

THE OUTPOST

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

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Published for the employees and families of Yuma Proving Ground, Yuma Test Center, U.S. Army Garrison — Yuma, Cold Regions Test Center and Tropic Regions Test Center

Director speaks of YPG's '2nd to none' workforce

By Staff Sgt. Tina Villalobos

More than 70 small business owners and interested attendees crowded the east wing of the Yuma Civic Center during the recent two-day Government Procurement Conference. Julio Dominguez, YPG's Technical Director, was among the keynote speakers.

Sheila Martin, co-owner of the non-profit Arizona Diversity Business Development Center, described the organization's role and the purpose of the conference.

"Our diversity business development center came out of a need to assist companies, small businesses and prime contractors to find opportunities in the federal space," said Martin. "We do private work as well; but the federal, public side is one of our major focuses." The organization has built a data base of many certified firms, such as women-owned, service-disabled veteran owned firms, contacted them and asked if they'd like to meet other firms like themselves where they may



(PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. TINA VILLALOBOS)

Attendees listen attentively as Julio Dominguez, technical director for Yuma Proving Ground, informs them about the YPG mission. Dominguez discussed the past, present and future direction of YPG and its focus on the safety and well-being of the Warfighter as well as its professional and dedicated employees.

have contract opportunities.

When addressing the audience, Dominguez explained the missions of YPG, as well as its past, present and future relevance on the combat effectiveness and safety of Warfighters. He also spoke of the challenges in ensuring the safety of employees testing lethal items. He outlined the importance of testing during

a wide variety of weather and situations to ensure the safety and functionality of weapons and other military equipment under any condition or location of use.

"I gave this brief to inform people about what we do and what we have—the facilities and people," said Dominguez after the speech. "Presentations here at the conference make attendees

more knowledgeable, and if they're a small business interested in obtaining a contract, they now have an idea of the expansiveness of YPG's mission, terrain and facilities."

While he offered participants YPG historical and statistical information, the graphic portion of his presentation played a big role in capturing the crowd's

attention.

"I enjoy opportunities to tell the public about YPG," remarked Dominguez. "It is important they know this great resource is helping our Warfighters. YPG is made up of a group of dedicated professionals—truly dedicated folks, second to none. I'm always glad to take the opportunity to boast about them."

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Navy reservists help
Army personnel test
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Proving ground blasts its way into space

In 1966, 'HARP' gun testing part of international pursuit

By Chuck Wullenjohn

Notable hallmarks of the 1960's were precisely engineered rockets for space travel constructed by the Soviet Union and the United States, with the goal being to obtain bragging rights as the first nation to land a manned mission on the moon.

While numerous rocket-powered space missions were conducted by both powers, less well known are the thundering experiments with giant cannons developed to fire scientific payloads into space. One such monster gun was constructed at YPG and, though it hasn't fired a projectile in decades, it remains today, slumbering in the desert.

Officially called the "High Altitude Research Project," or "HARP," for short, the program was the brainchild of gifted engineer Gerald Bull, a native of Canada. The great dream of his life was to fire supersonic canon projectiles from the earth directly into outer space.

Ballistically speaking, a space cannon made some sense, for the idea offered several advantages over rockets.

When a rocket blasts off, it must carry not only its own weight, but also that of the fuel. Cannon "fuel" is contained and expended within a gun barrel, plus, it offers far more explosive bang for the buck than rocket fuel. Also, cannons are simpler and cheaper to operate.

But disadvantages also exist. The payload must be slender enough to fit into the barrel and must be capable of surviving the huge acceleration force of a cannon blast. Manned missions are out of the question.

Though the bulk of the

HARP project's well over 100 artillery firings took place on the island of Barbados, one of the most significant occurred at Yuma Proving Ground. At 118 feet in length, YPG's HARP gun was the largest artillery piece in the world and, on November 18, 1966, it fired a 185 lb. payload 111 miles high, into the lower reaches of space. It was a world altitude record that still stands. A record was also set that day for the greatest amount of powder ever loaded into a gun – 1225 lbs.

