

THE OUTPOST

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A salute to YPG's top NCO and Soldier

By Yolie Canales

Two Yuma Proving Ground Soldiers exhibited confidence and poise to out-shine competitors in the recent Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter/Year and Soldier of the Quarter competitions.

Sgt. Michael Miller K. was selected as NCO of the Quarter and NCO of the Year while Spec. Justin T. Tovar was dubbed Soldier of the Quarter. Both are from the YPG Health Clinic.

“Winning the NCO of the Quarter and Year made me realize I am heading in the direction of becoming a better leader,” said Miller. The four year Army veteran said winning these titles also shows he is capable of more than doing just day-to-day routine functions. “I’m capable of completing assignments on a competitive level,” he said.

Miller, a health care sergeant, says the most unique thing about the job is his support to the Military Freefall School and the

“There are many daily challenges to be faced and one is working within an environment that is so multifaceted.”

— Sgt. Michael Miller K.

Airborne Test Force by providing medical coverage on drop zones. When he works in the health clinic, he directly interacts with patients and enjoys helping others in the YPG community.

“There are many daily challenges to be faced and one is working within an environment that is so multifaceted,” he said. “I overcome challenges by keeping calm and looking to my peers when I need assistance.”

Miller, who has been at YPG

for nine months, says he joined the military to do something worthwhile in his life and to give back to a country that allows us to be free. He says he strives to be a success in the work force because he wants his Soldiers to look up to him and be able to approach him for answers if they have issues.

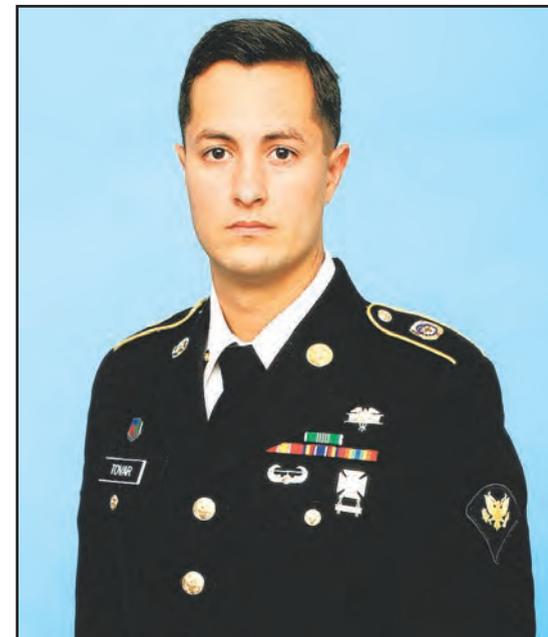
A native of Escondido, Calif., Miller enjoys playing the drums, working on his Volkswagen Baja Bug, going to the gym, and drawing/painting in his spare time.

A native of San Bernardino, Calif., Health Care Specialist Tovar says his duties at the clinic are numerous, including being in charge of pharmacy operations and the specimen collection room. In addition, he works sick call operations and manages the clinic’s GSA vehicle.

He says the most unique thing about his job is working outside the scope of the pharmacy. “I’m learning new things that I wouldn’t if I simply performed



Sgt. Michael Miller K



Spec. Justin T. Tovar

Dialed 9-1-1 by mistake? Don't hang up please /Page 3

9-1-1
whoops?

European allies eyeball YPG artillery testing /Page 6



Moneysaving van pools coming to YPG/Page 10

VIEWPOINTS

August is Women's Equality Month. In honor of this, we asked members of the workforce to reflect on a woman in history that they admire.

Carol Cowperthwaite Librarian



There are several First Ladies that I admire: Eleanor Roosevelt, Hillary Clinton, Barbara and Laura Bush, and Michelle Obama. In addition to the special projects, the more modern ones have undertaken in areas like education and literacy. We don't know how much influence they had in giving opinions or a different way of looking at things to the president.

Pete Schaffer Lead engineer



Amelia Earhart. She was a true pioneer of both aviation and women's equal rights. By pursuing her passion for flying, Amelia Earhart challenged the traditional-held view of women and their roles in the late 1920s and 1930s and remains one of the greatest heroes of early aviation to this day.

Michele Dominguez Staff auditor



I admire Hatsheput, female King of Egypt. I admire the strength, wisdom, persuasion, and ingenuity she used during her reign. She did what was best for the country and prepared the young male king to take over following her death. She essentially, had a peaceful reign and her foreign policy was based on trade rather than war.

TOP

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within my normal limitations," he explained. Tovar had no prior knowledge of pharmacy operations and found it quite a challenge, but had plenty of help from medical personnel at the clinic and technicians at Fort Irwin. "They were a huge help and provided answers to the many questions I had," he said.

