

YPG partners in 50 year commemoration of Vietnam War

By Staff Sgt. Tina Villalobos

More than 70 people gathered at YPG's ROC Atrium late last month to acknowledge YPG's selection as a partner in the 50th Year Commemoration of the Vietnam War. The commemoration was authorized in 2008 by the National Defense Authorization Act, and allows the Secretary of Defense to conduct and support the program.

A key element of YPG's first commemoration event included honoring the service and sacrifice of all Vietnam veterans; Vietnam veterans of several local Arizona Native American nations—as well as the sacrifice of Sgt. Bravie Soto, a Cocopah tribal member, and the first local resident killed in Vietnam.

"I support our

military and Vietnam veterans," said Sherry Cordova, chairwoman for the Cocopah Tribe. "Numerous members of my family were in Vietnam. I had three uncles, my brothers, and Bravie Soto—who unfortunately, did not come back; his name is being honored today."

The commemoration consists of a series of activities over the course of several years, to be held across the nation. Individual events will be both conceptual and theme-based, as well as those based upon anniversaries of significant events that occurred during the war.

Tony Brockington, YPG's Director of Safety, heads the YPG committee consisting of seven Vietnam-era veterans who organize and present events for the

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PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. TINA VILLALOBOS

The Yuma Proving Ground 50th Anniversary Commemoration Committee chairman, Tony Brockington (left) and guest speaker and Vietnam veteran, Walt Schumacher, unfurl the 50 year commemoration flag. The flag, logo, and seal were each designed with meticulous care to provide meaning in every detail. Only commemoration partners are entitled to receive the specially designed commemorative flag, which are not for sale to the public.

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SAFETY CORNER

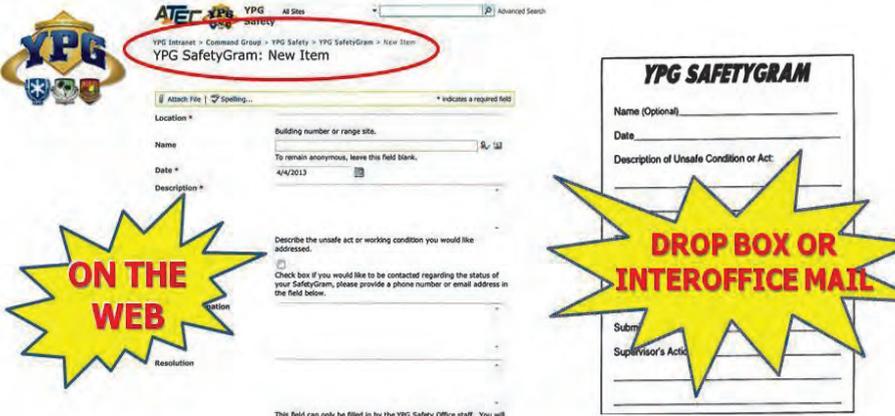
Safety office introduces web-based SafetyGram

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quick and easy as sending an email! Simply go to the YPG Intranet home page, click on the "YPG Safety" link under the Command Group tab, click the "Submit SafetyGram" button at the top of the page, and let us know about your safety concern! SafetyGrams may be submitted anonymously, and every SafetyGram gets reported to the YPG Safety Office and senior leadership.

Your SafetyGram Program Manager is Anne Fisher; she may be contacted at ext. 2793 if you would like more information about SafetyGrams. Try the new system out today to eliminate a hazard so **NOBODY GETS HURT!**



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Commissaries look to minimize effects of sequestration

The Defense Commissary Agency is thoughtfully developing its plan to minimize the impact of sequestration on commissary patrons, should furloughs be implemented.

If the Department of Defense implements furloughs, commissaries are likely to close one day per week, in addition to their current operating schedule. While there will be definite impacts to commissary patrons - and certainly to employees - if furloughs are

implemented, the principles guiding DeCA's planning efforts are to lessen the impacts of sequestration wherever it can. Because the agency's planning for sequestration is fluid and subject to change, commissary patrons can quickly find out about any changes to their local store's operating schedule by using

www.commissaries.com. The "Locations" link and subsequent "Alphabetical Listing" leads them to their "Local Store Information" page.



THE OUTPOST

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COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR'S CORNER

Looking out for one another!

