

THE OUTPOST

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

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YPG display at Spirit of Yuma fest

By Chuck Wullenjohn

YPG cast a large shadow at the Spirit of Yuma festival, held in Yuma's old downtown. The purpose of the event is to honor the military installations that make up such a large portion of Yuma County.

YPG's exhibit was centered inside the Yuma Art Center. Several dozen pieces of artwork painted by Soldiers in the field dating back to the mid-1800s were on display, supplemented by an aerosonde unmanned aircraft and photos of modern Yuma Proving Ground.

Close to 2,000 people walked through the display throughout the three-day event.

A historic presentation on the U.S. Army Camel Corps was offered by YPG Heritage Center Curator Bill Heidner in the Historic Yuma Theater on Saturday afternoon and a presentation called "Help Never Came" detailing the early

see **DISPLAY** page 2



PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER

Chuck Wullenjohn, YPG's Public Affairs Officer, greets visitors at the YPG display during the Spirit of Yuma festival in the Yuma Art Center. Close to 2,000 visitors walked through to view the artwork display. See page 2 for more photos.

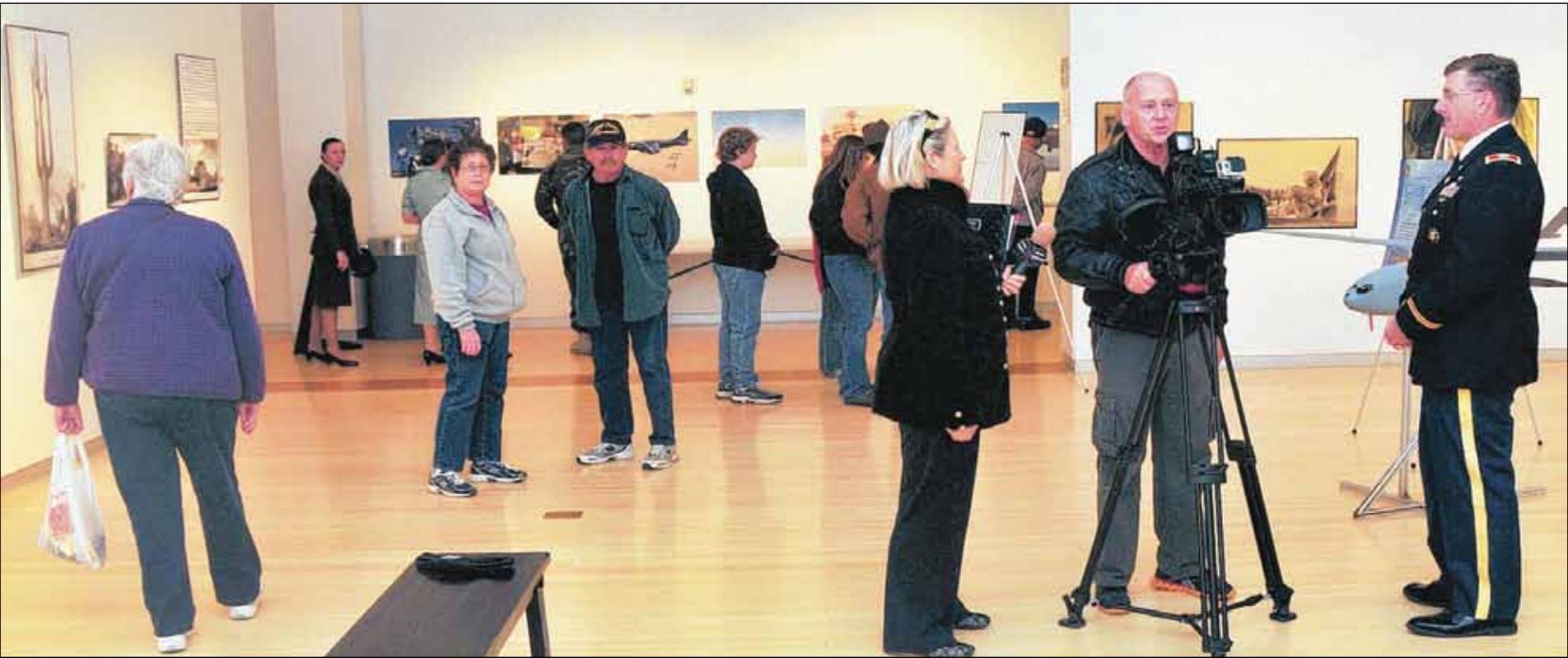
Paramedics at Yuma Proving Ground ready to do their jobs/ Page 4



