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# The Outpost

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

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## YPG hosts Javelin missile operational test

By Mark Schauer

From tanks and armored vehicles in the invasion of Iraq to fortified insurgent bunkers in Afghanistan, American adversaries have felt the deadly power of the FGM-148 Javelin missile for more than two decades.

First fielded in 1996, the self-guided Javelin projectile allows Soldiers to seek cover as soon as they have fired it.

Further, the missile can be fired in two modes: direct attack or top attack, the latter of which not only takes advantage of a tank's sparser armor on top, but can be handy against elevated positions in high mountains.

The system has proven itself time and again, and U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) recently hosted large operational tests of an upgraded version, at Cold Regions



American adversaries have felt the deadly power of the FGM-148 Javelin missile for more than two decades. U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground recently hosted large operational tests of an upgraded version at Cold Regions Test Center earlier this year, and at Yuma Test Center this summer. The updated Javelin is lighter, smaller, and boasts better target-acquiring optics than the legacy version. (U.S. Army photo)

Test Center (CRTC) earlier this year, and at Yuma Test Center (YTC) this summer. The updated Javelin is lighter, smaller, and boasts better target-acquiring optics than the legacy version.

Though the proving ground and its constituent test centers are primarily involved in developmental testing of equipment, the personnel's past excellence in supporting Javelin evaluations led to the return for operational testing.

"Javelin came to us originally because they were doing captive carry testing: We took the missile and put it on a UH-60, and did captive carry flights where we essentially pretended the helicopter was the missile itself and captured guidance data on it," said Steven Norquist, a YPG aviation test

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# Airborne Test Force makes medical care off-road accessible with new Mobile Treatment Center

By Ana Henderson

The Airborne Test Force (ATF) at Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) is responsible for testing parachutes and air delivery equipment for Yuma Test Center (YTC).

Naturally their jumps and drop zones are remotely located across the proving ground's ranges and have rugged terrain. When ATF Senior Medic Staff Sgt. Ahmed Elinbabi came on board two-and-a half years ago he, "almost immediately" saw a need for a dedicated medical vehicle that could traverse that terrain.

Elinbabi was originally traveling in a transit van which wasn't up to the challenge.

"A van with 16-inch tires is not going get out there. We have gotten stuck multiple times. There have been injuries on the drop-zone where people have been stuck. So, there was a need for something more versatile and dynamic," tells Elinbabi, "This vehicle is a cog in the well-oiled machine of the ATF airborne and free fall operations."

He's served as an airborne medic for



The fully functional 4x4 Mobile Treatment Center is housed on a Dodge Ram 2500 truck equipped with a bed camper shell which can treat up to three patients at a time, has areas for a person to lay, sit or stand.

11 years and at YTC is, "responsible for the health and welfare of the test jumpers, riggers and contractors that are involved with the day-to-day freefall operations."

That means administrative duties such as keeping their health records up to date and ensuring they are physically fit to jump. Up until about three years ago, ATF had to rely on other units to provide medics.

"Other units don't necessarily have the same experience with airborne and

freefall operations, and they don't have that type of skillset and knowledge," explained Elinbabi.

Now it's ATF who is providing the support with a fully functional 4x4 Mobile Treatment Center with occasional support from medics from the YPG clinic or Military Freefall School. The unit is a Dodge Ram 2500 truck equipped with a bed camper shell which can house up to three patients at a time, has areas for a person to lay, sit or stand.

Elinbabi and a driver have been at the scene for events such as the YPG Change of Command and YPG's 80th Anniversary celebration where their team jumped on to the field and recently provided support for a month while another unit was deployed to YPG.

"I went out with them in the truck when they did their air assault ops. I was there on standby because they didn't have that capability."

