

THE OUTPOST

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Techniques for safely parachuting howitzers developed at YPG

By Mark Schauer

The 105mm M119A3 Light Towed Howitzer proves its worth as a mobile and versatile weapon. Last spring, US Army Airborne Units were fielded the M119A3 Howitzer with Digital Fire Control System (DFC System). As a result, the M119A3 Howitzer is the lightest, most technologically-advanced indirect fire weapon system ever employed in the American arsenal. The DFC System enhances command and control functions during firing and mobility operations to increase the speed of employment, self-location, and survivability of the previous generation howitzer.

The 4,500-pound howitzer can be transported by Humvee, 2.5 ton truck, helicopter, or cargo plane. In particularly inhospitable terrain, the howitzer can even be delivered by a single parachute system with the Humvee and 105mm ammunition. Unlike earlier 105-mm artillery pieces, gun crews don't need to perform field survey methods to emplace the howitzer for firing, a vital time-saver whenever fire power is needed immediately from the

parachute drop zone (DZ). Once the M119A3 Howitzer hits the DZ, the gun crew can de-rig the cargo platform, power up the DFC System, emplace the howitzer, and precisely impact High Explosive rounds on targets in less than 15 minutes.

Home of the longest overland artillery range in the Department of Defense, YPG is at the forefront of artillery testing. Yet the breadth of testing on the more-accurate, newly digitized M119A3 Howitzer went beyond putting it through its paces with a punishing regimen of firing. YPG air delivery testers have recently wrapped up the weapon's airdrop certification testing to support fielding the M119A3 in Afghanistan.

"It was a good exercise in project management skills," said Keith Allen, air delivery team lead. "We had to really look at our people and resources at YPG and array them to compress the schedules. It was challenging at times, but we made it work."

The M119A3 Howitzer was fielded to the US Army Airborne Units at Fort Bragg last spring, and



LOANED PHOTO

The M119A3 howitzer program simultaneously tested six different howitzers at YPG between 2011 and 2013 to support fielding over 600 howitzers in the next five years. In doing this, YPG personnel safely airdropped howitzers over 30 times in a variety of configurations, as seen here.

the certification of the first of eight airdrop configurations was approved by the US Army Quartermasters School last summer.

"The M119 has been drop certified for years," explained Allen. "Since there is digitization and other new components on the A3, it changes the way the airdrop load configuration is rigged. Because of that, we have to re-do the airdrop certification."

Howitzer airdrop platforms are up to 32-feet in length and can be rigged to include a single howitzer and ammunition, two howitzers, or a howitzer and a prime mover or Humvee. The testing of each of these

particular airdrop configurations began with a rigging exercise that developed and documented proper procedures of securing the items for an airdrop. From there, the system moved to a simulated airdrop impact test that dropped the rigged load from a tower at an altitude that produced the vertical velocity it would experience at the upper limit of the specification for a low velocity airdrop.

"They typically don't come down that fast, but in the event they do, you want to ensure that the load is not going to get damaged," said Allen.

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Cold Regions
mechanic is
Alaskan to the
core /Page 3



Say hello to our
new (four-legged)
neighbor!
/Page 4



Yuma Proving
Ground observes
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Safety Award
presented to eight
employees
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Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness

Submitted by Paul J. Kilanski

The Ready and Resilient Campaign is a far reaching and comprehensive campaign to enhance individual and collective resilience in order to improve readiness across the force. This campaign's initiatives are aimed at improving physical, psychological and emotional health. The Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness (CSF2) Program's mission is to improve the physical and psychological health and resilience of Soldiers, their Families and Department of the Army Civilians, and to enhance their performance by providing self-assessment and training capabilities aligned to five key functional areas known as the "Five Dimensions of Strength."

These "Five dimensions of strength" are:

- Physical. Performing and excelling in physical activities that require aerobic fitness, endurance, strength, healthy body composition and flexibility derived through exercise, nutrition and training.
- Emotional. Approaching life's challenges in a positive, optimistic way by demonstrating self-control, stamina and good character with one's choices and actions.
- Social. Developing and maintaining trusted, valued relationships and friendships that are personally fulfilling and foster good communication, including the ability to comfortably exchange ideas, views and experiences.
- Spiritual. Understanding one's purpose, core values, beliefs, identity and life vision. These elements enable a person to build inner strength, make meaning of experiences, behave ethically,

persevere through challenges and be resilient when faced with adversity. Participation in the spiritual dimension of the CSF2 program is strictly voluntary.

e. Family. Being part of a family unit that is safe, supportive and loving, and that provides the resources needed for all members to live in a healthy and secure environment.

