

THE OUTPOST

U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground, Yuma, Arizona 85365

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YPG pilot inducted into Order of St. Michael

By Mark Schauer

With over 11,000 flight hours in a career that has spanned five decades, pilot Ralph Arnold, chief of YPG's Flight Services Division, was recently inducted into the Honorable Order of St. Michael.

Reserved for individuals who have made exceptional contributions in the field of Army aviation, the achievement was a long-coveted goal for Arnold.

"To be honest, this was probably the last milestone I wanted to get before I retired," said Arnold. "I plan to work until I'm 62, then retire. After that, what I'd like to do is work part time as an airplane flight instructor."

Arnold's love of flying dates back to early childhood.

"As I was growing up in Mississippi in the early 1960s, I'd see airplanes crop dusting cotton fields, and that always intrigued me," he recalled. "So I built several wooden airplanes, stepped inside them, picked them up, and imitated what the crop dusters were doing."

Despite his love of airplanes, he originally enlisted in the Army as an infantryman in



(PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER)

Lt. Col. Chad Harris, commander of YPG's Yuma Test Center (left), presents YPG Flight Services Division Chief Ralph Arnold with the coveted St. Michael's award in honor of his many contributions within the Army aviation field.

1972, serving in the 101st Airborne. It was in this capacity that his interest in aviation was reignited.

"At Fort Campbell, early one morning, I was in a foxhole with water at the bottom, freezing," Arnold said. "A flight of Hueys flew in to pick us up and take us to another foxhole. I looked up front

and there was a guy sitting in the left seat and he had on a helmet with helmet art on it, a big handlebar mustache, and a steaming cup of coffee, and I said to myself, 'that's what I want to do.'"

Less than a year later, Arnold was in warrant officer flight school. He was a distinguished graduate of the

program for rotary aircraft, and soon progressed to fixed wing aircraft as well. In both the regular Army and Oklahoma and Arizona National Guards, Arnold flew a dozen different aircraft, and was deployed to Kuwait in support of overseas operations in 2004. Having retired as Chief Warrant Officer 5 the following year,

some people may wonder if his new job at YPG was underwhelming in comparison. It wasn't.

"In the early days here it was hot and heavy," said Arnold. "We flew different missions every day, sometimes airplanes and helicopters in the same day. Some of the stuff was pushing the airframe's envelope: it was pretty exciting."

His reputation for excellence quickly followed him.

"He made a name for himself in terms of that same confidence with our customers," said Pat Franklin, aviation test officer. "We had a helicopter test recently where there was a photographic chase requirement and Arnold was flying the photo chase. It was very difficult because the helicopter under test was doing maneuvers that were pretty much outside the envelope of the Huey's capabilities, but Arnold was able to figure out ways to maneuver the Huey and get the photographers the locations and shots they needed. I think it speaks volumes about Ralph's flight capabilities and expertise. He's an all-around great guy and an asset to YPG."

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watering the
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Honoring Veterans Day

In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies grow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high!
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

— *By Lt. Col. John McCrae, from original 1915 manuscript*



VETERANS DAY

Volunteer Leave Transfer Program update

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:

- 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

*New to the program

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, CPAC 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.

THE OUTPOST

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SAFETY CORNER

Tips for Proper Workshop Safety

Submitted by Anne Fisher

A workshop is only as safe as you make it. One must ensure proper workshop safety since ultimately you are responsible for the safety of the personnel. Even a home workshop requires that you take care of safety measures. Here are a few ground rules.

Keep the workshop as clean as you possibly can. Of course, a workshop is used for a number of uses and it can easily get cluttered. Make it a habit to organize on a daily basis. Even just putting tools and apparatus away in proper places would be a great beginning.

Next, remember to keep all

combustible items away from spark-producing activities. All inflammable articles must be away from your welding table. Keep a fixed place to store your gas can. Paint and glass can be damaged by sparks from a grinder, so keep these away from spark-producing equipment as well.

Remember to wear safety goggles and face shield when grinding or using cutting tools. Never put off this safety essential that can prevent you from serious injury. Wearing them ensures you never have to go to the emergency room.

Have reliable support for all your equipment. This prevents

objects from falling, and causing painful injuries. Maintain organization and control of your work space.

Take care of sudden interruptions in the form of kids, pets or friends who might just walk into your workshop. Make arrangements to keep such safe so that there are no hazards. Visualize and plan your projects with a view to avoid accidents.

Ensure the usefulness of your tools in that they are up to the mark and ready for use. It can be quite frustrating to find out that a tool is not working when you need it to work.