The Mobile Treatment Center is on site at each test event where jumpers are present. Elinbabi used his experience working as an airborne medic to select care items. The mobile unit is stocked with a range of tools from basic first aid to critical care. It even has a sink! Basically, anything a medic can use to stabilize and treat a patient on scene until flight care arrives. He can provide care for minor to severe, life-threatening critical



When ATF Senior Medic Staff Sgt. Ahmed Elinbabi came on board two-and-a half years ago he, "almost immediately" saw a need for a dedicated medical vehicle that could traverse that terrain. (Photos by Ana Henderson)



injuries. He says his most vital piece of equipment is a Propaq Portable Vital Signs Monitoring system.

"The first few minutes after an accident are critical, absolutely critical."

## The Outpost

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# YPG explores cost saving service agreements with local governments

By Mark Schauer

For several months, the U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Garrison has been exploring possible agreements with local government agencies that will lower costs for both parties.

The mechanism is called an Intergovernmental Support Agreement (IGSA), and it has been in use within the Department of the Army since first piloted in 1998.

Federal law codifying its use has been on the books for a decade, and today Department of the Army-wide there are well over 100 formalized IGSA's. At Fort Riley, Kansas, for instance, the garrison and a local government share a contract to acquire salt and sand to treat icy roads in the winter, and the garrison allows both to be stored in a disused building on post.

"The efficiencies that get created doing it together means a little lower price for both partners," said Ken Musselwhite, YPG Garrison Manger.

IGSAs between YPG and local governments may be coming in the years ahead. Following months of talks with city officials, Musselwhite made a presentation explaining the IGSA process at a public working meeting of the Yuma City Council in August.

"The ones that are taking traction the most are things along the lines of our emergency support," said



U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground Garrison has been exploring possible Intergovernmental Support Agreement with local government agencies that will lower costs for both parties. Army officials believe acquiring new self-contained breathing apparatus and other personal protective equipment for fire fighters on the same contract would save money for both entities and serve to ensure interoperability of the equipment when each department supports each other at conflagrations as part of existing memorandums of understanding. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

Ben Rix, YPG Plans, Analysis, and Integration Office Chief. "As far as the City of Yuma goes, the ones we are really focusing will affect the fire department."

Specifically, Army officials believe acquiring new self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and other personal protective equipment for fire fighters

on the same contract would save money for both entities and also serve to ensure interoperability of the equipment when each department supports each other at conflagrations as part of existing memorandums of understanding.

"If any systems of theirs go down we could be a backup, and vice-versa," said Rix.

There is also the possibility that things like hose and ladder testing could be included on a contract together in the future for additional savings. Looking further out, YPG could benefit from things like being included on a government agency's elevator inspection contract: given the minimal number of elevators on post, finding a contractor willing to make the long trip here is onerous. In the same vein, sharing contracts for things like routine water quality inspections may also be an opportunity for cost savings.

Though optimistic about the various possibilities for future agreements, YPG Garrison officials have adopted a wait-and-see approach until the potential first IGSA for SCBAs is adopted and has an established track record.

"Let's see how it works," suggested Musselwhite. "If the City of Yuma is happy and we're happy and it works great, we can look for other opportunities together in the future."

**Are you prepared for emergencies? Now is the time to plan**



Garrison's Installation Safety joined by a member of the Directorate of Public Works (DPW) at Yuma Proving Ground greeted the workforce on the morning of Aug. 24, with information on monsoon safety and about emergency preparedness. September is National Emergency Preparedness month and monsoon season runs June 15 - Sept. 30. The handouts shared potential lifesaving facts like lightning can strike 10 miles from a storm, 12 inches of water can carry away a vehicle and six inches of water can knock down an adult. The handouts provided by Director of Installation Safety Ron Van Why and Stephen Hauser Construction Control Representative with DPW at the Walker gate and, Senior Safety Specialist Mike Morris at the Howard gate, layout how to how to plan. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

**Raising Antiterrorism Awareness**



August was Army Antiterrorism Awareness Month, and Mission Antiterrorism Officer Robert Barocio spread the message of 'see something, say something' beyond the boundaries of U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground. On August 24, he appeared on the popular KLJZ radio show "Today in Yuma" with Jennifer Blackwell and Theresa Straub to encourage vigilance every day of the year. (Photos by Mark Schauer)



