

The Outpost

U.S. ARMY YUMA PROVING GROUND, YUMA, ARIZONA 85365

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Venerable radar undergoes depot-level maintenance



PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER

YPG relies on multiple radars to gather test data on a variety of systems under test. The largest of the proving ground's fleet is a MPS-25 radar that sports a 12 foot dish and puts out one million watts of peak power. The system requires a depot-level overhaul every seven to ten years, and one is currently in progress. Turn to page 6 for more photos and details.

YPG continues to mitigate COVID-19 threat

By Mark Schauer

As the nation moved into the fourth week of mobilization to flatten the curve of COVID-19 transmission, Yuma Proving Ground's (YPG) mitigation efforts had thus far succeeded in keeping the workforce safe.

With Yuma County reporting 17 cases county-wide as of April 8, YPG still had no confirmed cases of the virus, which the post's leadership attributed to measures such as widespread utilization of telework where feasible, increased hygiene measures across the post, and mandating social distancing of at least six feet.

"I look at our low numbers as indicative of people doing the right thing, both at YPG and in Yuma as a whole," said Col. Ross Poppenberger, YPG commander.

As cases of the virus were

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YPG employees helping during COVID-19 crisis/Page 2



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Coyote Lanes is now offering delivery/ Page 8



YPG employees lend a hand to ease burden of COVID crisis



PHOTO BY CASEY GARCIA

Public Affairs Administrative Officer Casey Garcia wanted to help but is not very proficient in sewing so she enlisted two friends and provided material to sew protective face masks for their friend who works at Yuma Regional Medical Center.

By Ana Henderson

Employees of Yuma Proving Ground serve the nation daily by being part of a developmental test facility that works to ensure the equipment the Warfighter receives is the best of its kind.

Now, during the COVID-19 crisis they have stepped up in many different ways to help the Yuma Community.

Technical Writer Kassi Morningstar noticed that local grocery stores had ran out of eggs so she stepped up to help, “I have given away a ton of eggs to my neighbors and co-workers when there were no eggs in the stores. I have 16 laying hens that produce about a dozen eggs a day. I was able to just give fresh eggs to the people I knew were looking or needed them. Some

people would knock on the door and ask if we would sell them some, but I just wanted to help. A few days later, they brought me their empty cartons so that was nice.”

Morningstar also used the neighborhood app to help keep her neighbors informed when supplies were available, “I have kept people posted along with other neighbors about who has what supplies. For example, I had seen pictures and comments on social media that there were long lines outside Sam’s for a couple days. When I was able to go, I updated them on the time and day that I was there and there were no lines to enter the store. Also, the rules for meat, whether there were eggs, what meat they had, toilet paper, or whatever other items people were looking for. I appreciated others doing it because it was nice to know that if I went early on a Friday, there was a chance I might find whatever I was looking for instead of having to go to multiple locations and still not find it.”

Public Affairs Administrative Officer Casey Garcia wanted to help but is not very proficient in sewing so she enlisted two friends and provided material to sew protective face masks for their friend who works at Yuma Regional Medical Center. Now Garcia’s friend has personalized Disney and Star Wars masks to help protect her from germs. Garcia also got a lesson in sewing so now she is practicing to make more masks for the community on her own.

Taking a completely different approach to helping students is Program Manager Iris Espinoza. She provided her help virtually, “I kept seeing online that parents were



LOANED PHOTO

Technical Writer Kassi Morningstar noticed that local grocery stores had ran out of eggs so she stepped up to help, “I have given away a ton of eggs to my neighbors and co-workers.”

struggling to help their students the first week after schools were closed. They wanted to provide learning experiences but didn’t know where to start. I volunteered to do an online science lesson to teach about hydrogen bonds and surface tension as well as a math lesson on probability” adding, “I intended to help a few parents but that spread a little faster than I anticipated. We use the free Zoom feature to connect via video. Most of the students don’t know each other but after the first few minutes we are fully engaged.”