To achieve this success, engineers devised a number of technological innovations, one of which was a new ignition system. Instead of igniting the bottom of a 15-foot long stack of powder bags loaded into the gun's breech, the HARP gun ignited the charge at five separate points so the entire charge would ignite simultaneously. The projectile reached a maximum velocity of 6,800 feet per second upon leaving the barrel. When the gun fired, it produced a huge explosion and plume of fire that gushed hundreds of feet into the sky.

Another innovation were the supersonic shells developed for the gun. Dubbed the "Martlet," they were cylindrical finned projectiles about eight inches wide and over five feet long. Each weighed several hundred pounds. The Martlets were scientific research craft designed to carry payloads of chemical smoke, meteorological balloons or metallic chaff. While in the gun's barrel, the Martlet was surrounded by a wooden casing known as a "sabot" that held it tightly against the gun's bore, then fell away after leaving the tube. Bull hoped to eventually

fire a Martlet into orbit.

YPG's famous HARP shot took place long after most employees had left for home; at 11:56 p.m. to be exact. The shell was tracked from three points – at Yuma Proving Ground, in the nearby town of Wellton and at Arizona Western College. As the Martlet reached maximum altitude, it released chemicals that glowed in the night sky and could be seen with the naked eye. It came down on the proving ground about 30 miles from where it was shot.

Despite the HARP gun's success at Yuma Proving Ground, the project was cancelled shortly thereafter. Disappointed, Bull went on to establish his own company to sell artillery wares to nations around the globe – Britain, Italy, Egypt, Israel, Australia, Angola, South Africa, and to both sides during the Iran-Iraq War of the 1980's. Later, working for Saddam Hussein, he designed a 500-foot long, 2100 ton super cannon that would allow Iraq to fire payloads into orbit.

Some were concerned, even perturbed at the threat this represented. In March 1990, Bull was assassinated at the door of his apartment in Brussels, Belgium. Shot five times with a silencer-equipped 7.65 mm automatic pistol, the assassin was never located. Some say it was an Israeli intelligence operative, but no one knows for sure.

Yuma Proving Ground's HARP gun is the only thing in Arizona that has fired an artillery round into space. At the very least, it won the proving ground an asterisk in the international space race history books.



(U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

The High Altitude Research Project (HARP) was constructed in the 1960's at Yuma Proving Ground and, though it hasn't fired a projectile in decades, the gun remains today, slumbering on Kofa Firing Range.

THE OUTPOST

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(PHOTOS BY MARK SCHAUER)

A member of a local law enforcement agency (left) takes the Special Olympic Torch from Spec. Eduardo Garcia (right) from the Yuma Proving Ground Health Clinic as the torch makes its way to its final destination, Mesa, Ariz.

YPG supports Special Olympics

By Mark Schauer

The Special Olympics is the world's largest sports organization for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving more than four million athletes the opportunity to test their physical and emotional stamina.

Serving as role models for this year's Special Olympians were about 25 YPG Soldiers from the post Health Clinic, Veterinary Clinic and Special Operations Terminal Attack Controller Course (SOTACC) who carried the games' famed torch on a 1.3 mile run along Highway 95 between Somerton and Yuma late last month.

"The foundation of the military is fitness," said Col. Reed Young, YPG commander, who led the YPG contingent. "This gives us an opportunity to participate in a fitness activity and

support an important event like the Special Olympics at the same time."

"Carrying an Olympic torch is a one-in-a-lifetime event for most people," added Norma Young. "It's a big thrill for the YPG community to be able to participate."

The torch was making its way to Mesa, Ariz., for the 2013 Special Olympic summer games, and each of the YPG runners had an opportunity to run with the torch.

"It was awesome," said Staff Sgt. Normandie Landeros of the YPG health clinic. "It was a nice change of pace and a great way to get out and support the community. That's what it's all about."

The Special Olympics summer games took place shortly after the run at Mesa Community College and lasted three days.

Approximately 25 Soldiers and dependents from Yuma Proving Ground to include, Col. Reed Young, YPG commander (far right) and wife, Norma, participated in the recent Special Olympic Torch run. Driving the HMMWV that led the runners was YPG's Command Sgt. Maj. Keith West (far left).



