

THE OUTPOST

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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

New chaplain pleased to be part of YPG community

By Mark Schauer

Maj. Douglas Thomison has experienced Army life as an enlisted man and an officer, as an artilleryman and a chaplain.

Three months after arriving from Fort Sam Houston, Texas, the new YPG chaplain, his wife, Rosamund, and their children, ages 10 and 8, are adapting well to the new community.

The fifth chaplain serving at YPG since 2008, Thomison requested to be stationed at the proving ground.

“It seemed like a unique setting and challenge: one chaplain, one chapel,” he said. “I heard good things about YPG from people I knew who had served here in the past. It’s a nice setting and a nice community.”

With 19 active duty years under his belt and five more as a reservist, Thomison’s military experiences include deployments to Iraq in 2003 and 2008-09. His military service, however, dates back to 1981. The Portland, Ore. native’s first stint in uniform began as an 18 year old enlistee in the regular Army.

“I wanted to serve and use the military as a stepping stone for the future. I wanted to see the world and use the GI bill to pursue a degree.”

Following this initial enlistment as a field artilleryman, Thomison began college, ultimately graduating from Missouri Western State University with a degree in social work.

“When I was attending school there I was active in the Salvation Army,” he said. “I had never really thought about working there full time, but when I graduated the regional director

of the shelter offered me a job.”

Following this position as manager of a homeless shelter, Thomison gravitated back to the Pacific Northwest, working as a counselor at a Goodwill in downtown Seattle for four years. He found the work rewarding, but wanted to expand his service.

“It was during that time that I really felt a call to ministry. With my Army background as well as my social work background, I really felt led to be a chaplain.”

After attending seminary and being ordained, he served as a pastor in various Methodist churches for five years and joined the Army Chaplain Candidate program. Before long he found himself back in uniform, with an entirely different mission.

“What’s really interesting is I ended up going to several places I had served as a young artilleryman, including Fort Sill, Fort Lewis, and Germany.”

His military chaplaincy also saw him deployed to Iraq with the Fourth Infantry Division and the 30th Medical Brigade.

“It’s an honor to minister to Soldiers away from home in stressful times,” he said of his experiences in theater.

Though YPG is a small post compared to most he has been stationed at, Thomison feels the job is just as important.

“People’s needs are really universal. Circumstances can be different, but needs are very similar.”

Thomison says he plans to sustain current programs such as the Mothers of Preschoolers



(PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER)

Chaplain Douglas Thomison extends an invitation to everyone to look to the chapel as a place for personal and spiritual guidance. The doors are always open.

and summer Vacation Bible School, and praises the chapel’s volunteer staff and chapel organist Steve Embry. He gives particular kudos to longtime YPG Catholic chaplain Monsignor Richard O’Keefe, who he calls, “a bedrock of stability.” Thomison encourages YPG personnel to attend services and look to the chapel as a place for personal and spiritual guidance.

“We’re open and accessible to everyone,” he said.

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YPG supports National Drug-Free Work Week



2013



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Submitted by Chris Lee

The YPG Army Substance Abuse Program's (ASAP) Ready and Resilient Campaign is supporting National Drug-Free Work Week, a U.S. Department of Labor-sponsored event that will take place October 14th-17th. The purpose of Drug-Free Work Week is to educate employers, employees and the general public about the importance of being drug-free as an essential component of a safe and healthful workplace.

In observance of Drug-Free Work Week, ASAP will be engaging in a variety of activities to educate the YPG community on the merits of a drug-free workplace. These efforts include dynamic displays with pamphlets and educational materials

located in the ROC Atrium on Oct 15th and the Cactus Lanes bowling alley on Oct 16th from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Also, on October 17th, ASAP encourages the community to participate in the National Drug-Free Work Week Walk/Run at the YPG Cox Field from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. This event is open to all ages. Participants will be awarded one hour of credit for ASAP training, but please make sure you register at the ASAP table display. Wear red and come out to support a ready, resilient, and drug free community!

Soldiers, DA civilians, family members and retired military personnel with additional questions, please contact ASAP at 328-3090/2249.

THE OUTPOST

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(PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER)

As assistant scoutmaster for local Boy Scout troop 8051, Tropic Regions Test Center director Ernie Hugh (right), teaches young men character and has fun doing it. Here, Hugh quizzes the troop on proper sailing techniques prior to a weekend excursion to Fiesta Island in San Diego's Mission Bay. Hugh has served in various Scouting capacities since his two sons were young.

Former Navy commander teaches sailing to Boy Scouts

By Mark Schauer

For over a century, the Boy Scouts of America have relied on adult volunteers to inculcate young boys in values like trustworthiness, loyalty, thrift, and reverence.

It is an ethos that appeals to Ernie Hugh, former commander in the U.S. Navy and current director of YPG's Tropic Regions Test Center, who serves as an assistant scoutmaster for Boy Scout troop 8051 in his spare time.

