

THE OUTPOST

U.S. ARMY YUMA PROVING GROUND, YUMA, ARIZONA 85365 | VOLUME 65 NO. 17 MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2016

Whoosh! National Guard missiles destroy tanks at YPG

By Mark Schauer

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



Though YPG's primary mission is testing military equipment, its vast ranges accommodate dozens of training events each year. Recently, Soldiers from the Arizona National Guard's 1st Battalion, 158th Infantry trained here on the FGM-148 Javelin missile. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

The Javelin packs a humungous punch, and Soldiers in the Arizona National Guard's 1st Battalion, 158th Infantry, trained on the weapon at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground on a sweltering weekend in mid-August.

"I firmly believe that the only place this unit can exercise all of their organic weapons systems is on Yuma Proving Ground," said Luis Arroyo, chief of the Training and Exercise Management Office. "They can do individual and some collective training at other places

SEE **JAVELIN** page 6

Told "women can't do it," Peters proved otherwise

By Mark Schauer

Minerva Peters, U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground chief of staff, discussed some of her life experiences with an audience of more than 100 at a Women's Equality Day luncheon hosted by the Yuma Sector of the U.S. Border Patrol in late August.

By turns poignant and inspirational, Peters recalled her childhood, the obstacles she faced getting a foothold in a male-dominated field of endeavor in her youth, and the success and joy she felt in her eventual positions at YPG, the first of which she began in 2000.

"I found the proving ground a great place for anyone to work," she said. "It's a very challenging organization where you are respected, whether female or male. The only thing they're looking for is if someone is capable of doing the job, and I really like that."

Peters' road to success was difficult. When she was 10 years old, her father was severely disabled in a car accident, placing a significant hardship on the family. Peters credited her mother with keeping the family afloat.

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German engineer enjoys work at Tropic Regions Test Center

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YTC commander speaks to economic development council

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YPG trail camera captures thirsty 'prairie ghost'

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German engineer enjoys work at Tropic Regions Test Center

By Mark Schauer

As the Army's premier test facility, Yuma Proving Ground has an international reputation and customer base.

It is fitting, then, that the proving ground also hosts engineers from partner foreign nations for long-term details as part of the Army's Engineer and Scientist Exchange Program.

Assigned to YPG's Tropic Regions Test Center (TRTC) for one year, Martin Hummel, an engineer from the German military's Bundeswehr Technical Center for Protective and Special Technologies, is excited to have the opportunity, for professional and personal reasons.

"Technical stuff and work details are important, but so is learning about the society, language and culture of allied countries," he said.

Hummel's work at TRTC isn't his first experience in the United States, though. He had been to Fresno, California to visit a brother who lived in the country for a year, and in 2008 he resided for five months in Alabama.

Hummel says he finds his current American stint much more rewarding.

"In Alabama it was a German company with German workers, so you talked German to each other and had no chance to learn the language. That was a big disadvantage. It wasn't an actual exchange."

Hummel's branch of engineering, mechatronics, is a multidisciplinary combination of mechanical, electrical, and information technology. He describes his test center in Germany as similar in mission, but smaller in sheer geographic size than YPG. Likewise, the breadth of YPG's extreme climate testing, encompassing desert, cold, and tropical natural environments dwarfs his previous experience.

"Everything is brand new to me because we just have a temperate climate in Europe," he said. "There are a lot of things I didn't think about before that are very important. Hopefully when I return to Germany I can tell them how significant tropic testing is and that we should test



Martin Hummel, an engineer from the German military's Bundeswehr Technical Center for Protective and Special Technologies, is more than halfway through a one-year detail working for U.S. Army Tropic Regions Test Center as part of the Army's Engineer and Scientist Exchange Program. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

some of our materials in a tropic environment."

Having met TRTC director Ernest Hugh at Bundeswehr during a visit there in 2015, Hummel requested to be assigned to TRTC when he applied for the exchange program. Granted his wish, there was plenty to do to prepare for his lengthy stay, from finding housing and furniture to getting an Arizona driver's license. Fortunately, Hummel had plenty of help from YPG personnel in negotiating the processes.

"Arriving at a new location, not to mention a cultural change, can be overwhelming" said Hugh. "The

Hummel family transition and command group sponsorship was one of the smoothest and best I've witnessed, a model to follow."