You should also stay focused

on the job with a great deal of concentration so as to ensure things do not go wrong. If you are not feeling up to it, leave the job for another time. Follow your intuition and instinct.

You must also keep all precautions in mind when you undertake a job with inherent serious risks involved. Never imbibe alcohol when you are going to be in your workshop. You should also avoid your workshop when emotionally upset and only work when relaxed, and in control of your mind and body.

Remember: "NOBODY GETS HURT."

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Feeding and watering wildlife? Stop!

Submitted by Daniel Steward

Here at YPG we are fortunate to live and work in one of the richest desert environments in the United States.

Our rugged desert mountains, washes, and the Colorado River next door, provide superb habitat for wildlife such as bighorn sheep, mule deer, coyotes, and many other species. YPG also exemplifies the American Southwest with the presence of wild horses and burros.

Many of our employees and residents take great interest and pride in the wildlife around them. We encourage everyone to experience the wildlife of YPG, but it is important to do so safely.

Occasionally we have some negative interactions with wildlife. Coyotes can become a nuisance and wild horses and burros are a hazard on the roads. YPG has recently enacted a policy to prevent feeding and watering of wildlife in order to prevent



(LOANED PHOTOS)

Residents and members of the workforce are not to feed coyotes, burros and horses that roam on the installation.

aggressive behavior of wildlife and to reduce vehicle collisions.

One of the most common animals causing mischief around YPG is the coyote. Coyotes are extremely adaptable and can easily coexist with people. These wild canids are naturally shy and will flee when they sense human presence. However, when coyotes are deliberately or

accidentally fed by humans they lose their fear of people. In some cases, this can lead to aggression. Coyotes occasionally attack pets on YPG and in one case even bit an employee's boot. Nationally most cases of coyotes attacking humans involve the animals that were fed by people.

Coyotes are attracted to pet food and

unsecured garbage. Intentional feeding of coyotes is particularly dangerous because the animals learn to expect food from people. It may seem innocent to toss unwanted leftovers to a nearby coyote, but that same animal may visit someone's home and endanger pets or children. Once a coyote associates humans with food, the coyote's life is

in danger. Did you ever hear the saying "a fed coyote is a dead coyote"? When in close proximity to people coyotes are more susceptible to being hit by cars, shot, drowned in canals, and other accidents. Sadly, if a coyote becomes aggressive toward humans, the likelihood of the coyote's demise is far greater than in the wild.

Possibly the most devastating type of negative interactions with wildlife are vehicle collisions with animals. Each year dozens of collisions occur between vehicles and wildlife, including deer, wild burros and horses.

These accidents result in tremendous damage to vehicles, and usually death of the animal involved. Occupants of the vehicles have been injured and killed as a result of these collisions in the past. Impacts with wild horses and burros are particularly dangerous due to the animals' large size.

In an effort to minimize collisions YPG

is actively managing water sources used by horses and burros. We are closing or installing burro fences on water sources that are near busy roads to reduce the amount of time the animals spend near roads. This is not an easy task because sometimes even lawn sprinklers produce enough water to attract horses and burros.

Wildlife on YPG is a valuable resource and we all play an important role in conserving it as well as keeping our community safe. You can help by keeping pet food indoors, securing garbage cans, and picking up fruit fallen from trees. Use caution when driving around YPG and observe the posted speed limits. Many of our roads have curves and dips that make it difficult to see animals in the road. Don't drive faster than your headlights. If you have any questions or concerns about wildlife you observe on YPG, please contact the Environmental Sciences Division at 328-2125.

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VIEWPOINTS

The calling feature of cell phones is important, but how often do users dial out instead of using a bevy of apps? We asked members of the workforce, "What is your favorite smart phone app?"



Justin Canzonetta
Test Officer

Mint.com has a free app that you can put all of your different bank accounts, credit cards, and loans into and get reminders of payments due and tips on budgeting and saving money. My bank doesn't have a mobile app, so it's nice to use this when I'm on the go.

Steve Flores
Branch chief

I downloaded an odometer app to measure my bike route because I was curious about how much I'm exercising. They have them with all the bells and whistles that let you share how far you've pedaled on Facebook and other social media, but I don't need any of that stuff.



Spec. Richard Franco
Health Clinic

It's called What's App, and it has a texting feature, video, voice, and awesome icons. It's better than texting, and it's easy to use to communicate with people around the world for free.



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Lt. Col. Chad Harris comforts his little son, who was not too happy with all the activity that was going around.

