

# THE OUTPOST

U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground, Yuma, Arizona 85365 Volume 40 No. 24 Monday, January 6, 2014

Published for the employees and families of Yuma Proving Ground, Yuma Test Center, U.S. Army Garrison – Yuma, Cold Regions Test Center and Tropic Regions Test Center

## Open for business: YPG's new Candlewood Suites

By Mark Schauer

About 75 people were on hand at Yuma Proving Ground in late December to dedicate the new Candlewood Suites hotel on the post's main administrative area.

The 92 room facility is part of the Privatization of Army Lodging (PAL) program, a U.S. Army-led program established as a means to revitalize on-post lodging facilities for Soldiers, their families and all government travelers. The new hotel features a variety of amenities that are significantly upgraded from the post's existing hotel, which is housed in what was once a barracks.

Though the new hotel is expected to be used primarily by students at the Military Freefall School, it is also available for visitors, be they test customers or tourists who can access the base. The staff from the existing hotel will work at the new location, and thus continue to provide the same exceptional customer service patrons are accustomed to.

"To a person, students at the Military Freefall School who have stayed in the hotel talk about the absolutely phenomenal support and personal commitment of the hotel staff," said Col. Reed Young, YPG commander. "Now, these folks putting their lives on the line going through some very intense training know they can come back to a hotel where they can find comfort and great service and accommodations. I have the utmost confidence in how successful the hotel will be, and how much more successful the installation and team is going to be."

Young also feels that the new hotel will serve the test mission well, both in convenience for visiting testers and improved safety. Whereas test



(PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER)

**Preparing to cut the ribbon at the hotel's grand opening are left to right: Alvin Magcale, Regional Manager; Jody Sessions, General Manager; Col. Reed Young, YPG commander and Kate Alger, Development Manager for Lend Lease (US) Public Partnerships.**

customers previously faced lengthy commutes from downtown Yuma to remote locations on the range, the new hotel's location saves these visitors a significant amount of time.

"Imagine the impact that has on safety and on the time available to those people to do their job

out on site," Young said. "Just from the standpoint of work productivity, that is a significant order of magnitude improvement in our ability to conduct testing."

The phone number for the new hotel is (928) 388-6200.

Senior official  
wowed by Yuma  
Proving Ground  
/Page 2



YCSO Special  
Response Team  
hones skills at urban  
facility /Page 6



YPG Soldier returns  
home from  
Afghanistan in time  
for Christmas /Page 10

# YPG wows senior official

By Mark Schauer

On any given day, scores of tests of military equipment vital to the success of American Soldiers are underway at YPG to ensure quality and reliability.

Successfully conducting these tests requires a staggering array of high tech equipment to film, quantify, and verify performance, and such equipment is increasingly used in training scenarios as well.

The proving ground recently hosted Dr. James Blake, Army Program Executive Officer for Simulation, Training, and Instrumentation (PEOSTI) and several staffers for a full day of briefings and a tour of parts of the test range.

“It’s always good to get feedback from our customers and find out what they like and don’t like and where there are gaps to be connected,” said Blake. “I got a lot out of the briefing in terms of issues and concerns, and now we can go back and address them.”

Among other projects, PEOSTI honchos the Range Radar Replacement Program (RRRP), an initiative to replace aging radar trackers used in test at several Army proving grounds, including YPG, as well as was the Advanced Range Tracking and Imaging System (ARTIS), a family

of advanced optical tracking systems that replaces those mounted onto Kineto Tracking Mounts. Also of interest to the visitors was YPG’s tropical testing capability in nations like Panama and Suriname.