# Garrison hosts employee appreciation breakfast and ceremony

U.S. Army Garrison Yuma Proving Ground leaders hosted the 2023 first quarter Garrison Employee Recognition Ceremony on the morning of Aug. 24. Recipients attended the ceremony and breakfast at the Cactus Café as Garrison Manager Ken Musselwhite and Garrison Human Resources Director Christopher Lee presented awards. (Photos by James Gilbert)

**Ken Musselwhite - 40 Years**



**Ron Van Why - 35 Years**



**Michael Morris - 15 Years**



## Certificates of Achievement

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**Brianna Young**

**Dylan Black**



**Professional of the 2nd Quarter-  
Marko Evitch**



**Annette Branch, Audrey  
Wilson, Bianca Carpenter,  
and Shannon Schmigdoll**



**Capt. Ryan Pearce**

**Jose Rivera**



**Civilian Service Achievement Medal-  
Evaleen Ballard**



**Lily Trelease**

**Sommer Cloinger**

**Steve Ward**





## Cold Regions Employee of the Quarter: Richard Reiser



The Cold Regions Test Center (CRTC) team gathered on August 16 for a quarterly All-Hands update from CRTC Commander Lt. Col. Jonathan Brown and Technical Director Jeff Lipscomb. The focus of this event is to share the latest news and happenings from across the Army Test and Evaluation Command enterprise.



During the information sharing event new employees were welcomed and others publicly recognize others for their outstanding efforts – to include the CRTC Employee of the Quarter (EOQ). This special ceremony includes the previous EOQ recipient relinquishing the CRTC EOQ Championship belt before presenting it to the newest EOQ. The 3rd Quarter EOQ was Richard Reiser, CRTC's Security Manager. Congratulations Richard! (Photos by Sebastian Saarloos)



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# Cadets feel confident in future after interning at YPG



Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) cadets Maddy Hippensteal (left) and Lauren Hernandez shadowed Luis Arroyo, Chief of the Training and Exercise Management Office Branch (center) during their time at Yuma Proving Ground. They also had the opportunity to meet with Yuma Test Center Commander Lt. Col. Shane Derring (right). (Photos by Ana Henderson)

## By Ana Henderson

Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) cadets Maddy Hippensteal and Lauren Hernandez say after spending three weeks at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) as part of the ROTC program that they have great confidence in the equipment the Army provides.

"To be able to see everything that goes into making it work, getting fielded, getting it out into Soldier's hands is truly exceptional," remarked Hernandez. "If anything, it makes me put more faith into the equipment I am using and am going to be using one day. I know the faces who put the work and the effort in, all super passionate people."

Both Hernandez and Hippensteal are committed to the Army and are finishing up their college career while fulfilling requirements to become Army officers. They take part in physical training several times a week, and once a semester they attend a full field training exercise, among other military duties.

Colorado native Hernandez is studying engineering at Colorado

School of Mines while Hippensteal, who is from Pennsylvania, is attending Bucknell University.

"Between your junior and senior year of college you go to advance camp over the summer. That's where I just came from. That is where you get evaluated and ranked nationally in addition to your GPA and extracurriculars you do," explained Hippensteal.

Following advance camp, both cadets completed three weeks at YPG in an eye-opening experience learning how YPG tests equipment for the warfighter.

"Something we are taught in the military is 'trust your equipment', so it's beneficial being on the other end and seeing I can trust this equipment. That is something we will definitely bring back to our schools and units in the future. I am really super excited that I got this experience at YPG," said Hippensteal.

The cadets started their first week with capabilities overview briefs to learn what goes into testing equipment for the warfighter. During weeks two and three they visited gun positions and testing sites, experienced arming and



Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) cadets Maddy Hippensteal (left) and Lauren Hernandez say after spending three weeks at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) as part of the ROTC program that they have great confidence in the equipment the Army provides. They are pictured with Chief of Range Operations and Training Division Omar Silva (front left) Yuma Test Center Commander Lt. Col. Shane Derring (back right) and Yuma Proving Ground Commander Col. John Nelson.

firing of weapons systems, and had the opportunity to pull the lanyard to fire one.

