

# The Outpost

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

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# YPG hosts MCAS Yuma command team visit

By James Gilbert

Col. Jared Stone, who recently assumed command of Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, got an opportunity to learn more about the extensive testing capabilities of U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) during a November tour of the post, in which he visited several sites and facilities.

Accompanied by Sgt. Maj. Jason Davey, Stone's first stop was at the headquarters building where they were given a lengthy briefing about the proving ground and its overall mission by commanding officer Col. John Nelson, Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Millare, and other YPG leaders.

Nelson later explained the visit was about more than just showcasing the testing and training that happens at YPG, and the amazing job being done daily by the civilian workforce, it was also about maintaining connections.

"It develops and sustains our relationship with Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, which leverages our

services," Nelson said. "We found out quite a bit about how well we cooperate. It was a great opportunity to expand on that relationship."

Following a range operation overview Stone and Davey then traveled to a YPG road course where they rode in an M1-Abrams, which is the most modern and technologically advanced battle tank in the world.

The tour also included stops at the threat yard and ammunition plant, with Stone saying he was able to speak with several subject matter experts who had impressed him a great deal.

"The capability that exists here from a test perspective, and also from a training perspective is really phenomenal," Stone said. "YPG is world-class. It is a national asset, and we are fortunate to be in such close proximity to it."

Stone also shared that Marines are constantly training at YPG and it couldn't be accomplished without the dedication of its workforce and the available range space, so it was important for him to reinforce ways

the Army and Marine Corps could continue sharing information and supporting each other.

"Coming out here, seeing firsthand, and talking to the experts who work out here helps to build my situational awareness for what is available and to build future opportunities for coordination and

integration," Stone said.

He added, however, that he believes YPG and MCAS have a long history of supporting each other and will continue to work together in the future.

The final stop of the tour was a remote gun position where various types of artillery tests are conducted.



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Col. Jared Stone, who recently assumed command of Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, got an opportunity to learn more about the extensive testing capabilities of Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) during a tour of the post on Nov. 20, 2023. Accompanied by Sgt. Maj. Jason Davey, the tour consisted of stops at a number of sites and facilities, with Stone saying he was able to speak with several subject matter experts who had impressed him a great deal. They also rode in an M1 Abrams tank on a YPG road course. (Photos by James Gilbert)

# Annual Thanksgiving meal served at YPG



The Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation team joined efforts to serve Thanksgiving dinner at the Cactus Café. The team served over 300 meals, with 30 of those being takeout. Many families look to the YPG team for their annual Thanksgiving dinner, and the team did not disappoint. (Photos courtesy Clarissa Vargas)

## A Lot to be thankful for at CRTC



On Nov. 16, the Cold Regions Test Center (CRTC) family gathered for its quarterly all-hands update which was followed by CRTC's annual Thanksgiving lunch. Prior to lunch, the CRTC Command Team briefed CRTC on current events including the results of its most recent climate survey – results that clearly illustrate CRTC's positive work environment.



Benjamin "Ben" Selvaggio was recognized for his outstanding efforts within CRTC's Allied Trades section. (Photos by Sebastian Saarloos)



CRTC would like to thank its DFAC Team, Billy, Bruce, Don, and Henry for a memorable Thanksgiving lunch.



Randal "Randy" Smith was named the Employee of the Quarter and presented with the EOQ belt.

## YPG team attends student career fair



Students learned about Yuma Proving Ground's important test mission from engineers Jorge Amaya, Maria Villegas, and Dillon Mann, and Program Analyst Patty Conley at San Luis Middle School's Career Expo on Nov. 21. As Yuma County's largest single employer and premier high technology workplace, the proving ground has a vested interest in encouraging local youngsters to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and math. (Photos courtesy of Patty Conley)



Soldiers with the Military Freefall School, Company B, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Special Warfare Training Group played a flag football game against the Airborne Test Force (ATF) on the day before the Thanksgiving holiday in the 2nd Annual Turkey Bowl. The game was played at Yuma Proving Ground's Cox Field and, in the end, when the final whistle blew, the parachute riggers from ATF came away with the victory, winning by a score of 79 to 28.

