

THE OUTPOST

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A bigger bang

New Munitions and Weapons Chief confident about future

By Mark Schauer

Kermit Okamura is a young man with lots of experience.

In his nine years as a test officer for YPG's ground combat division, he worked on numerous vehicles that were critical to Soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, from the Stryker combat vehicle to the M109A6 Paladin. Since December, he has served as branch chief of the Munitions and Weapons division, responsible for overseeing all of the proving ground's artillery and mortar testing.

"They are similar test activities," said Okamura. "The materials and scope of testing are different, but the test methodology and processes are the same. Everything else is pretty dissimilar, though."

Despite the differences, Okamura has seamlessly made the transition, and credits the workers in the division for making it so.

"It might have been more challenging starting as a division chief from a different

division, but I have great people here, all willing to help and accept someone from another neighborhood. I have two great branch chiefs in Eddie Patchett and Steve Flores who were acting chiefs prior to my arrival. My learning curve wasn't as steep because they knew the job."

"Testing is fun. I'm not saying that being a supervisor isn't fun, but I remember the camaraderie you get with your test crews, and how at the end of the day you go home with a sense of accomplishment.."

— Kermit Okamura, branch chief of the Munitions and Weapons division

Born on the Hawaiian island of Kauai, Okamura's family moved to New Mexico when he was an adolescent. From an early age, he liked tinkering.

"I was one of those guys that breaks stuff to see how it works and then tries to put it back together again, with a few extra parts left over," he explained with a laugh.

After graduating high school, he enrolled at New Mexico State University.

"I like being challenged. At New Mexico State, the two most challenging degrees were nursing and engineering. I wanted to be in the sciences, and mechanical engineering seemed like the broadest choice to start in. I liked it, so stuck with it."

Recruited by former

see **BANG** page 2



(PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER)

Hawaiian island native Kermit Okamura ready for a new challenge as he takes the reins as Chief of the Munitions and Weapons Division.

Yuma Community Food Bank serves veterans, Soldiers/Page 3



Soldiers recognized during ceremony for advancements /Page 5



Balancing Acts: YPG works to maintain open ties with native groups/Page 8



Furlough update

Director's Note #12, provided updated information on the furlough. All indications are that July 8th start date for the furlough won't slip.

Remember you can send your furlough-related questions to: usarmy.apg.atec.mbx.g1-distribution@mail.mil. In addition, information related to the furlough, including an extensive list of Q&As and all director notes, are posted on the ATEC HQ intranet, under: "Information on Sequester" Section, at top of the page.

With furlough looming on the horizon, the following should be considered:

a. Review your finances to gain a better understanding of how you will be impacted. This furlough may cause financial hardship for many Army civilians, including those who hold a security clearance. The Federal Adjudicative Guidelines require adjudicators to consider the circumstances that led to a

financial problem as well as an individual's actions to responsibly resolve the problem. We encourage you to assess your personal situation, plan for financial difficulties, and take appropriate action if you incur hardship.

b. If you encounter financial problems due to furlough you should:

(1) work with your creditors to manage debts in a responsible manner; some financial institutions offer free, personalized financial counseling and may be willing to defer or reduce payments until after the furlough;

(2) keep documentation of the financial situation and communication with creditors; and

(3) keep the local security office informed if you are experiencing financial problems. The actions you take to manage any financial obligations caused by a furlough are considered in the security clearance decision making process.

You should consult with your activity to determine what services are available. Some potential sources of support are:

Local Employee Assistance Program Offices often offer counseling, financial and legal services.

Financial Calculators: www.mymoney.gov/calculators.shtml

FTC Bureau of Consumer Protection - to dispute credit report errors; www.ftc.gov/credit

National Foundation for Credit Counseling, 800-388-2227, www.nfcc.org

Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration - Advice on how to deal with financial hardship that may be affecting your mental or physical health. www.samhsa.gov/economy/

In addition, establish a support system to help with feelings of stress and anxiety. Reach out to family members, friends, and communities.

BANG

FROM PAGE 1

Munitions and Weapons chief Isabel Goode at a job fair in Las Cruces, Okamura began at YPG in 2004, thinking he would stay a brief time before transitioning into private industry. He was soon moved by the importance of YPG's test mission, however, as well as by the nature of testing itself.

"Testing is fun. I'm not saying that being a supervisor isn't fun, but I remember the camaraderie you get with your test crews, and how at the end of the day you go home with a sense of accomplishment."

During the on-the-job training phase all prospective YPG test officers go through, Okamura shadowed the late Curt Snell, an experience he also credits with his decision to stay at the proving ground.

"He was a great friend and mentor," he said. "Being paired with him is a large chunk of who I became as a test officer and a professional. I probably wouldn't be where I am now if not for him."