Hummel and wife, Ursula, have taken advantage of their off-duty time to visit places like San Diego, Palm Springs and Tucson. Hummel hopes to someday host one or more of his YPG colleagues for a similar exchange in Germany, but looks forward to the several months he has left at TRTC.

"We enjoy each minute here," Hummel said. "We are a little sad about leaving at the end of the program."

THE OUTPOST

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The Editor, Outpost, Yuma Proving Ground, Yuma, AZ, 85365.
Phone: (928) 328-6149 or DSN 899.
Visit our website at: www.yuma.army.mil
or email to: mark.a.schauer.civ@mail.mil

Commander: Col. Randy Murray
Public Affairs Officer: Chuck Wullenjohn
Public Affairs Specialist/Editor: Mark Schauer
Technical Editor, Cold Regions Test Center: Clara Zachgo
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WOMEN

FROM PAGE 1

“My mother, a 5-foot-2-inch woman from Mexico who had married a U.S. citizen and knew very little English, always found a way to feed us, get us to school, and make it clear that our one and only priority was to succeed in school. It was a private demonstration of courage that she continued the rest of her life.”

Peters excelled in school, particularly in math, but encountered gender-based prejudice even from people whose supposed purpose was to facilitate her success.

“My high school guidance counselor straight-out told me, ‘people who are good at math usually are engineers, but you can’t be because you are a woman.’ That’s literally what she told me, and this was a female counselor. Why I couldn’t be an engineer, I don’t know, but I was a very obedient Hispanic girl: somebody in authority told me I couldn’t do something, therefore it must not be allowed.”

In college she earned a degree in mathematics, which made her eligible to be an operations research analyst. At that time, the Army’s Operational

Test and Evaluation Command was making a specific effort to hire qualified female interns, and in 1985 Peters successfully applied for a position. In retrospect, however, the interview questions she fielded seem remarkably sexist.

“They asked questions like, ‘as a woman, how do you feel about working for an organization whose purpose is to acquire weapons systems for male Soldiers?’ Or, ‘as a woman, how are you going to handle the travel requirements in this job? How would you handle the situation if you got pregnant?’”

Though the national culture has evolved significantly in the past 30 years, Peters realizes cultural and familial obstacles remain that some young girls must face.

“Look for opportunities to learn,” she counselled. “If you are learning, eventually success will come. My main advice is to accept challenges. If a challenge is given to you, take it and do the best you can with it, because more than likely you will succeed. If you are being asked to do it, it is because people already have confidence in you—that applies to men, too.”



YPG Chief of Staff Minerva Peters, right, speaks at a Women’s Equality Day luncheon hosted by the Yuma Sector of the U.S. Border Patrol as , from left, attorney Amanda Taylor and Rosa Madrigal, Division Chief of Operational Support for the Border Patrol’s Yuma sector, look on. Peters recalled the obstacles she faced getting a foothold in a male-dominated occupational field in her youth, and the success and joy she felt in her eventual positions at YPG. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

ENERGY CORNER

Four simple steps for energy and water conservation

By Gregory Skaggs, Energy Manager

Enjoying the seasonal weather here in Yuma? A person can get used to the heat, but it is hard to get used to summertime electric bills. Since 30% of YPG’s annual electric costs are in July, August and September, it is a good time to remember the four most important actions you can take to save electricity and the taxpayers’ money.

1. Keep thermostats set to U.S. Army standards. The Army temperature standard for an air conditioned space is 78 degrees. When the area is unoccupied, such as at night or on weekends, the temperature standard is 85 degrees. Setting the thermostat lower uses much more electricity: A setting of 72 will use about 30% more energy than a setting of 78, and even a setting of 76 still uses 13% more energy.

2. Power off things that you don’t need. Do you remember to turn your lights off when you leave the office? Do you leave the lights on in conference rooms and other common

areas when no one is there? Do you leave equipment on when you are not using it? If you don’t need the lights or equipment to be on, and they don’t have a sleep mode, just turn them off.

3. Buy energy efficient equipment. DoD policy is to purchase only Energy Star rated equipment, when available. If you are purchasing equipment, first check to see if Energy Star versions are available.

4. Keep doors and windows to air-conditioned areas closed.

Is there anything wrong with your building that causes energy or water to be wasted? Can you see light streaming in around outside doors and windows in air-conditioned areas? Any holes in walls or broken windows? You might need new weather stripping or caulking. Do you have any leaking fixtures, toilets, or faucets that drip or run? Just call extension 3005 and put in a service order to have it fixed.