Competing in and winning the competition was the result of an inner drive presented to him by Tovar's NCO's, who inspired him to go out and do more, and go above and beyond his scope of normal practice. "It feels good to make it to this level, but I'm looking forward to competing in the Soldier of the Year competition next time it comes up," he said with a smile.

With only two and one-half years in the military, Tovar was motivated to join the military to help provide support to his family. He says his most rewarding Army experiences were following in his father's footsteps and bettering himself as a person. "In addition, I am able to not only provide for my family, but have been afforded the opportunity to give them extra things in life they may not have been able to otherwise have," he said.

For Tovar, to be successful in the workforce one must accomplish tasks at a higher level than asked. A family-oriented individual, he enjoys spending quality time with his family in various activities such as fishing and watching movies.

THE OUTPOST

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operator.

Often 911 is mistakenly dialed from the sensitive numpads of VoIP phones when trying to place an Off-Post long distance call (9+1+area code). Again, please avoid the temptation to hang-up when this happens. It is far less embarrassing to explain to the operator that you hit the 1 twice by mistake, than to have fire and police crews burst into your building wondering where the emergency is.

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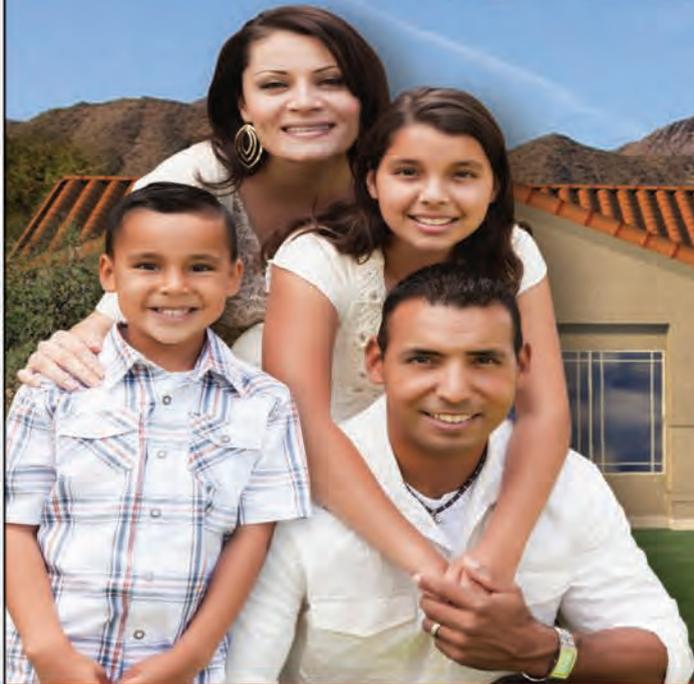
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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Did you know you are very special

By Chaplain (Maj.) Douglas Thomison

Good day TEAM YPG. The Bible says, "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home." (Luke 15:4-5)

But why make all that fuss about one, seeing he had ninety-nine left? If he only possessed two sheep, and had lost one, we could have excused his concern and trouble over the lost. But to lose one out of a hundred seems an insignificant loss. Yes, that is how we sometimes reason, but it is wrong.

Our Lord cares for each and every one of us. All people are important to Him. Do you know you are pretty

special? When God made you, He made something extraordinary. We read, "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb." (Psalm 139:13) God "knitting" us together is astonishing.

In addition, know that those around you are also important. In your departments, there may be someone who does not fit in very well with the others. Maybe you're that individual. The point is, we are all important in the eyes of the Lord, and also should be to one another.

The next time you look in the mirror, think about the important person you are. When you look at someone else, remember they really are special too. Bear in mind, we are all on the same team, and need each other's support. Have a blessed day!

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European allies eyeball YPG artillery testing

By Chuck Wullenjohn

The world's armies are equipped with stockpiles of artillery rounds numbering in the hundreds of thousands. Most of these are conventional or "dumb" munitions, meaning that once they are aimed and fired, they fly in the direction the cannon tube was pointed. To obtain a definite "kill" at a long range, say 18 miles, fire missions frequently involve 20, 40 or even 100 or more individual rounds fired from multiple tubes due to conventional artillery munition inaccuracy that increases as range increases.

But the artillery world is changing. The relatively new Excalibur 155mm projectile, fielded in Iraq in 2007 and Afghanistan the following year due to urgent requirements, contains GPS-aided computer smarts enabling it to precisely adjust its trajectory while heading toward a target, with devastating effect. Excalibur rounds have developed a rock-solid reputation

for extreme accuracy and lethality. The Excalibur went through years of testing at Yuma Proving Ground prior to fielding and the newest iterations are being tested at the proving ground now.

