Wellness Officer Michele Dominguez in a message to the workforce.

The challenge pits divisions against each other. Co-workers can team up and support each other through the journey.

The team names never disappoint. Witty names include the Command Judge Advocate's office "Legal Eagles", Public Work's teams "Weapons of Mass Reduction" and "Waist Management." There's "An Army of One Marine" from Emergency Services and Environmental Sciences' "Lean Green Science Machine." Let's not forget the Network Enterprise Center's "Fantasizing About Transformation (FAT)" team.



The week of Jan. 6, 2025, Wellness Officer Michele Dominguez and Garrison Wellness Officer Miranda Choate documented detailed measurements of participants at all three cantonments for maximum participation. The challenge ends March 27 and results will be announced between March 31 and April 3, 2025. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

The week of Jan. 6, Dominguez and Garrison Wellness Officer Miranda Choate documented detailed measurements of participants at all three cantonments for maximum participation. The challenge ends March 27. Due to participant's feedback, Dominguez and Choate decided to extend the length of the challenge.

The Wellness Program Coordinators also organized informational sessions on topics to help the participants. Topics include the Keto and Mediterranean diets and a defeating the yeast class to educate people on yeast related issues that could affect gut microbiome.

In 2024, the combined weight loss of the teams tallied over 100 pounds and 243-inch reductions on 41 people over the course of two months. The overall winners saw a reduction of 14.89%.

The challenge result will be announced between March 31 and April 3, 2025



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YUMA'S BEST

YPG hits the road for student outreach

By Ana Henderson

U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) puts an emphasis in reaching out to local students. Employees enjoy teaching students about the mission of YPG and

how testing is done, in a fun, understandable way.

YPG has found employees who are native to the area tend to make a longer commitment to the organization, so YPG wants to

get students interested in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) in hopes they will choose a career in STEM.

YPG STEM outreach coordinator Janett Rios said, "We want to give

these students some growth and encouragement in STEM fields."

In January, several local schools and organizations invited YPG to teach students about the testing mission.

Orange Grove Elementary science day



YPG Soldiers and engineers visited Orange Grove Elementary on Jan. 15, 2025, for a science focused fair. Test Officers showed students labs, one included gliders where students threw them and record their flight of time and distance. Charlie Saltz is pictured throwing a glider. Another lab included robots coded to dance which was a crowd favorite. Ashley Lochetto is pictured talking with a student about coding. Sgt. Christian Ramirez a medic with the Airborne Test Force showed students the parachutes used by test jumpers and talked about his role as a medic. Edgar Hurtado and Cullen Wilkes shared about their career as engineers. (Photos by Janett Rios)



H.L. Suverkrup career fair



Teresa Elizalde and Janett Rios with YPG's S1 Workforce Development Division joined students on Jan. 24, 2025, at H.L. Suverkrup. The school hosted a career fair and YPG provided one of the many career exploration booths supporting the event. Elizalde is seen talking with students. (Photos by Janett Rios)

3rd Annual Career and Technical Education event



Members of YPG were asked to share what careers are available at the 3rd Annual Career and Technical Education event hosted by the Yuma County Public Works and Center for the Future of Arizona. Soldiers with the Airborne Test Force, Staff Sgt. Angel Viveros a rigger/test jumper and Sgt. Christian Ramirez a medic attended. They talked to students about their career as parachute testers along with Air Delivery Branch Chief and engineer Carlos Anaya. Organizers report 250 middle and high school students from Yuma County attended from as far south as San Luis and east as Antelope in Roll. (Photos by Carlos Anaya)

ANALYSIS

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be running all the data here, and then because Army said so, we had to pull additional samples to send them to Army labs for compliance and oversight,” explained Nelson. Adding, “It was literally double the work.”

Because the lab sent samples off site, extra time was consumed with shipping, analysis and data reporting. If any maintenance actions were needed, Maintenance would be performed, then maintenance would take another sample, send that off site and the cycle would repeat at times causing the vehicle to sit un-used up to a month. This in turn caused test delays.

In 2012, the lab looked at taking over the process — at the time it couldn’t be done. In 2016, they revisited the idea and began the process. In 2021, the lab received the final approval.

“They understood our capabilities and our training” he said of the AOAP.

The three-member lab team has 60 years of combined experience. Since the approval, Nelson earned his Laboratory Lubrication Analyst level II certification, and a second team member is working on the certification. Another advantage they had was their well-equipped lab.

“We have the most technically advanced oil analysis lab in the Army at Yuma Proving Ground. We have a lot of technologies other labs don’t have.”



“We have the most technically advanced oil analysis lab in the Army at Yuma Proving Ground. We have a lot of technologies other labs don’t have,” said Larry Nelson, Physical Scientist at YTC’s Material Analysis Lab.