If we all pay attention to just these four things, we will save Army funds and meet our energy and water conservation goals.



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A View Without a Point

Photographs and memories

By Teri Womack

As part of my constantly evolving job, recently I have been out and about around the proving ground more than ever taking photos of award ceremonies, retirements and other special events. Almost every time I have a camera in my hands, someone, no matter whether male or female, approaches me and emphatically says, "Please don't take my photo!"

I totally understand how they feel. Age and a few extra pounds on my hips makes me less than enthusiastic to have my photo taken, because, most of the time, I don't like the result. It's even more unsettling when the photo is out of my control. On my own phone, I am armed with edit features and filters and I'm not afraid to use them. The last few photos taken of me and my friends were exquisite shots of our toes in the water and lovely images of our hands toasting an important event, like the weekend finally arriving. But even then we complained about how our feet and hands looked.

But then, a close family member recently passed away and I began looking for photos for the memorial. I discovered them in my spare room, packed away in three clear plastic

bins, ready and waiting for that long-ago plan to organize them in cute photo albums – someday. Since 'someday' never came, there were hundreds of photos, tossed in the bins in no particular order, which meant I had to go through all of them.

As I shuffled through the photos, I was flooded with the many memories of her that had been captured on film. Looking though those photos was like taking a trip down memory lane and I never once even considered anyone's appearance, including my own. Thirty years of photos reminded me of all the laughter and love we had shared and experienced, so when I reached the end of the last bin, it didn't seem as if I had taken enough photos at all.

Today, taking a photo is so convenient, with cell phones within our reach at all times. So now, I take photos of everything and everyone. I capture everyday moments, like my dog's pleading eyes when she sits in front of me begging to go for a walk and the smiles of my friends when we're acting goofy on the patio at Starbucks, as well as that group shot at that incredible luncheon when I arrived wearing a pink boa and some awesome rhinestone sunglasses. Now, even if I don't feel I look my

best, I still take those selfies that leave no doubt that I still don't know where to look on these cell phone cameras.

We just never know as we journey through life when little things, those quick moments in time, will become important memories when we look back on them. It's easier to recapture the feelings later when you're holding a photo in your hand.

So, if you see me out and about on the weekend, strike a pose and make sure to smile for the camera. And if we are taking a

selfie, you have to promise me that you will point out exactly where I should be looking, because I certainly don't need any more cross eyed selfie photos to look back on.



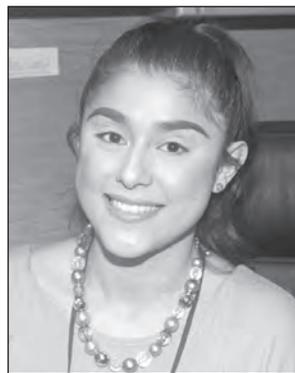
VIEWPOINTS

For many of us, summertime means going on a much needed vacation. For this Viewpoint, we asked members of the workforce about their favorite summer vacation memories.



Mara Bowman, Program Analyst

A few years ago I visited the largest lake in Italy, Lake Garda, between Venice and Verona. Some of the towns around the lake, like Sirmione, Bardolino, Malcesine and Salo, were breathtaking and enlightening. What I enjoyed most were the evening strolls, breathing the tantalizing aromas of freshly fried fish, the cool, delicious taste of homemade gelato, and, especially, the fragrance and vibrancy of the wines. It was a week full of enjoyment and discoveries – I highly recommend it as a great place to vacation and most undeniably a place I want to revisit.



Maria Fonseca, Intern

My best summer vacation memory was visiting amora de Hidalgo in the city of Michoacán, Mexico. It was one of the most beautiful, interesting, and cultural cities I have ever visited. I was excited about meeting my extended family and learning about Zamora's culture and traditions. Visiting the architectural buildings influenced by Spanish colonial times and tasting the authentic Mexican cuisine was memorable, but the most enjoyable part of my vacation was spending time with my family.

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Yuma Test Center commander speaks to community group



Maintaining a positive relationship with the local community is important to any military installation, and something YPG has tried hard to foster for many years. Here, Yuma Test Center Commander Lt. Col. James DeBoer (left) speaks to over 100 attendees of a luncheon in mid-August sponsored by the Greater Yuma Economic Development Corporation as Marine Corps Air Station Yuma Commander Col. Ricardo Martinez (right) looks on. DeBoer provided an overview of YPG activities and answered questions from the audience. (Photo by Chuck Wullenjohn)

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JAVELIN

FROM PAGE 1

in the state, but in order to execute full collective training for what is generally required for infantry companies and battalions, this is the only place in Arizona.”