Okamura is married with one son and another due in early June. He enjoys kayaking and exercising in his spare time,

and serves as the vice president of Yuma's Hawaiian Club. He has been an active participant in the proving ground's Asian-Pacific Islander celebration month for many years.

Coming in to the position of branch chief at a time when budgets and work loads are matters of intense speculation, Okamura feels confident the Munitions and Weapons testing will continue with the same excellence they have shown in the past.

"I don't know what the challenges will be in the future, but right now I think they are manageable. Going forward, we have to take it day by day and trust our leadership to make decisions that are right for not just YPG, but ATEC and the Army as well. I think YPG's leadership does a good job of relaying what our needs are as an organization."

Careful coordination between all elements of YPG's diverse test mission is critical to this success, he adds.

"We're so interdependent as an organization. You can't make decisions operating on an island—you have to reach out to find the best decision. I may have to give a little, but we'll gain a lot together. YPG has many people with that mentality."

Next Outpost deadline is noon May 30

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Yuma food bank serves veterans, Soldiers

By Mark Schauer

The Yuma Community Food Bank has won awards from local civic groups and plaudits from dignitaries across the political and sports worlds, but their most treasured display items are humble paper plates.

Food bank personnel ask recipients to write their personal stories on the plates, and the result is heart-wrenching. From a 16-year-old girl with unemployed parents and a younger sister undergoing expensive cancer treatment to the elderly widow of a combat veteran, each is a stirring testament to the presence of hardship and hunger. Most are from people who never saw themselves needing such assistance: elderly couples whose fragile economic stability was shattered bailing out a child or grandchild who lost his or her job, veterans waiting for a disability rating from the Veterans Administration, even active duty

military personnel with large families and small paychecks.

"We're at war with hunger," said Mike Ivers, president and CEO of the food bank. "I think we're going to win, but it is a constant struggle, every day."

Yuma County's chronically high unemployment rate has been increasing, clocking in at 30.3 percent in the latest survey. Ivers says the local economy's lack of diversity and cutbacks in defense spending are driving the grim numbers. As always, though, the two populations most likely to go hungry are children and the elderly, and summers are the worst time of year.

"The winter visitors have left, so now we have fewer donations and volunteers. We also have kids who are out of school, so they're not being fed at school. During the holiday season people remember, but they forget in the summer."

SEE FOOD BANK/7



Mike Ivers, president and CEO of the food bank, says most work at the facility is performed by volunteers. They are desperately needed during the summer months. (PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER)

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As the weather takes a change to warmer days in the Southwest, numerous activities throughout May kept personnel at Yuma Proving Ground quite busy. Top photo: Col. Reed Young, commander, reads a favorite story to a youthful audience at Palmcroft School on May 2nd. Col. Young well knows the importance of learning an appreciation of books at a young age.



Bottom photo: Lt. Col. Chad Harris, YTC commander, joined spouses to celebrate Military Spouse Appreciation Day at the Oasis Community Center. The event is sponsored by YPG's Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation Directorate. Refreshments and roses were presented to spouses for their support and dedication to their families.

(PHOTOS BY PAO STAFF)

Fry's Food Store donation assist YPG Youth Services as they partner with Boys and Girls Club of Arizona to offer programs that recognize the scholastic and creative talents of our youth. Youth leadership, educational opportunities, and citizenship building experiences are incorporated through partnerships with local schools and the community. These contributions will assist in ensuring that registration and on-post recreation activities are provided at no charge. Tim Plass (left), manager for the Fry's Food Store in the Foothills, presents Marty Clark, from YPG's Family, Morale, Welfare & Recreation Directorate a check in the amount of \$1,136.50. The donation was collected at the Fry's Food Store from customers and employees.



IN UNIFORM

Soldiers recognized during ceremony

By Yolie Canales

Two YPG Soldiers were recently recognized in formal ceremonies held the same week; one, for a promotion, the second, for a retirement.

Promotion:

Promoted to Staff Sergeant was Duana Scott, chaplain assistant, who has been in the Army for nine years, while Staff Sgt. Armando Amado retired after serving 23 years as a parachute rigger.

Scott's ceremony was officiated by Command Sgt. Maj. Keith West and was witnessed by her mother, Sandra, (her greatest supporter and source of inspiration) and a room full of friends.

"She has not been here long but since she arrived, she hit the street running and has not stopped since," said West. "She has been a great contributor to the Post Chapel, not to mention, energetic and extremely motivated. She is definitely a great NCO."

Scott said when she first came into the military she was young and reluctant to follow rules or orders. She didn't take authority lightly, either.