Reaching for the stars: Testing at YPG putting us closer to moon, Mars/Page 5

Veterans served by new Yuma medical facility /Page 9





PHOTOS BY MARK SCHAUER

Local media interview Col. Reed Young at the festival while visitors view artwork displayed along the walls at the Yuma Art Center. The artwork will be on display for six weeks.

DISPLAY

FROM PAGE 1

World War II Bataan-Corregidor campaign that led to the Bataan Death March and the largest surrender of American forces in U.S. history was presented by YPG's Public Affairs Officer Chuck Wullenjohn, Friday and Saturday.

In addition to Saturday events, YPG Commander Col. Reed Young, welcomed everyone to the festival. "YPG is proud to be an active participant in this festival," said Young. "We obtained 40 pieces of artwork, each painted by Soldiers, that are on exhibit in the Yuma Art Center. I invite you to stop by our artwork display, that will remain on exhibit within the center for the next six weeks."



Yuma Proving Ground Heritage Curator Bill Heidner is interviewed at the festival while visitors view artwork displayed along the walls.

SAFETY CORNER

Safety tips to remember when consuming alcoholic beverages

Drinking and Driving:

Every day, 36 people in the United States die, and approximately 700 more are injured, in motor vehicle crashes that involve an alcohol-impaired driver. Year-round, everyone is reminded to take steps to avoid driving under the influence of alcohol.

Following these tips from the National Highway and Transportation Safety Administration can help you stay safe:

Plan ahead. Always designate a non-drinking driver before any celebration begins.

Take the keys. Do not let a friend drive if they are impaired.

Be a helpful host. If you're hosting a party, remind your guests to plan ahead and designate their sober driver, always offer alcohol-free beverages, and make sure all of your guests leave with a sober driver.

Recalls:

To provide better service in alerting the American public to unsafe, hazardous or defective products, six federal agencies (Consumer Product Safety Commission, National Highway and Transportation Safety Administration, Food and Drug Administration, United States Coast Guard, Environmental Protection Agency, and United States Department of Agriculture)

have joined together to create www.recalls.gov – a “one stop shop” for governmental recalls. This site covers recalls of Consumer Products, Foods, Medicines, Cosmetics, Meat and Poultry Products, Motor Vehicles and Car Seats, Environment Products and Boat and/or Boating Safety. Access the Consumer Product Safety Commission recalls and product safety news directly – <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prerel.html>

The Safety Office has resources available in the way of brochures, videos, etc. Please stop by and have a look. Remember “NOBODY GETS HURT.”

Military exercise coming

Between January 28th and 29th, Yuma Proving Ground will conduct an installation-wide exercise.

Military and workforce personnel should be prepared for possible interruptions and delays during this time. Federal, state, and local agencies will also participate in this exercise, which is an annual homeland security requirement.

The exercise is designed to enable Yuma Proving Ground to be better situated to protect Soldiers, civilians, family members, contractors, information, facilities, and equipment in the event of any contingency.

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PHOTO BY YOLIE CANALES

Yuma Proving Ground's newest paramedics are left to right: Kenneth Bulkey, Juliana Main and Scott Wilson.

Paramedics ready to do their job

By Yolie Canales

Imagine a career as a paramedic where you help others in need and sometimes even save lives. The highest level emergency medical technician on an emergency response team, the paramedic provides advanced emergency on-scene treatment, crisis intervention and life-saving stabilization. Often, this includes the transport of ill or injured patients to medical and surgical treatment facilities such as hospitals and trauma centers.