They have nothing but praise for their mentors, Matt Hostetler and Mike Torres both test officers with Combat Automotive Systems Division and Luis Arroyo, Chief of the Training and Exercise Management Office Branch within the Range Operations and Training Division, whom they shadowed.

"He brought us to work with some of the Marines who are here temporarily and that was an amazing experience, we were able to interact with a lot of military personnel," recalled Hippensteal.

Both cadets are now armed with knowledge to help make the next step in their career.

"Since we are so young in our career, it's awesome to get to see some of the behind the scenes testing now before we get into the Army. A lot of people get to see this later in their career, so it's really a unique experience being able to see the test observations, watch live fires, ride in vehicles that we may never see in our career but also to get that exposure and

diversify our experience in the Army before we decided what we want to do because now we have all of this new experience picking branches that we might have not had before," remarked Hippensteal.



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Listen to Hippensteal and Hernandez's full interview on the Outpost Outspoken podcast by scanning this QR code.





# YPG supports Marine Expeditionary Unit

By James Gilbert

When the Marines and sailors assigned to the recently stood up 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) needed to train in preparation for an upcoming forward deployment, they came to the U.S. Army's Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) to do it.

Branch Chief Luis Arroyo, of the Training Exercise Management Office (TEMO), said the planned event, which took place from Aug. 10 through Aug. 28, was the Marine's first steppingstone in an intensive training and certification process.

"The training, as a whole, is a building block to get this composite unit to become full mission capable for theater command as a force," Arroyo said. "Essentially they were here working out the kinks of how they operate together."

Equivalent to what the U.S. Army calls a brigade combat team, but on a smaller scale, a MEU is an expeditionary quick reaction force embarked on three amphibious assault ships that can respond to a crisis or threat anywhere in the world, often within hours.

Simply put, it is essentially a floating force of readiness carrying Marines, aircraft, vehicles, and artillery that can sustain itself.

Arroyo explained that the 15th MEU has been assigned four subordinate units, which consist of an infantry battalion, an air combat element, a logistics combat element and a command element, and they were here together to harness their collective capabilities during a scenario-based training exercise conducted in field and

urban environments.

Approximately 2,300 Marines took part in it, with about 1,350 of them being at YPG. The exercises, which were performed at multiple sites on the proving ground, consisted of the live firings of direct and indirect weapon systems, the use of rockets and missiles, and demolitions.

Other exercises held throughout the training included close air support, weapon qualifications, artillery fires, the firing of vehicle-mounted weapons, threat detection and recognition, dismounted patrolling, water purification and urban operations.

Several weeks of intensive planning went into preparing for training in order to ensure that YPG could provide all the support and assistance needed, according to Arroyo, and that range time could be predicted in advance to successfully conduct the live fire exercises.

"One of the conditions to come and train at YPG is the understanding that priority will always be given to test missions," Arroyo said. "We can support what they are doing, but we want to also make sure it is done safely without interfering with the test missions."

Unlike test operations, the Marines involved in the training will operate on their own while downrange, with YPG TEMO staff only on site to oversee control.

"The ranges being used are designed to support training and will accommodate a certain level of human error without affecting any test missions or jeopardizing the safety of any YPG employees," Arroyo said.



Col. John Nelson, commander of Yuma Proving Ground (right) and Command Sgt. Major Mark Millare (back) are given a tour of a forward operating base erected on the grounds of YPG to assist the Marines and sailors of the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, who were training for an upcoming forward deployment.