"It's a boy-led troop," said Hugh. "The older boys teach the younger ones and the parents make sure they're on the right path. They kind of teach themselves and learn their own leadership style."

With at least one camping trip every two months, Hugh's troop has

plenty of adventures, including trips to Yosemite National Park and Fiesta Island in San Diego's Mission Bay.

"We've kayaked the Colorado River from Hoover Dam down, which is spectacular," Hugh recalled. "Every time we mention that a lot of hands go up—the Scouts really enjoyed that trip."

"The older boys teach the younger ones and the parents make sure they're on the right path."

— Ernie Hugh, former Navy veteran and current director of YPG's Tropic Regions Test Center

Hugh's elder son is an Eagle Scout and his younger one is closing in on the honor. The Hugh family's commitment to the organization spreads beyond the borders of the United States, too. When the U.S. withdrew from Panama

in 1999, for example, the Boy Scouts left along with the American garrisons. Hugh, who spent most of his childhood and much of his naval

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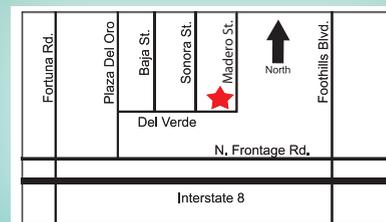
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YPG's best Soldiers recognized

By Yolie Canales

Two Soldiers were recently selected as Yuma Proving Ground's best military personnel. Sgt. Christopher Crow and Spec. Christopher Pierson are the installation's Non Commissioned Officer (NCO) and Soldier of the Quarter.

"Having been selected as NCO of the Quarter means I am on the right path to getting where I want to be and that is being the best leader I can be, and becoming a warrant officer in the near future," said Crow, a health care sergeant for the YPG Health Clinic. He handles a number of responsibilities — he is in charge of the

clinic's operations and the immunization non-commissioned officer in charge, plus he oversees annual training for all the medics.

Crow says his job is unique because he has the ability to hold and assist in multiple positions throughout the clinic. He says challenges are a part of any job but, for him, overcoming challenges are attainable by working hard and staying calm whenever things get tough. He recommends the military to others because of how rewarding and educational it can be.

A six-year veteran of the Army, Crow has been at

YPG since April of this year. "I joined for several reasons, one, my brother is in the Army and, two, I wanted to get better training as an emergency medical technician," he said. "Since joining the Army, I can say that my most rewarding experience has been working in the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C. It was fast paced with lots going on and a close knit unit."

A native of Riverton, Wyo., Crow's inspiration is knowing that he is making things better for others in need. In his spare time, he enjoys rock climbing, hunting and fishing.

Coming from a military

background, Spec. Christopher Pierson has always wanted to be a Soldier, which is why he joined in the first place.

Selected as Soldier of the Quarter, Pierson has been in the military for over four years and recently reenlisted for an additional four. "I always wanted to be a Soldier," said Pierson, who has been at YPG since February of this year.

A patient administrative specialist at the health clinic, he stays busy accounting for patient medical records. "What I find unique is the abundance of medical records I must account for," explained Pierson. "There are

challenges that come my way (mostly, keeping up with all the records) each day, but I always remember that quitters never win. This means I keep marching forward."

Taking part in the competition was a great achievement for Pierson. "I believe that the harder you work the better you become," he said. "Keeping up with my basic Soldier skills means I am ready for anything that comes my way. Hopefully, it will be the Soldier of the Year competition."

Pierson said that joining the Army was a positive step and feels others could gain from joining if they are looking for a career.

The Grapeland, Texas, native says that growing up in a strong family helped him become a military success. "If it weren't for my family, I wouldn't be where I am today, happy and reenlisting for another four years," he said with a smile.

In his spare time, Pierson enjoys hunting, shooting, and collecting shoes and hats.



Two Soldiers were recently selected as Yuma Proving Ground's best military personnel. Sgt. Christopher Crow (right) and Spec. Christopher Pierson are the installation's Non Commissioned Officer (NCO) and Soldier of the Quarter.

(LOANED PHOTOS)

— YPG SPOTLIGHT —

By Yolie Canales

Leslie Wegge, chief of the Staff Support Division, Plans & Operations Directorate,

began her civil service career 35 years ago this November. She came on board as a college student in 1979 via the Cooperative Education Program.

Two weeks after turning 18 years of age, her civil service journey began and as she says, “it’s been quite the adventure!”

“Do all you can with what you have, in the time you have, in the place where you are.”

— Leslie Wegge, chief of the Staff Support Division, Plans & Operations Directorate

As chief of the Staff Support Division, her primary goal is to ensure that her division provides

all around support services to the Yuma Proving Ground command. “There’s a lot of variety in our area and it certainly keeps us on our toes and on our game to ensure that command needs are met,” said Wegge. “Our team is fantastic and they know the true meaning

of esprit de corps; I’m blessed to have a team that

Leslie Wegge

understands that what we do is important and every foot forward needs to be sure and steady.”