As a mother of two school aged kids and the organizer of YPG’s STEM Outreach and GEMS Programs, Espinoza knows the importance of keeping kids’ mind’s simulated even while they are quarantined.

“I know parents are struggling with finding engaging activities for their students and that students want to connect with others outside of their home. Providing these lessons felt like a quick win for both the parents and students.”

YPG’s employees have also been supporting local businesses by shopping locally and ordering food from their favorite restaurants to ensure that when all this is over those locally owned restaurants are still around.

THEOUTPOST

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Shoot'in the Breeze Hunkering Down

By David J. Horn

So, like a lot of you, I'm hunkered down at the moment. This whole coronavirus thing has really changed the world in just the last couple of weeks.

But so far, being holed up by myself in my house has not been too big an issue. The training that I got as a Minnesota farm kid, where every winter we spent six months stuck in our house surviving on potatoes, canned vegetables, and a TV that got two channels from South Dakota, is now paying off big time.

But, since my earlier estimation on how much food I would need to make it through this crisis turned out to be a little on the low side, the other day I had to (at more risk than I'm comfortable with) leave the house to go out on a resupply mission.

When I got to my favorite grocery store, I was stunned. The shelves were still empty of all the stuff I had hoped to buy. The shelves weren't completely bare however, as some items were in plentiful supply. But, brutal reality soon sank in, when I realized that all the food I was looking at, was the food that nobody buys even if they're on the verge of starving to death. Here are some of my observations of the isles of misfit food.

Leaf Spinach. As a person who eats a lot of lettuce and even watched a lot of Pop Eye the Sailor cartoons as a kid, I still can't do spinach.

Artichokes and brussel sprouts. I have to admit I've never eaten either one. I wouldn't know if the whole thing sitting there on the plate is edible or not.

Life Cereal. Mickie ate it because he ate everything, but apparently not a lot of other people.

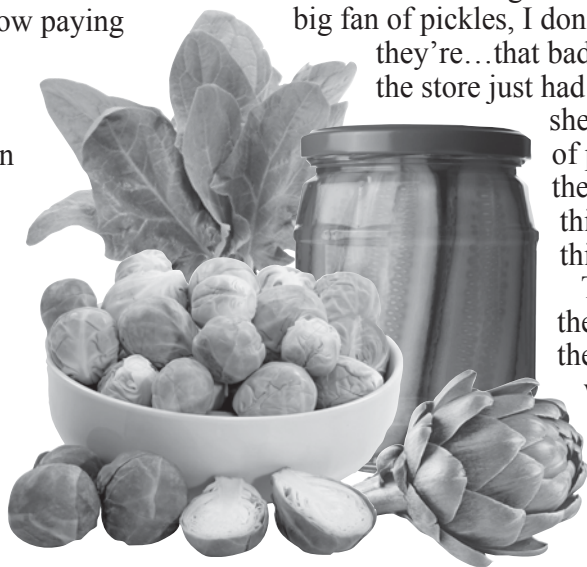
Pickles. Although I'm not a big fan of pickles, I don't think they're...that bad. Maybe the store just had too many

shelves full of pickles at the start of this whole thing.

Then there are the foods where... hey, what's wrong with you people?

To my complete surprise, there was lots of my favorite ice cream in the freezer section, Blue Bunny Homemade Vanilla!

Oh wait a minute. Let me take that back. Blue Bunny Homemade Vanilla Ice Cream. It's terrible. I'm sure you wouldn't like it. Just ignore it and keep walking down the aisle over to the frozen plain cheese pizzas or something. In fact, between you and me, you need to run over and check out that rumor I just heard that they got in that new shipment of toilet paper!



Chaplain's Corner Words of comfort in a time of crisis

By Chaplain Maj. Ronald Beltz

On Palm Sunday April 9, 1865, Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered to Ulysses S. Grant, General of the Union Army, at the village of Appomattox Court House, Virginia. This surrender ended the bloodiest war ever fought on American soil. State against state, brother against brother; it was a conflict that literally tore our nation apart.