At Yuma Test Center (YTC) combat vehicles are put in extreme conditions, driven thousands of miles, driven up and down extreme grade hills and more. When it’s time to assess how the vehicles are performing, oil analysis is one of the metrics used. YTC’s Material Analysis Lab team is certified to independently perform the required oil analysis. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

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It’s been about a full year that the lab is able to independently perform the required oil analysis.

“We are using the same system for doing the oil analysis for both the test side and the AOAP compliance side. All the samples that are pulled for test purposes count now towards

compliances purposes.”

Making redundant work a thing of the past.

They can also process samples of aircraft oil for the aviation side.

“We made it that YPG, as far as the oil analysis side, is self-sufficient.”

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The word of the day is mitigated speech. The term defines speech that is meant to downplay the meaning of what is being said. At its heart, it is deceptive because the one employing it isn't saying what they actually mean. They are hinting and a hint is the hardest kind of request to decode and the easiest to refuse.

From 1988-1998 the loss rate for United Airlines was .27 per million, which equaled one crash every four million departures. The loss rate for Korean Air was 4.79 per million, which was 19 times higher. What researchers found was that Korean Air's loss rate was so high in major part because of their culture's high-power index; meaning the first officer was deferential to the captain and they were both

deferential to air traffic control, to a fault. This caused them to not say what they meant, even in an emergency.

The bottom line is, if there is confusion, it is usually the fault of the speaker. There is no honor in using mitigated speech. Say what you mean and mean what you say.

Matthew 5:37 tells us, "Make your yes, yes, and your no, no. Anything else is from the evil one."

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YPG team motivates each other for marathon



For the second consecutive year, Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) employees came together to participate in the Yuma Territorial Marathon, Half Marathon, and 10K, organized by The Caballeros of Yuma on Jan. 25, 2025. Representing the YPG team were (left to right) Sgt. 1st Class Cody Shew, Ervin Rosales, Carlos Anaya, Arturo Anaya, Charlie Patel (DEVCOM representative), Jake Obradovich, Harley Hogan, Joe Castillo, and Jonathan Armijo (not pictured). Their dedication and teamwork exemplify the spirit of our community and commitment to health and fitness. (Photo and content by Carlos Anaya)

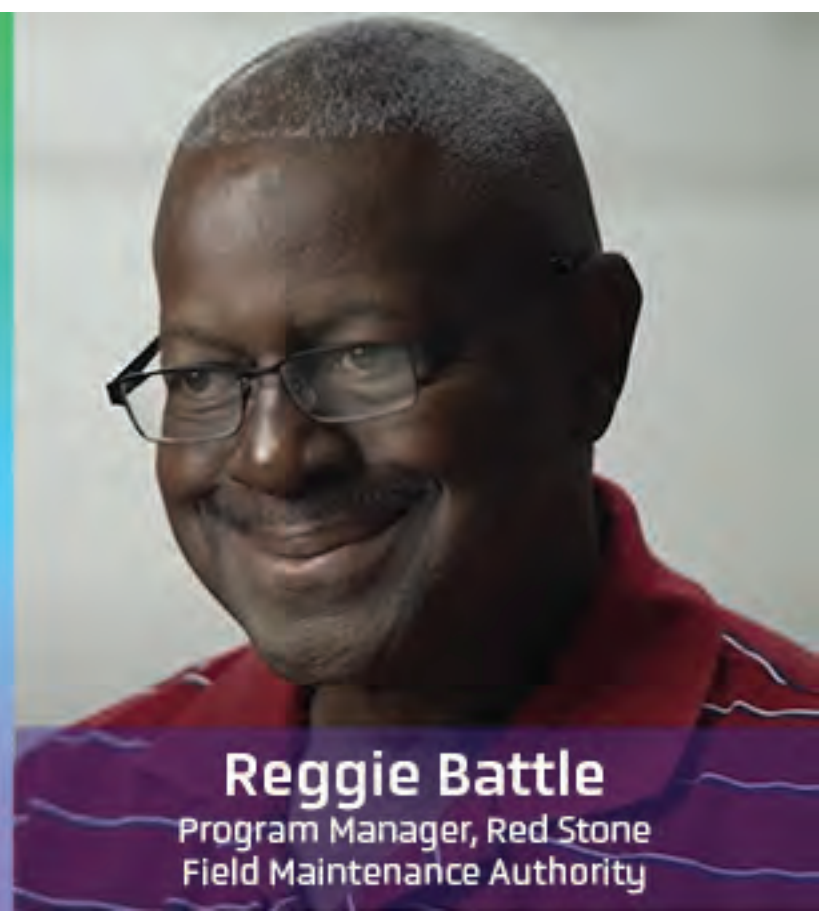


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