The Global Assessment Tool (GAT).

The GAT is a confidential, survey-based instrument designed to assess an individual on the Five Dimensions of Strength: Physical, Emotional, Social, Spiritual and Family. The results direct the user to targeted self-development training known as Comprehensive Resilience Modules (CRMs) to address specific areas for improvement. The GAT is required to be administered to Soldiers and deploying DA Civilians and, on a voluntary basis, to Family members and other DA Civilians. Developed by subject matter experts from the Government and civilian sectors, the GAT is drawn from scientifically validated measures of health and resilience. All individual GAT results are completely confidential. Responses and dimensional scores are not made available to anyone other than the individual taking the GAT. Personnel who take the GAT are not required to release or discuss their results with anyone. If a person taking the GAT has questions about the results, he/she is encouraged to seek out a trained Master Resilience Trainer or trusted advisor.

Comprehensive Resilience Modules (CRMs)

CRMs are online, self-paced learning modules that provide evidence-based training in each of the five Dimensions of Strength based on individual need. Referral to the modules is linked to a person's GAT assessment, thus providing him/her with tailored on-line tools to improve his/her lowest assessed dimensions. Spiritual dimension CRMs are voluntary. To participate in the GAT, one must be a CAC Cardholder or a Family member registered in DEERS. Go to armyfit.army.mil

Resilience Skills Training

Resilience skills training targets the fundamentals of resilience and provides the baseline thinking skills to educate and instill resilience into Soldiers, their Family members and DA Civilians. Training consists of the following:

- "Hunting the Good Stuff" - Hunt the good stuff to counter the negativity bias, create positive emotion, and notice and analyze what is good.
- "Real-Time Resilience" - Shut down counterproductive thinking to enable greater concentration and focus on the task at hand.
- "Problem Solving" - Identify accurately what caused the problem and find solution strategies.
- "Put In Perspective" - Stop catastrophic thinking, reduce anxiety and improve problem solving by identifying the worst, best and most likely outcomes of a situation.
- "Avoid Thinking Traps" - Use critical questions to identify and correct counterproductive patterns of thinking.
- "Detect Icebergs" - Identify deep beliefs and core values that fuel out-of-proportion emotion and evaluate the accuracy and usefulness of these beliefs.
- "Activating Events-Thoughts-Consequences" - Recognize that an activating event is filtered through a set of beliefs before one demonstrates the consequences (emotions/reactions) of those beliefs.
- "Identify Strengths in Self and Others" - Identify strengths in yourself and others to build on the best of you and the best of others.
- "Energy Management" - Regulate emotion and energy levels to enable critical thinking and optimal performance.

HOWITZERS

FROM PAGE 1

"There's no point in throwing something out of a plane if it can't be used on the ground."

Following these checks, the fully rigged loads were dropped from C-17 and C-130 cargo planes over YPG's vast ranges. This process was repeated several times per configuration to test all possible airdrop configurations. A total of eight airdrop configurations were thoroughly tested over two years.

Despite the complexity of testing the multiple airdrop configurations, all involved

were eager to complete the test as rapidly and effectively as possible.

"We accelerated the test program schedule by doing two airdrop configurations of test items at once," said Allen. "The compressed schedule was obviously advantageous to the user community, program office, and everyone involved. We wanted to get a quality product to the user as fast as possible without cutting corners."

The diverse nature of YPG's testing expertise makes it possible for all aspects of a piece of equipment's performance to be evaluated, even those far

from the average person's mind.

"A customer can come here and get an item fired, air dropped, and driven around a track," said Allen. "It's a one-stop shop, which is a great advantage to our customers."

The M119A3 Howitzer program simultaneously tested 6 different howitzers at YPG in 2011-2013 to support fielding over 600 howitzers in 2013-2018. In the end, YPG personnel successfully fired over 12,000 rounds, safely airdropped howitzers over 30 times, and completed thousands of towing mobility miles on the M119A3 Howitzer and Humvee in the life of the three year program.

