

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

FY 15 Annual Report and Review

Department of Public Works
Environmental Sciences Division
Cultural Resources Office
Yuma Proving Ground

December 10, 2015

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Per the *Programmatic Agreement Among the United States Army Garrison, Yuma Proving Ground, the Arizona State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Regarding the Operations, Maintenance, and Development of Yuma Proving Ground, Arizona (Nov 2014)* (PA) the United States Army Garrison Yuma Proving Ground (USAG YPG) is to prepare an annual report and distribute it to all Consulting Parties, except the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), within 75 days of each new fiscal year, beginning in Fiscal Year 2016. This document provides responses to Stipulation VIII of the PA.

1. A list of negative survey reports produced

Reference Number	Author, Year	Report Title
YPG-R-265	Tyree (2014)	Archaeological Survey of Approximately 8.2 Acres for the Proposed Renovation of Catchment Area 535 on the Cibola Range of U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground, Yuma County, Arizona.
YPG-R-269	Tyree (2015)	Archaeological Survey of 45.2 Acres for the Proposed GP-2 West Observation Mound on Kofa Range of U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground, Yuma County, Arizona.

2. A list of surveys with identified cultural resources

Reference Number	Author, Year	Report Title
YPG-R-247	McDonald (2015)	Range Residue Site Storm Water Improvements project
YPG-R-263	Penman (2014)	Archaeological Survey of 4.83 Acres for a Proposed Staging Area on Cibola Range, U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground, La Paz County, Arizona
YPG-R-264	Lyon, Burghardt, and Czarzasty (2015)	Cultural Resources Survey of 622 Acres for Development of the Degraded Visual Environment Landing Zone, Cibola Range, Yuma Proving Ground, Yuma County, Arizona
YPG-R-267	McDonald (2014)	Archaeological Survey of 8.1 Acres for Proposed Borrow Pit Expansions, U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground, Yuma County, Arizona
YPG-R-268	Tyree (2015)	Archaeological Survey of Six Acres for the Proposed Visitor Center in Laguna Area, U.S. Army Proving Ground, Yuma County, Arizona.

YPG-R-268b	Tyree (2015)	Monitoring and Discovery Plan for the Proposed Visitor Center in Laguna Area, U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground, Yuma County, Arizona
YPG-R-268c	Tyree (2015)	Monitoring and Discovery Report for the Visitor Center in Laguna Area, U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground, Yuma County, Arizona
YPG-R-268d	Tyree (2015)	Monitoring and Discovery Report for the Visitor Center in Laguna Area, U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground, Yuma County, Arizona

3. A list of newly identified historic properties (updated Attachment B)

Below are the four newly identified historic properties, three sites and one Isolated Occurrence. An updated and comprehensive Attachment B is provided under separate cover.

Individually Eligible Sites		
Site Number	Primary Site Type	SHPO Concurrence
AZ R:11:273(ASM)	Ceramic scatter	SHP0-2015-0975 (127127)
AZ R:11:274(ASM)	Artifact scatter	SHP0-2015-0975 (127127)
AZ R:11:275(ASM)	Lithic scatter	SHP0-2015-0975 (127127)

Individually Eligible Isolated Occurrence		
Site Number	Primary Site Type	SHPO Concurrence
IO R-264-76	Pinto Projectile Point	SHP0-2015-0975 (127127)

4. A list of undertakings that were reviewed but had no effect on historic properties

Reference Number	Author, Year	Report Title
YPG-R-247	McDonald (2015)	Range Residue Site Storm Water Improvements project
YPG-R-267	McDonald (2014)	Archaeological Survey of 8.1 Acres for Proposed Borrow Pit Expansions, U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground, Yuma County, Arizona

5. A list of undertakings that were reviewed but had no adverse effect on historic properties

Reference Number	Author, Year	Report Title
YPG-R-264	Lyon, Burghardt, and Czarzasty (2015)	Cultural Resources Survey of 622 Acres for Development of the Degraded Visual Environment Landing Zone, Cibola Range, Yuma Proving Ground, Yuma County, Arizona
YPG-R-268	Tyree (2014)	Archaeological Survey of Six Acres for the Proposed Visitor Center in Laguna Area, U.S. Army Proving Ground, Yuma County, Arizona.
YPG-R-268b	Tyree (2014)	Monitoring and Discovery Plan for the Proposed Visitor Center in Laguna Area, U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground, Yuma County, Arizona
YPG-R-268c	Tyree (2015)	Monitoring and Discovery Report for the Visitor Center in Laguna Area, U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground, Yuma County, Arizona
YPG-R-268d	Tyree (2015)	Monitoring and Discovery Report for the Visitor Center in Laguna Area, U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground, Yuma County, Arizona

6. A list of undertakings that had an adverse effect on historic properties along with their mitigation

There were no undertakings that had an adverse effect on any historic properties on USAG YPG during fiscal year 2015.