An exciting development on the artillery horizon is a newly developed fuse that turns a conventional artillery projectile into one with precision guidance capability. This cost-effective system is called the "Precision Guidance Kit" or "PGK"

for short. PGK is a GPS-aided fuse-sized module that replaces standard fuses used with 155mm high explosive artillery ammunition. It performs in-flight course correction to improve accuracy and effectiveness, enabling closer support of friendly forces.

Steve Flores, chief of YPG's Artillery and Mine Branch, oversees PGK testing at the proving ground. A veteran of 12 years of

YPG artillery testing, he and a crew of nearly 40 others performed lot acceptance testing of PGK modules in late July. Lot acceptance testing is a form of quality control in which samples are taken from produced factory lots to ensure they meet all technical requirements.

A unique feature of the testing was that it was witnessed by representatives of three European nations – Germany, Sweden and

the Netherlands. According to Flores, the visitors were observing the performance of PGK with an eye toward recommending the purchase of the system to their own nations.

PGK offers an affordable way to significantly upgrade conventional artillery stocks by simply screwing a fuse module onto the tip of existing projectiles. "The United States is interested in selling PGK

to friendly nations," said Flores. "Today's foreign visitors definitely see the value of increasing the effectiveness of conventional high explosive 155mm ammunition. This could greatly improve military capabilities."

Col. Scott Turner, project manager for Combat Ammunition Systems - Indirect Fire, has been a frequent YPG visitor over the years because of the large

number of tests performed on munitions he oversees. He has worked with PGK in the four years since he assumed his position, but the program began in 2006.

"PGK has incredible potential to change the way artillery units employ conventional munitions," said Turner. "It's a game-changer in terms of providing a near-precision capability to conventional 155mm high explosive projectiles."

Although PGK is not inexpensive, it means that potentially 60 to 90 percent fewer projectiles would need to be fired at a target to achieve a given effect. "This means artillery batteries can engage many more targets per basic load of ammunition," he pointed out.

The cost of a conventional fused M795 Insensitive Munition high explosive artillery round fired with the M232A1 Modular

Artillery Charge System at Zone 4 is around \$2800. With PGK, the cost per fired round would increase by about four times. But, considering that far fewer projectiles need to be fired per target, coupled with the ability to engage additional targets with the same basic load of ammunition, the cost becomes much more reasonable from an operational effectiveness and logistics supportability

perspective.

The foreign visitors were able to view the firing of the PGK-equipped rounds from a M777A2 155mm artillery piece, then travel downrange many miles to observe target effects in the impact area.

Jokaim Lewin, head of the Direct Fire Systems Office in the Swedish Ministry of Defense, said the idea of adding PGK to the Swedish military inventory makes sense. "Sweden has partnered with the United States in developing the Excalibur projectile and we have lots of traditional artillery munitions, meaning something in-between might work out well," said Lewin.

He said Sweden maintains a couple test facilities of its own, where most of the Swedish military's testing takes place, but there isn't enough work to keep the facilities busy all year. "Yuma Proving Ground is a one-of-a-kind facility that brings together a variety of

resources in one place. We will definitely be coming back."

Henk Damen of the Netherlands has a similar view. "We have a small Army and, politically, we need to fire artillery accurately to avoid collateral damage," he said. "These realities force us to introduce accurate, precision ammunition like Excalibur and PGK." Much military testing conducted by military forces of the Netherlands is conducted jointly with Germany, and long range artillery testing tends to take place in South Africa.

Just as military services within the United States are seeking ways to economize in today's fiscally austere environment, other nations throughout the world are in the same boat. The Precision Guidance Kit offers a way to make a limited artillery capability much more capable on battlefields of the future.



In a day consisting of multiple firings, the gun crew takes a breather between rounds.



Contained within a remarkably small package, the PGK module offers a great deal of bang for the buck. Taking the place of a conventional fuse, the PGK module turns a "dumb" munition into one with precision capability.



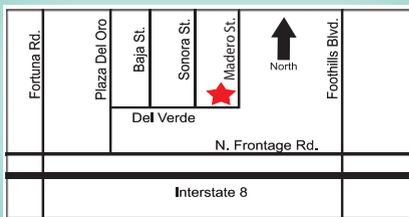
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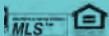
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Commissaries return to normal hours Aug. 18-24

By DeCA Public Affairs Division

Military commissaries worldwide will return to normal operating schedules the week of Aug. 18-24, said the director and CEO of the Defense Commissary Agency.

The DeCA announcement comes in the wake of the Department of Defense's Aug. 6 decision to curtail furloughs of its civilian workforce from 11 to six days.

"This is welcome news for us all," said Joseph H. Jeu. "Our stores will return to their regular schedules after Aug. 17. I encourage our patrons to check the DeCA website for their commissary's operating hours.