Five days later Good Friday, April 14, 1865 America's most revered president, Abraham Lincoln, was shot and mortally wounded by John Wilkes Booth in Ford's Theatre.

On Palm Sunday the war ended. Triumph. On Good Friday, Abraham Lincoln became the first U.S. president to be assassinated. Tragedy.

Welcome to Holy Week 2020. We live in a world that has drastically changed in a matter of weeks filled with anxiety, hopelessness and fear of COVID-19. It seems like all of this happened so quickly. One moment we are on top of the world, believing that nothing can go wrong. And then suddenly, literally, all hell breaks loose. That, as they say, is life.

I'd like to share with you Psalm 23, a Psalm that has comforted and provided hope for many throughout the ages during difficult times.

PSALM 23

- 1 *The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.*
- 2 *He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;*
- 3 *He restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.*
- 4 *Even though I walk through the valley of death, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me.*
- 5 *You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.*
- 6 *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.*

Recently, I have been spending some devotion time reading from the Old Testament book of Psalms. Many of the Psalms focus on communal laments expressing deep sorrow for a nation's sins and troubles. Many Psalms begin with triumph followed by tragedy and finally triumph again. It may seem like Good Friday but we know triumph comes.

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The testing must go on

By Casey Garcia

Freddie Mercury wrote the song “The Show Must Go On” in 1990 and when it came to performing the song, Mercury was so ill that his bandmates had major concerns whether he was even capable of singing it. As the song title states the show must go on: Mercury went on and had a phenomenal performance despite his inevitable approach of the end of his life.

The lyrics identify empty spaces and pose the question what are we living for? Abandoned places, I guess we know the score, does anybody know what we are looking for? Behind the curtain, in the pantomime, hold the line, does anybody want to take it anymore?

Test officers aboard Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) fill those empty spaces with testing of the Hydra 2.75, GA Multi Domain, Advanced Running Gear, and the Howitzer acceptance fires. YPG’s flight line is not

abandoned. The U.S. Special Operations Command Flights and Navy Aircraft JAGM fill those spaces. YPG’s drop zones answer the questions of what are we looking for? The Military Free Fall School continues to train for jumps.

Behind the curtain the YPG public affairs office works diligently to ensure the message of this pandemic: the good, bad, ugly, and the truth of what our command is doing to ensure our employees are safe and that our mission remains.

The administrators, program managers and leadership hold the line to ensure the funds are available and personnel is ready. YPG leadership is doing everything they can to ensure the workforce has a positive mental attitude and can continue to support our Warfighter.

Mercury asks does anybody want to take it anymore and to answer that question YPG answers back with YES we do, testing must go on.



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Coyote Lantis is one offering

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MITIGATE

FROM PAGE 1

projected to peak in Arizona in the ensuing weeks, however, the fourth week was one of increased vigilance. In response to a Sunday, April 5 directive from Secretary of Defense Dr. Mark Esper that mandated all individuals on Department of Defense (DoD) property, installations, and facilities wear cloth face coverings when they cannot maintain six feet of social distance in public areas or work centers, Soldiers from YPG's Airborne Test Force began stitching masks made of cotton for the workforce. At the same time, personnel from YPG's General Services also began to stitch masks. Across the proving ground, buildings sported duty rosters of daily cleaning tasks assigned to folks who worked inside.

By the time the mask mandate started, YPG personnel had already grown accustomed to answering general health screening questions posed by gate guards as they arrived to work each day. Access to all Army installations was restricted, and YPG was only open to post residents (including those at the YPG Travel Camp), YPG employees and contractors, and other personnel who came to YPG for an authorized purpose, such as delivery drivers and

those who held DoD ID cards.

Through it all, YPG's importance to the national defense was continually cited by the highest levels of the Department of the Army as reason the post's mission must continue. Military installations were listed as essential activities in the 'Stay Home, Stay Healthy, Stay Connected' executive order issued by Arizona Governor Doug Ducey on March 31.

"Our work at YPG is important to national security," said Poppenberger. "We must modernize our force, and YPG is one of the key organizations in that modernization effort. Although we have slowed down, we are doing some tasks to prevent a logjam of work when we come out of this pandemic."

