

# The Outpost

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

VOLUME 70 NO. 9 MAY 10, 2021

## ERCA autoloader's speed tested at YPG



The Extended Range Cannon Artillery autoloader's speed was demonstrated during a test March 30 at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

By Ana Henderson

The Extended Range Cannon Artillery (ERCA) weapon system has demonstrated it can get the job done. In previous tests and demonstrations, the ERCA has fired twice as far as any currently fielded Army cannon and has proven to fire pre-loaded rounds from a limited capacity autoloader magazine 2-3 times as fast as a gun crew. The autoloader's speed was demonstrated once again during a test March 30 at Yuma Proving Ground (YPG).

The autoloader, designed by the Army Futures Command's (AFC) Armament Center at Picatinny Arsenal, performs cannon loading tasks mechanically – setting the fuze, loading the projectile, propellant

SEE ERCA/5

## Latest iteration of M1 Abrams main battle tank wraps up testing at Cold Regions Test Center

By Mark Schauer

What has outstanding offensive and defensive capability and represents the aweing tip of the spear in a major land war?

It's the M1A2 System Enhancement Package (SEP) version 3 (v3) main battle tank, which wrapped up extensive cold-weather testing at U.S. Army Cold Regions Test Center (CRTC) this winter to ensure it functions as it should wherever in the world it could be called on to serve.

Since testing at the Department of Defense's lone extreme cold natural environment testing

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prep for monsoon  
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## Commander thanks contracting employees



YPG's leadership showed their appreciation of the work performed by the Mission Installation Contracting Command (MICC) in a ceremony April 28. YPG Commander Col. Patrick McFall was joined by Technical Director Larry Bracamonte and Chief of Staff Minerva Peters in presenting the following awards: Certificates of Appreciation to Kim Logan, Teresa Dinwiddie, Gail Essary, Steve Tirone, Karen Davis and Edgar Angulo (not pictured). The YPG Commander's Coin to Frank Garcia, Tejae Craig and Lillie Griffith (not pictured). The YPG Command Group thanks the MICC for their hard work and dedication to duty. (Photo by Casey Garcia)

## The Outpost

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Gen. John Rafferty is pictured talking with Jered Ford during a recent visit. Ford has worked at Yuma Proving Ground for 14 years and is currently the Artillery Branch Chief. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

## Employee spotlight

By Ana Henderson

Jered Ford has steadily moved up the ranks at Yuma Proving Ground since starting his career 14 years ago.

Ford grew up in Northern Arizona and graduated from Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff with a Mechanical Engineering degree.

He first heard about YPG from his Grandfather, an Air Force Veteran living in Yuma, who heard YPG was hiring engineers.

Ford was hired in 2007 by YPG contractor ECIII as a test officer in the Munitions and Weapons (M&W) branch. He then transitioned to government service as a civilian employee a year later.

For eight years Ford worked as a test officer overseeing test programs and learned the foundation of testing.

"The experience working with teams and external organizations as well as the experience with the artillery systems and ammunition have fed my knowledge about the systems

and the testing associated with them."

Ford's next move was into a leadership role, yet he didn't leave the M&W branch. He served as team lead for the counter-fire team for about two years and then for the Artillery 1 team.

In December 2020, Ford was named the Munitions and Weapons Artillery Branch Chief. He stepped into the position in March of 2021. He knows the work performed by the M&W team makes an impact.

"Our division is an excellent test division. It's very professional and very busy. It's an important test division with the Army's top modernization priority on long-range precision firing which is in our wheelhouse."

Adding, "The work that we have been doing is really important to the Army Modernization and ultimately to the Soldiers."

In his free time, Ford enjoys exploring the great outdoors with his wife of 15 years, Deanna, and their three daughters.