Although, Wegge has never served in the military, she feels that as an Army civilian supporting initiatives that help and protect our Soldiers has always been tantamount to her. “Coming from a military family, my father was in the Navy, my sister is retired Air Force, an uncle served in the Marines and a cousin in the Army, military service is sprinkled throughout—we definitely grew up with a love of our country and a deep respect for all military members and their families and sacrifices they put on the line for every

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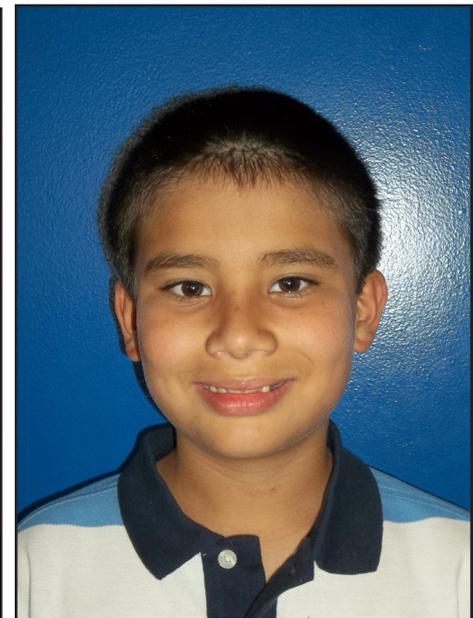
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October Go-Getters



Congratulations to Katrina Policar (left) and Gabriel Thomison (right) from Mrs. Alonzo's 4th and 5th grade class for being selected Price Elementary School "Go-Getters" for the month of October.

Teaching children safety skills

Submitted by Paul J. Kilanski, Family Advocacy Program Manager

You are an ideal person to teach your children basic safety skills. There is no minimum age at which you should start the process of teaching your children basic safety skills, but their ability to understand will be effected by their age and development. Therefore, taking into consideration the foregoing, tailor your communication.

Teach your children:

- Their full name, home phone number and how to use the phone. Test their knowledge in this area, rather than making any assumptions, the role of the police and that, in an emergency situation, a police officer is an adult that the child can trust.
- If anyone bothers them going to/from school, they should TELL a trusted adult, a teacher and you.
- They can tell you anything. Keep the lines of communication open.

• That you WILL set boundaries on their freedom, and that you do this because you love them and want them to be safe.

- The buddy system.
- That you have a right and a need to know where they are, at all times, and encourage them to check in with you on a periodic basis when appropriate. For example, when spending the afternoon with a friend after school, your child could call you before they leave school and again when they arrive at their friend's house.
- To trust their instincts. If a situation doesn't feel right, then it's okay for a child to leave the situation.
- To respect the integrity of their body.
- To challenge themselves with fun sports and hobbies.

Above all else, be involved in your children's lives.

Commissaries collect nearly 740,000 pounds for Feds Feed Families

By DeCA Public Affairs Division

Commissary customers and employees came together to donate nearly 740,000 pounds of needed items to local food banks and other charitable organizations during the annual Feds Feed Families campaign.

The accomplishment, a 10 percent increase over last year's effort, was done as commissaries again served as collection points on their installations.

"Commissary customers and employees showed with their actions the importance they place on giving back to their local communities," said DeCA Director and CEO Joseph H. Jeu. "Even during times of economic uncertainty, our customers and employees still try to make sure their communities have what they need."

In 2012, more than 660,000 pounds of items were collected and donated through commissary collection points. DeCA, as an agency, collected 30 percent of the Department of Defense's 2012 total donations. During the 2013 campaign, DeCA

collected about 40 percent of DOD's total donations.

This year, the DeCA total of 739,611 pounds represents a 10 percent increase. Both years, commissaries also sold prepared donation packages, allowing customers to purchase the package and then drop it in donation bins as they left the store.

At many installations across the country the commissaries' industry partners donated manpower and transportation to deliver the donated items from commissaries to local food banks.

One installation – Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas – donated more than 10,000 pounds to their local food banks this year. That's a dramatic increase over last year when 480 pounds were collected at the commissary.

"Our customers have really embraced this program," said Jeu. "And our military communities have demonstrated their noble character through their generosity."

All commissaries return to normal hours Oct. 7

Military commissaries worldwide are returning to normal operating schedules effective Oct. 7, this includes Yuma Proving Ground's commissary, said the director and CEO of the Defense Commissary Agency.

"This is certainly good news for our patrons and our employees," said Joseph

H. Jeu.

As part of DOD's guidance, commissary operations were deemed necessary support to service members and their families.

Returning to regular schedules on Monday means stores normally open on that day will serve customers. Those stores that are normally closed on Mondays

will be open on their normal operating schedule. Customers are advised to check www.commissaries.com for their store's operating schedule.

"We recognize the disruption that the shutdown presented to our stateside patrons as far as access to their commissary benefit," Jeu added.