Post life continued to adapt to the situation. Having been closed to dine-in customers for weeks, YPG's Coyote Lanes began free on-post delivery of food with orders of \$10 or more. The post exchange limited store access to no more than 10 patrons simultaneously to ensure social distance guidelines. At YPG's small commissary, which has one weekly grocery delivery, most items were available in the quantity ordered by management, including meat, bread, and eggs. The exception, however, was items that have been in short supply

throughout the nation due to a general shortage of the items within the supply chain: toilet paper, rubbing alcohol, bleach, hand sanitizer, and other similar cleaning agents. Very little toilet paper was delivered, and the limited quantity sold out within one hour of the commissary opening despite a limit of one package per family.

Despite this, though, the situation was markedly improved over that found during the first week of the crisis. Volunteers helped restock shelves rapidly, and patrons cooperated with a new policy of no more than 20 customers in the store at a given time to ensure social distancing. Store employees were ordered to begin wearing masks while on duty late in the third week, and by early in the fourth week customers had to have face

coverings as well.

As the situation continued to evolve, Poppenberger stressed that following social distancing guidelines and staying home from work in the event of any symptoms.

"We all have a social responsibility," said Poppenberger. "You're not a hero by coming to work if you have symptoms."



PHOTOS BY MARK SCHAUER

Although we have slowed down, we are doing some tasks to prevent a logjam of work when we come out of this pandemic" says YPG Commander Col. Ross Poppenberger. Accompanied by YPG Technical Director Larry Bracamonte and Command Sgt. Maj. Jamathon Nelson, Poppenberger visited workplaces around the proving ground. He emphasized that the safety and well-being of the workforce is his top priority.



Soldiers and civilian personnel from YPG's Airborne Test Force began stitching face coverings made of two-ply cotton for the workforce, utilizing a pattern recommended by the Centers for Disease Control. The Soldiers are currently producing 300 of the face coverings per day.

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Venerable radar undergoes depot-level maintenance

By Mark Schauer

Radar units send out pulses of high-frequency electromagnetic waves that reflect off objects, and modern radar systems are sophisticated enough to track even small, rapidly moving objects like rockets and mortar and artillery shells.

Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) relies on multiple radars to gather test data on a variety of systems under test. The largest of the proving ground's fleet is a MPS-25 radar that sports a 12 foot dish and puts out one million watts of peak power.

"The main work for this system is aircraft and munitions," said Herb Kiser of YPG's Instrumentation Division. "Lately we've seen a lot of UAS testing as well."

Remarkably, the MPS-25 radar has been a denizen of YPG's ranges since 1976, and was originally designed for use by NASA in 1958. Though more than 60 years old, the powerful radar can track even small items from horizon to horizon across all of YPG's vast ranges.

"It tracks at such distances that the radiofrequency has a bend to it because of weather," said Kiser. "We apply refraction corrections to this system to ensure we are accurate at that distance."

To keep the aging radar in good operating condition, routine preventative and corrective maintenance are vital.

"It may be old, but we've taken good care of it," said Kiser. "Our claim to fame is the personnel who know how to maintain and care for these systems."

Even so, the system requires a depot-level overhaul every seven to ten years, and one is currently in progress. The several week-



PHOTOS BY MARK SCHAUER

long process involves the complete disassembly of the system, with all gears, rings, and other components maintained and replaced as necessary. The maintenance is expected to give the radar another decade of useful life at a cost between \$350,000 and \$400,000.

"At a point it becomes cost-prohibitive because the capabilities of the weapons systems we are testing are starting to exceed the capabilities of the radar," said Kiser. "This system was built as a single object tracker looking at something going into space. Now we have weapons systems that fire 200 or 300 sub-munitions coming off."

The MPS-25 will be replaced prior to the end of its extended life, however, thanks to the Range Radar Replacement Program, which promises to replace YPG's aging fleet with modern radars more suited to future test items.