"I remember calling home and telling my mom, 'I'm coming back home,'" she said. But she never did, partly because her mother never supported

the idea. "Thank you so much mom. I stayed with it and know, now, I'm going far and I'm ready to be that great leader I know I am."

Echoing West's comments was Maj. Loren Hutsell, Post Chaplain. "Scott arrived at the chapel six months ago and has been a great addition and blessing," said Hutsell. "Whatever needs to get done, she is committed to doing so by working as late as needed. I really appreciate her commitment and dedication. Always straight forward and with a positive attitude, her professional manner is impressive."

A native of Greenville, Ms., she joined the Army to be part of something based upon discipline, structure and good standards. She says that the most rewarding experience in her career so far, has been becoming a leader and applying her leadership skills where most needed.

In her spare time, Scott enjoys volunteering and helping people in need and dedicating time to 'praise dancing.' Most recently, she led a performance made up of 4th and 5th grade students from Price School in at the Black History Observance Luncheon.

Retirement:
SEE CEREMONY/7



Command Sgt. Maj. Keith West (above right) promotes Staff Sgt. Duana Scott, as Scott's mother, Sandra, witnesses the ceremony. Ready for a new chapter in his life, Staff Sgt. Armando Amado (left) accepts his retirement certificate after 23 years of service from Lt. Col. Chad Harris, Yuma Test Center commander.

(PHOTOS BY YOLIE CANALES)

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How's your hearing?

By Maj. Loren Hutsell, Chaplain

One of my favorite ministers, Charles Stanley, once said, "God's voice is still and quiet and easily buried under an avalanche of clamor." There are many voices in our lives clamoring for our constant attention. The voice of materialism calls us to deny our faith in the supernatural and believe only in the physical world. The voice of consumerism calls us to fulfill our emptiness and envy by overspending on vacations, cars, clothing and a home. The voice of media calls us to regard instant messaging and fast breaking news with urgency, so that we're too busy and distracted to hear anything else. The voice of entertainment lures us with continual attention grabbers that keep us distracted from actions of greater purpose and meaning in our lives. The voice of hedonism seduces us to reject holiness, and instead fill our lives with lust, greed, and immorality.

Editor's Note: We regretfully inform our readership that this is the last Chaplain's article that will be written by Chaplain Hutsell, since he will be PCSing to Fort Benning, Ga. A new chaplain will arrive shortly and the Chaplain Corner will resume soon. On behalf of the Public Affairs staff, thank you for your continued support to The Outpost, and Godspeed.

One of the greatest problems in America is that people are tuning their ears to all of these voices, and neglecting the voice of Scripture. In so doing, we have rewritten the call to follow God into a comforting children's bedtime story. Like the 2nd century heretic Marcion, we pick and choose which Scriptures we want to emphasize, and in the process, alter the definitions of right and wrong. We redirect the path of discipleship away from the

narrow road of complete commitment, into the wide and schizophrenic lane of too many voices. As a consequence, we compromise our faith and we adapt the values, beliefs and morals of those who reject God's truth.

God said that he is the way, the truth and the life. He calls his followers to turn their backs on the voices, the values, and beliefs that are contrary to his ways. His voice is to drown out all others. With that in mind, let's ask ourselves, "how well are we listening?" To illustrate my point: A man lost a valuable old watch while working in his garage. He searched diligently for it, carefully sorting through all his tools, but didn't find it. His neighbors also came over and looked, but their efforts, too, proved futile. A small boy who heard about the fruitless search slipped into the garage during the noon hour and soon emerged with the watch. Amazed, the man asked him how

SEE CHAPLAIN/11



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CEREMONY

FROM PAGE 5

Ready to start a new chapter in life is Staff Sgt. (retired) Armando Amado, who was presented a certificate of retirement by Lt. Col. Chad Harris, Yuma Test Center commander.

"It's important that as a nation and Army, we show our gratitude for Amado's 23 years of loyal service," said Harris. "We gather here today to honor him for his service but, most importantly, for being a non-commissioned officer." Harris said that less than half of one percent of the U.S. population decides to stand-up, raise their right-hand and serve their nation by volunteering for military service. "Amado did just that and served faithfully over two decades around the world to include deployments to Iraq, Kuwait, Honduras and several others," he said.

Harris added, being a Soldier is the most trusted profession in America because Soldiers trust in each other. No matter how different times are, those who love the Army must stick with it.

"Staff Sgt. Amado, you have stuck with the Army and been a trusted professional. You're part of the proud tradition that stands over 230 years, as a Soldier and an NCO," said Harris. "Enjoy your retirement and continue to keep the Army and our nation in your prayers. We honor your service and thank you for your dedication and professionalism."