Team YPG, the long days and warm temperatures of spring and summer are finally here within Southwest Arizona, and Soldiers, Family members and civilians throughout our organization will be eager to take advantage of their downtime by heading outdoors for some well earned fun and relaxation.

It should never be far from your minds that this time of year is historically the most risky for all personnel off-duty. In fact, off-duty fatalities during the months of April through September, have risen nearly 20 percent during the past four fiscal years, a tendency that can be neutralized with constant emphasis on safety.

Col. Reed Young, YPG commander; Rick Martin, garrison manager; and I, ask you to redouble your efforts on POV and POM accident prevention. Our Army lost 61 personnel in accidents on the road last spring and summer, a figure that represents approximately 80 percent of all accidental fatalities occurring between April through Labor Day.

A lack of discipline continues to be the preeminent factor in vehicle and motorcycle accidents. Please do everything you can to educate your personnel on the dangers of speeding, nonuse of seat belts and personal protective equipment, and drinking and driving. The same principles hold true for water-related activities, where there is little to no margin for error.

We must all remember that standards apply to all personnel affiliated with the Department of the Army on a 24/7 basis, and just a moment's lapse of judgment or an unwise split-second decision can have tragic consequences.

Thank you for what you do every day for our Soldiers, Family members and civilians. Your hard work and looking out for one another, help keep Team YPG safe and ready to execute our primary mission!

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April Go-Getters



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Congratulations to Jackson Becker (left), and Cynthia Tamp (right), from Mrs. Emerson's Kindergarten class for being selected Price Elementary School "Go-Getters" for the month of April.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER Focus on the Details

By Chaplain Loren (Maj.) Hutsell

Erma Bombeck was a famous newspaper columnist during the last century. She was noted for dispensing wisdom for the common American. Here are a few quotes that are attributed to her: "Never lend your car to anyone to whom you have given birth." "A friend never defends a husband who gets his wife an electric skillet for her birthday."

"The odds of going to the store for a loaf of bread and coming out with only a loaf of bread are three billion to one." "For years my wedding ring has done its job. It has led me not into temptation. It has reminded my husband numerous times at parties that it's time to go home."

Perhaps my favorite quote of Bombeck's is the following: "Never go to a doctor whose office plants have died." The inference being that good doctors take care of small details. Attention to detail in even the smallest of tasks is often indicative of how we respond to even larger responsibilities. The little things we

do, matter.

Think about this principle in terms of your close relationships. It's the daily care and the "watering" of your relationship that makes it thrive. It's saying and doing the small special things that will strengthen bonds of family and friendship. A friend recently shared with me a practice that greatly strengthened her marriage. She said that at least twice each day, she and her husband would say I love you to each other. They sustained this practice during the good times as well as the rough times.

I encourage you to once again focus on the details. Give emphasis to the daily care of making a relationship grow. Make time to meet unexpectedly for lunch, write a note of support, bake your kids a special treat, or bring flowers home to your sweetheart. Continual acts of kindness such as these help sustain and revive relationships. Galatians 6:9 reminds us: And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

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YPG-managed tropic testing a key to military success

By Chuck Wullenjohn

Arizonans are aware of the important role played by military installations throughout our state and, though Yuma Proving Ground isn't as well known as others, the proving ground's impact on national defense is profound.

But how many people outside the proving ground know of YPG's role in managing military environmental testing taking place thousands of miles away in other states and even outside the continental United States?

YPG-managed testing occurs amid three major environmental extremes in three diverse areas in Southwest Arizona, amid Alaska frostiness at the Cold Regions Test Center, and in a number of far away tropic locations by experts at the Tropic Regions Test

Center (TRTC).

Headquartered at Yuma Proving Ground, TRTC performs testing in some of the most challenging conditions anywhere. Though each extreme environment delivers its own set of unique challenges that must be addressed, according to TRTC Director Ernie Hugh, the tropic environment challenges military equipment and Soldiers to the maximum.

Tropic testing is all about the synergistic effects of the environment that combine to deteriorate and minimize the effectiveness of military equipment. These include high humidity, high heat, solar radiation, mud, and atmospheric salt amid a moisture-rich environment. Fungus and molds grow to deteriorate

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Cold Regions Test Center supports 'Whiteout' test

Technology development vital to pilots

Story by Clara Zachgo

Today's warfighters face a wide variety of imminent dangers in combat zones, ranging from improvised explosive devices and suicide bombers, to enemy fire and the environment in which they are fighting. With the high frequency of helicopter missions and the abundance of unimproved landing zones throughout the challenging Afghan environment, one danger in recent years has been vision obstruction caused by what are commonly referred to as whiteouts and "brownouts."