# Celebrating Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

## Submitted by YPG Equal Employment Office

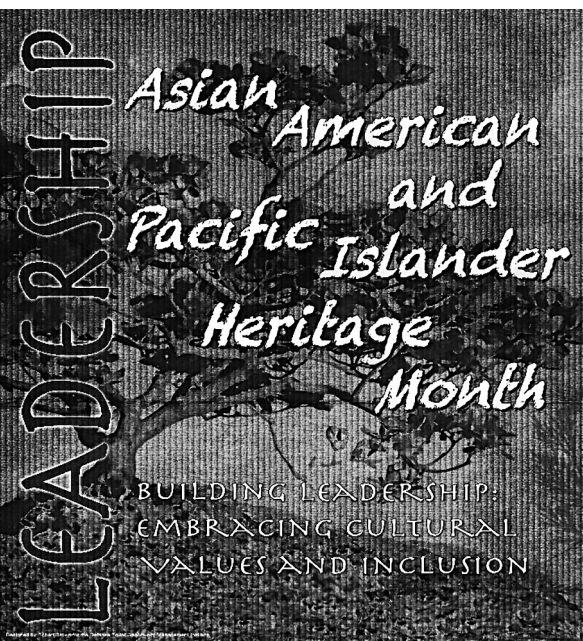
May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month - a celebration of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States. A rather broad term, Asian/Pacific encompasses all of the Asian continent and the Pacific islands of Melanesia (New Guinea, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji and the Solomon Islands), Micronesia (Marianas, Guam, Wake Island, Palau, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Nauru and the Federated States of Micronesia) and Polynesia (New Zealand, Hawaiian Islands, Rotuma, Midway Islands, Samoa, American Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, French Polynesia and Easter Island).

Like most commemorative months, Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month originated with Congress. In 1977 Reps. Frank Horton of New York introduced House Joint Resolution 540 to proclaim the first ten days in May as Pacific/Asian

American Heritage Week. In the same year, Senator Daniel Inouye introduced a similar resolution, Senate Joint Resolution 72. Neither of these resolutions passed, so in June 1978, Rep. Horton introduced House Joint Resolution 1007. This resolution proposed that the President should "proclaim a week, which is to include the seventh and tenth of the month, during the first ten days in May of 1979 as 'Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week.'" This joint resolution was passed by the House and then the Senate and was signed by President Jimmy Carter on October 5, 1978 to become Public Law 95-419. This law amended the original language of the bill and directed the President to issue a proclamation for the "seven day period beginning on May 4, 1979 as 'Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week.'" During the next decade, presidents passed annual proclamations for Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week until 1990 when Congress passed Public Law

101-283 which expanded the observance to a month for 1990. Then in 1992, Congress passed Public Law 102-450 which annually designated May as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month.

The month of May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. The majority of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants.



## Denim Day

As a sign of solidarity and support for victims of sexual assault, YPG's Command Group and Sexual

Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention program members wore denim on April 28, National Denim Day.

### The Army is committed to:

- Reducing the stigma of reporting
- Protecting the victim
- Increasing prevention, investigation, prosecution and victim capabilities
- Increasing training and resources
- Refining and sustaining response capability

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DoD Safe Helpline **877-995-5247**



Cathyann Robinson, Col. Patrick McFall, Command Sgt. Maj. Herbert Gill, Arlene Gentry. (Photos by Ana Henderson)



Donna Peet, Sylvia Hughes, Minerva Peters, Col. Patrick McFall, Larry Bracamonte, Mark Schauer, Chrissy Randle, Paula Rickleff.

## Earth Day Cleanup



To celebrate Earth Day on April 22, YPG's environmental department organized a desert cleanup on post. The group focused in areas along fence lines and washes where windblown trash accumulates. Picking up trash like food containers and chip bags helps deter wildlife from crossing into the housing area. YPG is a natural laboratory where the equipment Soldiers use is tested to ensure it works as it should wherever in the world they are called upon to serve. As such, the post has a deeply vested interest in being good stewards of the earth every day of the year. (Photo by Ana Henderson)



## Chaplain's Corner

### What for?

**Chaplain's Corner**  
Chaplain Capt.  
Jeffrey Crispin



Recently I had a visit from my brother-in-law, his wife, and their children that came to stay for a few days. In a moment of clarity, I was thinking about how even though all four of the adults met each other in the same school, we parent in different ways. This isn't about a competition in parenting, but asking what we are doing to prepare our children for their future.