"Twenty-three years sure went by fast," said Amado with a smile. "The Army was the greatest experience of my life. I look forward to staying in the parachute rigger field to be around younger Soldiers and serve as a mentor in one way or another."

Amado has been to many retirement ceremonies over the years where outgoing Soldiers thank wives and children for their support and understanding. "Well, I've never been married nor have any children to thank," he said. "My major supporter was one person, my mom, who has stood by me by praying for me every step of the way. Thank you, Mom."

FOOD BANK

FROM PAGE 3

This shortfall in donations and volunteers is especially acute as more people in Yuma County depend on the monthly food baskets.

"In 2011, we served 11,000 people a month. Now we're up to 24,000 to 26,000 people per month," he said.

"21,000 veterans live in Yuma County. We've served 5,500 in the last year. We've served over 160 military families."

Most of the food bank's vital work is performed by volunteer labor. Among the volunteers from YPG are uniformed personnel from the Health Clinic, Ivers says.

"We have YPG volunteers, but we'd love even more. We're very grateful for Col. Reed Young's support and for the volunteers and donors we get from YPG."

Volunteer tasks range from customer service to sorting produce donations

from farmers. At this moment, several large cardboard bins of potatoes are sitting in the group's large walk-in cooler, waiting for volunteers to sort them into five and 10 pound bags for recipients. Volunteers are also needed to transport donations to the food bank.

"We received a call this week where we could have gotten \$16,000 worth of cereal, but it would have cost \$1,600 for transportation," Ivers said. "We didn't have the money, and money is important. For every dollar donated to the food bank we can provide nine meals."

The food bank is located at 2404 E. 24th Street in Yuma, and is open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. until noon on Saturdays. To be eligible for food baskets, recipients need to show photo identification and proof of permanent address, such as a utility bill. Prospective volunteers can obtain an application in person at the food bank or online at www.yumafoodbank.org.



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Balancing acts

Proving Ground works with Native American tribes to maintain open communications about ancient sites, more

By Mark Schauer

It is well known among YPG employees that the proving ground has rigorously tested virtually every piece of equipment in the ground combat arsenal for over six decades.

Less well known, though, are the details of YPG's human history which goes back many millennia, much further than most of us can imagine. The archaeological record shows humans have traversed the modern-day boundaries of YPG for at least 7,000 years.

"People used to go from the Colorado River to the ocean to trade," said Dr. Meg McDonald, YPG archaeologist. "Many called the banks of the Colorado River and nearby areas home."

Tucked away amidst the post's vast ranges are awing and virtually inaccessible Native American historical sites, running the gamut from simple trails with scattered detritus, like arrowheads, to craggy campgrounds covered with scores of rich artifacts of a bygone time.

"I like to be out here," said Willa Scott, chairperson of the Quechan Culture Committee. "It is serene here. Whenever I come to the desert a spirit comes to meet me."

The stewardship of these irreplaceable cultural resources is a high YPG priority, with the proving ground performing painstaking ground surveys of between 12,000 and 15,000 acres annually. If necessary, the installation takes steps to protect significant sites or areas, from erecting signs and gates to other activities.

But planners are also cognizant of the fact that drawing obvious attention to these sites can attract unscrupulous members of the public bent on destruction and theft, even though such trespassing on military land is both unsafe and a violation of federal law. To prevent looting, maps are updated to show only the general area that contains a protected site.

YPG and personnel from 14 different Arizona and California tribal nations engage in regular consultations about range use, the most recent a multi-day event in late April that drew top leaders from both the YPG command and council members from tribal governments.