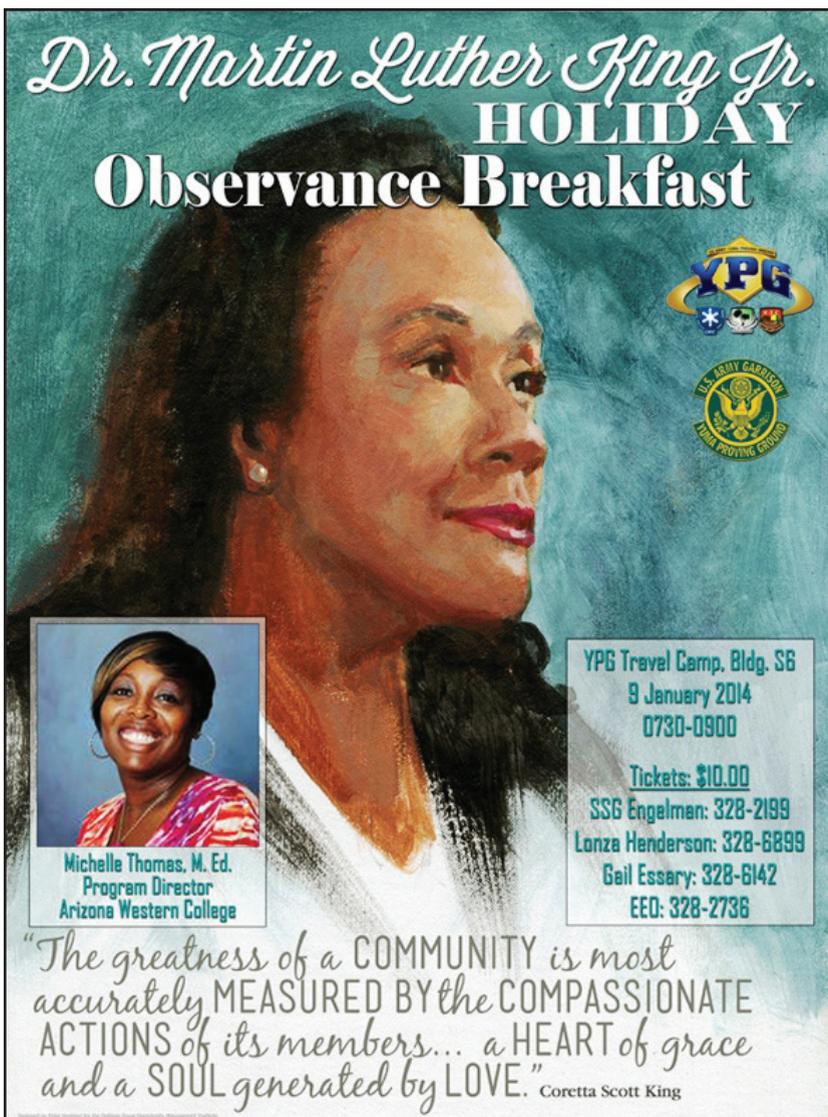
“My big interest is in real-time casualty assessment in the tropical regions, and how we go after that so we can do adequate test and training,” said Blake. “In many of the things we do, test and training are complimentary. It’s not either/or, you have to have both.”

Blake expects this capability will be of increasing importance as the United States military’s emphasis shifts from the Middle East to the Pacific.

“As we move to the Pacific and more tropical regions, we have to ask ourselves how much of the equipment that we currently have has been tested in that arena, and how much of the new equipment coming out are we asking to be tested in that arena,” said Blake. “My conjecture is that there are some gaps that need to be identified now and fixed.”

After a visit to the threat target yard, the group took an overflight of YPG’s vast ranges.

“YPG is a tremendous capability,” said Blake. “The breadth of what gets done here and in the arctic and tropics is important.”



*Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*  
**HOLIDAY**  
**Observance Breakfast**




YPG Travel Camp, Bldg. S6  
9 January 2014  
0730-0900

Tickets: \$10.00  
SSG Engelman: 328-2199  
Lonza Henderson: 328-6899  
Gail Essary: 328-6142  
EEO: 328-2736



Michelle Thomas, M. Ed.  
Program Director  
Arizona Western College

*“The greatness of a COMMUNITY is most accurately MEASURED BY the COMPASSIONATE ACTIONS of its members... a HEART of grace and a SOUL generated by LOVE.”* Coretta Scott King



(PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER)

**Randy Ehrlich (left), threat systems lead, gives a tour of the threat target yard to Dr. James Blake (right), Army Program Executive Officer for Simulation, Training, and Instrumentation during his recent visit to YPG.**

## THE OUTPOST

The Outpost is an unofficial publication authorized under provisions of AR 360-1. The Outpost is published every two weeks by the Public Affairs Office, Yuma Proving Ground. Views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Army. This newspaper uses material credited to ATEC and ARNEWS. While contributions are solicited, the PAO reserves the right to edit all submitted materials and make corrections, changes or deletions to conform with the policy of this newspaper.



News may be submitted to:  
The Editor, Outpost, Yuma Proving Ground, Yuma, AZ, 85365.  
Phone: (928) 328-6143/6189 or DSN 899-6143.  
Visit our website at: [www.yuma.army.mil](http://www.yuma.army.mil)  
or email to: [yolanda.o.canales.civ@mail.mil](mailto:yolanda.o.canales.civ@mail.mil)



**Commander:** Col. Reed F. Young  
**Public Affairs Officer:** Chuck Wullenjohn  
**Public Affairs Specialist/Editor:** Yolanda Canales  
**Public Affairs Specialist:** Mark Schauer  
**Technical Editor, Cold Regions Test Center:** Clara Zachgo  
**Marketing Specialist:** Teri Womack

## SAFETY CORNER

# The Silent Death: CO poisoning

**Frank McClanahan**  
**U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center**  
**Fort Rucker, Ala.**

The children ran into the living room to kiss their parents good night. They had already eaten and taken their baths. Now they were ready for bed. Mom and dad are also tired from the day's activities and are not far behind. Unfortunately, no one in this family realizes they are saying good night to each other for the last time. Tragically, this is their eternal sleep. Death does not come at the hand of an intruder or the flames and smoke of a fire, but by an equally deadly and silent killer – carbon monoxide.

This is a familiar scenario every year as the weather cools down. Because of a faulty home heating system, a family dies in their sleep—victims of carbon monoxide poisoning.