## 2nd Annual Turkey Bowl builds esprit de corps

By James Gilbert

Yuma Proving Ground is the home to two of the Army's elite airborne entities, and they once again faced off against each other for a little bit of gridiron fun on the day before the Thanksgiving holiday in what was dubbed as the 2nd Annual Turkey Bowl.

The flag football game pitted the Military Freefall School, Company B, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Special Warfare Training Group, who were looking to avenge a loss in last year's game, against the Airborne Test Force (ATF), one of the Department of Defense's (DOD) premier developmental airdrop test facilities.

ATF got on the scoreboard first on a safety by Staff Sgt. Ahmed Elinbabi and would never trail in the game, going on to eventually win in a lopsided victory by a score of 79 to 28,

despite the freefall school's best effort.

Sgt. 1st Class Justin Duvall, who played quarterback for ATF, then hit Sgt. Casey Simmons in the corner of the endzone two possessions later, despite him being double covered. The freefall school would answer right back, however, on a short touchdown of its own by Sgt. 1st Class Scott Hatcher.

Freefall would score again with less than 20 seconds to go before halftime on a long pass from quarterback Sgt. 1st Class Ed Varley to Staff Sgt. Darrell Eddings.

Played 8-on-8, the game consisted of two 30-minute running clock quarters and required the offense to pass or run the ball up a shortened field to the end zone for a touchdown. Defensive players were also allowed to rush the quarterback after a four-second count.

Chaplain Maj. Ryan Pearse, of

the Halo Chapel, and Chief Warrant Officer 3 David Perry served as the referees for the game. YPG Commander Col. John Nelson and Asst. Garrison Manager Dan Carter were also among the spectators and family members who gathered at Cox Field to watch.

Duvall said at halftime that he was ecstatic how well he and his ATF teammates were playing, adding that he was expecting it would be a high-scoring game from both teams.

"The camaraderie and fellowship we have out here is super fun," Duvall said. "Both teams are putting up points. This is already more points than both teams scored last year."

Although the win gave ATF bragging rights until next year's game, Duvall added that the game was more about building esprit de corps and creating lasting memories, rather than

winning or losing.

"It helps to build a bridge between the two units," Duvall stated.

Facing an unrelenting defense which returned at least three interceptions for touchdowns, the freefall school was never really able to get its offense going, and could not keep pace with ATF, which scored on almost every possession it had.

Nelson, who had the honor of presenting ATF with the coveted Turkey Bowl trophy, stated afterwards that, "It was good to see the families out here and the competition between the two organizations, but also understanding that we are all still one YPG team, having a good time before the holidays."

A potluck style dinner was held for the teams after the game at the community center.



Yuma Proving Ground Commander Col. John Nelson, who was among the many spectators in attendance to watch the game and presented the winning team with the Turkey Bowl trophy, stated afterwards that, "It was good to see the families out here and the competition between the two organizations, but also understanding that we are all still one YPG team, having a good time before the holidays." (Photos by James Gilbert)



# Youth Services kids enjoy field day



Several dozen boys and girls participated in outdoor activities on a day that made for an ideal setting for the Yuma Proving Ground's Sports and Fitness Youth Field Day. Held on Nov. 21 at Cox Field, the children participated in several events including Punt, Pass and Kick contests, a three-legged race, a baton relay, and more. Activities ran from 2 to 4 p.m. and the event was free to children between the ages of five to 18. (Photos by James Gilbert)



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# 2023 retrospective: YPG remains at the forefront of Army transformation efforts

By Mark Schauer

The work done at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) in 2023 is having real-world impact today-- and will influence modernization and Army doctrine for years to come.

From the Experimental Demonstration Gateway Event (EDGE) to the recent entrance of the Armored Multipurpose Vehicle into full-rate production, YPG remains at the forefront of Army transformation efforts all year.

Army senior leaders say the nation is at an inflection point and that successful deterrence against near-peer adversaries with the ability to conduct large-scale combat operations will require long-range precision fires, autonomous capability, and leveraging of other new technologies across all of the Department of Defense's military branches.