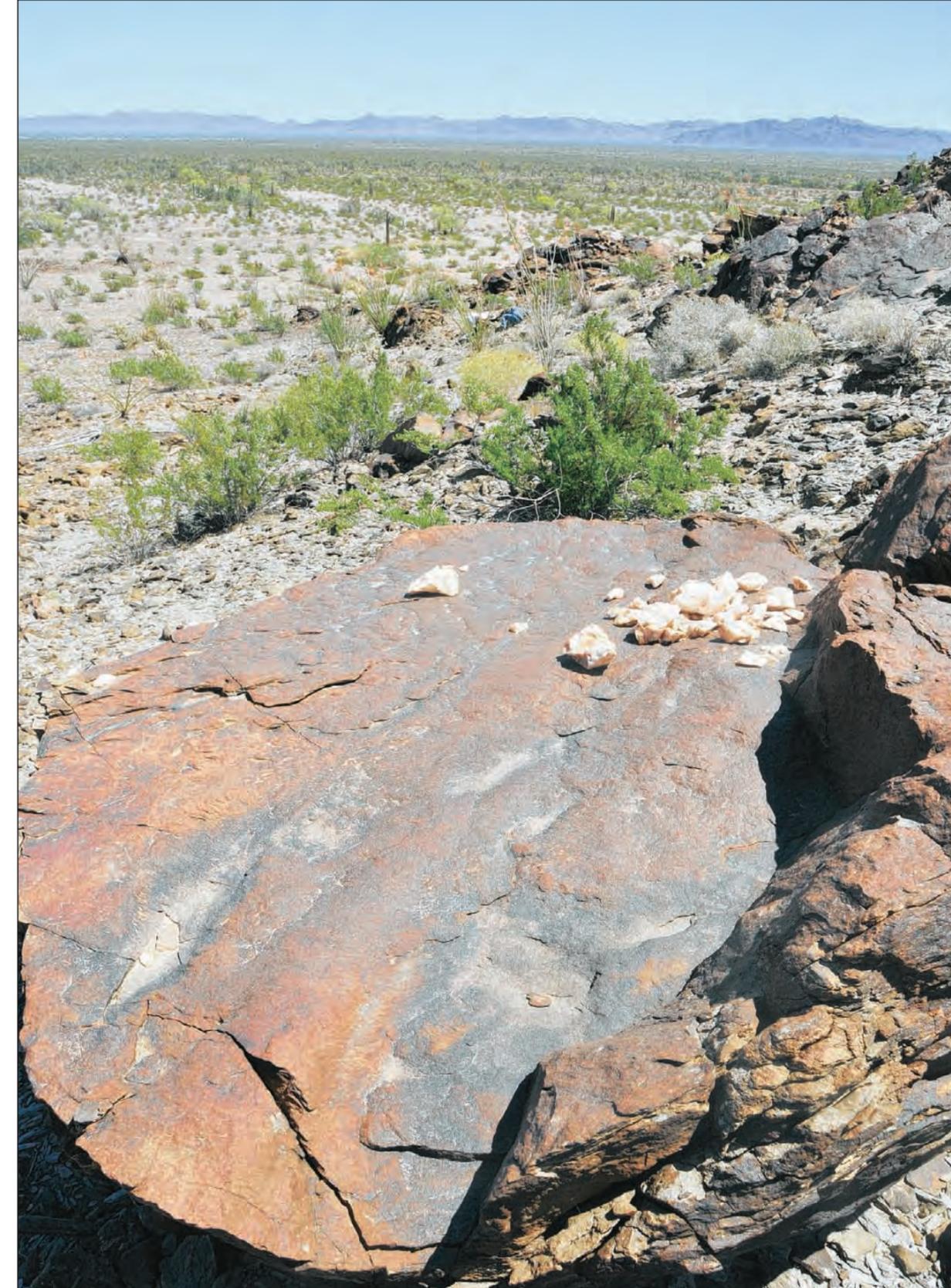
"Every time we have one of these sessions, we learn from them and take the message back to the workforce to educate them," said Rick Martin, YPG garrison manager. "The workforce

SEE **BALANCING/10**



YPG Test Officers Paola Romero and Jered Ford (above) look on as Environmental Protection Specialist Sergio Obregon, photographs the geoglyph of undetermined origin. The formation may be a prehistoric artifact, but further study and tests are necessary for a definitive answer. Maintaining positive two-way relations with local Native American tribes is a priority for Yuma Proving Ground. Recently, a two day consultation with tribal representatives took place at the proving ground to discuss a variety of issues. A highlight of the event was traveling downrange to personally view and exchange information on two cultural sites. Coordinated by YPG's Directorate of Environmental Sciences, Rick Martin, garrison manager, and Col. Reed Young, commander, spent both days at the conference. Native Americans had lived near and frequently traveled across the site of the present day proving ground for thousands of years prior to the dawn of Europeans settling in the area. YPG's vast ranges are home to a variety of plants, animals, and rock formations. Proving ground personnel survey between 12,000 to 15,000 acres annually.

(PHOTOS BY MARK SCHAUER)



BALANCING

FROM PAGE 8

is our eyes and ears on the ground, and if we have folks encroaching on YPG property and potentially damaging tribal areas of concern, this is our way to correct the problem and make it better for all concerned.”

“Many times we have wanted to put a test in a certain location and made other arrangements when a cultural survey found something important,” said Col. Reed Young, YPG commander. “The proving ground has a very good record protecting sites that are important to our tribal partners.”