"Whiteouts and brownouts" are common problems for pilots flying in Afghanistan, as the

environment there is mountainous and dusty. Downwash from the rotor blades in snowy or dusty conditions creates plumes that surround the helicopter. These blinding plumes can cause a sudden loss of visibility, increasing the likelihood that pilots will lose their bearings, and drift into unseen hazards. There is currently no technology fielded that enables pilots to see through these whiteout and "brownout" conditions, making the development of such a technology very important.

Four scientists from the Night Vision and Electronic Sensors Directorate recently spent a week at a U.S. Army Cold Regions Test Center (CRTC)

facility to determine the value of emerging technologies that may enable pilots to see through these dangerous conditions. With support from pilots of the 16th Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Battalion, 52nd Aviation Regiment, a Blackhawk was flown to create whiteout conditions at a U.S. Army test site. The helicopter approached, hovered, and then landed in different areas between two structures that housed instrumentation. The data collected during this test will, hopefully, lead to technology advances, giving pilots clear visibility during takeoff and landing in all environmental conditions.

Blinding dust or snow kicked up by the downwash of helicopter rotors create a dangerous situation for pilots trying to take off or land, particularly when under fire in a combat zone. Yuma Proving Ground has conducted extensive evaluations of technologies meant to minimize this threat, including the recent Cold Regions Test Center test seen here.

(LOANED PHOTOS)



Children dance to music that was played from the bus which led them through the parade route on the proving ground. Parents, grandparents and other adults, joined the children as they danced to the music.

Below right, adorned in "red, white and blue" Gabby Rios (left), Tiffany Fraser (right) and Master Sgt. Brian Davis (in background), march alongside their children.

PHOTOS BY YOLIE CANALES



Military Child Month salutes kid's contributions

American Forces Press Service

During April's Month of the Military Child, the Defense Department (DoD) recognizes the support provided by and sacrifices made by military children, said Barbara Thompson, director of DOD's office of family policy/children and youth.

Since 1983, DoD has recognized military children for the support they provide to their families. There are now 1.8 million children in the military system, Thompson said.

"Military children, youth and teens are an integral part of their military parent because they stand by them, they're proud of them, they recognize their sacrifices and they take on additional responsibilities to meet the needs of their families," she said.

Military children also receive national-level recognition, Thompson said. Following a presidential study directive in January 2011, she

said, the cabinet secretaries signed a letter of support from their departments to military communities.

Yuma Proving Ground's Child Development Center (CDC), held its annual "Month of Military Child" parade. The event which was led by a YPG Police vehicle, brought parents, grandparents and many members of the workforce together to march alongside their children.

Pat Frost, assistant director of CDC, stated that with the involvement of parents, winter visitors, and our community, the children have gained a greater sense of their neighborhood. Frost continued to say, the community has also benefited from events such as these since it brings everyone together to support our greatest cause, our future leaders. "We want our children to know that we believe in them and support them as we guide them into the future, especially with our Soldiers as role models this year in our parade," said

Frost. "Our children were both excited and proud to see so many participants in uniform cheering them on."

Leading the parade and carrying the U.S. flag was Sgt. Duana Scott, Chaplain's assistant, followed by Sgt. Cherica Ibarra and Spec. Eduardo Garcia holding the "Month of the Military Child" banner along with Rick Martin, garrison manager and Command Sgt. Maj. Keith West and family.

Based on that directive, DoD has partnered with the Department of Agriculture and Health and Human Services to increase the availability of high-quality child care off the installation, she said, adding that 66 percent of military families live off base.

Thompson said she hopes civilian communities will also reach out to military children.

"Our military children are embedded in their school systems and their neighborhoods," she said.

Military installations will



celebrate the Month of the Military Child with activities such as parades, face painting, carnivals and other events that children enjoy, Thompson said. Activities information, she said, will be available through base newspapers, youth centers, child development center and family support centers.

Even though the number of children with a deployed parent has decreased because

of the U.S. military's drawdown in Afghanistan, military families continue to face deployments, humanitarian missions and training, Thompson said.