## What is CO?

Carbon monoxide is a poisonous, colorless, odorless and tasteless gas. It is produced as a result of the incomplete burning of natural gas and other carbon-containing materials such as kerosene, oil, propane, coal, gasoline and wood. At high concentration levels, CO can kill an individual in minutes. When breathed into the body, CO enters the blood and deprives the heart, brain and other vital organs of oxygen.

## What are the signs?

Low levels of CO can result in shortness of breath, mild headaches and nausea. These symptoms are often confused with food poisoning, influenza and other illnesses. At moderate levels, individuals exposed to CO may experience

tightness across the chest, severe headaches, dizziness, drowsiness and nausea. Prolonged or high exposures may result in vomiting, confusion, muscle weakness and collapse. While the effects of CO vary from person to person, people with heart or lung disease, elevated CO blood levels (smokers), the elderly, young children and fetuses are the most susceptible.

## What can you do?

To reduce the chances of CO poisoning, take the following precautions:

- Have your fuel-burning appliances such as furnaces, water heaters, ranges, ovens, dryers, space heaters, fireplaces and wood stoves inspected and serviced by a trained professional before the onset of cooler temperatures.

- Purchase appliances that vent fumes to the outside of your home. Have those appliances installed and maintained by professionals. Ensure you read, understand and follow the safety precautions for each of these appliances.

- Never sleep in a room with an unvented fuel-burning space heater.

- Never use a gas oven to heat your home—even for a short period of time.

- Never idle your vehicle inside your garage—even if you have the door opened. Doing so can allow CO to build up and enter your home. Also, be sure not to operate other devices powered by combustion engines such as generators, chain saws, lawn mowers, etc., in an enclosed space.

## Treating an exposure

According to the Environmental Protection Agency's Web site, people

who experience CO poisoning symptoms should take the following steps:

Get fresh air immediately. Open all doors and windows to allow for ventilation, turn off the combustion appliance or device and leave your house.

Go to an emergency room for treatment. Tell the attending physician you believe you are a victim of CO poisoning. The physician can verify any CO poisoning by a blood test.

## About those CO detectors

The EPA advises against being lulled into a false sense of security because you have installed a CO detector, as they are not considered

as reliable as smoke detectors.

According to the EPA, while various types of laboratory-tested detectors are available on the market today, they should never be considered as a replacement for properly using and maintaining fuel-burning appliances.

If you decide to purchase a CO detector, use resources such as the American Gas Association or Consumer Reports to make an informed decision and be sure to look for the Underwriters Laboratories certification when you buy. For more information, visit the EPA Web site at <http://www.epa.gov> or the Occupational Safety and Health Administration Web site at <http://www.osha.gov>.

Locals Serving Yuma's Military Families for over 40 years

### Recliners



from **\$179**

### Leather Love Seats



Twin Recliners with Console

**Yes!**  
 NO! Credit Check  
**Financing**  
 \$40 Takes <sup>OA</sup>  
 It Home Today

### Serta® Queen Pillow Top Mattresses



from **Only!**  
**\$126**  
 American Made

### 4 Piece BEDROOM SETS

from **Only!**  
**\$349**  
 American Made



**SHEET SETS** Only!  
**\$21.95**  
 Most Sizes In Stock

"Our difference is our Lower Price"

**SERTA® MEMORY FOAM**  
 Queen Mattress  
 Only!  
**\$359**

"Where a Good Nights Sleep begins"

**Mattress Warehouse**  
 FREE! Yuma Area and Base DELIVERY & FURNITURE

248 E. 24th St., Yuma • Open Sun. 11 to 3 • Ph. 782-2606

# Commissaries to collect, recycle plastic bags

By Jessica Rouse,  
DeCA public affairs specialist

Stateside commissary customers will soon have an easy way to recycle plastic bags: Just bring them on their next trip to the commissary and use the new recycle bins.

All stateside commissaries now have plastic bag recycling bins that customers can use to recycle any plastic bag, not just commissary bags. Overseas commissaries are not participating in the program because the agency does not issue recycling contracts overseas.

“We are an environmentally conscious agency, and this is another step in the right direction as we seek new and innovative ways to become ‘greener,’” said Joseph H. Jeu, DeCA director and CEO.

So what happens to those bags? They will be combined with other plastic waste from the commissaries and shipped to recycling centers for processing.

“Last year, we recycled almost three million pounds of plastic in commissaries,” said Randy Eller, chief of DeCA’s environmental

and planning division. “With this service to our customers, we will recycle even more plastic, keeping it out of landfills.”

Commissaries already recycle a lot of waste generated by store operations. In fiscal year 2013, the agency recycled more than 139 million pounds of cardboard, plastic and paper. It has also diverted almost 13 million pounds of food waste, metal and wood from the waste stream, along with the recycling of one million pounds of organic waste. Two commissaries are testing dehydrators that reduce the weight of the organic waste by 85 percent and produce compost. The agency’s goal is to recycle 80 percent of all recyclable material generated in stores worldwide by the end of fiscal year 2014.