THE OUTPOST

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News may be submitted to:
The Editor, Outpost, Yuma Proving Ground, Yuma, AZ, 85365.
Phone: (928) 328-6143/6189 or DSN 899-6143.
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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

CRTC mechanic is Alaskan to the core

By Mark Schauer

With responsibility for a fleet of over 40 wheeled and 20 tracked vehicles, Cold Regions Test Center's vehicle maintenance shop is a vital component to ensuring testing on remote ranges in frigid cold and deep snow proceeds without a hitch.

Employed at CRTC since 2002, Dave Sutherland, acting lead for the shop, brings a lifetime of experience to the job.

"I grew up handing wrenches under the wheel well," he said. "It probably isn't my chosen profession, but it chose me. I still enjoy it—at the end of the day, you see something physical that you created."

Born in Fairbanks but raised in Delta Junction, Sutherland is the third generation of his family to make Alaska home.

"My grandfather drove the Alaska Highway to come up here in 1947, when it was still pretty much a mud trail. He was from New York, and he and a couple of Army buddies when they got out of the service decided they were going to go to Alaska to live the dream."

Having grown up on a farm, for a time Sutherland aspired to be a farrier, an occupation that combines elements of blacksmithing and veterinary medicine to care for all aspects of a horse's foot. After high school he spent a summer apprenticing with a farrier in Fairbanks, then went to school in Oklahoma to gain certification.

"When I got out of horseshoeing school, I submitted a resume to Disneyland. I had an interview, but they were looking for someone with more experience."

He still does farrier work as a hobby, but chose to return to Alaska rather than attempt to make it a career in the lower 48 states.

"I'd had enough of life in Southern California," he said. "When I got



(PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER)

Dave Sutherland, acting lead for the vehicle maintenance shop at CRTC, brings a lifetime of experience to the job.

back home to Alaska and realized how much I like it here, I stayed. I like the pace, I like the people and I like the country."

Like many in rural Alaska, Sutherland enjoys hunting, using the Webley bolt action rifle handed down to him from his grandfather. In addition to moose and other typical Alaska game, four years ago he was drawn in the coveted lottery to hunt a Dall sheep, a stocky creature whose rams have large horns and lives at rugged alpine elevations. He succeeded in his hunt, which he attributes to patience and a lot of climbing. But he had less luck when he accompanied former CRTC commander Col. John Cavedo on the same hunt when the latter won a subsequent lottery.

"We had a great week camping out in the rain, but we didn't get him a sheep. It's beautiful country up there: above the tree line, rocky. It's probably the hardest hunt you can go on, but fun."

Alaska has the highest per capita rate of licensed private pilots in the

United States, and Sutherland has counted himself among this group for about 10 years.

"It's something I always wanted to do. Up here, it's so big that you can't see everything by boat or snow mobile — flying is the only way to do it."

Though owner of a relatively modest two-seat plane of tube and fabric construction, Sutherland was reluctant to own an airplane until giving in to his wife, Karen's encouragement.

"There's a lot of time and money committed, but you just have to dive

in and do it," he said.

Sutherland likes working on ground vehicles in his spare time, too. While in high school he owned a 1966 GMC panel truck that he lovingly maintained for as long as possible. When it finally succumbed to old age, he vowed he would own another one someday. Two years ago he finally found a 1951 model, though it needed more than a little tender loving care.

"It literally had trees growing in it. I have it up and running now."

Though he immensely enjoys his job and the farm he shares with his wife and daughter, Sutherland has for the past eight years made a point of taking at least one sea cruise annually, including one to Europe and several to Mexico and the Caribbean.

"By the end of the test season when we've been in the cold and dark for three or four months, it's a sanity check to get out on even a one week cruise. It's enough to get Vitamin D back in your system and realize there is a light at the end of the tunnel. As vacations go, it's probably the cheapest you can do."

Nonetheless, there is no place like home as far as he is concerned, and he intends to stay for the long haul.

"I like sun and sand and I could possibly see myself snowbirding someday, but I'll always have a home here."

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Just like drugs or alcohol, sleepiness slows reaction time, decreases awareness and impairs judgment. Like drugs or alcohol, fatigue can be fatal when driving. Just check out the following statistics.

- Death rates based on mileage were 3.2 times higher at night than during the day in 2007.

- 37 percent of drivers surveyed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration admitted to falling asleep at the wheel at some point in their driving career; 8 percent admitted doing so in the past six months.

- 60 percent admitted falling asleep while driving on an interstate-type highway with posted speeds of 55 mph or higher.

The drivers at highest risk are third-shift workers, people who drive a substantial number of miles each day, those with unrecognized sleep disorders and those prescribed medication with sedatives.