Regardless of the mission, military families are separated during times of holidays and children's birthdays, she said.

"That's why we recognize that children serve, too," Thompson said.

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TROPIC

FROM PAGE 5

leather and other organic compounds surprisingly fast. Jungle soils tend to be acidic and iron-rich, and native creatures love to feast on anything organic, such as insulation, and many insects build nests in warm areas. In essence, the synergistic forces found in the tropics have unpredictable, yet often crucial, effects on materiel integrity.

Thick tropical rain forests featuring dense overgrowth present a serious challenge to electronic communications. "Jungle leaves can be loaded with water, which means you can have a dense cloud of concentrated water hovering above you," said Hugh. He pointed out the top surface of many leaves are shiny and reflective, while the bottoms are dull, often with dozens of absorbent hairs. "Radio signals can have a difficult time penetrating in either direction, inward or outward."

U.S. military tropic testing began

in the early 1920's, when the Panama Canal Zone was used as a test station for studies on plants and animals. Severe failures of military equipment in the Southwest Pacific during World War II significantly expanded the tropic testing workload during the 1940's. Some 20 years later while the Vietnam War raged, tropic testing activities operated at full capacity to test battlefield concepts and equipment performance. Today, TRTC accomplishes its testing mission using a combination of highly trained Army civilian personnel and support contractors in Central and South America, and, on occasion, Hawaii.

TRTC's experienced personnel test materials and equipment around the year in some of the toughest conditions imaginable, in one of the most challenging and difficult natural environments in the world. The members of the Tropic Regions Test Center workforce share one common belief – that the Soldiers of the United States deserve no less than the most reliable and best equipment in the world.



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VIETNAM

FROM PAGE 1

commemoration at the proving ground. Brockington served in Vietnam twice.

"I think this commemoration is important," said Brockington. "The Vietnam era is not as visible today as we feel it should be—and the sacrifices were tremendous. It is important that we create awareness. We are hopeful other Vietnam vets will become engaged; because they are not forgotten—and those here on post are working at a place that played an extremely important role in testing and evaluating material during the Vietnam era. Those efforts certainly made a positive difference in saving lives."

The main focus of the commemoration is to honor Vietnam veterans and those that supported them, increase public appreciation of their service, and provide factual information regarding the Vietnam War.

Guest speaker, and Vietnam veteran, Walt Schumacher encouraged fellow Vietnam veterans to share their

experiences.

"I would ask one favor of all of you Vietnam veterans, especially those that were in country," said Schumacher. "Would you please consider telling your stories to your children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren?"

Kenrick Escalanti, graphic artist, a Quechan tribal member, and designer of the plaque for YPG's first commemorative event, shared his perspective.

"Anything we can do to participate in protecting our land or anything involving the United States; that's what we take a lot of pride in," said Escalanti, "This event is a great honor."

The Vietnam War took place for nearly two decades, 1954 through 1973. Interestingly, American forces during the Vietnam War were the most highly educated of all previously deployed American armies -- 79 percent had at least a high school diploma before entering the service. The average service member was 19 years old.

The U.S. infantryman in Vietnam saw an average of 240 days of combat in one



A member of the Colorado Indian Tribe takes an "up-close" photo of the mural created specifically for the event by employee Kenrick Escalanti, of the Quechan Tribe.

PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER

year, compared to the 40 days of combat experienced by our infantry in the South Pacific during World War II over a four year period. The Vietnam War cost the lives of more than 58,000 U.S. armed forces, and more than 150,000 were wounded.

"I enjoyed this ceremony and the recognition for Vietnam veterans," said Dale Short Sr. of The Colorado River Indian Tribes. "When we came home, there were no bands; no parades—there

was really no recognition—so this is important. We need to continue the recognition, and education for students on what the war meant, what the war represented, and the changes to our country. There were a lot of changes due to opposition to the war."

The YPG 50th Anniversary Commemoration Committee is seeking participation from more YPG Vietnam era veterans. To get involved, contact Tony Brockington at 328-2660.


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Sexual Assault has no place in DOD

American Forces Press Service

Sexual assault has no place in the Defense Department, a senior Pentagon official said, calling on the workforce to be part of the solution.

In a keynote address kicking off Aberdeen Proving Ground's observance of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, acting Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Jessica L. Wright said sexual assault is a national issue that also affects the Defense Department's military and civilian workforce.