The two days of meetings culminated with a trip to historic sites on the range. Visitors saw a confirmed prehistoric site with arrowheads and other debris from millennia past and, more intriguingly, visited a geoglyph of undetermined age. The manmade formation, consisting of a large chunk of quartz in the center of an undulating spiral of smaller quartz stones about 20 feet in diameter, was scrutinized by several members of the Quechan



(PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER)

Members of the group visited a geoglyph of undetermined age. The manmade formation, consisting of a large chunk of quartz in the center of an undulating spiral of smaller quartz stones about 20 feet in diameter, was scrutinized by several members of the Quechan cultural committee.

cultural committee, who left undecided as to its age or authenticity. These same experts intend to return to the site for further study in the near future.

“It could be anything from an authentic prehistoric geoglyph to something created by winter visitors

wandering around the desert creating rock art,” said Young. “It is really interesting to pick their brains and see what they think.”

Though preliminary impressions, experts noted the buildup of small pebbles behind the geoglyph’s stones,

which is caused by erosion from a nearby hill, as well as lichen growth beneath -- signs that the formation has been on the desert floor for some time.

“When I first saw it, I was thinking it wasn’t genuine,” said McDonald. “Now I’m leaning to that it is. The spiral is a common petroglyph element in rock art, but I haven’t seen it in ground figures.”

Regardless of the ultimate determination of this particular formation’s age and origin, YPG remains committed to preserving cultural artifacts and maintaining good relations with tribal governments.

“The process is important,” said Martin. “I think YPG takes our obligation further than anybody else I have seen. We want to be proactive in addressing tribal concerns and making sure we’re factoring in their issues in everything we do. We’re all partners in the community team and if we work together, it is a win-win for all concerned.”



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VIEWPOINTS

May is motorcycle safety month. "Are motorcycles inherently dangerous?"



Marc Ellis
Garrison information manger

They sure can be. I'm all for wearing protective gear, but the biggest thing is you have to assume that no one is going to see you. You have to be the person who takes the safe solution. I've been biking since I was about 14, and only had one bad accident where I got thrown and slid for about 30 yards.

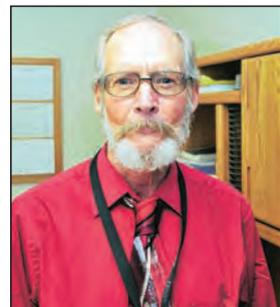
Wayne Tolman
Supervisory general engineer

No. If you're going to be a motorcycle rider, the most important element of being safe is to be aware of the things that are going on around you. Protective gear is important, but if a car slams into you, you're seriously hurt or killed no matter what you're wearing. The best thing is to avoid situations that will get you into trouble, and you do that by defensive driving



Steve Edmonds
Mission controller

Definitely. I initially started with a motorcycle safety course and then basically followed all the rules. I give vehicles in front of me extra space. I usually let people on my tail go around. I have a fear of following big trucks—they block a lot of the views, and, depending on the situation, I usually pass them. Safety equipment like boots, gloves, and a set of leathers or mesh is essential, and so is ensuring the scooter is well maintained. I grew up in the country, so I've been riding since I was 14.



CHAPLAIN

FROM PAGE 6

he found it. "I closed the door," the boy replied, "laid down on the floor and kept very still. Soon I heard the watch ticking." The boy found the watch because he gave it ALL of his attention. He silenced all other sounds and voices, so that he could focus on the one that mattered.

Can you hear God's voice? Are you listening for it? He speaks very clearly through his Word. Are you listening when he says blessed are the poor, blessed are those who mourn, and blessed are the meek? He says blessed are those who

hunger and thirst for righteousness, blessed are the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, and those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness. Can we hear him when he says to love God with all your heart, soul and strength and your neighbor as yourself? Yes, there are many voices clamoring for our attention each day. May we follow the example of the boy who found the watch. He shut out all other sounds and voices, so that he could listen well. In Psalms 46:10, God's word tells us to be still, and know that he is God.

Let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath. James 1:19.



<MESA DEL SOL - 2 bedroom - 2 bath townhome in good condition with fenced backyard. Community pool, vaulted ceilings, open living area, split floor plan and ready for occupancy. \$129,400.

>YUMA EAST - 3 Bedroom - 2 bath home with large back yard and room on side to park your boat or RV. Laminate wood and tile flooring, breakfast bar, bay window in dining area and garden tub in master. Priced to sell at \$175,000.



<YUMA EAST - 3 bedroom - 2 bath home with pool and spa. Santa Fe style home with large covered patio, easy care landscaping, open floor plan with tile throughout except for bedrooms and in excellent condition. \$219,900.



>MESA DEL SOL - POOL HOME with 3 large bedrooms - 2 3/4 bathrooms. Spacious home overlooking the golf course, recently remodeled, gourmet kitchen with granite, lots of built-ins and outdoor fireplace \$389,000.