Yuma Proving Ground's Emergency Services is fortunate to have up to 12 paramedics on board to help save lives on the installation, and along Highway 95 and its surrounding areas.

Most recently, the Safety Office recognized three firefighters who graduated from Arizona Western College's Paramedic Course. Col. Reed Young, YPG commander, presented each with a certificate of achievement and congratulated them for their hard work in completing the demanding course.

The three graduates were Scott Wilson, lead firefighter, Kenneth Bulkey and Juliana Main, both firefighters. Wilson and Bulkey, former Marines, took the course because they felt it was time to take the extra step in helping people more than what they are able to as emergency medical technicians (EMT). "This

SEE READY/8

Fiscal cliff legislation affects military, civilian paychecks

The legislation that President Barack Obama signed Jan. 2 that postponed the fiscal cliff means changes to military and civilian paychecks, Defense Finance and Accounting Service officials said today.

The legislation increases Social Security withholding taxes to 6.2 percent. For the past two years during the "tax holiday" the rate was 4.2 percent. The increase in Social Security withholding taxes affects both military and civilian paychecks, officials said.

For civilian employees, officials said, this will mean a 2 percent reduction in net pay. For military personnel, changes to net pay are affected by a variety of

additional factors such as increases in basic allowances for housing, subsistence, longevity basic pay raises and promotions. Service members could see an increase in net pay, no change or a decrease, military personnel and readiness officials said.

For military members, Social Security withholding is located on their leave and earnings statement in the blocks marked "FICA taxes" -- for Federal Insurance Contributions Act.

DOD civilians will see the change on their leave and earnings statement under "OASDI" -- for old age, survivors, and disability insurance. Reserve component members will be the first to see potential

changes in their net pay as a result of the law, DFAS officials said. Changes will be reflected in their January paychecks.

Active duty military personnel will see pay adjustments in their January mid-month paycheck and will be reflected on the January leave and earnings statement. DOD civilians will see social security withholding changes reflected in paychecks based on the pay period ending December 29, 2012, for pay dates beginning in January.

DFAS stresses that all personnel should review pay statements carefully. <http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=118916>

THE OUTPOST

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January Go-Getters



Congratulations to Taylor Engelman and Kristen Policar from Mrs. West's 1st grade class, for being selected Price Elementary School "Go-Getters" for the month of January.

Next Outpost deadline is noon January 24th
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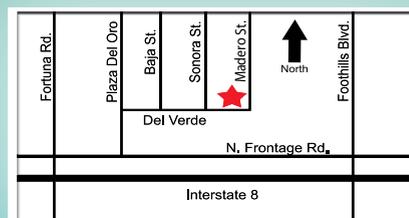
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"YPG has been part of our test portfolio forever. It's a great partnership and we really appreciate the special services that they provide for us. — Paul Marshall, Orion assistant manager strategy integration"



PHOTOS BY

the more things stay the same: YPG has been a site for NASA testing since the mid-1960s, when the Mobility Test Article (MTA), a prototype of the lunar rover, visited. "It's a great partnership and we really appreciate the special services that they provide for our test portfolio forever," said Paul Marshall, assistant project manager for the Orion capsule.

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a slow landing speed of 17 miles per hour. Further, the parachute system is designed to compensate for a variety of failures in the hope that astronauts can still return to Earth safely if something goes wrong.

For the Yuma Proving Ground test, evaluators intentionally rigged one of the drogue parachutes to not deploy, hoping that the remaining chutes could withstand the additional stress of speed and mass the drogue's failure would cause.

"We design in specific failure scenarios as part of our test plan for improved reliability of the system," said Chris Johnson, project manager for the CPAS system.