VIEWPOINTS

Everyone loves gift cards, but how many times do you receive one from a store you actually like? "If you could receive a \$100 gift card from any store you wanted, which would you choose?"



Sgt. Jonathan Klein
Combat medic

I want to get the kids outdoors more nowadays, so I'd probably stop by Sports Authority or Cabela's. I'd go by one of the sports stores.



Steve Taylor
Optical engineer

Chevron and I'd use it to fill up my gas tank. I'm partial to them, I don't know why. I drive a little Toyota pickup but my wife drives a Ford Excursion that has a V-10 and sucks gas, so \$100 wouldn't even fill the tank.



Matthew Williamson
Community planner

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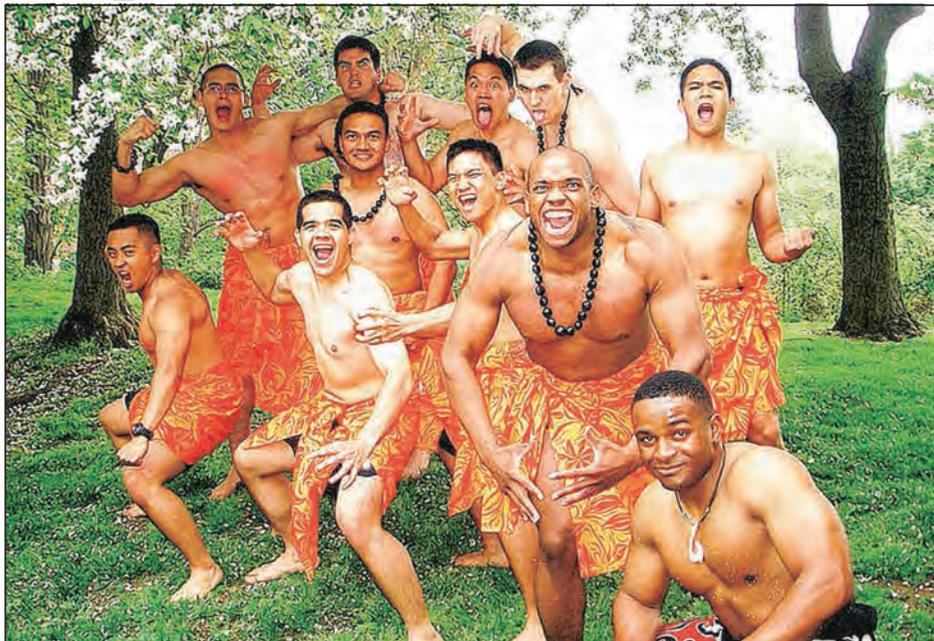
Asian pride in 'Tha' House

Editor's Note: May is Asian Pacific American (APA) Heritage Month. Just as we celebrate the rich history and contributions of our Black, Latino, and American Indian brothers and sisters, so too should we recognize, appreciate, and celebrate the vibrant and diverse culture of Asian Americans. Please note that Yuma Proving Ground will be observing APA with a free food sampling. See attached flyer.

By C.N. Le

APA Heritage Month was first established in 1977 when Representatives Frank Horton and Norman Mineta and Senators Daniel Inouye and Spark Matsunaga introduced resolutions asking the President to declare the first 10 days of May (the month when the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the U.S. in 1843) as Asian/Pacific Heritage Week. In 1978, President Carter made it an annual event and in 1990, President George H.W. Bush proclaimed the entire month of May to be Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

Asian Americans and non-Asians usually celebrate by eating at Asian restaurants or attending one of the numerous APA Heritage festivals or parades organized each May by Asian American community organizations, where they can taste the different foods from various Asian countries,



(LOANED PHOTO)

Cadets perform the Haka Dance during the eighth annual West Point Asian Pacific American Observance Celebration at Trophy Point. A Haka is a traditional posture dance form with shouted accompaniment of the Maori of New Zealand.