While YPG's reputation is that of a premier testing facility at the forefront of the Army's transformation efforts, part of its mission also includes supporting training for all branches of the U.S. military, with Arroyo saying, "We are executing that portion of the YPG commander's mission statement. Our job is to support the Yuma Test Center commander's test mission. That is our lane," Arroyo said. "But as long as we can keep test operations going uninterrupted, we can do anything regulations allow, the ranges can support, is doctrinally sound and is within the visiting unit commander's intent."

Arroyo also added that he didn't think he would be going out on a limb to say the 15th MEU's training was one of a kind for now, and probably the

largest troop exercise held at YPG since Camp Laguna closed in April of 1944.

A portion of the annual Weapons and Tactics Instructor course, better known as WTI, hosted by Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One also takes place at YPG twice a year, with Marines from the 3rd Battalion, 2nd Division arriving just days after the 15th MEU completed its training.

"It was a short few days' turnaround," Arroyo said. "Having two major events back-to-back is a welcome challenge."

Camp Laguna was once a sub camp of the U.S. Army Desert Training Center and was built in 1942 under the direction of Major Gen. George S. Patton to prepare troops to fight the Germans in North Africa during World War II.



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# JAVELIN

FROM PAGE 1

officer. “YPG did a really good job, and we stayed in contact with the project manager: When this this test came up, they came back to us and asked if we were able to support them.”

The operational testing involved scores of Soldiers and additional support personnel from the U.S. Army Operational Test Command performing mock combat scenarios to utilize the Javelin as they would if deployed to a combat zone.

“Developmental testing will usually have a very rigid, set schedule versus this, which has 48- and 72-hour operations in which Soldiers will be down range in the field and all the equipment has to stay with them so it is exposed to the operational conditions,” said Norquist. “They did a variety of different missions: defending a location, a movement to seize key terrain and then observe ‘enemy’ vehicles moving around, and engage targets at various ranges to test how the systems work in an operational environment.”

Some of the scenarios were particularly grueling: in one, the Soldiers simulated operating in a toxic environment, and had to don Mission

Oriented Protective Posture (MOPP) gear while engaging the mock adversary. Among other things, testers wanted the Soldiers to evaluate how well they could utilize the Javelin while wearing heavy MOPP gloves and face masks.

“Soldier feedback is vital,” said Bill Rabena, Operations Research and Systems Analyst for the test. “We want them to treat it like they would in the field, not with kid gloves, so we can really find out how durable it is.”

YPG’s vast range space, more than 1,200 square miles, was also attractive to the testers.

“You don’t want to show the same area the whole time, so we’re able to bounce back and forth between different sites for the force-on-force scenarios,” said Rabena.

Though live fire of the systems only occurred on the last event of the testing schedule, evaluators used a laser system to detect hits achieved by inert Javelin trainers throughout the scenarios. YPG vehicle operators drove the realistic target vehicles in multiple work shifts across the weeks the testing took place. Placing the threat targets in advance of the live fire took careful work from a variety of YPG support elements, from the Ammunition Recovery group that ensured the paths to the target emplacement sites were cleared of all unexploded ordnance to the Threat Target Systems section who removed

the engines and other potentially hazardous materials from the tanks prior to their being towed into place across rugged, roadless terrain by YPG’s motor pool.

“YPG has been phenomenal,” said Perry Jones, Operational Test Command Test Officer. “The personnel have most definitely given us all of the support we needed, from our first site visit forward, from ranges to facilities and support personnel. YPG has the area we need to execute the testing and the extreme temperatures we were looking for to really stress the systems.”

## Next issue:



In the next issue of the Outpost read about the Soldier’s point of view when using the Javelin for the first time at YPG.

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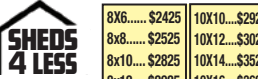


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## Chaplain's Corner

### Rule No. 7, Things of value take time

**Chaplain's  
Corner**  
Chaplain Capt.  
Ryan Pearse



Rule No. 7 in Dr. Jordan Peterson's book, "12 Rules for Life: An Antidote to Chaos" is "pursue what is meaningful (not what is expedient)."