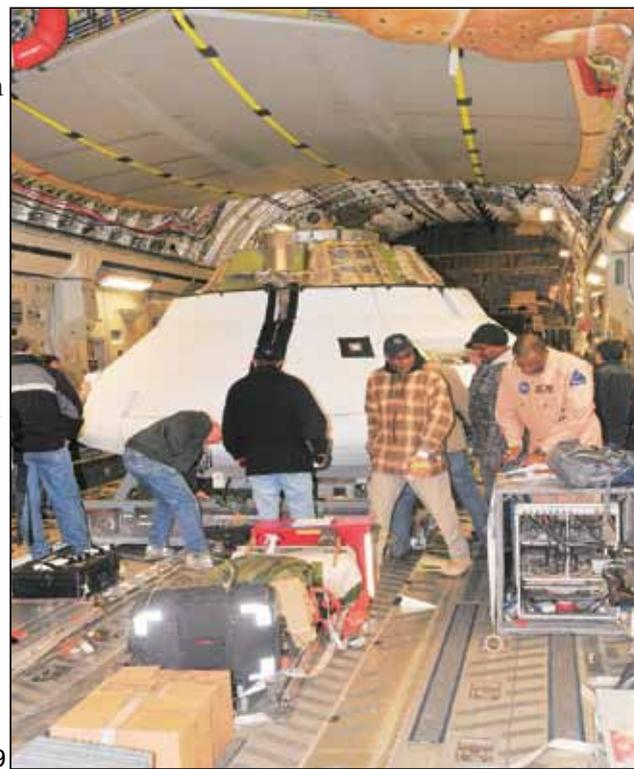
"Systems like this are

especially hard to analyze and test on a sub-scale basis," added Paul Marshall, the Orion program's assistant manager for strategy integration.

"The physical processes of a parachute are very dynamic and unpredictable. You can't model it, so testing is really important and we make a big commitment to testing a great deal."

The latest drop took place on a still and cold late December morning on an isolated drop zone at the proving ground. As in previous tests, the capsule was dropped from a C-17 cargo plane flying at an altitude of 25,000 feet, though testers hope future drops at YPG can take place from an even higher altitude. The

SEE REACH/9



Once the payload is loaded, the heavy capsule are balanced in the cargo bay of a C-17 aircraft, where technicians must ensure the capsule is completely balanced for performance out of the bay and to ensure that the data test office is collecting. Here, technicians prepare the capsule for flight over one of the drop zones. The capsule was dropped from a cargo plane (far left) at 25,000 feet. The parachute in the cargo bay consists of 10,000 square feet of fabric, which makes following a drop zone multiple personnel. Workers also have to remove the palette off which the capsule is deployed and instrumentation.

READY

FROM PAGE 4

course gives us advanced skills as far as what we can do with patients," said Bulkey. "Now, we are able to administer medication, with medical direction of course, monitor patient's hearts, conduct advance airways, and much more. Basically, it gives us more options to treat patients and save lives."

The course was quite demanding. The three took classes held on weekends for a full year.

"It was tough," said Wilson. "Once we got off of our regular work schedule at 8 a.m., we headed to class that started at 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.. It took a great deal of studying and going on ambulance rides within the City of Yuma and San Luis, Arizona.

"We had to put 250 hours of this in during the course," he said. They also worked in the hospital's emergency room.

Bulkey, who served four years

in the Marine Corps, and Wilson, who served eight years, said they went into the firefighting career-field after serving in that job in the Marine Corps. "As a young boy growing up in a farm, I was always fascinated by fire when we burned fields," explained Bulkey. "Once I left the Marines, everything just fell in place." As for Wilson, his civilian life led him back to what he was trained for in the Marines as part of a crash crew team. "It's a rewarding job when you are able to help people who need you. When I go out on a call, it's because someone is depending on and needs me," said Wilson.

Challenges in the emergency services career are numerous. Schedules are challenging, especially when responders have to be away from family and special occasions, but they learn to adapt. "Some calls are also challenging, especially when they involve children," said Wilson. "If they made the call, it's because they need help, which we'll always provide."