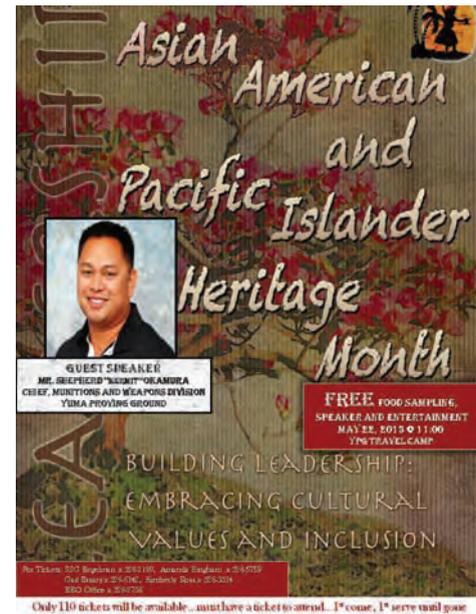
watch cultural performances, and learn more about Asian American history and culture.

Let there be no doubt that these kinds of celebrations are wonderful, fun, and highly recommended. At the same time, we should also keep in mind what it is we're really celebrating. In other words, what does it mean to be proud of one's Asian American heritage?

For me, celebrating my APA heritage means lots of things. First, I am proud that the history of my

ancestors goes back 20 generations -- twice as long as the U.S. has even existed. The point is that I feel very fortunate to have two sets of cultures to enjoy -- American and Vietnamese. Rather than divide my identity in half, these two sets of experiences double my understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of the world around me.

Second, I'm proud to share in the accomplishments of all Asian Americans before me. That includes those who are well-known and famous who worked to shatter the old myths and stereotypes against us, like Bruce Lee, members of the 442nd Regimental Unit in World War II, and Maxine Hong Kingston -- and those who remain relatively obscure in the realms of history but whose accomplishments are no less impressive and inspiring. These include the Chinese laborers who died building the Transcontinental Railroad, the Japanese Americans who endured their illegal imprisonment during World War II, and everyday Asian immigrant families who work tirelessly to improve their lives and build a future



for their children.

Finally, I memorialize the sacrifices and suffering that many Asian Americans went through so that our community could unite and fight for their justice -- heroes such as Fred Korematsu and Vincent Chin. May their legacy serve to inspire us for generations to come and may the lives of all those before me serve to illustrate the diversity and beauty of what it means to be Asian American.

The Asian society recently produced the following YouTube video that illustrates the different ways that various notable Asian Americans around the country identify as Asian American and what it means to them to claim that identity (they also have extended clips at their YouTube channel).

As a federal law, APA Heritage Month is observed throughout the country. Many federal agencies host official observances during the month of May. Such events host important speakers, cultural performances, traditional foods, etc. Across the nation, local Asian Pacific American organizations host their own events to celebrate the month. But the true celebration begins with the individual.



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► Answer: D, all of the above.

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To email employment verification information to an external organization:

1. Log into the DCPDS Portal at <https://compo.dcpds.cpms.osd.mil/>. Click on the link, use your CAC to enter the site, then select Army Region.

2. Select "MyBiz," then go to the column in the center of the page and select "Employment Verification."

3. Select your details to share, either "employment information" or "employment and salary information."

4. Enter recipient email information.

5. Ensure your email address is included in the My Email field to receive the password.

6. Select "Continue" to preview the information.

7. Select "Acknowledge and Submit" to send your employment verification information.

8. Confirm your submission.

This is a simple and free process, and is the only way for employment verification to be accomplished at this time. Don't compromise your process with the organization with whom you are conducting business by giving a CPAC phone number or point of contact. The CPAC will merely tell them to contact you for this process.

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Navy reservists help Army personnel test mine-clearing robots

Technology of devices has matured significantly in the past decade

By Mark Schauer

Machines can be replaced, but people can't. In combat, land mine and explosive clearance is a slow, painstaking, stressful job that physically and mentally drains Soldiers and military working dogs.

Being under enemy pursuit and working in extreme weather increases the possibility of making deadly mistakes, which is why YPG

“The primary benefit of this sensor payload on the robot is to take the Soldier out of harm's way. The Soldier can now stand back and let the robot clear the path.”

— Robin Gullifer, deputy product manager for the IED Defeat/Protect Force

Defeat/Protect Force. “The Soldier can now stand back and let the robot clear the path. This testing is critical.”