“More and more of our customers are adopting green lifestyles, and they want the retailers they use to do likewise,” said Jeu. “That’s what DeCA is working toward; whether it’s through recycling or offering our customers earth friendly products, we are doing our part to protect our environment.”

# Voluntary Leave donations needed

We have YPG family members in need of assistance. Leave donations as small as one hour are truly appreciated. We can only accept donations from Appropriated Fund civil service employees.

The Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (VLTP) is a way to donate annual leave to co-workers who are experiencing a medical emergency (their own or a family member’s emergency) and do not have enough leave to cover their absences. These employees have used or will use all sick and annual leave before being eligible to receive donations.

YPG currently has a small number of employees on the VLTP recipient list:

- Bendele, Benjamin, YTC, surgery
- Egbers, Adrienne, MICC, birth of child
- Gehrer, Daniel, Mission RM, surgery and recovery
- Hickey, Christine, MICC, death of family member
- Lemme, Audra, Mission RM, son continues to

suffer from ongoing health complications

- Mitson, Scott, YTC, surgery
- Myers, James, MICC, Care giver during wife’s treatment, surgery and post-op
- Ruble, Maribel, MICC, Newborn daughter will undergo several reconstructive surgeries

Any donation will be appreciated by the recipient. You can donate as little as one hour of annual leave or as much as one half of what you accrue in a leave year, although you must be able to use “use or lose” annual leave before the end of the leave year.

If you are interested in donating annual leave to your co-worker, just complete Optional Form 630-A and forward it back to the CPAC. We’ll see the donation gets to the appropriate recipient. Please note, I can only accept donations that indicate to whom the hours are to be given - please indicate who should be given your hours. You can split the donations, as long as donations are in full-hour increments.

## Don’t forget to pick up a college education on your next trip to the commissary!

The Scholarships for Military Children Program can help with a **\$2,000** scholarship!



**For information, contact your local commissary, school guidance counselor, or visit the program website at [www.militaryscholar.org](http://www.militaryscholar.org) or [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com).**

Applications available Dec. 3, 2013  
Application deadline: Feb. 28, 2014

Store Manager, Lance Bentley (928)328-2927



Whether You’re Coming or Going I’ve Got You Covered!

**Isabel Shadle**

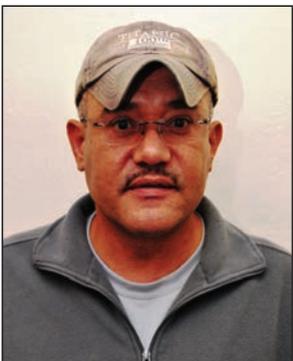
If you are a first time buyer or need a specialist for a short sale, let me help you transition in or out of Yuma

**CELL 928.941.0608**



## VIEWPOINTS

Another year, another set of New Year's resolutions! We asked members of the workforce, "What are your new year's resolutions?"



**Ismael Del Valle**  
Telecommunications specialist

To be safety conscious the whole year, wherever I am, all 365 days. Just driving can be dangerous. Stay alert, stay alive.

**Richard Bellman**  
Operations officer

I want to do a lot more fishing, get my pontoon boat finished up and put it out on the river, and buy a home in Puerto Rico. The house will be a winter house: when I retire, I'll be a snowbird and won't have to worry anymore.



**Capt. Sean Underhill**  
Training officer

I'll have my newborn in June, so I want to be a good dad and not mess it up. I also want to transition out of the Army and return to my civilian job.



**Next Outpost deadline is noon  
January 9th  
Sexual Assault Hotline:  
920-3104 or 328-3224  
Report Domestic Violence:  
328-2720**



### RAZOR SHARP PERFORMANCE FEATURES

- 88-HP DOHC Polaris® ProStar® 900
- 3-Link Trailing-Arm Suspension with 14" of travel
- Walker Evans™ shocks
- Long wheelbase and a low center of gravity
- Available with Electronic Power Steering (EPS)

**FIND YOURS TODAY AT:**



**Tues.-Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-4 • Sun. & Mon. "Gone Ridin"**  
**1999 Arizona Ave. • 782-7588**

**GET DUNE PASSES HERE!**



Warning: The Polaris RANGER and RZR are not intended for on-road use. Driver must be at least 16 years old with a valid driver's license to operate. Passengers must be at least 12 years old and tall enough to grasp the hand holds and plant feet firmly on the floor. All SXS drivers should take a safety training course. Contact ROHMA at www.rohma.org or (949) 255-2560 for additional information. Drivers and passengers should always wear helmets, eye protection, protective clothing, and seat belts. Always use cab nets. Be particularly careful on difficult terrain. Never drive on public roads or paved surfaces. Never engage in stunt driving, and avoid excessive speeds and sharp turns. Riding and Alcohol/Drugs don't mix. Check local laws before riding on trails. ©2012 Polaris Industries Inc.