— Social Security Column

A 'raise' for Social Security recipients

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

As we ring in a new year, we can expect to see a number of changes. Social Security is no exception: in 2013, people who receive Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments will see their benefits increase.

Beginning in 2013, a 1.7 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) was applied to all Social Security and SSI payments. The average monthly Social Security benefit for a retired worker in 2013 is \$1,261 (up from \$1,240 in 2012) and the average monthly Social Security benefit for a disabled worker in 2013 is \$1,132 (up from \$1,113 in 2012). These changes were reflected in SSI payments dated December 31, 2012 and Social Security payments dated in January 2013.

For people who receive SSI, the maximum federal payment amount has risen to \$710 (up from \$698). Other Social Security changes in 2013 are worth noting. For example, a worker now pays Social Security tax on up to \$113,700 of annual income (up from \$110,100 in 2012). A worker earns one credit after paying taxes on \$1,160 in earnings in 2013 (up from \$1,130). As always, a worker may earn a maximum of four credits each year and a person generally needs forty credits (or ten years of work) to be eligible for retirement benefits.

To learn more about these and other changes for 2013, visit the Social Security website at www.socialsecurity.gov, and read our fact sheet about the changes at www.socialsecurity.gov/pressoffice/factsheets/colafacts2013.htm.

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Veterans served by new Yuma medical facility

By Mark Schauer

Since August, local veterans have received health care at a new Veterans Administration (VA) community outpatient clinic located in the Big Curve shopping center. The facility boasts 13,500 square feet, and has a staff of four doctors, a pharmacist, and telemedicine capability that lets patients interact with specialists at the VA hospital in Tucson.

The facility was formally dedicated early this month with a ribbon-cutting that included Yuma Proving Ground commander Col. Reed Young and other local dignitaries.

"This is a state-of-the art, phenomenal facility," said

Young. "This clinic and the VA counseling center provide excellent comprehensive care to veterans in our community. About a third of Yuma Proving Ground's civilian employees are veterans, so it is near and dear to our hearts to have a facility like this."

The clinic has an even deeper connection to Yuma Proving Ground than its patient population, however.

"We started in Yuma in 1997 at Yuma Proving Ground in your old dental clinic," said Jonathan Gardner, director of the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System. "We had two nurse practitioners and a few nurses."

From there, Gardner said, the clinic moved to a 3,900

square foot suite of offices in the Bureau of Land Management building on Gila Ridge Road. The patient list expanded, and the clinic began adding physicians, pharmacy technicians, and other personnel.

Throughout the changes, clinic personnel have been accommodating to YPG's four-day, Monday through Thursday workweek.

"I tell the staff to set up Friday mornings for my YPG patients," said Dr. Walfredo Zarraga, one of the facility's four physicians.

More changes are planned in the near future as well. The facility hopes to ultimately offer optometry, audiology and physical therapy services.



YPG Commander Col. Reed Young (left) presents a token of appreciation to the staff of the VA's new Yuma Outpatient Clinic. The clinic serves nearly 4,000 local veterans, including YPG personnel.

PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER

REACH

FROM PAGE 6

mock capsule was extracted from the cargo bay on a pallet with two 28-foot parachutes attached to it. The capsule was then separated from the pallet, and the parachutes deployed as dozens of personnel watched from the drop zone and mission control room. Less than five minutes elapsed between the capsule's touchdown and the successful landing, but the test represented weeks of preparation and years of design and construction work.

Future tests will be coming fast and furious to help NASA engineers get ready for the Orion capsule's ultimate test next year, which will take the system 3,500 nautical miles

beyond the Earth. In comparison, the International Space Station orbits about 220 nautical miles above the Earth's surface, and the now-retired space shuttle was designed to accommodate orbits of less than 600 nautical miles. Though this test won't take place at YPG, NASA officials say the proving ground has long been essential to the agency's mission.

"YPG has been part of our test portfolio forever," said Marshall. "It's a great partnership and we really appreciate the special services that they provide us. We enjoy a great relationship with the Army."