The theme for this year's observance -- underscored in a message that Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel sent to the department's workforce today -- is, "We own it ... we'll solve it ... together."

"Although we address sexual assault during the month of April, this is an issue that needs to be addressed every day of our lives," Wright told an audience of service members and

Next Outpost deadline is noon April 18th

- Sexual Assault Hotline: 920-3104 or 328-3224
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civilian employees.

The Defense Department is a microcosm of America, she added, where employees bring their values and how they were raised to the workforce.

"I often say if we're in Afghanistan and we [see] something unsafe, [or] not akin to the values we have grown up with, we would tell that person to stop what they're doing, because they're going to affect our well-being and their well-being," she said. "Yet when we are here in the United States, and we do something that's not akin to ... values in a social network, sometimes we have a hard time crossing that boundary and saying, 'This affects the life of a service member or a civilian we work with,

and it's inappropriate.'"

The Defense Department doesn't condone sexual assault, Wright said. "We don't tell jokes of a sexual nature, we don't condone unwanted sexual behaviors, and we clearly don't condone sexual assault," she added.

Just as everyone knows people who drink a lot of coffee, exercise a great deal or are "Facebook junkies," Wright said, everyone also knows someone who doesn't live by the Defense Department's values and ethos.

"I ask that if you know that person, tell [him or her] to stop it, and make sure you report bad behavior should you see it," she added. "That's the only way we're going to stop it."

Wright said she joined the military

in 1975 as a member of the Women's Army Corps, at a time when having a drink at the post club was condoned. "But in our military now, ... we don't condone drinking [or] drinking and driving. We don't have those social things like we used to, because it's just not who we are," she said.

The military culture has changed radically with regard to drug and alcohol problems and racial tensions it had in the past, Wright said, adding that she doesn't see sexual assault any differently.

"I ask each and every one of you to take back a message with you today that says, 'Every single day, we don't condone [sexual assault],' " she said.

Sexual assault awareness and prevention must be part of all levels in the organization, she added, whether employees work with a small group in an office or in a field situation.

"We have a sexual assault problem," Wright said. "We need to jump on top of it and stop it. And it is incumbent upon all of you to do it."

Army to hold force reduction, realignment

By Lisa Ferdinando

The Army is holding listening sessions at installations throughout the U.S. in April to hear what communities think about the force reductions and restructuring that are likely to impact their areas.

The Army must cut its force by approximately 80,000 Soldiers by 2017 to meet the fiscal reductions in the Budget Control Act of 2011.

"These listening sessions are designed to enable community members to provide their concerns and unique perspectives on topics regarding their communities," said Army

spokesman Lt. Col. Peggy Kageleiry.

She said no decision has been made yet on how to reduce Army strength to 490,000.

"The Army values community input to make the best decisions and to mitigate, as much as possible, the impact on local communities," she said.

Kageleiry said Army leadership will consider the communities' concerns before final decisions are made. She also said the Army will preserve quality of life for Soldiers and their families, while sustaining relationships with the communities.

The Army could downsize

its active component force structure from 45 brigade combat teams to potentially as few as 32, she said.

The reductions are separate from sequestration. Kageleiry said the Army will ensure that it still is able to respond to future, unforeseen demands.

The force reductions began in Fiscal Year 2012 and focused initially on overseas formations. Significant force reductions in the U.S. will begin in 2014, Kageleiry said.

She said additional reductions may be necessary after President Barack Obama's 2014 budget is released and the impacts of sequestration are assessed.



(U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

Soldiers stand at attention at Basic Combat Training graduation at Fort Jackson in Columbia, S.C. Fort Jackson is among the installations where the Army is holding 'listening sessions' about force reduction and realignment.

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Dr. Aiello received his MD degree from the University of Michigan. After completing both an Internship and Residency in Internal Medicine at the University of North Carolina, he finished a Residency in Ophthalmology at the world renowned Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. He is board certified in both Internal Medicine and Ophthalmology.

In addition to caring for his patients at the Aiello Eye Institute, he is an examiner for the American Board of Ophthalmology, and a clinical instructor for the Midwestern School of Osteopathic Medicine in Phoenix. He is a Retired Air Force Senior Flight Surgeon and State Air Surgeon for the Arizona National Guard with 27 years of military service.

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