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A Cold Day in the

Submitted by Jennifer Lawless,
CRTC

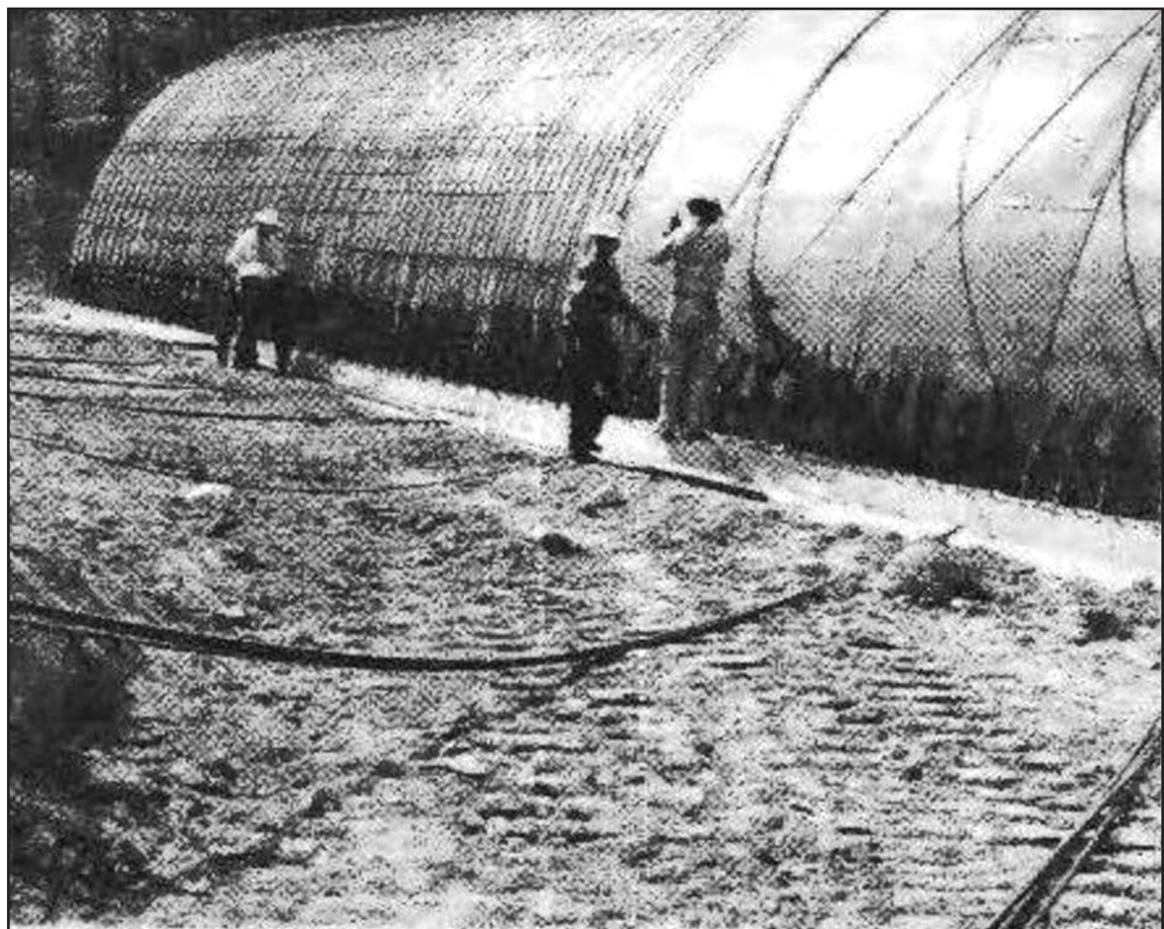
Introduction

When the Korean War began, the United States (US) military was unprepared for the extreme subzero temperatures they faced during combat. The battle at the Chosin Reservoir alone resulted in nearly all of the 18,000 Soldiers, who fought there suffering from frostbite and other cold related injuries. The high rate of cold weather injuries solidified the need to establish a permanent testing center with the facilities to test all types of military equipment in the natural cold environment. Shortly after the Korean War ended, the US Army began the major construction effort to build the Arctic Test Branch, which would later evolve into the US Army Cold Regions Test Center (CRTC) of today.

1954: Building Permanent Facilities & More testing

The initial construction process on post began in 1953, with a few permanent buildings built one mile from the airfield on what had previously been known as Big Delta Air Force Base. The installation had been re-designated the Army Arctic Center in 1952, and in addition to the testing mission, was also home to the Army's Cold Weather and Mountain School, which is now known as the Northern Warfare Training Center. The newer structures began to be referred to as "main post" and the original buildings near the airfield "old post."