Earlier this year, the EDGE 23 conducted intense natural environment experimentation at Yuma Test Center (YTC) with over 80 new technologies, blending developmental and operational testing for what may be key elements of the future force. Unmanned aircraft, launched effects, and all manner of ancillary technologies to expand communications capabilities and Soldier survivability were all being tested simultaneously here during the demonstration, which included participation from 32 inter-service organizations, 10 international partners, and multiple private industry companies. The top leadership of Army Futures Command's Future Vertical Lift (FVL) Cross Functional Teams (CFT) were pleased with the support they received by upwards of 300 range personnel from YPG.

"YPG is a literal crown jewel that can replicate a battlefield very, very well," said Maj. Gen. Walter



"YPG is a literal crown jewel that can replicate a battlefield very, very well," said Maj. Gen. Walter Rugen, Future Vertical Lift Cross Functional Teams Director, in remarks at a media roundtable with national and international media representatives held during EDGE 23 at Yuma Proving Ground on May 18. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

Rugen, FVL CFT Director, in remarks at a media roundtable with multiple national and international media representatives held at YPG on May 18. "The land, air, and spectrum that the facility offers is undeniably indispensable to our success. The team's professionalism is outstanding, and we will be back to Yuma."

Though the event saw such firsts as autonomous landings and resupply and first-ever autonomous landings in a desert environment of a Bell 412 airframe brought to the event by Canada, the principals were particularly impressed with advances that were made in advancing the reach and range of interconnected architectures.

"Our theater linkage with Northern EDGE at Fort Wainwright 4,000 kilometers away really replicated our theater geometry," said Rugen. "My focus is on getting that information quickly to the tactical edge."

YPG also hosted large operational tests of an upgraded version of the FGM-148 Javelin missile at YTC this summer and Cold Regions

Test Center (CRTC) at Fort Greely, Alaska earlier in the year. The operational testing involved scores of Soldiers and additional support personnel from the U.S. Army Operational Test Command (OTC) performing mock combat scenarios to utilize the Javelin as they would if deployed to a combat zone.

"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 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 updated Javelin is lighter, smaller, and boasts better target-acquiring optics that the legacy version. 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



Yuma Proving Ground hosted large operational tests of an upgraded version of the FGM-148 Javelin missile at Yuma Test Center this summer, and at Cold Regions Test Center at Fort Greely, Alaska earlier in the year. (U.S. Army photo)



The Armored Multi-Purpose Vehicle, which entered full-rate production in September, was previously subjected to intense developmental testing at all three of U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground's natural environment test centers—Yuma Test Center, Cold Regions Test Center (CRTC), and at Tropic Regions Test Center (TRTC) in the Panamanian jungle. (Photo by Sebastian Saarloos (CRTC) and Carlos Mora (TRTC))



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, OTC 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."

The importance of small, unmanned aircraft systems (sUAS) in the aviation world is growing with each passing year. As the technology proliferates, America's adversaries could potentially use sUAS to target Soldiers, necessitating robust counter-sUAS (C-sUAS) defenses for use anywhere American forces may be deployed. The Joint C-sUAS Office (JCO), established in 2020 to tackle this threat, has hosted industry demonstrations of the latest C-sUAS technology at U.S. Army YPG for the past two years. Their most recent event took place across four weeks in May and June.

"It's groundbreaking stuff," said Riley Sinek, YPG test officer. "We're looking into solutions to deter the

most scary threats you see on TV. It's technology that some people can't even fathom we're using to defeat these threats."

The defeat mechanisms tested ranged from missiles to high-powered microwaves, and the distances the testers used were significantly greater than in previous demonstrations.

"We're trying to engage these threats earlier and at longer distances so that they don't have an opportunity to do harm to our forces," said Michael DiGennaro, JCO test lead.



The Joint Counter- Small Unmanned Aircraft (C-sUAS) Office has hosted industry demonstrations of the latest C-sUAS technology at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground for the past two years. Their most recent event took place across four weeks in May and June. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

YPG is the most capable of a limited number of test ranges able to accommodate this type of work. The proving ground's clear, stable air and extremely dry climate along with vast institutional UAS testing knowledge makes it an attractive location to testers, as does the ability to control a large swath of the radio frequency spectrum. YPG has more than 500 permanent radio frequencies, and several thousand temporary ones in a given month.