# Special Response Team trains at YPG

By Mark Schauer

In towns large and small across the country, citizens have come to expect their law enforcement agencies to be able to handle threats of all sizes. But the tactical skills required to successfully engage the most dangerous and desperate criminals require intense and frequent training.

Recently, members of the Yuma County Sheriff's Office's (YCSO) Special Response Team (SRT) spent several days at YPG using an urban training facility as part of their basic Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) training. The week-long course offers intense instruction in how to forcefully and safely end a standoff. The training is dynamic and realistic,

enough so to make the proving ground's isolation a coveted asset.

"When people see deputies fully clothed in their tactical gear with long guns, they usually think something is going on," said Alfonso Zavala, YCSO public information officer. "Especially with what is going on in this country and the prevalence of social media, it scares people."

Hosting this training also has an additional benefit for the proving ground: YCSO provides SRT services to YPG in the event of an emergency.

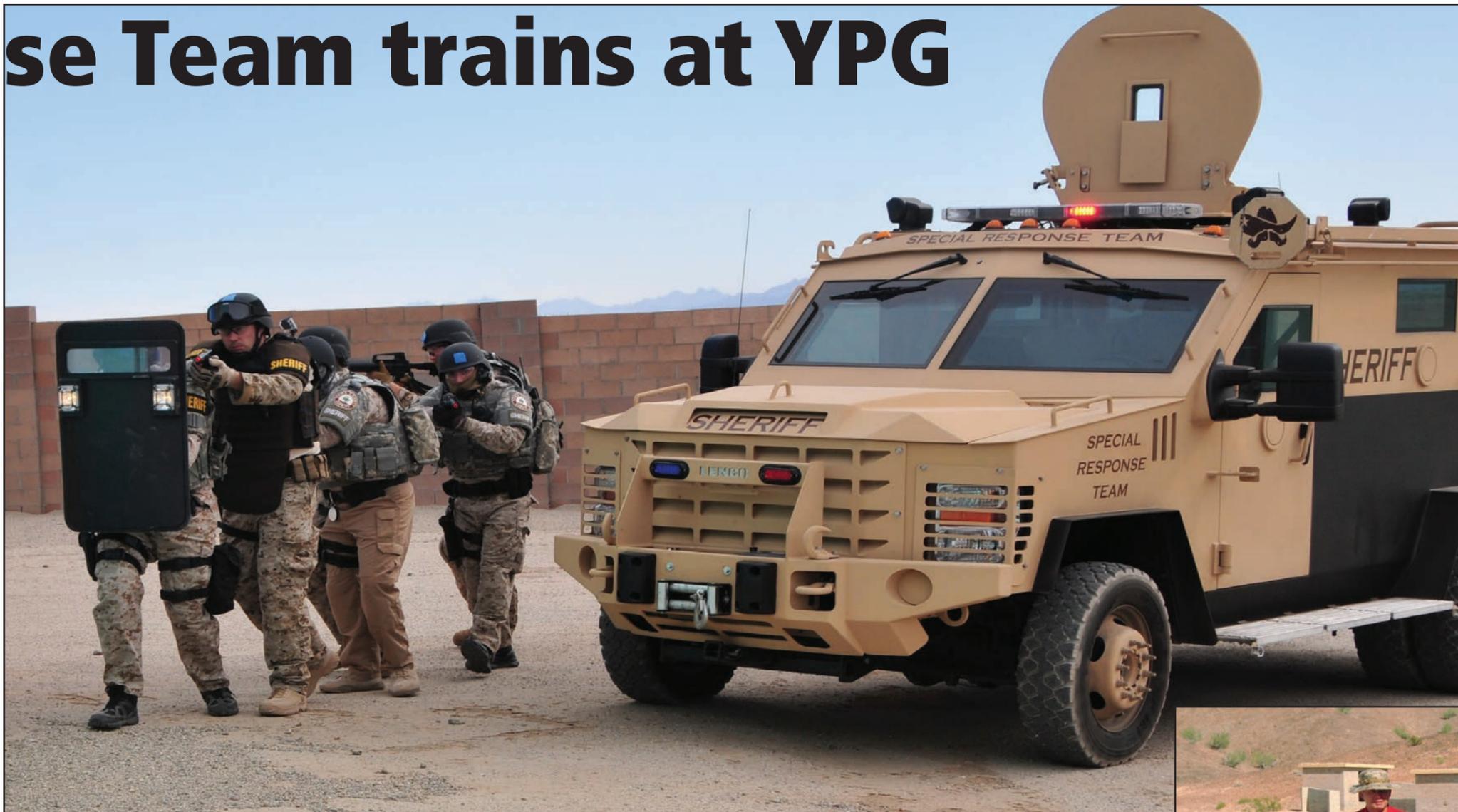
While most military installations focus on training combat forces, YPG's primary mission is testing equipment in the Army's ground combat arsenal. But the proving ground also hosts training for both military units and civilian law enforcement agencies, including the Yuma Police Department, the Arizona Department of Public Safety, and the United States Bureau of Customs and Border Protection. YPG has several large facilities that

simulate urban environments, and the ones used primarily for training are specially designed for hard use. There are no exposed nails or other hazards that could injure people running inside, for example. The teams that train here are also free to use items like simulated rounds and flashbang grenades that the typical civilian property owner would not allow.