In 1954, the construction program expanded to include



(LOANED PHOTOS)

The Arctic Test Branch tested various models of Igloo-type shelters (also known as Quonsets) to determine which model would be the safest and most effective shelter for Soldiers.

post headquarters, post engineer facilities, maintenance shops, and warehouses to accommodate the testing, storage, and maintaining of military equipment. In addition, quarters and barracks buildings were constructed to house the civilian and military personnel assigned to the Arctic Test Branch and the Cold Weather and Mountain School. Other facilities, such as a fire station, post office, library,

were built to provide resident Soldiers and their families with basic community needs. Accomplishing the construction was a huge undertaking, due to both the remoteness of the area and the very short construction season. As frigid, subzero temperatures announced the arrival of winter and the end of the construction season, testing geared up in temperatures as low as -47.9 degrees Fahrenheit ($^{\circ}\text{F}$) (on December 27th).

The needs of the Warfighter continued to evolve and so did testing, to include equipment tests of such items as the Igloo-Type Shelter. The Arctic Test Branch tested various models of Igloo-Type Shelters (also known as Quonsets) to determine which model would be the safest and most effective shelter for Soldiers. One such test was that of the Finnish Igloo-Type Shelter, which had a half-moon shape design with both an inner and outer shell for

CRTC salutes the sacrifice and dedication of the people who relocated to Big Delta, Alaska, to set the stage for all this organization has accomplished and become. The men and women who built an installation in the wilderness and the early test participants for items such as the Igloo-Type Shelters and the XM62 Medium Wrecker, are worthy of emulation. These Army pioneers left modern comforts behind and risked frostbite or worse to lead the way in ensuring safe, reliable, and effective equipment for the Warfighter. The tireless efforts of the men and women of the Arctic Test Branch then, and the Cold Regions Test Center now, make this an invaluable institution in support of the Soldiers and Marines who stand on guard for freedom and stability in any climate, anywhere on earth.

History of Cold Regions Test Center

warmth. During testing, it was found that a crew of one Non-Commissioned Officer and six Soldiers provided just the right combination of personnel to quickly and efficiently assemble and disassemble the shelter. Once the Soldiers were familiar with the shelter structure, the average set-up time was 30 man-hours to assemble and 15 man-hours to disassemble. However, the shelter instructions were incomplete and confusing, resulting in the shelter having to be fully set up and taken down at least twice before familiarity was achieved. Unfortunately, the materials were poorly made for continued re-use and the shelters were only reliable for about five set-up and break-down cycles. Even with these issues, the Finnish Igloo-Type Shelter successfully withstood over three months in extreme arctic conditions and kept a comfortable internal heat in outside temperatures down to -35°F . While this model did not quite make the cut, similar modified Quonsets/shelters remain in use today, for the military and even as unique business locations.

The increase of environmental testing on equipment was matched in the area of military vehicles. There are many arctic and subarctic regions throughout

the world that do not have paved roads and trails. Rugged terrain, snow, ice, and vast areas of marshy muskeg can seriously restrict or completely halt cross-country operations in wheeled vehicles. One of the test vehicles to take on this challenge during 1954 was the XM62 Medium Wrecker, 5-Ton, 6X6, Truck. The Arctic Test Branch successfully tested the wrecker's towing capabilities with both an M41 Cargo Truck and an M135 Cargo Truck in up to two feet of

snow. The wrecker was operated an impressive 7,690 miles for all phases of testing, with relatively few problems. One of the most prominent findings was the fuel tank's insufficient capacity. The requirements specified that the fuel tank capacity should allow the vehicle to travel 300 miles without refueling. Unfortunately, this truck's fuel capacity limited travel to a little more than half that distance. The second major finding was the insufficient clearance between

the inner wheel and the chassis to allow operation with tire chains, very important when attempting to traverse snow or ice covered terrain. Despite these difficulties, the wrecker performed impressively enough for the Arctic Test Branch to recommend it for operation in the Arctic, but suggested the vehicles be manufactured with enough clearance to accommodate tire chains. The XM62 eventually evolved into the M816, as part of the M809 series of 5-Ton 6x6 trucks, still in use today.



In 1954, the Arctic Test Branch successfully tested the medium wrecker, 5-ton, 6x6, truck's towing capabilities with both an M41 cargo truck and an M135 cargo truck in up to two feet of snow.

Safety Award presented to over 30 individuals

PHOTOS BY CHUCK WULLENJOHN



During the Commander's Safety Award ceremony in September, over 30 individuals were presented with the Commander's Safety Certificates. Photos are in this order: Ammunition Division, Test Support Operations members were recognized for providing superior safety support for 690 test programs; Members from the Maintenance Division were recognized for demonstrating commendable attention to safety, while serving as a "welding team" by keeping



safety a top priority when utilizing welders, grinders, and other hazardous tools while working on and under test vehicles; Range Control employees were presented with awards for their steadfast dedication, and outstanding service in handling the multitude of range clearances (over 300 per day); members from the Training Exercise and Management Office were recognized for their outstanding service in coordinating the use of the range to support training with no impact to test mission as they coordinated over 50 training units on the range; the Equipment Pool executed as a team, the transport of a 16.5' wide NASA capsule with a weight of 25,000 lbs., safely to the Yuma International Airport hangar facility; and lastly, Lena Altamirano of the Plans and Operations Directorate was recognized for submitting a Safety Gram regarding a door with deteriorated weather stripping. Presenting Altamirano the award is ATEC's Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Orsz.