Recognize the Symptoms of Fatigue

- Eyes closing or going out of focus
- Persistent yawning

- Irritability, restlessness and impatience

- Wandering or disconnected thoughts

- Inability to remember driving the last few miles

- Drifting between lanes or onto the shoulder

- Abnormal speed, tailgating or failure to obey traffic signs

- Back tension, burning eyes, shallow breathing or inattentiveness

Safety Tips

- Maintain a regular sleep schedule that allows adequate rest.

- When the signs of fatigue begin to show, get off the road. Take a short nap in a well-lit area. Do not simply stop on the side of the road.

- Avoid driving between midnight and 6 a.m.

When Planning Long Trips

- Share driving responsibilities with a companion.

- Begin the trip early in the day.

- Keep the temperature cool in the car.

- Stop every 100 miles or two hours to get out of the car and walk around; exercise helps to combat fatigue.

- Stop for light meals and snacks.

- Drive with your head up, shoulders back and legs flexed at about a 45-degree angle.

Say hello to our new neighbor!



Last week, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Arizona Game and Fish released 24 Sonoran Pronghorn at the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge. The animals released were offspring born in captive breeding pens in the Kofa and Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuges. These pronghorn will be joining three other pronghorn which were part of the group released last year. By establishing this population we are trying to return the animals to their historic range and achieve recovery goals for the species. Biologists are monitoring the progress of the released animals very closely and most of the pronghorn have tracking collars. While the pronghorn are being released on the refuge, they are likely to pop up on YPG from time to time. Keep an eye out on the range and if you see one contact Environmental Sciences. (Loaned photo)

February Go-Getters



Anthony Alonzo



Kristen Policar

Congratulations to Anthony Alonzo and Kristen Policar from Mrs. Stoermer's 2nd and 3rd grade class for being Price Elementary School "Go-Getters" for the month of February.



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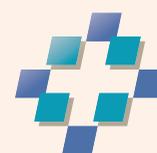
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BLACK HISTORY

By Yolie Canales

America, a diverse nation well known as the “melting-pot” of the world, boasts a population that is approximately 15 percent African-American.

The Black History Month observance was established in 1976 by Afro-Americans for the study of Afro-American life and history. Black Americans have helped shape who we are as a nation and continue to play important roles in fields

ranging from education to entertainment. From the painful passage of the civil rights movement to the soaring magic of Michael Jordan, the passion of Louis Gates, Jr. and the hip-hop beat of Lauryn Hill, the story is an important one.

As YPG prepares to observe Black History Month with a luncheon on February 27th, the Outpost has selected four members of the workforce to highlight career successes and achievements.

LASHEENA SCOTT

Lasheena Scott, a procurement technician for the Mission-Installation Contracting Command (MICC), has been a member of the workforce since 2011. A former Marine who served four years of active duty, Scott was inspired to join the military when in high school.

“Having the desire to be challenged is what inspired me to join the Corps,” said Scott. “I come from a family of strong and hard working men and women. My mother and grandmother

specifically taught me what it meant to work for a living.” She also had instructors and mentors who taught her what it meant to have a career and make a difference in the world. “This is why I can say that my proudest and most rewarding experience in my military career was earning the title, ‘Marine.’”

Scott said working for the federal government has been her passion since completing her military service. “I’m the type of person committed to any career path that supports the Warfighter and our military efforts,” she said. “My inspiration to be a successful person comes from within. I am extremely



motivated to leave a legacy and set a standard for my children and their children.”

Education was a top priority; however, being a wife, mom, and Marine also played a vital role

in her life after working hard to achieve her Bachelors of Science in Business Administration (a Magna Cum Laude graduate).

Role models are dear and close to her. “I have so many and I’m blessed to have supporting relatives and mentors in my life.” She is fond of First Lady Michelle Obama, who she says is “beautiful, educated, and has a big heart.”

Scott says that she is most proud of the resiliency and strength of her culture. “I am honored and indebted to the men, women, and children that endured hardships, which allowed me all of the freedoms and opportunities I have today.



ALMINA DEWITT

A renowned member of the workforce and the voice with the beautiful “Jamaican accent” that many have heard when calling the work order desk at FSI, is none other than Almina DeWitt, who has been at YPG for 24 years.

DeWitt says that working with people is what she loves and does best. “When I first came to Yuma with my husband who got orders for MCAS Yuma, I began to look

for a job. The only job I could find is where I’m at now and have never regretted it,” she said. “I love working with my YPG family, hands-down.”