"The MPS-25 radar has a narrow frame of view: about 1.2 degrees wide," said Kiser. "The new radar systems range from 16 to 90 degrees field of view. With this system you'll track one or two items really well, but after that you're limited."



"It may be old, but we've taken good care of it," said Kiser talking about the radar. "Our claim to fame is the personnel who know how to maintain and care for these systems."



Fourth flight test of the XQ-58A Valkyrie at YPG a success

Story by Holly Jordan, Air Force Research Laboratory

The Air Force Research Laboratory, along with partner Kratos Defense & Security Solutions, Inc., completed the successful fourth flight test of the XQ-58A Valkyrie low-cost unmanned air vehicle demonstrator on Jan. 23, 2020, at Yuma Proving Ground.

During the test event, the Valkyrie demonstrator's flight successfully met all of the test objectives, and the envelope was expanded beyond prior tests before safely landing in the Arizona desert. According to AFRL XQ-58A Program Manager Michael Wipperman, flying at higher altitude allowed researchers to gather data

in an operational environment more representative of real-world flight conditions.

"Flying at this altitude helped us gather important data such as vehicle response to temperature and vibration, which will prepare us as we move toward our next flight test," said Wipperman.

This test event represents a return-to-flight for the XQ-58A, which experienced a mishap upon landing after a successful 90-minute flight in October 2019. Following a Safety Investigation Board probe into the mishap, Wipperman says the resulting information was out briefed to the convening authority, and the recommendations were taken and approved to ensure the success of this latest test.

"We're very pleased with the outcome of this fourth flight test," said Wipperman. "We were able to show recovery for a successful flight at even higher altitudes. Given that we have overcome these challenges, we have confidence that the aircraft can continue its progression into flying in more representative conditions."

Developed as part of AFRL's Low Cost Attributable Aircraft Technology portfolio, the XQ-58A is designed to be a runway-independent, reusable unmanned air vehicle capable of a broad range of operational missions. The XQ-58A was developed through low cost procurement and is designed to be significantly less expensive to operate than traditional piloted or unpiloted vehicles, while

capable of achieving the same critical missions. Taking only 2.5 years from contract award to first flight, it is the first example of a class of unmanned air vehicles developed through this time-saving process, which seeks to break the escalating cost trajectory of tactically relevant aircraft.

A total of five flights are planned for the XQ-58A, with objectives that include evaluating system functionality, aerodynamic performance, and launch and recovery systems. The fifth flight, scheduled for later this year, will be a capability demonstration showcasing the ability of the vehicle to support operational needs.



A total of five flights are planned for the XQ-58A, with objectives that include evaluating system functionality, aerodynamic performance, and launch and recovery systems.

PHOTO BY AIR FORCE RESEARCH LABORATORY

Coyote Lanes offers free delivery to YPG residents

By Ana Henderson

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic the entire world has had to adapt: Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) is no different. YPG has instituted teleworking, the four to six foot distancing rule, incorporated protective face coverings for everyone on the installation and shutdown many facilities the YPG community typically gathered at for fun.

One of the services that has not stopped is the food service for the community yet managers of the eateries have had to change how they serve their customers since restaurants can no longer serve patrons in their dining rooms.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, Coyote Lane bowling alley was typically a popular hangout spot with many gathering for competitive bowling and also to enjoy the pizzas

and other tasty food. Since patrons are no longer allowed to visit the diner—diner employees are going to them.

“MWR is very excited to provide this service to our community in this difficult time” explains Iselle Oquendo, MWR’s acting director.

The free delivery service provided within the Howard Cantonment area is simple to use, customers will call Coyote Lanes, place their order and pay over the phone with a credit card.

The service is available seven days a week from 11 AM-7PM. While the service is free there is a \$10 minimum order. Customers can also pick up orders during operation hours which are Monday- Thursday 6 AM - 8 PM, Friday 7 AM - 8 PM and Saturday and Sunday 9 AM - 8 PM.

“Hopefully the community takes

advantage and order for delivery.”