YPG's Fall Festival highlights...

By Yolie Canales

Approximately 200 military and civilian families took advantage of excellent evening weather in late October to participate in a variety of fun activities at YPG's annual fall festival.

Sponsored by YPG's Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation Directorate, the event was held on Cox Field with over 20 game booths, rides and other attractions. "This was the first time our family attended the fall festival," said Tiffany Fraser, document control technician for the Combat Automotive Division. "It was really nice, safe, and fun. Our three and half year son and I had a ball." She said the festival had games for children of all ages but the best thing was, instead of passing out candy to kids, they passed out toys.

"We loved it and plan to attend next year," she said

Mardy Clark, family support director, said this was an event that bought together entire families, friends and neighbors in one place. "It was particularly good to see the support of offices and organizations throughout the YPG community, as well as all individuals who volunteered to ensure the success of this event," he said.

Clark pointed out that food and refreshments were available for everyone. About 100 hot dogs were sold by the Price Elementary School Parent Teacher Association. In addition, there were free snow cones, popcorn and cotton candy. "Our biggest attraction was the pony rides," he said. "It was one of the favorites,

though the giant slide and the costume contest were other big attractions. My personal favorite was the free snow-cones," he smiled.

An additional attraction was the haunted house sponsored by middle school students and teens. A costume parade was held by children of the Child Development Center on Thursday, Oct. 31st (Halloween Day). This gave proud parents the opportunity to march in the parade alongside their children, which is always a fun activity.

Clark said if anyone wishes to see more booths or different activities at the festival next year, event organizers are open to suggestions. Just call 328-3119.



As always, Sparky from the YPG Fire Department made his rounds adding an extra funny costume to the event.



Most popular attraction at the festival was the pony rides. Children, ranging from infants to teenagers, enjoy the pony rides along Cox Field.



SPOOKY SEASON

From pirates, to cowboys to little farmers and Frankenstein, the children (right) enjoyed themselves throughout the Halloween activities.



From adults to teenagers to small children (at left), the Fall Festival had a little bit of fun for all!



Several girls dressed in pretty costumes enjoy the "sack race" as they hop their way to the finish line.

Included in the Halloween festivities, were the students of Price Elementary School who marched in their costumes through YPG streets.

al highlights...



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Several girls dressed in pretty costumes enjoy the "sack race" as they hop their way to the finish line.



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Domestic Violence Awareness Month observed at YPG

Paul Kilanski, Family Advocacy Program Manager, observes as Yuma Proving Ground employees take advantage of the free educational and promotional items at the ROC building during "Domestic Violence Awareness Month." Domestic Violence Awareness Month evolved from the first Day of Unity observed in October 1981 by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The intent was to connect battered women's advocates across the nation who were working to end violence against women and their children. The Day of Unity soon became a special week when a range of activities were conducted at the local, state, and national levels.



(PHOTO BY YOLIE CANALES)



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(PHOTO BY LISA MORALES)

Winners of the poster contest (not in order) are Syney Deweese, Natalie Heller, Chase Pinto and Mailey Puma.

Hispanic Poster contest winners announced

By Yolie Canales

For the past 39 years, Yuma Proving Ground has observed Hispanic Heritage Month with an array of activities highlighting the rich culture, history and contributions Hispanics have made to our nation. Week long activities highlighting Hispanic Month have included a luncheon, religious services, a salsa tasting contest and a poster/essay contest with students from Price Elementary School participating.

This year, however, the luncheon and salsa tasting contest had to be cancelled due to the federal government shutdown that affected YPG's 2000 member workforce.

However, two of its activities did take place: the Post Chapel's religious services and the poster contest. At the chapel, an array of Mexican pastries and refreshments were provided for both Catholic and Protestant Sunday services.

At the school, a panel of judges met to select the best posters submitted by students from Price Elementary School. Prizes were awarded to the winners of this contest. The winners



(PHOTO BY YOLIE CANALES)

Rudy Rodriguez casts his vote at the poster contest judging.

selected are as follows: Syney Deweese, Kindergarten, Peru; Natalie Heller, 1st grade, Puerto Rico; Chase Pinto, Brazil; and Mailey Puma, 4th grade, Mexico.

Yuma Proving Ground's Garrison and the Equal Opportunity Office appreciate the hard work and effort in planning for this year's observance. A special thanks to the Hispanic Committee and chairperson for their dedication to this year's program.