One of DeWitt’s greatest accomplishments is giving birth to three children. “My children have made me so very proud and I’m happy with their achievements,” she said. As a role model, DeWitt says her mother was a very hard working and dedicated person.

As in every ethnic group, there are cultures that are carried on

through the years as well as traditions and favorite foods. For DeWitt it is her Jamaican roots, her Jamaican Jerk Chicken and Jamaican music.

In her spare time, she enjoys playing bingo and volunteering at the American Legion. One of the most memorable events in her life was marrying her husband and spending 30 year with him traveling and meeting so many different people in the Marine Corps.

MONTH

Members of the workforce share thoughts on achievements and successes



DEMARIUS JACKSON

As an Army developmental test jumper for civilian companies and contractors who wish to sell their products to the Department of the Army, DeMarius Jackson has been at YPG for 13 months. He was inspired to follow the uniformed military career path for the opportunity to become an airborne Soldier.

Jackson enlisted in the Army because of a lack of opportunities back home and the desire to be and do better for himself and his family. A five year Army veteran, Jackson says his most rewarding experience

has been the opportunity to support, mentor and help future leaders grow into knowledgeable citizens. “Coming up in the military and having a few individuals show me the right way, I vowed to never let a Soldier or anyone, for that matter, lack a support system,” he said.

Jackson’s strong inspiration to be a success in the workforce comes from his family. “They inspire me to be successful both in and out of the work place. I’m never content and I’m always looking to do better.”

The individual achievement he is most proud of is providing a strong foundation for his family. This came from his grandfather who had a strong influence in his life and is the person

who is his role model. “My grandfather is a strong, intelligent man who doesn’t tolerate anything less than honesty, dedication and success,” said Jackson.

Jackson is three classes away from receiving his college degree in Public Administration/Human Resources and expresses pride for his Southern culture. “The extreme dedication we show for family reflects on who I am today — dedicated, always looking to do better for my family and for my fellow Soldier.”

A favorite pastime for Jackson is hanging out with his wife and daughter, listening to his favorite music: Hip Hop/R&B and enjoying good home cooked soul food.

REGINALD WILLOUGHBY

Reginald Willoughby, senior safety specialist for Yuma Proving Ground’s Garrison Safety Office, has been a member of the workforce since 1996.

Willoughby was inspired to follow the safety field because of the desire to be part of a safe work environment and have everyone return home safely to their families each night. “Being around or in construction since an early age laid the foundation for me in my present field,” said Willoughby. “Knowing the different trades helps with evaluating hazards and understanding the intent of safety standards.”

Joining the Marine Corps was a way for him to achieve some immediate goals. “A tough kid from Philly, I thought the Marines Corps was the logical choice,” he said. His military specialty was Avionics Electrical Electronics Technician,

“which is a long title for aircraft wire chaser,” he said with a laugh. “I gained great experience on the bombing and navigation systems for the AV8 Harrier aircraft.”

Willoughby believes his mother inspired him to be successful in the workforce. “She is a smart lady who worked hard for 35 years in the insurance field in almost every department to include, records processing, warehouse/office supervisor, claim/records manager, along with being a union steward. She instilled in me a strong work ethic,” said Willoughby. His step-father was also a driving force, for he placed the bar high. He thanks the YPG family, contractor and government personnel alike, who lent him a helping hand, guidance and words of encouragement over the years.”

Willoughby has had numerous achievements, but one that stands out is obtaining his Bachelors of Science degree in Technical Management and making the Dean’s list four times, “For me, there is



something in which to be proud each day,” he said. “This includes being a father, educator, mentor, entrepreneur, a Marine, to providing a positive influence to others.”

A role model in Willoughby’s life is his step-father. “Since the age of six, my step-father has been there

for me, doing one of the toughest jobs a man may have to do---raise someone else’s child. You cannot argue the dedication, fortitude and love he provided. Yes, he spanked me, pushed me and guides me to this day, instilling in me to be the best person I can be,” he said with a smile.

Willoughby shared his most proudest and memorable event in his life--- adopting his daughter. “When you have a child of your own, the feeling is joyful and memorable. I cried each time. But when you adopt a child that has a say in the matter, it is very different. The child is choosing you to be their parent and you are making a conscious decision to be a parent.”