Coyote Lanes, the ROC Garden Café, Wild Horse and Road Runner on the Kofa Firing range are all serving their full menu for pickups. Cactus Café is closed until further notice.



PHOTO BY ANA HENDERSON
Coyote Lanes is now offering food delivery service. It is one of the many ways YPG as a whole is adapting to the restrictions due to COVID-19.



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YPG employees helps facilitate donations of N95 masks



By Ana Henderson

When an YPG customer from the Army Research Lab knew he wouldn't be returning to YPG for an unknown amount of time due the COVID-19 he reached out to his YPG contact 3,000 miles away and had a request. His contact, Counter Mines Range Manager, Joel Holsinger with the Munitions and Weapons Division received a

A customer from the Army Research Lab had been utilizing these N95 mask while working at YPG. He had a brand new case of masks and asked Joel Holsinger at YPG to donate them.

PHOTO BY JOEL HOLSINGER

text from Mr. Brian Phelan who told Holsinger that there was a case of the very hard to find N95 masks stored along with his test equipment and he requested Holsinger's help donating them. Holsinger made that request happen and enlisted his wife to donate them to Hospice of Yuma. Holsinger said, "It's in times like this, that people's true character comes out. Mr. Brian Phelan has always been a top notch professional in my book" adding, "Its positive stories like that that show we are all on one team."

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EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: ERIK RETA, ARMY CONTRACT SPECIALIST

YPG employee uses art as a cure for the soul

By Ana Henderson

Artwork has a way of speaking to people without the need for words. Art can transport them to a time and place where they have fond memories. Erik Reta's, canvas art work has had this effect on patients at the Yuma Regional Medical Center (YRMC) Cancer Center.

"At the venue a nice lady came up to me and was in tears sharing her appreciation an art piece I made that brought back a memory of hers, because the painting was of Sedona, Arizona and it reminded her of the last vacation she had with her loved one who had cancer."

When the YRMC Cancer Center was looking for artwork to display for their patients Reta, who works for the Mission and Installation Contracting Command-Yuma Proving Ground, submitted several pieces and to his delight all but one were chosen to be displayed.

"There is a need for peace which art can deliver. Landscape, seascapes, vintage air craft etc. transport patients for a little while to a happier time and place."

This is not the first time Reta's work has made a mark in his community. When he worked for Yuma Private Industry Council an entity of the City of Yuma, Reta helped high risked students create murals at Carver Park. After the program ended he was asked to paint a mural of a sunset over the dunes on the north side wall of the tennis courts.



"There is a need for peace which art can deliver. Landscape, seascapes, vintage air craft etc. transport patients for a little while to a happier time and place" says Erik Reta.

LOANED PHOTOS

Reta's love for art started at a young age and with the encouragement of this art teacher he began transitioning from drawing free hand to paintings.

To date, Reta has completed around 200 images with different mediums ranging from acrylic, charcoal, pastels, water colors, and pencil.

As the artist Reta says he is also transported to the location of this art—he likes to live in the moment,

"Believe it or not I actually use movie sound tracks from

theme movies to support the type of art I make. So, if I'm drawing a shark I will play the JAWs theme music as an example! I have fun!"

Reta understand the impact of his artwork and is dedicated to the cause in fighting cancer. Each grand champion award winning art piece is on contract through YRMC and for sale with a portion of the proceeds supporting cancer research.