“Any time we can do one-stop shopping, it benefits us,” added Sgt. Maj. Daniel Figueroa of the 1st Battalion, 158th Infantry. “Being able to do all the training we need to accomplish benefits us in time, money, and Soldier training.”

A Javelin operator needs to use a Command Launch Unit (CLU) attached to the Javelin tube to sight and launch the missile. There is a whoosh as the missile ejects from the launcher. About 20 feet out, a propulsive burning sound starts as the flight motor engages, and rapidly accelerates the missile to the target hundreds of feet downrange. Smoke and flame blooms from the tank target before the sound of the explosion rumbles back to the firing line.



When fired, the Javelin missile's flight motor doesn't engage until it is ejected about 20 feet out of the tube, a safety feature for the operator's benefit. (Photos by Mark Schauer)



The Javelin missile packs a humungous punch on a disused tank emplaced specifically for the unit's training. "When these gunners looked through their reticles at the target, they actually saw a tank, not a burned-out hulk of what used to be a tank," said Luis Arroyo, chief of the Training and Exercise Management Office.

“They compared the kick to a 12 gauge shotgun, but I think it was lighter,” said Pfc. Matthew Shirley. “You pull the trigger, you feel a little kick, and then it's nice after that. It's a rush watching your target explode.”

The Soldiers enjoyed the fact that three disused tanks without any discernible damage were included in the target array set up downrange from the firing line. Placing the tanks took careful work from a variety of YPG support elements, from the Ammunition Recovery group that ensured paths to the target emplacement sites were cleared of all unexploded ordnance to the Threat Target Systems section which removed engines and other potentially hazardous materials from the tanks prior to their being towed into place across rugged, road-less terrain by YPG's motor pool.



Get a CLU! Javelin operators need to use a Command Launch Unit (CLU) attached to the disposable tube to sight and launch the missile. The reusable CLU can also serve as a thermal sighting device independent of the launch tube.

“Knowing this was the first time the unit has fired the Javelin, I think the right thing was to give them something meaty, something that is visually representative versus something that has been shot up,” said Arroyo. “When these gunners looked through their reticles at the target, they actually saw a tank, not a burned-out hulk of what used to be a tank. This was well worth the effort, both so they could get the most benefit out of the training and to enhance the target range.”

Though YPG’s primary mission is testing military equipment, its vast ranges accommodate dozens of training events each year.

“Protecting the test mission is the top priority of our office,” said Arroyo. “Both missions can coexist

smoothly: it’s just a matter of coordination with the customer and test officers. Twice a year we host a Marine Corps infantry battalion conducting a fast-paced, very large scope training exercise, without impacting the test mission: we could do it more often.”

The Soldiers were impressed with the facility and support from all levels of YPG.

“We love it out here,” said Lt. Col. Dave Pidone, battalion commander. “The facility is great and the leadership is extraordinarily responsive. This is the stuff Soldiers join the Army for: to have the opportunity to come out here and train as close to our headquarters as we are is awesome. We hope to do a lot more of it.”



Soldiers in the Arizona National Guard’s 1st Battalion, 158th Infantry prepare a FGM-148 Javelin missile for firing. “Any time we can do one-stop shopping, it benefits us,” said Sgt. Maj. Daniel Figueroa. “Being able to do all the training we need to accomplish benefits us in time, money, and Soldier training.”



The Soldiers were impressed with the facility and support from all levels of YPG. “We love it out here,” said Lt. Col. Dave Pidone, battalion commander. “The facility is great and the leadership is extraordinarily responsive.”

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September is National Suicide Awareness Month

Submitted by Christopher Lee

This September, the Army highlights the importance of suicide prevention, awareness, and intervention with the theme “Be There.” Each person’s reason for experiencing thoughts about suicide or engaging in suicidal behaviors is as unique as the person. The underlying theme of every survivor of a suicide attempt, and of every suicide prevention or intervention program, is that someone has to be there for the person at risk.