Some of our parenting is based on the variations that come from our families, the social norms of the community where we grew up, and the unique family dynamics that comes with being a military family. One of the things that I observed is that I find that I am more likely than the other three adults in this story to focus on "just get it done," and sometimes I find that I will do it myself in order to prevent conflict, or because I want a certain task done a specific way. I'm probably not alone in this.

I had to ask myself if that "get it done" approach to parenting was in the best interest of my children? In my God given responsibility as a parent, am I doing what is in the long-term best interest of my children becoming who they are created to become? Am I doing them a dis-service by not showing them the way I believe is the best way to do an age appropriate task, talking about it with them, and then following with opportunities for them to do the task? Do I allow

the kids to do the task both "my way" and then the freedom to see if another way is better, as long as there's a clear understanding of the expectation. For example, the load of towels and washcloths in the dryer are folded and put in the closet where they belong. The chore needs to be done with a reasonable deadline, and the kids need to learn life skills for when I'm not there to do it for them.

As we reach the end of the school year, perhaps it is time to stop as parents and reflect about how we are training our kids for the adult world. As we adjust to a different schedule with the end of the school year, perhaps a family meeting to discuss roles and responsibilities with some developmental goals might be a chance to get your kids to understand some of the "why?" and "what for" in their growth.

It has been said that, "The best use of this life is to invest it in what will outlast your own life." Our children are our contribution to the future, whether you have biological children or not. I hope you will join me in looking for opportunities to make them well equipped for the challenges that we will not be there to walk through with them, both in character and competencies that they will need. That's the "what for" in parenting.

My family and I went through the FOCUS program at MCAS recently, and if this topic is an area you want to grow, they have some good tools to help your family.

Thanks for all you do in helping raise our YPG kids to be the future leaders and problem solvers our culture will need.

# Long-time YPG employee is remembered for dynamic personality

By Teri Womack

Long-time former Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) employee Mara Bowman passed away on April 16 of complications from COVID-19 while visiting her family in Italy. Mara's career started in the United States Air Force serving her country and continued on as Department of Defense civilian YPG. Mara recently retired in December 2019.

I've heard it said that the best way to honor a life is to reflect on how it was lived.

Mara loved dressing up for Halloween, but didn't limit her dress up shenanigans to just one day a year. At almost any event held on or off YPG, she usually showed up in some sort of wacky costume to light up a room and put smiles on people's faces. She never failed at grabbing your attention and making you smile.

Mara lived her best life plain and simple. One meeting with her and you would never forget her. She was kind, spunky and wild but serious when the job needed to get done. She may or may not have been in costume because with Mara you never knew. The zany woman loved her many personas.

Born and raised in Italy, Mara had a love of fine wine and excellent cuisine. Mara enjoyed FaceTiming with her daughter Chenoah in Italy as



Long-time former Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) employee Mara Bowman passed away on April 16. Her friends at YPG described her as a "firecracker."

they cooked together. She could cook up a storm and shared it willingly with her friends here in Arizona along with her knowledge about wine and how to pair it with complimentary foods.

Family was of utmost importance to Mara. Her love of her children and grandchildren was often a huge topic of conversation. Her heart was proud and it swelled during those talks. Locally, she counted her beloved dogs and companions Frittola and Tasha as family and they were often included in her dress up and crazy schemes looking spiffy in their own costumes. Even her little Fiat, which she named Luigi, sometimes sported eyelashes and a big red nose. She loved her little Italian car and often entered it in many car shows including Midnight at the Oasis.

She turned her circle of friends into a beautiful mosaic that became her Arizona family. Her friendships were far and wide as during her travel adventures, she made friends all over the world.

She was kind, compassionate, and full of love and light along with having a witty personality. She was a firecracker with a zest for life. It's been said that a life that's been loved is a life that's been lived. That is certainly true for Mara Bowman.