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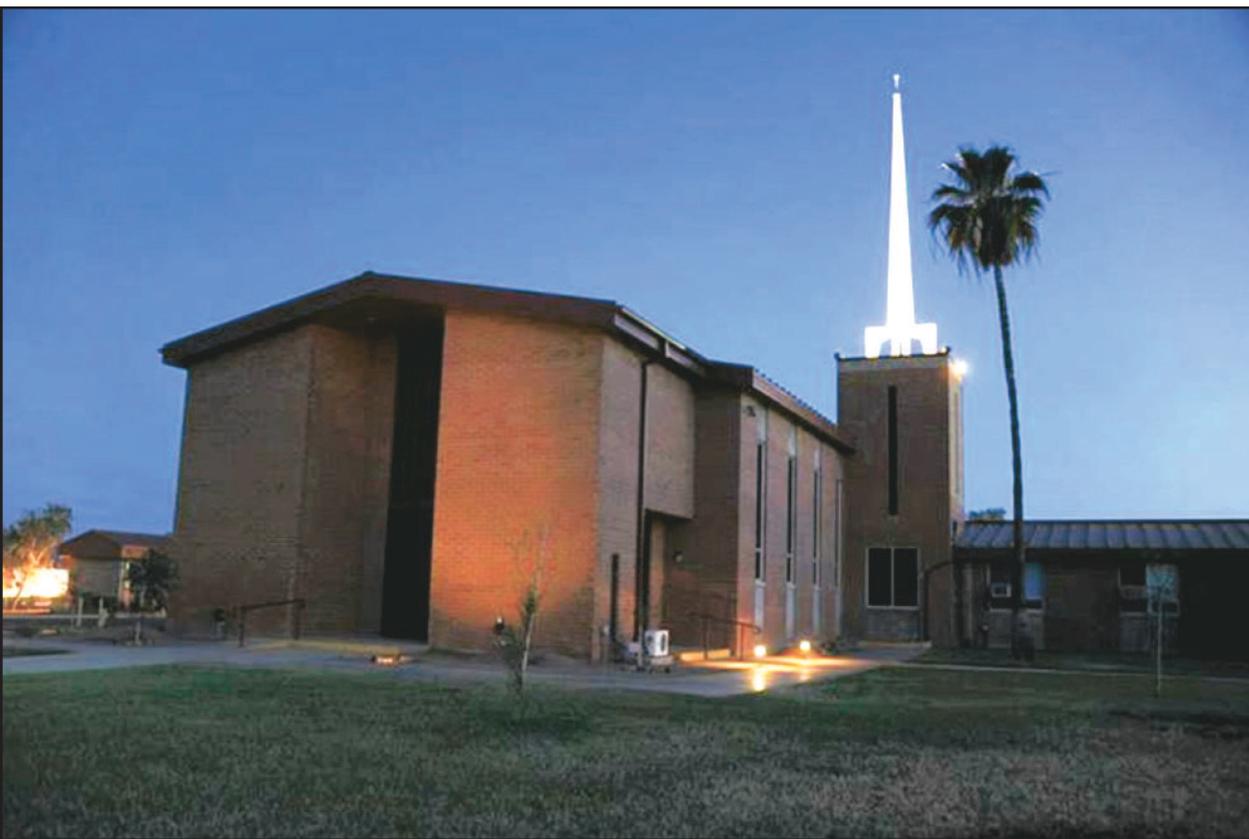
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YPG CHAPEL ACTIVITIES

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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. (Free childcare available)

Thursday:

Community Bible Study : 6 p.m. to 7:15
(Free childcare available)

Built in the 1960's, the Post Chapel has been a centerpiece of YPG's main administrative area for many years. The building features a pointed spire that could only be seen during the day, as it was not illuminated. About one year ago, lighting was installed and the spire shines out for all to see each night. YPG housing areas are located nearby and many people find the sight inspirational.

PHOTO BY CHUCK WULLENJOHN

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CSTE-CG

20 September 2013

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL ATEC PERSONNEL

SUBJECT: Commander's Message - National Hispanic Heritage Month

1. One of our Nation's greatest strengths is its vast diversity. Each year from 15 September to 15 October we take time to reflect and appreciate the significant contributions Hispanic Americans have made and continue to make within the U.S. Military and our great Nation.
2. This year's theme is "Hispanic Americans Serving and Leading our Nation with Pride and Honor," highlights the positive role the Hispanic community's presence has made with the extreme dedication to our Nation's many profound accomplishments in science, technology, the arts, education, athletics, and military service.
3. From the American Revolution to Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, Hispanic Americans have contributed gallantly to the success of the U.S. Armed Forces by their genuine commitment to the principles of freedom and democracy. Since the Civil War, 43 Hispanic Americans have earned the Medal of Honor starting with Corporal Joseph H. De Castro for his actions on July 3, 1863; to Sergeant First Class Leroy Petry, for his heroic actions in Afghanistan on May 26, 2008.
4. Today, over 157,000 Hispanic Americans serve in our Armed Forces; and over 40,000 are Department of Defense Civilians. It is this type of devotion to duty that helps make us a great Nation. During Hispanic Heritage month, we encourage our entire ATEC team to celebrate the many outstanding contributions by Hispanic Americans which help make us the powerful fighting force and country we are today.