7. A list of all inadvertent discoveries

Visitor Center (YPG-R-268) Monitoring and Discovery Artifact List		
Artifact Type	Dimensions	
	Maximum	Minimum
Lumber fragments (19)	Length = 43" Width = 6" Thickness = 1 3/4"	Length = 18" Width = 2" Thickness = 3/4"
Lumber fragments (2)	Length = 10" Width = 1/2" Thickness = 1 3/4"	Length = 4" Width = 2" Thickness = 3/4"
Hire's Root Beer bottle fragment	Extant size 2 1/2" L x 1 1/4" W x 1/8" T	
U.S. Mail Padlock	Maximum size 2" L x 1 3/8" W x 3/8" T	

8. Proposed USAG YPG cultural resources program activities or changes

As of December 2015, the USAG YPG Cultural Resources Manager slot is vacant.

9. A list of any newly proposed undertakings

Newly Proposed Undertakings	
Archaeological Sensitivity Model (2011)	To be updated
Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP) (2012-2016)	To be updated
Degraded Visual Environment (DVE) Landing Zone, Cibola Range	To be developed

10. Any changes USAG YPG might consider toward improvement in implementation of any stipulations

USAG YPG analyzed 350 federal undertakings during fiscal year 2015 utilizing the exemptions listed in Attachment H of the PA. The majority (61%) of undertakings reviewed were those focused on the continued use of dedicated impact areas, existing roads, test courses, gun positions, and test sites for routine test activities where operations were limited to existing facilities. Another thirty-four percent (34%) included items such as the maintenance, repair, or replacement of infrastructure and existing above-ground and buried utility and communication systems in previously disturbed rights-of-way, easements, or distribution systems or facilities. The remainder of undertakings reviewed (5%) fell under a variety of other exemptions including grounds and land maintenance.

Per Stipulation II.A.1.b, the following additions to Attachment H, Exempted Undertakings, (highlighted) are offered by the USAG YPG cultural resources staff as suggested changes that may provide greater clarity and specificity as federal undertakings are reviewed.

1. General Projects

- a. Removal or in-place disposal of unexploded ordnance.
- b. Disposal of ordnance in existing open burning/open detonation units.
- c. Emergency response to releases of potentially hazardous substances, pollutants, ~~and~~ contaminants, and actions that may pose a threat to human health and safety including but not limited to crash site cleanup, storm damage cleanup and/or fire/wildfire management operations.
- d. Activities required and regulated by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) or the Defense Environmental Restoration (Army) (DERA) program. These include background research, geophysical characterization, and remediation of Solid Waste Management Units (SMWUs), Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP) sites, Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) sites. Associated activities such as installation of monitoring equipment will be subject to Section 106 review.
- e. Operations within current permitted existing landfills and borrow pits.
- ~~f. Operations within current permitted borrow pits.~~
- g. Installation of stormwater sampling equipment in active washes.

- h. Continued use of dedicated small arms impact areas for small arms range activities.
- i. Continued use of dedicated impact areas and drop zones for routine military weapons testing and training activities.
- j. Routine maintenance of existing non-historic improved or unimproved roads or tank trails where ground disturbance is limited to existing previously maintained road and shoulder.
- k. Routine maintenance of non-historic ditches, culverts or other rainwater conveyance structures.
- l. Studies, data collection, and monitoring for cultural and non-cultural resources purposes, provided there is no ground disturbance.
- m. Installation and operation of above-ground and buried utility and communication systems such as fiber optics, natural gas, and single pole electric lines in existing previously disturbed USAG YPG rights-of-way, easements, distribution systems, or facilities.
- n. Trimming or Removal of ~~dead, diseased, or damaged~~ ornamental trees and shrubs, and trees and shrubs in the cantonment areas.
- o. Continued Use of existing roads, test courses, gun positions, and test sites for routine test activities where operations are limited to existing facilities.
- p. Outdoor recreation programs such as hunting, in accordance with USAG YPG and Army regulations, and State of Arizona laws, when there will be no ground disturbance, including no off-road vehicle use.
- q. Treatment for insect infested plants and invasive species in areas that have been previously surveyed and contain no historic properties or where historic properties can be avoided.
- r. Installation and operation of above-ground and buried infrastructure such as waterlines, fire hydrants, underground storage tanks (USTs), sewage lagoons, septic tanks, signs/sign posts in existing previously disturbed USAG YPG rights-of-way, easements, distribution systems, or facilities.
- s. Continued us of dedicated air space for all air operations and testing.