"This facility is designed to do exactly what we are doing," said DiGennaro. "The support

from the entire test crew and the range infrastructure itself gives us the ability to focus on our test objectives."

The Armored Multi-Purpose Vehicle (AMPV), which entered full-rate production in September, was previously subjected to intense developmental testing at all three of U.S. Army YPG's natural environment test centers—YTC, CRTC, and, most recently, at Tropic Regions Test Center in the Panamanian jungle. The platform incorporates a long list of upgrades that make it significantly more advanced than the M113 armored personnel carrier that it succeeds, which dates back to the early 1960s.

The AMPV's five variants—a general purpose vehicle, mission command vehicle, mortar carrier, and medical evacuation and medical treatment vehicles-- have nearly 80% more interior volume than the M113, and significantly more power, survivability, and maneuverability. The cooling and electrical systems are also more robust to accommodate both existing and future upgrades. It boasts the same powertrain and suspension system as the Bradley Fighting Vehicle and M109A7 self-propelled howitzer, which eases maintenance and logistics challenges for all three vehicles in the field.

# Yuma Proving Ground looks back at 2023

By Ana Henderson

In 2023, the Yuma Proving Ground team celebrated the future and the past. Here's a look back at the year.

## New leaderships

Yuma Proving Ground welcomed new Commander



Col. John Nelson took command of U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) from Col. Patrick McFall on June 29. During his remarks Nelson said he wants to ensure that YPG's culture for safety and excellence is sustained. He also stressed he wants the installation to continue its 80 years of outstanding rapport with the local Yuma community. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

Yuma Proving Ground welcomed new Command Sergeant Major



Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Millare assumed the highest enlisted leadership position at YPG on July 13 in a change of responsibility ceremony presided over by YPG Commander Col. John Nelson. Millare pledged to foster the same camaraderie between the military and civilian workforce that outgoing Command Sgt. Maj. Herbert Gill was widely praised for. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

## Upgrading the installation

Laguna Airfield upgrades



Laguna Airfield underwent improvements early this year. Crews resurfaced the pavement, filled asphalt cracks and fog sealed the runways, taxiways, and aprons. A portion of a taxiway was milled, and three inches of asphalt was applied along with new markings. In early February an additional runway, was put back in service with the installation of flashing lights to warn vehicle traffic of an approaching aircraft. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

Halo Chapel upgrades and repairs



A project to repair damage to the foundation of the Halo Chapel is nearing completion. Work to shore up the foundations of both chapel buildings began in June. Interior work included tile laid throughout the hallway and bathrooms and new carpeting in the offices and nursery. Exterior work included the removal of an underground tank and the installation of a new side parking lot. (Photo by James Gilbert)

## Celebrating 80 years of training and testing



ABOVE: Members of the YPG and Yuma community joined the test center on May 3 to celebrate its 80th anniversary. During the small ceremony members of the Airborne Test Force started off the event by jumping into Cox Field, YPG leaders gathered to cut a celebratory cake and then took a group photo. (Photo by Mark Schauer) LEFT: The YPG workforce also marked the anniversary by standing together to create the shape of letters to spell YPG on Cox Field just before Organization Day. (Photo by Brian Michael)

Child Development Center preschool classroom renovated



The YPG Child Development Center hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony for the preschool room on Nov. 6 to unveil a months-long renovation. Renovations included new flooring, a structure in the middle of the room was tore down and the bathrooms and storage closets were relocated.

Walker Gate gets new guard shacks



In early September, construction started at the Walker Access Control Point to install two new guard shacks pictured on the left and center. The previous structures were originally built in 2011 and did not have running water or toilets. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

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## Chaplain's Corner

### Rule No. 10, be precise in your speech

#### Chaplain's Corner Chaplain Maj. Ryan Pearse



Rule No. 10 in Dr. Jordan Peterson's book, "12 Rules for Life: An Antidote to Chaos" is to "be precise in your speech." The rule expands on Rule No. 8, which teaches us to tell the truth. Rule No. 10 tells us to tell the truth and be very specific and precise in what we say.