Willoughby’s pastime is relaxing with family and friends. He enjoys listening to Soul or ‘real’ R & B. “I have gone through YPG gates listening to rock and roll, blue eyed soul, classical and house music. Like food, I do not see the need to be ‘pigeon holed’ into one genre.”

Proud to be Americans

The American flag flies beautifully high above the Arizona skies as rain filled clouds hover above. Proudly saluting the flag are attendees at a recent flag raising event which took place at the Armed Forces Park.

(PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER)



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VIEWPOINTS

With less than four hours of daylight and temperatures dipping more than 50 degrees below zero, it's difficult for people in Yuma to imagine people doing anything outdoors in Alaska during the winter. We asked members of the CRTC workforce what their favorite winter leisure time activity is.

David Sutherland Acting Maintenance Lead

I have too many hobbies. I like working on old cars. If I'm off work and its light out, which isn't often, I like to fly my small bush plane. Hunting and trapping is good, and so is getting on the snow machine to see new country. There is so much land up here, you can't begin to see it all unless you fly.



Sarah Bevard Supply Technician

I end up running my kids around to all their sports and school functions. For their volleyball games, their away games could be clear to Anchorage, which is 600 miles away, or Valdez, which is about the same. I think the closest drive is Tok, which is 200 miles away.



Mike Cassidy Automotive Mechanic

My son and I go trapping in the winter. My son is 13 and he enjoys it, so we get out and spend a lot of quality time together. We trap for wolves, wolverines, marten, fox and coyote. Its predator control so the caribou and moose can prosper. Selling the hides pays for the gas, oil, and snow machine repairs. If you ever find a rich trapper, let me know, because I want to know his secret!



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Perseverance

By Chaplain (Maj.)
Douglas Thomison

The Winter Olympics are upon us. Out of the Olympic Games we often see triumph as well as defeat and strong personal narratives surface. In the summer of 1936, Germany hosted the Olympic Games in Berlin. You may recall that Adolph Hitler was unfortunately one of the focal points of those games.

In Berlin, 19 year old American Louis Zamperini (roomed with four time gold medal winner Jesse Owens) was a long-distance runner. He finished eighth in the 5,000-meter race, but his final lap was clocked at 56-seconds, quite a mark for that era. Louis was truly "up and coming" in the track world. However, due to World War II, no Olympic Games were held in 1940 or 1944, and Zamperini's Olympic days were over.

With no Olympics, Louis Zamperini joined the United States Army Air Corps,

and became a bombardier. While on a combat mission in the South Pacific, his plane crashed in the ocean. Zamperini and fellow survivors would float in a raft for 47 days and cover over 2,000 miles before those who survived the sea were captured by the Japanese.

As a Prisoner of War (POW) Zamperini endured much torment. Finally, World War II ended. The war had stolen the prime of his running career and his best opportunity to earn an Olympic medal. However, Zamperini was able to run. You see, at five separate Olympic Games he ran carrying the torch. One Olympics stands out

for Zamperini where he ran through Japan and by his former POW prison with the torch a glow for the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano.

I don't know about you, but hearing about American Olympian Louis Zamperini sends chills down my spine. Zamperini, now 97 years old, has persevered in life. As we watch and cheer on our Olympians, is there anything you need to overcome? The Bible says, "I can do all things through him who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13) No matter what you have gone through or are going through today, never quit and do give it your all. Have a blessed day!

GOIN' TO THE CHAPEL?

SUN 0930 Catholic Mass
1100 Protestant Worship

MON 1300-1500 Kids Club (Elementary ages)
1800-1900 Being All That The Lord Expects (B.A.T.T.L.E.)
(Middle and High School)

TUE 1800-1900 Community Bible Study (Watch Care Provided)

WED 0900-1100 Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) meets bi-weekly, next meeting 12 FEB

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Safety Award presented to eight employees