Ronald E. Orosz
CSM, U.S. Army
Command Sergeant Major
U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command

Peter D. Utley
Major General, U.S. Army
Commanding General
U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command

—CHAPLAIN'S CORNER—

Tangled?

In a certain cotton factory there is a card on the walls of the workrooms that reads: "If your threads get tangled send for the supervisor." One day a new worker got her threads tangled, and she tried to disentangle them all by herself, but only made them worse. After an hour of trying, she finally sent for the supervisor. He came and looked. Then he said to her, "Have you been doing this all by yourself?" The supervisor said, "Why did you not send for me according to the instructions?" "I did my best," she said. "No you did not. Remember doing your best is sending for me."

We often get "tangled" in life. We work hard to earn a living, raise children, and simply getting things done. But no matter how hard we work, we can't avoid challenges. And so often we try to untangle matters our self. So why do we often try to do it all alone?

There are friends, family, co-workers, and our faith that can help us through. When we get "tangled" it is amazing what a positive connection with a friend can make. Recently, I felt overloaded with "due



outs." It was at such a time that I connected with a fellow chaplain and good friend. Over the next 15 minutes we had a rich conversation and truly connected. After our talk/problem solving, I felt rejuvenated and ready to carry on.

Often we indeed get tangled up in life. Do not hesitate in asking for assistance from other people and from God. Have a blessed day.

Veterans Meetings

AMVETS Post 2

Ongoing activities for AMVETS Post 2 Ave 9E and S. Frontage Road are: Open daily 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Breakfast served daily 7 to 11 a.m. Monday and

Thursday, Cowboy Karaoke with Glynn 5 to 9 p.m.; Tuesdays service officer available after 9:30am for free veteran help with enrollment, claims, appointments and more; Tuesday, chicken/beef/soft/hard

tacos and/or taco salad, 4 to 7 p.m.; karaoke 5 to 9 p.m.; Wednesday, spaghetti dinner, 3:30 to 7 p.m.; Thursday, burger day; Friday, meat draw bingo at 1 p.m., cod/shrimp dinner at 4 p.m.; and live music with Ernie and Wayne at 5 p.m.; Saturday, chicken fried steak 4 to 7 p.m. and live music with Ernie and Wayne at 5 p.m.; Sunday, beef/pork/chef's choice dinner 2 to 6 p.m. and jammers with Dry and Dusty at 4 p.m. Info: (928) 726-0102.

VFW POST NO. 1763

Events at Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 1763, 2485 E. 14th St.: Post meeting first Saturday of each month at 9 a.m. Ladies Auxiliary meeting third Saturday of each month at 11 a.m. Meat draw every Sunday from 2-4 p.m. Barstool bingo Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday 4:30-6 p.m. Karaoke on Friday 8 p.m. to midnight and Saturday 6-10 p.m. Post 1763 honors all veterans organizations' cards. Active duty military welcome. For more information, call 329-1763.

AMERICAN LEGION POST #56
American Legion Post No. 56, 1490 W. 3rd St., opens

daily at noon.

VFW Post No. 8242

On going activities at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 8242, Highway 95 at milepost 36: Ladies Auxiliaries "Meat Draw" every Wednesday 2 to 4 p.m., Post meetings 9 a.m. the second Saturday of every month; Men's Auxiliary meetings 10:00 a.m. second Sunday of every month; Ladies Auxiliary meeting 9 a.m. first Saturday of every month. House committee Meeting 9 a.m. first Sunday of every month. Post 8242 honors all Veteran organizations card. For more information or to book a private party, call 928-341-1522

American Legion Post No. 19

Weekly events at H.H. Donkersley American Legion, Post 19, 2575 S. Virginia Drive, include: Thursday dinner with live entertainment 5 to 7 p.m.; pool tournament Fridays 6:30 p.m.; meat draw Saturdays 2 to 4:30 p.m.; Bingo Fridays and Sundays 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

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SOCIAL SECURITY

Share Social Security tip with wise elders

By Wilma Carrasquillo-Facio,
Social Security District
Manager, Yuma

While the baby boom era is behind us, the effects will live on. The number of individuals reaching the autumn season of life is higher than ever. In fact, the World Health Organization reports that there are about six hundred million Individuals aged 60 and older living in the world today. That number is expected to double by 2025 — a short 12 years from now — and is expected to reach about two billion by 2050.