If you are pursuing something that is meaningful and it also happens to be expedient, then all the better. But realistically, we all know that most of what is truly meaningful in this world is not obtained through expedience; it can only be obtained through hard work, sacrifice, and time. Peterson teaches us that

successful people do three things: they delay gratification, bargain with the future, and sacrifice. Something better might be attained in the future by giving up something of value in the present.

Take, for example, physical training (PT). If a Soldier gives up their time to train towards a high PT score in the present, they can obtain something better in the future like a perfect PT score and promotion points. It's impossible to go from sitting on your couch, eating Cheetos to a perfect PT score expediently.

Things of value take time. Another example: unless you're a savant with a photographic memory, it takes you a while

to memorize something. Do you have the Army Noncommissioned Officers Creed and/or the Ranger Creed memorized? If so, it took time to memorize those creeds, but I bet it was worth it and is meaningful.

If you are disciplined and privilege the future over the present, you can change the structure of reality in your favor. Anything that is meaningful is worth working hard for and sacrificing our time and energy for. Matthew 6:33 tells us, "Seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness and everything else will be added to you." Pursue what is meaningful, not what is expedient.



## Chapel hosts Spiritual fitness lunch



Soldiers and civilian employees gathered at the Halo Chapel in the Howard Cantonment area on Monday, Aug. 28, to hear a spiritual message from Yuma Proving Ground Garrison Chaplain, Capt. Ryan Pearse during a luncheon. (Photos by James Gilbert)

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Munitions Response Site Prioritization Protocol for Former Military Munitions Response Program sites, United States Army Garrison Yuma Proving Ground, AZ Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) has updated the Munitions Response Site Prioritization Protocol (MRSP) at the following Military Munitions Response Program sites: Former Mortar Impact Area (YPG-002-R-01; HQAES ID# 04985.1044), Former Camp Laguna (YPG-003-R-01; 04985.1054), Old Minefield #1 (YPG-004-R-01; 04985.1116), Old Minefield #2 (YPG-005-R-01; 04985.1117), Camp Laguna South (YPG-006-R-01; 04985.1118). The Department of Defense (DoD) has conducted live-fire training and testing of weapon systems at active and former military installations throughout the United States to ensure force readiness and to defend our nation. While the DoD has made great progress in addressing the potential hazards associated with former munitions-related activities, there remains work to be done. Through direction provided by Congress, the DoD has developed the MRSP which assigns priorities to defense sites containing unexploded ordnance, discarded military munitions or munitions constituents. The Army and U.S. Army Garrison YPG are in the process of reevaluating and rescoring the above referenced Sites by applying the MRSP. The MRSP evaluation criteria includes assessing types of munitions that may be potentially present, assessing land uses, determining ease of access to sites, and quantifying the number of people with access to sites. The MRSP documents for Yuma Proving Ground will be made available for public review at Yuma Proving Ground, 301 C Street, Building 307. If you would like additional information about the MRSP associated with U.S. Army Garrison Yuma Proving Ground, please contact: Donnett Brown at 928-328-2754 or donnett.v.brown2.civ@army.mil.



# Post Library hosts inaugural gaming tournament



The Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Post Library hosted its first video gaming tournament on August 28. The youth of YPG competed against each other in Super Smash Brothers on the Nintendo Switch that took place in the gaming room at the library. Although 10 participants would try, there could only be one winner. Prizes for first and second place were awarded to brothers Malachi and Simeon Even, respectively. (Photos courtesy of Dani Compton)

## Cold Regions enjoys team building day



On July 20, the Cold Regions Test Center (CRTC) team made time for a bit of fun and fellowship during the unit's annual Organizational Day. Given the occasion, but knowing how dedicated CRTC is, Commander Lt. Col. Jonathan Brown, discouraged any discussion about work by issuing everyone two work tokens; effectively limiting the number of times each teammate could discuss work during an event that was centered on companionship. At the conclusion of the event, most Teammates had at least one token left; a few had two, but all had a great day away from the office. (Photos by Sebastian Saarloos)



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