Commissaries to start scanning IDs

By DeCA Public Affairs Division

Commissaries will soon begin scanning customers' Department of Defense (DoD) ID cards at checkouts as the Defense Commissary Agency continues its pursuit to deliver a 21st century benefit.

The commissary at Fort Lee, Va., became the first store to scan ID cards on Oct. 22 as the first part of an agency-wide rollout to all stores that begins Nov. 10 and will be completed by mid-January.

Commissary shoppers are used to showing their ID cards to establish their eligibility to use the commissary. By scanning the ID at checkout, DeCA will no longer need to maintain any personal information on customers in its computer systems, such as the system used for customers who write checks. Scanning will also help improve the commissary benefit for all patrons, according to Joseph H. Jeu, DeCA

director and CEO.

Cross-referenced with other DOD data, the scan data will give DeCA useful information about patron usage, by military service, along with customer demographics that does not identify specific personal data of an individual. This will eventually help the agency identify shopping needs and preferences – information that is essential in today's retail business environment. It will also allow more accurate reporting to the military services on commissary usage.

The demographic information DeCA will use is strictly limited to: card ID number, rank, military status, branch of service, age, household size and ZIP codes of residence and duty station. DeCA will not be using any personal information such as names, addresses or phone numbers.

"The methods, processes and information we'll use will not compromise our customers' privacy – they can be sure of that," Jeu said.

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FY13 - 4TH QUARTER ICE CUSTOMER SERVICE ROLL CALL

Congratulations to the following personnel who are recognized for their great customer service at Yuma Proving Ground. YPG customers were so impressed with their service, they submitted ICE comments to tell us what a terrific job they did. If you would like to comment on our Service Providers go to <http://ice.disa.mil>

<i>Ellis, Marc</i>	<i>Morales, Adam</i>	<i>Russell, Nina</i>
<i>Everly, Connie</i>	<i>Ornelas, Mike</i>	<i>Santochi, Gail</i>
<i>Ford, Marty</i>	<i>Pagan, Mike</i>	<i>Sawyer, Steve</i>
<i>Hanley, Mark</i>	<i>Parker, Kevin</i>	<i>Van Why, Ron</i>
<i>Lee, Christopher</i>	<i>Rodriguez, Ronald</i>	<i>Ward, Steve</i>

— CHAPLAIN'S CORNER — What's Important

By Chaplain (Maj.) Douglas Thomison

Hello from the YPG Chapel. It is hard to believe that November has arrived. Hopefully you are enjoying Yuma's fine weather as well as increased outdoor activities. With the onset of November it causes me to reflect on the changing season, the year beginning to wind down, Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving (I will mention Thanksgiving in my next column). In short, there are many significant matters to consider.

To assist us in bringing to mind what's important, we may reflect on past experiences. I recall attending many church and community fall festivals. It was there that bonfires, weenie and marshmallow roasts, homemade pumpkin, pecan and apple pies, and hot apple cider, was delicious and plentiful.

I also remember attending many Field Artillery Advanced Individual Training (AIT) graduation ceremonies at Fort Sill, Okla. At each and every ceremony, the song "Proud To Be An American" by Lee Greenwood was played. A video clip of Soldiers past and present coincided with the music. You may recall the chorus lyrics:

And I'm proud to be an American,
where at least I know I'm free.
And I won't forget the men who died,
who gave that right to me.
And I gladly stand up,

next to you and defend her still today.
'Cause there ain't no doubt I love this land,
God bless the USA.

For me, this song truly embodies Americans overall and veterans in particular. It is so very important to recall what our veterans have sacrificed for us over the past 238 years. Thank you!

It is key to remember our past. It is also important to connect past reflections with making new memories. In doing so, you may want to attend or even march in a Veteran's Day parade, sing a patriotic song, fly an American flag at your residency, volunteer, join a veteran's organization, etc. Do consider ways to make new memories and further our great history. Yes, November is here with sound reflections of yesterday and new memories to be made today. Have a blessed day!

YPG Chapel activities

SUNDAY:

9:30 A.M.: CATHOLIC MASS
11 A.M.: PROTESTANT WORSHIP
(FREE CHILDCARE AVAILABLE)

MONDAY:

KIDS KLUB (K-5): 1 P.M. TO 3 P.M.
BEING ALL THAT THE LORD EXPECTS (BATTLE) TEEN
YOUTH GROUP: 6 P.M. TO 7 P.M.

WEDNESDAY:

MOTHERS OF PRESCHOOLERS (MOPS, MEETS EVERY
OTHER WEEK): 9 A.M. TO 11 A.M.
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THURSDAY:

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