Putting this rule into perspective, according to Peterson, requires a person to answer a series of questions. Why avoid the precise truth when doing so unnecessarily

and inevitably poisons the future? Why be vague in your speech when it renders life stagnant and murky? Why refuse to explore the precise truth when having the knowledge makes you the master of your own reality? Why refuse to state the precise truth when specifying the problem would enable its solution?

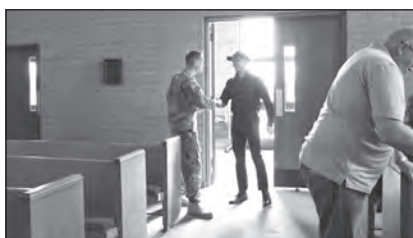
After reading those questions, ask yourself these follow-up questions: Do you want to poison the future or master reality? Do you want life to be murky or find solutions to your problems? The only way to come to a positive answer to these questions is by telling the

truth and being precise in your speech.

Attention to detail is the Army's way of saying it. Another aspect of being precise in your speech is the ability to consciously define the topic of a conversation, particularly when it is difficult. Even what is terrible often pales in significance compared to what is horrible in imagination. If you're precise in your speech, you bring a semblance of order out of the chaos.

Matthew 12:36 tells us, "On the day of judgment, people will give an account for every careless word they spoke." Let's be precise in your speech today.

#### Halo Chapel hosts Spiritual Fitness Luncheon



The Halo Chapel opened its doors to the workforce and community on Nov. 16 for a Spiritual Fitness Luncheon. Soldiers, retirees, families, and the workforce gathered for lunch and a sermon provided by Chaplain Maj. Ryan Pearse. The next events scheduled at the chapel include guest speakers DeAnna Gungor on Dec. 7 and Lt. Col. Dave Grossman on Dec. 13. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

**Community Tree Lighting**

Wednesday, December 6th  
 Cox Field | Starting at 1800

U.S. ARMY MWR

**The Civilian of the Quarter  
(3rd Quarter 2023)**



Tammy Hazlett

**The Certificate of Achievement**



Bianca Carpenter



Shannon Fenzel



Jose M. Garcia, Danielle Compton and Dylan Black



Lily Trelease, Clarissa Vargas, and Raymond Litchenberg

**The Civilian Service Achievement Medal**



Kami Martin



Stephen Houser

**Length of Service Awards**

**30 Years**



William Lloyd

**25 Years**



Christopher Cape and James Rochester

**20 Years**



Joshua Onyan

**15 Years**



Alejandro Bustamante

**10 Years**



Deborah Ashcraft

**5 Years**



Mary Jo Baker

Not pictured

**Length of Service Awards**

**5 Years**

Kenneth Wright  
Audrey Wilson

**10 Years**

Robert Neufeld  
Deborah Ashcraft  
Shanenalyn Willett

**15 Years**

Christine Houll  
Bertha Moreno  
Jose B. Rivera

**25 Years**

Garrett House

**The Certificate of Achievement**

Shannon Schmidgall  
Teresa Day  
Jonathan Clark  
Jonathan Meaney

**Garrison Employee  
Recognition Ceremony**

U.S. Army Garrison Yuma Proving Ground leaders gathered on the afternoon of Nov. 15 at the Cactus Cafe for the third quarter Garrison Employee Recognition Ceremony. Human Resources Director Chris Lee moderated, and Chaplain Maj. Ryan Pearse opened the ceremony with a prayer. Garrison Manager Ken Musselwhite presented the awards. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

**Soldiers thanked for their devotion to children**



Yuma Proving Ground Garrison Manager Kenneth Musselwhite made a special visit to the YPG Health Clinic on Nov. 14 to award Certificates of Appreciation to the Soldiers for the support they provided at last month's Red Ribbon Week, which was held at Price Elementary School. Pictured from left to right are Sgt. Matthew Romero, Staff Sgt. Nancy Chamberlin, Spc. Anahi Salas and Musselwhite. (Photos by James Gilbert)

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