During the Commander's Safety Award ceremony last month, eight members of the workforce were presented with Commander's Safety Certificates. Not in this order, they are: Lorraine Hernandez from the Range Communication and Networking Division, who had zero injuries for FY13, while supporting over 800 airdrops and 2,096 firing programs; Michael Gaither was recognized for 'attention to safety.' While serving as a welding unit team member for the Maintenance Division, "safety" was a top priority when utilizing welders, grinders, and other hazardous tools while working on and under test vehicles; Gregory Kay, artillery tester leader responded to a call for help for a vehicle accident involving personal injury on the range. Kay's quick response and handling of the situation ensured medical aid arrived quickly to the scene assuring the injured that help was on its way while at the same time, keeping him comfortable; Jeffrey Lipp has played a critical safety role for himself, co-workers and other down range personnel. Because of the priority he places on safety, he has maintained an outstanding safety record; Ralph Arnold recently surpassed 11,000 accident-free flight hours in both fixed and rotary wing aircraft. His dedication to the flight, crew and passengers safety are exceptional examples for YPG personnel while maintaining impressive flight records; Gabe Langbauer has been working with the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) to facilitate the development of products that would assist YPG in the detection of running washes. Ultimately, YPG's Range Control will utilize the tools developed by NCAR to ensure down range personnel are informed of potential hazards caused by running washes; Bob Hallahan observed several non-tactical vehicles with unsecured fuel cans and other pioneer tools in their beds while conducting random physical and security checks. He recognized the danger these items pose in an emergency stop situation and notified the appropriate leaders of the danger; John Barczynski, safety engineer for Combat and Automotive Systems and his team of Juan Elizarraras and Issac Rodriguez played a crucial role in ensuring testing of the JLTV program continued at YTC in a systematic and orderly fashion.

(PHOTOS BY MARK SCHAUER)



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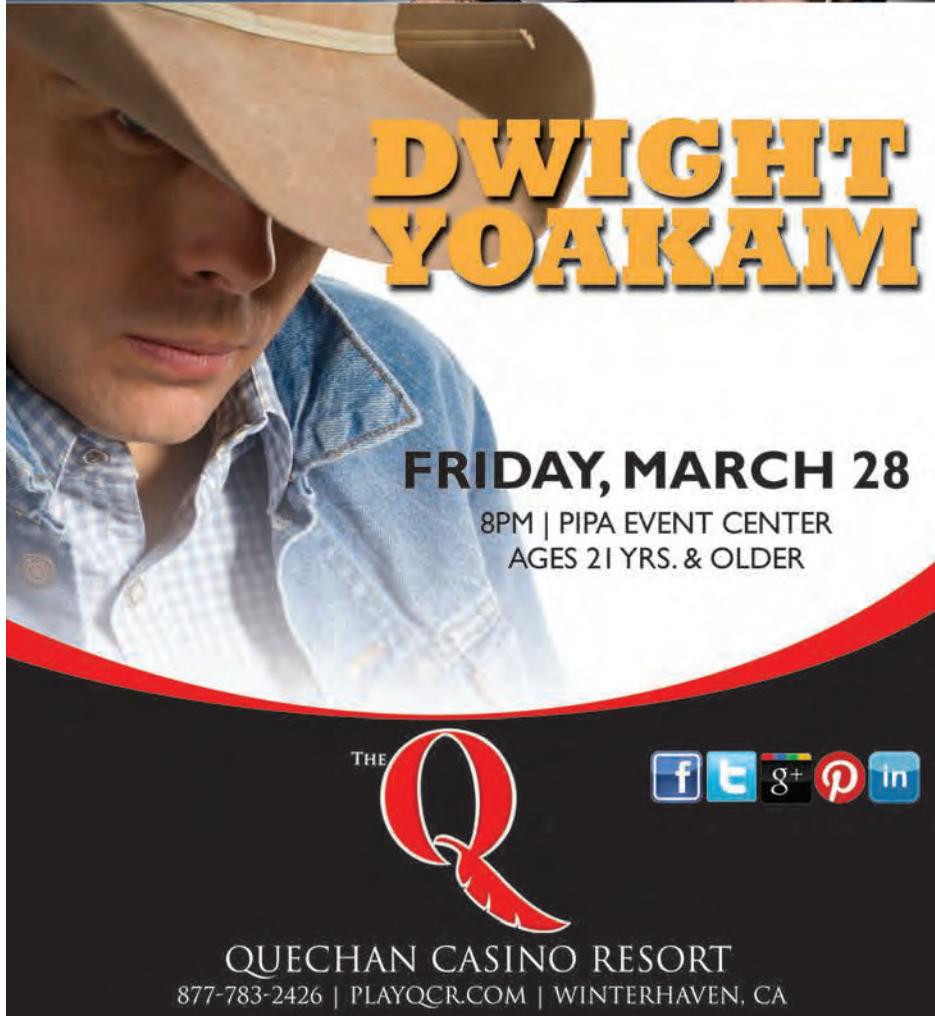
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