"We're testing parachutes, that's what we're here for," said Jerry Lillie, Yuma Proving Ground test coordinator. "We're obtaining a lot of good data."

Baggers needed

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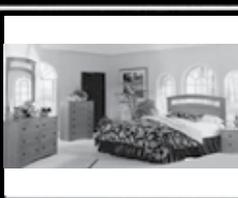
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VIEWPOINTS

Another year, another set of resolutions. For this Viewpoint, we asked members of the workforce, "What is your new year's resolution for 2013?"



Monica Gaschler,
senior data collector, CRTC

To get my first moose since we moved to Alaska. I've lived there since December 2008 and haven't taken any big game yet, though my husband has gotten caribou. I have moose and caribou tags, but I'll have to wait until things slow down at work before I can go out. I'm not into mounts or capes, I want the 800 or 900 pounds of moose meat so we don't have to worry about meat for a while.

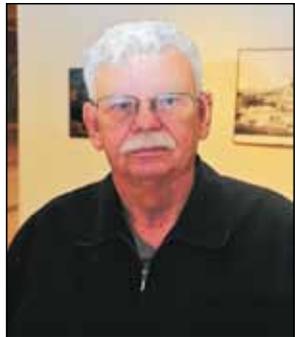
Staff Sgt. Normandie Landeros,
Health Clinic

To finish out my military career. I've been in for 18 years and need to start planning for the future this year. It's been a rewarding career, but I've spent too much time away from my family these past 18 years.



Vince Lacey,
Heritage Center volunteer

Basically to have a very peaceful and quiet year. I'm not looking to make a million dollars, just something smooth and steady where I can help my family.



Pedro Lugo,
computer programmer

To continue working for YPG and delivering great service. I've worked here for a year and really enjoy it.



Community leaders flock to YPG

By Chuck Wullenjohn

The value of positive community relations cannot be overstated, as every military officer knows. These relationships are most often built and nourished when times are good, when parties have the opportunity to sit down together to hash out issues and develop an understanding of competing needs.

One of these instances occurred early this month when nearly 20 community officials carved time from their busy winter schedules to spend a morning at Yuma Proving Ground. Besides receiving a detailed briefing and seeing a wide variety of military equipment, attendees were able to pepper test officers with questions and take a ride on an armored vehicle. They found it to be both an enlightening and fun experience.

"I saw some new faces in the group today and this definitely gave them an appreciation for what we do," said YPG Commander Col. Reed

Young after presenting his briefing. "As we foster and grow the business of YPG, we know these people are our partners. We want them to understand YPG's importance to the community and have them work on our behalf."

A highlight of the visit was meeting with a variety of test officers, who described the systems on which they work and the complexities of military test programs. It was quite an eye opener to people who had never considered it before.

Yuma City Administrator Greg Wilkinson, who has visited on several other occasions, says it's a great experience to understand what goes on at YPG and, at the same time, know how critical it is. The proving ground has a huge effect on the local economy and it's good for people to see it, he said.

Wilkinson, a Marine Corps veteran, served three tours in Yuma during his career, and has a special interest in systems under development. After



Customer Service Roll Call

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

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Bellman, Richard
Bessett, Rick
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Castanon, Bernardo
Cook, Johnnie
Cunningham, Ellen
Daley, Dan
Dayton, Rosa
Ellis, Marc

Everly, Connie
Harris, Kili
Heidner, Bill
Holbrook, David
Hollis, Richard
Howden, Jean
Kilanski, Paul
Kleiman, Duane
Lalonde, Sandy
LaRose, Rhonda
Lauzon, Carolyn

Martin, Vicki
McCoy, Joie
Miller, Jeremy
Miller, Lisa
Minner, Frances
Moe, Gregory
Moreno, Paul
Moreno, Zeke
Morse, Bob
Obregon, Clara
Ochoa, Megan

Orgeron, Cheryl
Overstreet, Raquel
Perkins, Amanda
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