"We recognize the disruption that furloughs presented to our patrons as far as access to their commissary benefit," he added. "We also understand the economic hardships many of our employees faced with

the pay they lost during the furlough period." Since July 8, the one-day-per-week furloughs impacted all of DeCA's more than 14,000 U.S. civilian employees worldwide.

With the end of furloughs, Jeu asked that patrons be patient as product delivery schedules return to normal. "We will do everything possible to ensure that our shelves are properly stocked with the products our customers want when they shop," he said. "However, there will be a short

adjustment period as our stores settle back into their pre-furlough operating and delivery routines."

Commissary customers can quickly find out about any changes to their local store's operating schedule by going to www.commissaries.com, clicking on the "Locations" tab, then "Alphabetical Listing" to locate their store, and clicking on "Local Store Information."




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Moneysaving van pools come to YPG

By Mark Schauer

It's not what you make, it's what you spend.

With fuel prices trending upward and the uncertainty of future furloughs that may put a strain on household budgets, many YPG employees are seeking economies wherever they can. Given that drivers of even fuel-sipping economy cars can spend in excess of \$200 per month in fuel and maintenance costs related to their daily commute to and from the isolated proving ground, more than 90 YPG employees attended recent informational meetings about prospective van pools presented by representatives of vRide, the nation's largest corporate van pool service.

"The whole idea is to offer a mass-transit benefit program to reduce pollution and traffic congestion, preserve the environment, and expand transportation alternatives," said Col. Reed Young, YPG commander. "Government employees riding in a ride sharing program are reimbursed for using the shared ride. In many instances, this covers most if not all costs."

Though more details remain to be worked out, most attendees left the

presentations intrigued by the possibility of saving money on their daily commute.

"If you look at commuting options, van pools and car pools tend to be about the most flexible choices where you can save money," said Ted Abeyta, national account executive for vRide. "Obviously, a car pool is a bit more flexible than a van pool, but it is a lot of money out of pocket and you're putting a lot of miles on your vehicle. There is also personal risk: most people are not insured for all their passengers, particularly if they're not in their family."

The deal may prove to be even sweeter for the average YPG employee. The county transit authority that runs the Yuma County Area Transit (YCAT) system will provide a monthly subsidy of \$300 per van that seats five or more people, including the driver, and the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 allows a subsidy of up to \$245 per worker participating in a van pool. Though this latter provision is currently scheduled to expire at the end of the year, the fact that subsidies have increased in recent years suggest there is broad support for the program.



(PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER)

Environmental Protection Specialist Marla Lewis inspects an eight-passenger v-ride van. Ten vans have already been established to commute to and from YPG starting September 3rd.

vRide's rental fleet includes a variety of styles and sizes of vans, the most popular models being the eight and 12 passenger luxury vans, which boast bucket seats for all passengers and optional WiFi at extra cost. In addition to the size and amenities of the vehicle, total cost per month is dictated by the mileage cap purchased. For example, an eight passenger luxury van with a 1,000 mile cap currently rents for \$586 per month. The mileage caps ascend in 250 mile increments, and the monthly rental cost increases by about \$30 for every 250 additional miles purchased. Comprehensive

insurance with no deductible and \$1 million in coverage for each passenger is included in the rental cost, as is auto club membership that covers nuisances such as flat tires and dead batteries.

So is participating right for you? If you can count on having reasonably standard work hours for at least one month, or your work hours usually mirror those of your van mates, participation seems like a no-brainer. Even without the generous county and federal subsidies, a full eight passenger luxury van renting for \$666 per month would cost \$83.25 per person, plus fuel costs, which is still less than the

average solo commuter spends. This makes it economical even for federal contractors working at YPG who aren't eligible for the federal subsidy. For those who fear the inevitable family emergency that could call them away from work early, most installations and companies that participate in the program have at least one loaner vehicle available for such contingencies, oftentimes at little or no cost to the person who needs it.

vRide representatives say their company is widely used by other military installations, including California's Fort Irwin, whose workers

and contractors depend on scores of the rental vehicles.

"We do a lot of military work," said Abeyta. "Federal employees have the commuter benefits act, which is worth up to \$245 per person per month. They tend to utilize that, find a van pool, and save a lot of money going to and from work."

More meetings for YPG personnel will occur in coming weeks, though Abeyta says you can begin searching for van mates even before applying for a rental and the accompanying subsidies at the company's website, www.vride.com.

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**Play
 Your Way!**

**NEW Games!
 NEW Promotions
 on our
 NEW Kiosks!**

See the Players Rewards Club Booth for complete details.
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Tuesdays

WIN UP TO \$1,000 CASH!

Drawings every Tuesday 6 pm to 8 pm.

Swipe your card or play your favorite slot machine to enter. Receive one extra entry for every 25 Players Rewards Club points earned.

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