<MESA DEL SOL - 3 bedrooms- 2 baths. This home has a spacious backyard with citrus trees, room to park your RV or boat, bay window in dining area, large master and 200 amp service in garage. \$189,000.



>MESA DEL SOL - 5 Bedrooms - 3 1/2 bath Pool home. Beautiful and updated tri-level home with a full balcony, view of mountains and golf course that is surrounded by a pond. Game room, RV garage, large living area, granite in kitchen, bay window in dining area and much much more. \$499,000.



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First Congressional Caucus on Tourette Syndrome

To kick off Tourette Syndrome Awareness Month (May 15-June 15), the national Tourette Syndrome Association (TSA) is pleased to announce the establishment of a timely and unprecedented bi-partisan Congressional Caucus on Tourette Syndrome. This important collaboration will enable TSA to promote critical legislation that supports individuals and families coping with Tourette Syndrome and to help spread awareness of the disorder among key lawmakers.

While there are many caucuses that support a wide range of disorders, to date, there had not been a caucus focused on Tourette Syndrome and its related disorders in the House or the Senate. Today is a historic day for TSA, as members of the House of Representatives joined together to establish the very first House Congressional Caucus for this misunderstood, often misdiagnosed and sometimes inadequately treated neurological disorder which affects over 200,000 people in the U.S.

"The TSA and its Congressional supporters in the 113th Congress have given their commitment to constituents to work hand in hand to address the many unmet needs in TS," said TSA President Judit Ungar. "We are confident that

we will succeed, as such congressional support has proven to be instrumental in accelerating progress in other disorders, such as cancer, autism and Parkinson's disease.

"The goals of the Caucus are many, and very clearly defined, but two foremost goals are first, to increase knowledge and awareness of Tourette Syndrome and its impact on the lives individuals through efforts directed to members of Congress, the general public, medical, educational and clinical allied professionals, as well as to federal and governmental agencies and in schools; and second, to educate

"The Caucus now offers the opportunity for deeper collaborative efforts between Members of Congress and TSA. The formation of this Caucus is a significant step toward a national understanding, awareness and tolerance of TS and its related disorders," said Michael Wolff, Board Member of the national TSA Board of Directors.

In addition, during the observance of TS Awareness Month, TSA also holds a Government Relations Awareness Week from May 27 through May 31; a week-long campaign designed to raise local, state and federal awareness of issues impacting families living with TS.

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SAFETY CORNER

Want to get a safety issue resolved? Submit a SafetyGram! Gerald Miller did, and he got results.

When Miller found a potentially hazardous pinch-point at a downrange work location, he submitted a SafetyGram to the Safety Office, which triggered the investigation and mitigation process. As a result of his concern for safety and action, equipment at the work location is scheduled to be moved and new procedures and floor plans have been adopted to correct the potentially hazardous situation.

Do you know of a safety concern that needs to be addressed? Do what Miller did...submit a SafetyGram and get results! SafetyGrams may be submitted by going to the YPG Safety Office website on the YPG Intranet, or by filling out a paper SafetyGram form and either placing it in a drop box or sending it directly to the Safety Office via interoffice mail.

YPG SafetyGram: New Item

Location * Building number or range site.

Name To remain anonymous, leave this field blank.

Date * 4/4/2013

Description * Describe the unsafe act or working condition you would like addressed.

Check box if you would like to be contacted regarding the status of your SafetyGram, please provide a phone number or email address in the field below.

Resolution

This field can only be filled in by the YPG Safety Office staff. You will receive an email once a resolution is provided.

YPG SAFETYGRAM

Name (Optional) _____

Date _____

Description of Unsafe Condition or Act: _____

Submit _____

Supervisor's Action _____

WHY SUBMIT A SAFETYGRAM?

- **Report unsafe acts or conditions anonymously**
- **Bring hazards to the attention of the Safety Office and Senior Leaders**
- **Immediate feedback from management**