To conduct accurate testing, however, the robots carrying the sensors under test must bear the additional weight of heavy data-gathering instrumentation as they traverse harsh terrain similar to what they would encounter in theater.

“The payloads we have on the Talons are much heavier than what they are usually subjected to, so the wear and tear is much greater,” said Adam Haas, test officer. “They are essentially unmodified Talons being asked to do a lot with extra weight.”

Supporting this extra weight over tough terrain can cause the platforms to break down more

extensively tests detector technologies attached to robots like the Talon that are able to go anywhere a Soldier does. The technology, which can detect a variety of explosive hazards and improvised explosive device (IED) components, has matured significantly in the past decade.

“The primary benefit of this sensor payload on the robot is to take the Soldier out of harm's way,” said Robin Gullifer, deputy product manager for the IED



To do accurate testing, the platforms that carry the sensors under test must carry heavy data-gathering instrumentation as they traverse rugged terrain. Burdened by this additional weight, platforms are subject to break downs, which stalls testing.

(PHOTOS BY MARK SCHAUER)

frequently, but, thanks to inter-service cooperation, reserve members of the Navy's Space and Naval Warfare Systems (SPAWAR) Command, who have real-world experience with the Talon platform conduct their reserve duty at YPG, ready to spring into action if and when a Talon breaks down.

“As reservists, our job is to support and augment the active duty folks,” said Cmdr. Eric Pihl, deputy program manager for unmanned vehicles. “This is a great utilization of reserve manpower by directly supporting the warfighter. These guys have the knowledge to come on board and start working immediately.”

“They have a specific skill set dedicated to this test and are available on short notice for repair

of the Talon robots,” added Haas. “When repairs need to be made, they are there to step in and fix it immediately.”

During testing, test operators ran the robots as they would in combat areas, running the platforms down test lanes with handheld control units as data collectors stand by to record how the machine operates and where it identifies a buried threat target. For these reasons and more, testers expect the program will continue at YPG for the foreseeable future.

“We come here for the facilities and support we get for the program,” said Gullifer. “You have the right capability here and the right personnel to make the job happen and do it very, very well.”



Reserve members of the Navy's Space and Naval Warfare Systems (SPAWAR) Command have real-world experience with the Talon platform and conduct their reserve duty at YPG, they stand ready to spring into action if and when a Talon bearing a sensor under test breaks down, as seen here.



Reserve members of the Navy's SPAWAR Command have a wealth of experience maintaining and repairing the Talon platform. “This is a great utilization of reserve manpower by directly supporting the Warfighter,” said Cmdr. Eric Pihl (standing), program manager for unmanned vehicles. Y PG testing has played a critical role in testing new unmanned systems that can detect a variety of explosive hazards. During testing, test operators ran the robots as they would in combat areas, running the platforms down test lanes with handheld control units as data collectors stand by to record how the machine operates and where it identifies a buried threat target.



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Summer Camps arriving soon at YPG's Child and Youth Services

Yuma Proving Ground's Child & Youth Services has 10 weeks of fun filled summer camp activities that will begin June 3rd through August 9th.

They are kicking off camp activities with a water slide and outdoor lunch for all registered youth. Other activities include weekly swimming and roller skating with visits to the library.

Missoula Children's Theater is coming the week of June 10 - 14 with a swashbuckling performance of "Blackbeard the Pirate."

An overnight trip is scheduled for

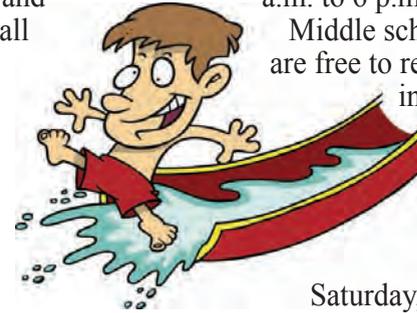
SeaWorld in July. Field trips to the water park, science and technology camps and much more are scheduled.

School age fee based services are for youth's grades 1st through 6th. Hours of operation are from 5:45 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Middle school and teen programs are free to register for those going into grades 7 through 12. Charges apply for off post field trips. Hours are Monday - Thursday 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Friday and Saturday, 1 p.m. to 10 p.m.