Suicide is currently the 10th leading cause of death. It is estimated that in the United States more than 5 million people have been directly affected by suicide and one person completes suicide every 12.3 minutes. Experts believe that most suicidal individuals do not want to die, they just want an end to pain. The Department of Defense/U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs conference theme for 2015 was “One Connection, One Conversation, One Small Act – It Matters.” There is evidence of this in the stories of success for suicide interventions—

for this to happen, though, someone has to “Be There.”

Many people impact the lives of friends, co-workers, acquaintances, and even strangers without ever knowing it. Their presence, the connection they made, the conversation that was held or the act of kindness shown, may not have had anything to do with the topic of suicide, but because you were there for that person, physically and emotionally, a life may have been changed.

As we go about our daily duties, at work and at home, be mindful of the people we interact with. If you are aware of warning signs or risk factors in a person’s life, be there. If you know someone is struggling, be there. You never know when being present and available to someone and really listening to them could have the effect of saving a life. If you have questions about suicide prevention or are concerned about yourself or someone you know, contact me at 928-328-2249 for more information, or email: Christopher.a.lee24.civ@mail.mil.

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Managing stress in a relationship

Submitted by Paul J. Kilanski Family Advocacy Program Manager

Stress affects everyone at times and can be difficult for couples to handle. Hopefully, this article will help you understand what causes stress and how to best manage it together.

Stress is a reaction to demands that feel overwhelming. Stress can cause unpleasant feelings. When stressed, you may feel tense, insecure or irritable. You may feel fearful or powerless. You may also have physical reactions to stress such as headaches, upset stomach or back pains. People under stress may see themselves as less capable and overwhelmed. Stress can make it hard to do well in life and in relationships. In a relationship, one person's stress affects both partners. Stress can be caused by difficult times such as work problems or illness, but can also

come from positive life experiences such as getting married or getting a promotion at work.

Stress causes you to be different from usual. Some changes caused by stress are: a change in mood from being comfortable to being upset or very quiet; a switch from solving problems to constant complaining; a shift from active to being tired and sleepy; less interest in interactions with your partner; or feeling bad about oneself.

Stress can cause partners to turn against each other. Partners can get angry with each other about small issues. You may criticize and blame each other and get into fights. You may stop discussing issues and solving problems together. You may avoid each other and feel apart and alone.

Stress can be outside or inside the relationship. Outside stress can be

about work, family, money, health or legal problems. Long absences such as travel for work or military service can also create stress. Inside stress can be about one partner not feeling respected or appreciated. Some couples experience stress if there is not enough love and intimacy.

Sometimes the cause of the stress is not clear to the person who feels it.

Help reduce the stress! Declare the stress as OUR stress, even if it is only one of you who is stressed. Listen carefully and allow your partner to vent their feelings. Be supportive and encouraging. Tell your partner that they are loved. Reassure your partner that this stress is temporary and that you can overcome it as a team.

Strengthen yourselves for future stress. Practice talking and solving problems together.

Share physical activities. Dance, hike or take a bike ride. Being active produces hormones that fight stress. Be playful and funny. Laughter reduces stress. Support each other in healthy eating, getting enough sleep and taking time for relaxation. Learn from past experiences. If you did well with stress, build on your successes. If you had a hard time, try to problem solve what you can do differently the next time. Be appreciative.

Show affection. People who feel valued and loved are better able to handle stress.

Elusive 'prairie ghosts' spotted on range



As a natural laboratory for testing virtually every piece of equipment in the ground combat arsenal, YPG has a vested interest in responsible stewardship of the land. This recent image from a motion-detection camera shows nine Sonoran Pronghorn slaking their thirst at a temporary watering station located on YPG's vast ranges. On the brink of extinction less than 15 years ago, today the pronghorn population is on the rebound thanks to supplementary feedings and water. YPG's wildlife biology program coordinates access for the Arizona Game and Fish Department to conduct regular monitoring of the pronghorn population, including overflights of the range to track pronghorn wearing GPS and telemetry collars. (Loaned photo)

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Tread carefully in Yuma's deserts



Can you spot the old projectiles in this desert wash? During the summer monsoon season, storm water surging through desert washes can expose unexploded ordnance (UXO) that has been buried and forgotten for many decades. If you encounter such UXO, do not touch it or attempt to collect it as a souvenir. Instead, immediately notify authorities, who will ensure it is safely removed and disposed of. No one wants a serious accident or loss of life to occur! (US Army photos)

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