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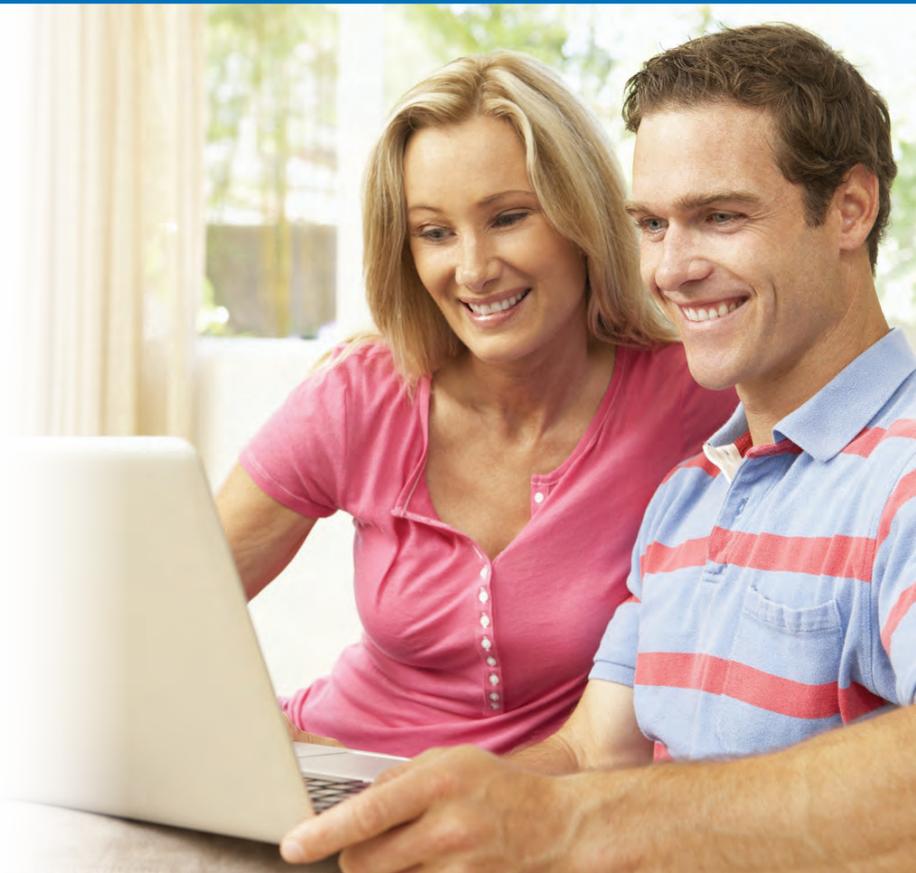
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Never leave children unattended in/or around vehicles

Not even for 'ONE' minute

Submitted by Paul J. Kilanski Family Advocacy Program Specialist

Infants and young children should be supervised at all times while in or around a vehicle:

Each year, hundreds of children are left unattended in motor vehicles. About 75 percent of child deaths in parked cars are due to adults leaving children unattended, either intentionally or unintentionally. Many caring and responsible adults are not aware or underestimate the risks involved when leaving their child alone in a vehicle. These dangers include: heatstroke or hyperthermia, body heat loss or hypothermia, setting a vehicle in motion, getting trapped in a car or trunk, and abduction.

The following are some tips to keep children safe from serious injury or death in or around a parked vehicle.

- Never leave a child in an unattended vehicle in the warm or cold weather, not even with the windows slightly open or down, due to the risk of hyperthermia (heatstroke) or hypothermia (body heat loss).
- Heatstroke can occur when the internal body organs or body core temperature reaches 104 degrees Fahrenheit. Heatstroke symptoms may include: confusion, combativeness, faintness, and bizarre behavior. High body temperature can cause

irreversible brain damage.

- The temperature in an enclosed motor vehicle rises approximately 19 degrees Fahrenheit in minutes, 34 degrees in half an hour, and 43 degrees in one hour. A body temperature of 107 degrees Fahrenheit is considered deadly.

- Mild to severe hypothermia can occur when the body temperature falls between 98.6 and 86 degrees Fahrenheit. Symptoms in infants may include bright-red cold skin and low energy; symptoms in older children may include shivering, confusion, slurred speech, drowsiness, or irrational behavior.

- If a child is unintentionally locked inside a vehicle, get him/her out as quickly as possible. If the child appears to be suffering from any of the more serious symptoms listed above, call 911 immediately.

- When outside of your car, keep your vehicle locked at all times and never leave keys within the reach of children.

- Teach children not to play in or around vehicles and to alert an adult when a friend is playing in a vehicle without supervision. Make sure children understand the dangers of trunk entrapment (suffocation, heatstroke, and hypothermia).

- Before backing up a motor vehicle, walk around it to make sure there are no children or animals behind the wheels or under the vehicle. It is also important to check your rearview and side mirrors when backing up, especially when children are playing outside.

- Place a stuffed toy in your child's car seat when not in use, and move the toy to the front passenger seat when your child is in his/her car seat as a reminder that your child is in the vehicle.

- When driving with a child in a vehicle, use drive-through services whenever possible.



Candlewood Hotel gettin' closer to being completed!



(PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER)

During a recent overflight, this awesome and colorful aerial photo was taken of the Main Administrative Area focusing on the almost completed installation's 92-room hotel. In addition to the hotel, one can also see the upper-housing area, the swimming pool area and part of Cox Field.

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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.

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

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