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SOCIAL SECURITY CORNER

Social Security honors all who serve

By Wilma Carrasquillo-Facio,
Social Security District
Manager

Every day of the year, Americans across the nation remember friends and family members who have served and sacrificed for their country. Memorial Day is a day when we all come together to honor those who have given their lives in the defense of freedom and the principles we hold dear in this country.

May is also National Military Appreciation Month. As we observe Memorial Day and Military Appreciation Month, we would like to let members of our military know how much we value

what they do for our nation.

At Social Security, we offer a wide range of services for our service members. Families of fallen military heroes may be eligible for Social Security survivors benefits. Learn more about Social Security survivors benefits at www.socialsecurity.gov/pgm/survivors.

For service members who return home with injuries, Social Security is here to help. Visit our Wounded Warriors website. You can find it at www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors. We use an expedited process for military service members who become disabled while on active military service, regardless of

where the disability occurs.

The Wounded Warriors website answers a number of commonly asked questions, and shares other useful information about disability benefits, including how veterans can receive expedited processing of disability claims. It is important to note that benefits available through Social Security are different than those from the Department of Veterans Affairs and require a separate application.

Even active duty military who continue to receive pay while in a hospital or on medical leave should consider applying for disability benefits if they are unable to work due to a disabling condition.

Active duty status and receipt of military pay does not necessarily prevent payment of Social Security disability benefits. Receipt of military payments should never stop someone from applying for disability benefits from Social Security.

If you've served in the Armed Forces and you're planning your retirement, you'll want to read our publication, Military Service and Social Security at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10017.pdf.

You also may want to visit the Military Service page of our Retirement Planner, available at www.socialsecurity.gov/retire2/veterans.

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Communications for military couples

Submitted by Paul Kilanski, Family Advocacy Program Specialist

Military couples may deal with more stress than many other couples. Moving, deployment and parenting while your spouse is away can take a toll on even the best relationship. These tips can help military couples keep their relationship strong.

Make time to communicate. Spend a little time each day talking. Listen closely. If you are thinking about what to say, you're not listening. Be aware of your body

language and tone of voice. Crossed arms, scowling or a harsh tone can make you seem unwilling to listen.

Don't let conflicts become fights. Conflicts about money, intimacy, parenting, moving or deployment are common. To keep it positive, stay focused. Avoid talking when you are tired, stressed or in a hurry. Work for a solution you can both live with. Try to understand both sides. Resist blaming. If your talk gets heated, take a break. Come back to the discussion after you have both cooled down.

If your spouse shuts down don't

assume he or she is angry with you. The person may be upset about something or someone else. Service members may prefer to talk with their military buddies. They may want to protect you from wartime details. Your spouse may not open up if he or she thinks you will reject or get defensive about what is said. Try to respect his or her opinion even if you disagree.

The long separations of deployment can create tension. Talking things through before and during the deployment can make it more positive for everyone. Before you say goodbye, spend time with each family member. Say goodbye individually. Exchange items with a special meaning as a reminder while you are apart.

Stay connected. Being apart can be tough. Staying in touch on a regular basis can help. Be creative. Send letters and emails. Send audio tapes and videos. Make a family website. When you can, talk honestly about everyday life. This can help both of you feel more connected.

Help kids cope. Remind children that the parent is trained and ready

to do his or her job. Have regular, honest, age-appropriate talks. If they're upset, ask questions to find the root of their fears. Talk often about the deployed parent. Follow your child's lead. Give a little information to see how he or she responds before giving more. Older children may want to write thoughts or concerns in a journal. This may help them sort through their feelings.

Be prepared for the homecoming. Reunions may be awkward. Homecomings are often joyful but they can also be stressful. Don't worry; it's common to have mixed feelings about reuniting. Be patient. It takes time to get into the rhythm of being a family again. Be open and honest in talking about why you feel nervous, scared and happy. Be positive and praise your spouse and family for what they accomplished during the deployment. Reassure the service member that he or she was missed. Military couples face unique challenges and circumstances that may strain their relationships. If problems persist contact your military family service or support center, chaplain or medical provider for help.