"Coming out to YPG is a huge benefit to the Sheriff's Office because we can actually use the buildings," said Zavala. "This site is great because there are no other buildings in town like this where we can use Simunition and have no possibility of anyone seeing what we do and how we do it."

"Training here means no worries of injury to bystanders, damage to property, or tort claims," added Luis Arroyo, Training and Exercise Management Office chief. "It gives them the peace of mind to train while maintaining personal security and operational security."

During their time at the proving ground, the SRT members formed into groups that rotated between different training scenarios. Some missions involved team members approaching buildings using an armored rescue vehicle owned by YCSO. The groups conducted tricky tactical entrances in which each officer had to climb stairs into a dark building and secure rooms while keeping eyes trained on the sight of their weapons -- constantly scanning for threats and not breaking formation or momentum. When maneuvering in cramped places in chaotic conditions, wounds from friendly fire are a distinct possibility, a reality that officers train to guard against. As such, the officers are particularly interested in training to



**Some missions during the team's training at YPG involved approaching buildings using an armored rescue vehicle. The proving ground's isolation enables law enforcement to train dynamically without members of the public thinking an actual call is in progress. YPG's facilities give military units and civilian law enforcement agencies high value training in realistic settings that allow the use of items like simulated rounds and flash-bang grenades that the typical civilian property owner wouldn't allow.**

use silent hand signals when moving tactically.

"Once they're inside a building, there is no communication verbally," said Zavala. "It is all by hand to keep the element of surprise throughout the mission."

The deputies engaged in the training appreciated the facilities YPG has to offer, and hope to return

in the future.

"A couple years ago when I was still on active duty at the Freefall School, we used one of the buildings over there," said Deputy Dan Zarnik, a member of the SRT. "Since then we've actually done a lot more out here, which is great training with stuff we can't really get out in the public."



**Sheriff's deputies take a simulated adversary into custody following a successful role-play scenario during their training.**

(PHOTOS BY MARK SCHAUER)



**As instructors watch, members of the Yuma County Sheriff's Office Special Response Team make a tactical entry onto the second level of a building in one of YPG's urban skills facilities. The team conducted tricky entrances in which each officer had to climb stairs and secure rooms while keeping eyes trained on the sight of their weapons -- constantly scanning for threats and not breaking formation or momentum.**

# We Are Proud To Help Take Care Of Our Military Families



### Valley Location

2377 S. 22nd Drive  
Yuma, AZ 85364  
928-343-0488

Mon. - Fri.: 7:00am - 7:00pm  
Sat. - Sun.: Closed

### Prime Care Kids:

Mon. - Fri.: 5pm - 11pm  
Sat. - Sun.: 1pm - 6pm



### Central Location

284 W. 32nd Street  
Yuma, AZ 85364  
928-341-4563

24 Hrs 7 Days a Week



### Foothills Location

11142 S. Scottsdale Drive  
Yuma, AZ 85367  
928-345-6830

Mon. - Fri.: 7:00am - 7:00pm  
Sat. - Sun.: Closed



## — CHAPLAIN'S CORNER — Thoughts for the NEW YEAR

Submitted by Chaplain (Maj.)  
Douglas Thomison

Happy New Year YPG! I hope your year ended on a good note, and you are off to a terrific 2014. I don't know about you, but I am not interested in making New Year resolutions. However, I do like to review the previous year, and try to improve on the next year. Previously in my Outpost column I have conveyed the need to seek balance in our lives. A healthy sense of balance can be achieved when we exercise our mind, body, spirit, social and family. With that said, possibly you can ponder along with me the following questions as we begin the New Year and strive for overall fitness.

1. What's one thing you could do

this year to increase your enjoyment of God?

2. What area of your life most needs simplifying, and what's one way you could simplify in that area?

3. What's the single most important thing you could do to improve the quality of your family life this year?

4. Who do you most want to encourage this year?

5. What is your most important financial goal this year, and what is the most important step you can take toward achieving it?

6. In what area of your life do you most need change, and what will you do about it this year?

You may want to try to answer and implement some or all of these questions. I hope and pray you have a fruitful year. Have a blessed day!