In the United States, 10,000 people reach retirement age every single day. The elders of a community are often known as wise sages that younger people go to, for advice; older people have the life experience and reflection that young people lack. But given the fast-paced changes the world now experiences, with new technologies becoming outdated in a matter of years or even months, there may be

some helpful insights you can share with your elders.

For example, if you know someone who is nearing retirement age, tell them about www.socialsecurity.gov. They may not be aware of the helpful and easy-to-use tools available to them. It's no exaggeration to say that even someone who does not use the Internet on a regular basis can easily plan their retirement or even complete their retirement application online in a matter of minutes — much less time than it would take to drive to a local Social Security office.

The best starting place for anyone thinking about retirement is Social Security's Retirement Estimator. Use it to get an instant, personalized estimate of future retirement benefits in a matter of minutes. Spend a few minutes plugging in different information, such as different projected future wages and different retirement dates, to help make a wise decision on the best retirement date. The Retirement Estimator is available at www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator.

Then there's the online retirement benefit application. In as little as 15 minutes, a person can apply for Social Security benefits and submit their application online. In most cases, once one submits the application, there is nothing more to do but wait for the first payment. It's really that simple.

And, if one decides they'd like to double-check some information before submitting the application, that's fine too. The application can be paused and restarted at any time during the process. It's all available at www.socialsecurity.gov/applyonline.

It makes sense to go to our elders for advice and guidance. But in this technology-driven world, we may be able to offer a little advice to the sages as well. A good bet is to tell the older adults in your life about www.socialsecurity.gov.

SCOUTS

FROM PAGE 3

career in central and South America, wanted his sons to experience the benefits of Scouting while they lived in Panama.

"When we arrived in 2001, there was no Cub Scout Pack or Boy Scout Troop," Hugh said. "My wife and a friend from the embassy got together and established a troop, and to this day it is ongoing."

Among the hundreds of hours Hugh devotes each year is assisting the young men in their quest to earn small-boat sailing merit badges. Hugh teaches the scouts everything from righting a capsized boat to preventing hypothermia prior to their excursions on the water. The scouts learn the various sails on a sail boat, how to tie

the square knot that is indispensable to sailors, identify cloud types, and steer themselves out of "irons" when their craft is dead in the water.

"He's a great resource," said Kelly Singer, scoutmaster for troop 8051. "He has great leadership skills and a lot of knowledge to share with the boys."

Hugh says the rewards of participating in the organization are incalculable.

"What really makes you enjoy it is when you watch a young boy of 12 or 13 come into the troop and watch him grow, mature, and take on more of a leadership role," Hugh said. "Then when they're 16, 17, 18, you can see how they've changed, respecting others and the flag. It's really nice to see that transformation in the kids."

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 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm

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For More Info

Scary & Safe Trick or Treat – Yuma Territorial Prison, \$1 admission let kids collect candy through the old cell block from costumed volunteers, proceeds benefit Arizona Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics, Yuma Special Olympics, 5:30-8 pm, 928-783-4771 or www.yumaprison.org



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SPOTLIGHT

FROM PAGE 5

single one of us with their service," she said.

Raised in San Jose, Calif., Wegge and her family moved to the Yuma area when she was in high school and have never left the area. She says that it was quite a shock moving from a large metropolitan area to a very tiny, predominately farming community. Wegge said that it was in the hottest part of the year, July. She begged her father for them to go back home. She also noticed that there were no sewer drains lining the streets, which meant to her, if a city doesn't have to worry about storm drains, you know that rainfall doesn't come around but maybe once in a blue moon!

Wegge says that she is always open to hearing advice that can make life easier for her team. However, from a personal perspective, she has two that she holds close to her heart. If someone finds value in them, that's wonderful, she said. "First, career wise, it is important to love what you do. We spend a majority of our waking hours at work each week. If you're not happy and satisfied with what you're doing, then that's a lot of time spent in an unfulfilling state, and who needs that?," said Wegge.

Secondly, "Do all you can with what you have, in the time you have, in the place where you are." Wegge said this applies both at work and home. She learned this advice from a young 12 year old South African boy born with HIV who used his condition to develop an incredibly profound insight at such a tender age. He really humbled me.

A hobbyist, Wegge is a big fan of "do-it-yourself" home projects. She has designed, remolded and landscaped her yard at home; enjoys reading from true crime to human behavior books; and loves mental problem solving games such as hidden objects, Sudoku, etc. "This keeps my brain sharp. You can't age gracefully if your brain is sluggish," said Wegge with a gracious smile.

Wegge and her husband, have five children, five grandchildren and one more on the way. "Life is great," said Wegge. Someday soon, Wegge would love to take a vacation where water surrounds her. "The sound of a river bed gurgling or the ocean waves pounding, gives me an exhilarating type of peace. Throw in loved ones like your husband, family and friends, with the right kind of zest to enjoy life. Nothing gets better than that!"



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