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walk starts at 7:00 a.m. and at 8:00 a.m.

Yuma CBOC will walk at 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m.
V tel demonstration of the Healthy Living Demonstrations will be available from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

8:00 a.m. - 8:20 a.m. Michelle Hartsell - Zumba

8:20 a.m. - 8:40 a.m. Becky Stephens - Stretching for Stress Relief

8:40 a.m. - 9 a.m. Fred Springer - Slide Dancing

To Benefit Homeless Veterans And Promote Health + Wellness

RECOMMENDED DONATIONS

Reader Glasses	Small/ Medium Size Underwear/Boxers
Boots	Foot Care Items (nail clippers, lotion for feet, foot deodorizer sprays/powder)
Backpacks	Reusable Water Bottles
Hygiene Kits (razors, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, q-tips, lotion/sunscreen, chapstick)	
Rain Ponchos	

For specific information, contact:
Loren Feureisen, LCSW, HUD-VASH
Case Manager at (928) 317-9973
extension 1138 or
Loren.Feureisen@va.gov

We care about eye care... you'll see!



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.

Having performed more than 15,000 surgeries, he is regarded as one of the state's leading eye surgeons.

Dr. Aiello is the only Ophthalmologist doing Lasik and PRK in Yuma, Arizona.

MILITARY DISCOUNTS



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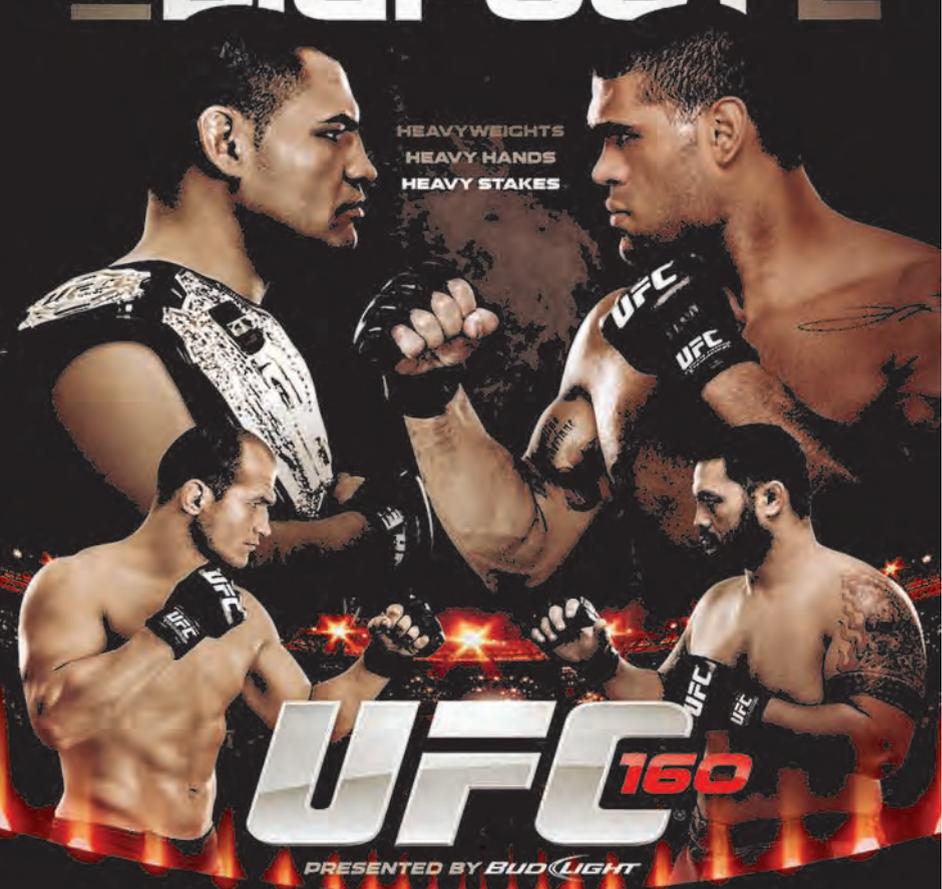
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