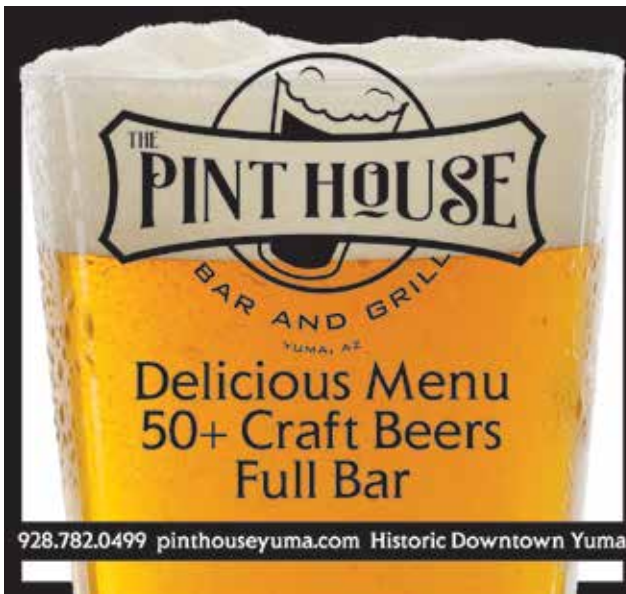
"It is an incredible satisfaction to be able to help people at a time when they're navigating through health hardships."

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Until further notice, all MWR dining facilities will be open for call-in/carry-out orders only. All seating areas will remain closed for the duration of the emergency.

MWR DINING FACILITIES

Cactus Café	Closed
Coyote Lanes	(928) 328-2308
KFR Roadrunner	(928) 328-7500
ROC Garden Café	(928) 328-2598

OTHER AFFECTED ACTIVITIES/FACILITIES

Auto Skills	Closed
Post Library	Closed
Fitness Center	Closed
Coyote Lanes	No Bowling
	Call-in/Carry-out



YPG Health Clinic Pharmacy Changes

Clinic Phone:
928-328-2666

Refill Phone:
760-380-3127

Pharmacy Hours of Operation
0800-1600
Closed for Lunch
1200-1300

**301 C Street,
Bldg. 990**
Howard Cantonment
Yuma Proving Ground

Please be aware that Yuma Proving Ground will be implementing medical screening at all access gates on 30 March. Please anticipate delays.

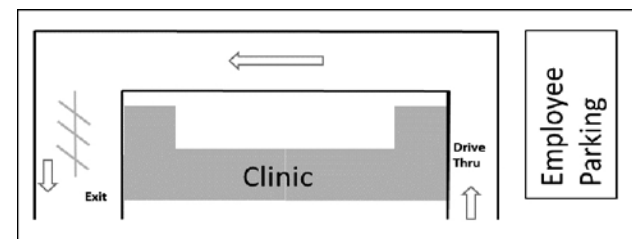
Pharmacy Operations During COVID-19 Pandemic

Pharmacy operations are being modified to allow for social distancing and minimize the spread of COVID-19.

- Starting 1 April, all routine medication pick-ups such as refills will be done outside of the clinic in a drive-through lane.
- Medication requests should be requested in advance so that they can be prepared and ready prior to pick-up.
- Controlled medications and injectable medications must now be scheduled as appointments.
- Transfers of multiple medications and non-formulary drug requests must be dropped off in advance and will be scheduled into virtual appointments. These requests will take 3-5 business days.
- Recommend dropping off paper prescriptions in advance as medications may need to be ordered.
- Call the clinic to request a renewal of an annual prescription. These requests will take 3-5 business days.

Drive Through Lane Ops:

- Enter the drive through lane on the far side of the clinic; typically our gated fire lane.
- Either press the call button or call the front desk at 928-328-2666.
- Please know which medications you need from the pharmacy.
- A medic will come outside and verify your ID and medications you are requesting.
- You will remain in your car while the medic takes your information inside to the pharmacy.
- The medic will return to your car with the medications in a paper bag.
- Continue driving around the clinic through the fire lane and exit through the parking lot on the other side.
- If there are any questions or delays, you may be asked to pull around the building and park.



USAHC Yuma Proving Ground



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CLOSED FOR LUNCH: 1200-1300 • Federal/Training Holidays: CLOSED

Per new Defense Health Agency guidance regarding social distancing and COVID-19, routine care such as well child and adult physicals will now be deferred to a later date. All appointments will be triaged to determine if patient needs can be addressed virtually. Virtual appointments can be booked with the clinic directly at (928) 328-2666.



If you have any questions regarding COVID-19 please call the Army COVID-19 information hotline:
1-800-984-8523

If you have a medical emergency, dial 911