**Come by and ask about our new**

Bill Alexander's  
**FLIGHT-LINE**



- ☆ **Special Military Discounted Prices.**
- ☆ **Increased Trade-In Values.**
- ☆ **Complimentary 12 Month/12,000 Mile Limited Warranties.**
- ☆ **Additional Discount On parts & Labor.**
- ☆ **Other Special Rewards.**



**1350 E. 32nd Street**

**928-314-3400**



[www.primecareyuma.com](http://www.primecareyuma.com)



## Christmas, a season for giving

YPG's annual Christmas tree lighting took place on the proving ground's main administrative area the evening of December 11th, attracting a crowd of nearly 150 people. Holiday refreshments were served, carols were sung and Santa Clause arrived on a YPG fire truck as the event came to an end. Event participants had a great deal of fun and lots of smiles were seen. The American Legion Post 19 brought more good cheer to YPG families and dependents with food boxes for Christmas dinner celebrations. In addition, YPG's Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation Directorate, distributed gift boxes to more YPG families and residents of the installation. Among the workforce, an "Ugly Christmas Sweater" contest was held among several offices at YPG, which featured lots of colorful holiday sweaters and GREAT snacks. Most of the sweaters were far from ugly, however, and everyone participating wore huge ...smiles. The judges faced a big challenge in identifying female and male winners -- the three judges said it was a "tough choice." The judges did point out that the decision wasn't difficult in the male category since there were only two entries. Everyone had a splendid time and it was a great occasion to share some holiday good cheer. (Photos by Mark Schauer)



# Drugged Driving

Drinking and Driving. Most of us are aware of the dangers with this combination and there has been a slight decrease in the number of alcohol related crashes. Drunk driving statistics may be down, but something else is going up... drugged driving related crashes.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 1 in 6 weekend nighttime drivers tested positive for illicit drugs or medication in 2007. Many of these drivers are under the influence of THC, the active ingredient in marijuana. After marijuana, prescription drugs such as opiates, amphetamines, and benzodiazepines were the top factors in drugged driving accidents. Most incidents of drugged driving were a result of taking legal prescription drugs.

Commonly prescribed medications for pain relief, sleep disorders, and anxiety are labeled with a warning message advising the consumer to take caution when driving a car. Side effects such as drowsiness, slowed reaction time, and dizziness are common. In addition, these medications mixed with some over-the-counter (OTC) drugs can actually exasperate, or create new side effects, that may also affect a person's driving ability. In Arizona, you may face legal consequences due to this impairment.

Driving under the influence of a medication in AZ can result in a charge of Driving Under the Influence (DUI) even if a driver has a legal prescription when a police officer suspects impairment. The first misdemeanor charge can result in a minimum of 24 hours in jail plus financial expenses. Arizona is one of 12 states that have a zero-tolerance policy for any amount of drugs in a drivers system. Why are Arizona and the United States cracking down on driving while taking certain medications? In 2009, the NHTSA found that 18 percent of drivers fatally injured were found to have at least one prescription or illegal drug in their system.

YPG Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) would like to remind all drivers to take a look at their prescription and OTC medications to see if there is a warning message about driving while consuming. If so, talk to your doctor about possible adjusting your medication schedule. Also, take caution when mixing prescription and OTC medication. Finally, mixing alcohol and medication can also create a dangerous combination. For additional information, please contact ASAP at 928-328-3090 or your local police station for AZ DUI law clarification.

Be Informed, Make Smart Choices, and Arrive Alive.

# YPG Soldier returns home for Christmas

By Yolie Canales

The traditional song "I'll Be Home for Christmas," recorded by Bing Crosby in 1943, has become a favorite, particularly when loved ones come home for the holidays.

The lyrics of the song are from the point of view of a lonely Soldier serving overseas during World War II, who is writing a letter to his family. He tells them he will be coming home and to prepare the holiday for him including requests for "snow," "mistletoe" and "presents under the tree." The musical number ends on a melancholy note, with the Soldier saying "I'll be home for Christmas, if only in my dreams."

For Jennifer Davis and son, Kaleb and daughter, Elizabeth, their Soldier, Master Sgt. Brian Davis, did not come home as part of a dream. He returned home in real life.

Today, seven months after her husband deployed to Afghanistan, Jennifer and her son were at Yuma International Airport with balloons in hand to welcome him home in time for Christmas. "It's been a long time for all of us," said Jennifer. "Kaleb really missed his daddy and is so excited to see him now," she said with a gleam in her eye.

A 22 year veteran of the Army, Davis learned last spring that he would be deploying to Afghanistan. He shipped over in June to begin his deployment. "This is my job and when orders come down, regardless of what they say, as a Soldier I'm ready to go," he said. "It feels awesome to be back home with my family. I missed my little guy's third birthday, his potty training and just hanging out with him." He also missed his wedding anniversary, Thanksgiving and much more. "It's



(PHOTO BY YOLIE CANALES)

**Back from a seven month deployment to Afghanistan and just in time for Christmas, Master Sgt. Brian Davis embraces his son, Kaleb, at the Yuma International Airport.**

time to catch up, enjoy the time off with my family and get in some of that good golfing time with the guys too and then back to work."

Deployments are difficult both for the Soldier and for the family, something Davis well appreciates. He is presenting his wife with a weeklong vacation in Hawaii that will accomplish two goals – relaxation for her and, for him, personal time with the kids at home.

Before departing the airport, he made a point of extending his appreciation to all his family, friends and the local military community for their support during his deployment. "I'm happy to be back in Yuma. Merry Christmas to all from everyone in my family."