2. **Historic Districts**

- a. In-kind repair/replacement of existing site improvements, including, but not limited to roads, parking areas, fences, recreation equipment, and signs.
- b. Repair or replacement of existing water, electric, gas, sanitary, cable, and underground or aboveground utilities, within the previously disturbed area with no new ground disturbance.
- c. Grounds maintenance activities associated with installing, removing, and maintaining landscaping (mowing, trimming, planting, and weed/pest control).
- d. Removal of animals, birds, insects, and their associated debris when no damage to historic materials will result.
- e. Installation of facilities to provide access to historic properties by disabled persons provided the alterations are architecturally compatible with the facility, are freestanding, and do not damage nor require removal of historic materials.
- f. Disturbance in an area less than one square meter, such as placement of fence posts.
- g. Installation of perimeter security fencing and gates provided the design is architecturally compatible and does not require removal of historical materials.
- h. Maintenance, removal, and replacement in kind of existing landscape and plant materials when keeping with the historic character when they are dead, dying, diseased (unsalvageable), and/or pose an imminent hazard to people or structures.

3. **Maintenance, Repair, Renovation, Replacement, New Construction, and Demolition Operations**

- a. New construction of buildings and other above and below ground infrastructure and related activities in areas that have been previously surveyed and found to have no historic properties present.

- b. Maintenance, repair, and related activities on existing facilities and infrastructure (ex: HVAC systems) not greater than 45 years old and on those facilities older than 45 years of age but previously determined not eligible for the NRHP in consultation with SHPO.
 - c. Renovation of existing buildings and infrastructure not greater than 45 years old or older than 45 years of age but previously determined not eligible for the NRHP in consultation with SHPO.
 - d. Demolition of buildings and other infrastructure not greater than 45 years old or older than 45 years of age but previously determined not eligible for the NRHP in consultation with SHPO.
 - e. Maintenance, repair, or replacement of existing above-ground and buried utility and communication systems in previously disturbed rights-of-way, easements, or distribution systems, or in facilities where the structures are not greater than 45 years old or have previously been determined not eligible for the NRHP in consultation with SHPO.
 - f. Stockpiling and staging of construction, road repair, and paving materials in surveyed areas with no historic properties present.
 - g. Natural resources management activities ~~in previously disturbed areas~~ including but not limited to capture and relocation of animals, tree plantings, planting and maintenance of wildlife food and shrub plots, ~~and~~ installation or maintenance of water guzzlers, wildlife feeders ~~in previously disturbed areas~~, and improvement of existing dry stream crossings where, in all cases, the depth of the undertaking will not exceed the current disturbance and/or will not impact an intact soil layer that has the potential to contain cultural materials.
 - h. Construction, installation, and maintenance of bat gates or similar structures in abandoned mine or cave features, where the structure can be placed inside opening and historic features such as timbers and tailings piles will not be altered.
4. **Grounds and Land Maintenance**
- a. Installation, maintenance, and repair of recreational structures and equipment in areas that have been previously surveyed and found to have no historic properties present.
 - b. Ground disturbing activities to control, prevent, or repair soil erosion due to rain runoff in areas that have been previously surveyed and found to have no historic properties present.
 - c. Grounds maintenance activities associated with installation, removal, and maintenance of landscaping (mowing, trimming, planting, rock hardening, prescribed burning, and weed/pest control).
 - d. Routine repair and maintenance of airfields and associated equipment.
 - e. Construction of improved roads and tank trails where ground disturbance is contained to existing USAG YPG rights-of-way or previously disturbed areas.

Under Stipulation VIII of the PA (Annual Report and Review), USAG YPG will ensure the public is made aware of the availability of this Annual Report on its website www.yuma.army.mil (under “Documents”). Additionally, all interested members of the public are invited to provide comments to USAG YPG.

All Consulting Parties are requested to provide comments to USAG YPG regarding the Annual Report within 30 days of receipt.

USAG YPG plans to hold an annual meeting with the Consulting Parties no later than February 15th. The meeting will provide an opportunity to discuss the successes and shortcomings of the PA, its general implementation, and any proposed changes.