**Come And Join Us!**

*Red's Bird Cage Saloon*

Located in the heart of Historic Downtown Yuma  
**231 Main St. • 928-783-1050**  
 Mon-Sat 9am - 2:30am • Open Sunday 6am

00017474

# We care about eye care... you'll see!



Dr. Aiello is a Retired Air Force Senior Flight Surgeon and State Air Surgeon for the Arizona National Guard with 27 years of military service.

Dr. Aiello is the only Ophthalmologist doing Lasik and PRK in Yuma, Arizona.



Protect your eyes with quality, fashion sunglasses - regular or prescription.

## MILITARY DISCOUNTS



**Aiello Eye Institute**

**(928) 782-1980**

*Se Habla Español*

- Free Lasik Evaluations
- Eye Surgery
- Eye Exams
- Ask about Our Special Eyeglass Packages

*We Accept Both  
Health & Vision  
Insurance Plans*

— 2 Convenient Locations —  
275 W. 28th Street • Yuma

11551 S. Fortuna Rd., Ste. E • Foothills

[www.yumaeyedoctor.com](http://www.yumaeyedoctor.com)

**LASIK**  
Starting at  
**\$699\***

# WINTER CASH

Giveaway

WIN YOUR SHARE OF  
**OVER \$36,000**  
 IN CASH & REWARDS PLAY  
 EVERY SATURDAY IN JANUARY

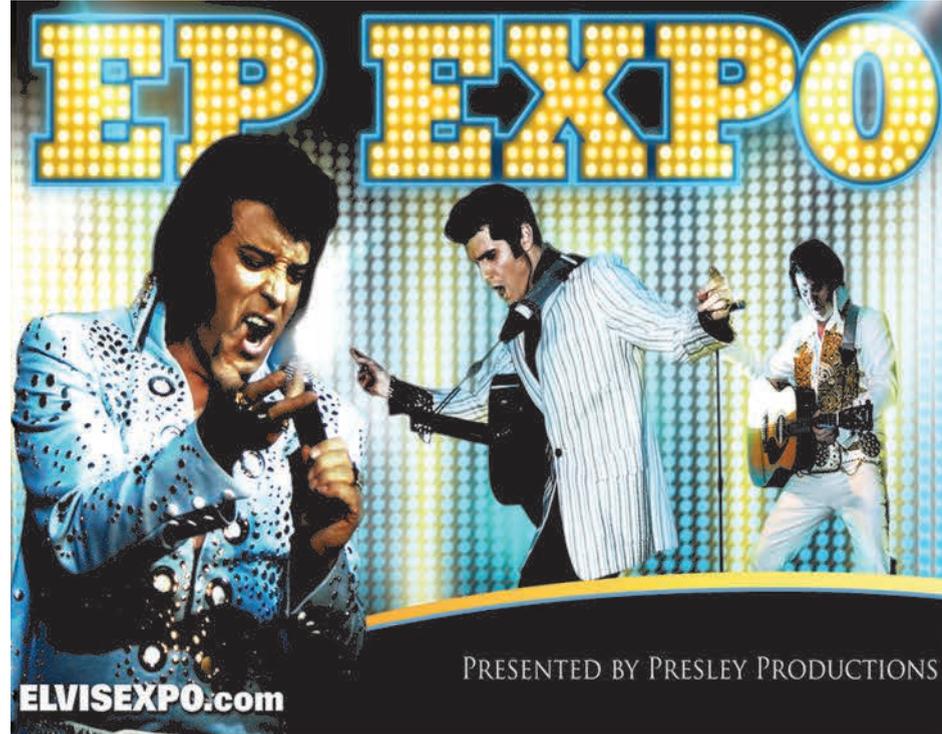


**EARN A GIFT EVERY WEEKEND THROUGH MARCH!**

NEW ITEMS EVERY WEEK

**Paradise CASINO**

SLOTS | BINGO | SHARKY'S BAR & BITES | SEAHORSE RESTAURANT  
 888-777-4946 | PARADISE-CASINOS.COM | YUMA.AZ



ELVISEXPO.com

PRESENTED BY PRESLEY PRODUCTIONS

**JANUARY 16 - 18, 2014**

PIPA EVENT CENTER | AGES 21 YRS. & OLDER  
 WORLDWIDE TRIBUTE CONTEST SPECIAL SHOWCASE  
 CELEBRITY GUESTS • MEET & GREET • VENDORS  
 AND MUCH, MUCH MORE

startickets For tickets visit startickets.com  
 casino box office or call 800-585-3737



**JANUARY 16 - 18**  
**11AM - 3PM**

EARN 200 POINTS TO PARTICIPATE IN EACH DAILY SLOT TOURNAMENT  
 FIRST PLACE PAYS \$500 IN REWARDS PLAY EACH DAY



QUECHAN CASINO RESORT  
 877-783-2426 | PLAYQCR.COM | WINTERHAVEN, CA