Bowman was known for dressing up in wacky costumes for any occasion. (Loaned photos)



and stub charge, closing the breech — in sequence with barrel pointing to enable cannon firing at unprecedented rates.

Army Future's Command Brig. Gen. John Rafferty Director of the Long Range Precision Fires (LRPF) Cross Functional Team (CFT) traveled to YPG to see the demonstration first hand and to meet the team who is behind all the work.

He told the team, "The Army is watching what you are doing and they are impressed."

That team consists of the Yuma Test Center (YTC) workforce at YPG, Armament Center employees from Picatinny Arsenal, N.J. and Watervliet Arsenal, N.Y. and Project Manager Combat Ammunitions Systems employees, also from Picatinny Arsenal.

The demonstration involved the Armament Center's 31-round full-capacity autoloader using different types of charges, and the goal was to obtain data on how to increase the rate-of-fire in ERCA, and to verify the technical maturity of the major autoloader system subcomponents: projectile magazine, propellant magazine and transfer mechanism.

Rafferty explained, "We know that eventually we are going to have to improve the rate-of-fire of the system to deliver lethality against our adversaries in the volume that we need but also increase the survivability of our Soldiers and system. Allowing them to shoot quickly and move —

because as soon as we put an ERCA battalion on the battlefield they will become the enemy's number one priority target because the capability that it delivers is so significant."

Chris Smith, Cannon Integrated Product Team Lead from the Armaments Center, whose team is in charge of cannon performance, added "With artillery when you are manually loading it, they can do it quickly in the beginning but then they get tired it slows down. This automated process will help keep that rate going by taking the user out of it and also keeps them safe."

After viewing the inner workings of the weapon system, Rafferty along with YPG and YTC leadership and the ERCA teams viewed the live firing of three inert rounds from inside of blast protected workspaces at the gun position.

There was little time between each round and the work was, "Seamless" said Smith,

"Today was very successful. Today's demonstration was a culmination of a lot of hard work by the Armament Center and the industry partners to assemble and demonstrate an autoloader for ERCA against the requirements that were given a few years ago," explained Senior Executive Service Anthony Sebasto, Armaments Center Executive Director for Enterprise and Systems Integration Center.

Rafferty told the crews on site, "With what we saw today, I don't know how you could not be incredibly impressed."

Now the data collected from this



Brig. Gen. John Rafferty, Director of the Long Range Precision Fires Cross Functional Team, told the ERCA team, "The Army is watching what you are doing and they are impressed."

demonstration will be reviewed, analyzed and applied to the system.

"Today we demonstrated the firing rate. It gave the Army one more data point in terms of building confidence in ERCA ammunition handling capabilities and possibilities for the future," said Sebasto.

Rafferty explained, "We are going to get range and lethality first and then when we are ready we'll increase the rate-of-fire."

Soon what was learned during this demonstration will be put into action once again with higher stakes.

"We are on the right path. The combination of the propellant magazine, the projectile magazine, and the transfer mechanism is really magical to see in action. It's an early effort that is going to mature into a 23-round system that is going to be demonstrated late this year," said Rafferty.



The demonstration involved the 31-round full-capacity autoloader using different types of charges, and the goal was to obtain data on how to increase the rate-of-fire. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

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# M1 ABRAMS

FROM PAGE 1

facility began in January 2020, the SEPv3 was driven more than 2,000 miles in rugged conditions across three seasons of sub-Arctic weather, fired hundreds of rounds for accuracy in extreme cold, and underwent testing of its auxiliary power unit, as well as numerous other sub-systems.

The list of improvements to test in the SEPv3 is lengthy: improved fire control electronics mean the SEPv3's gun can shoot faster and more accurately; the armor has been improved; it can even utilize hubcaps and road arms manufactured with a 3D printer. Onboard diagnostics are much more robust, and technical manuals can be accessed from removable screens.

Though the platform was extensively tested at Yuma Test Center prior to being put through its paces in Alaska, the sub-zero temperatures brought forth glitches that would have been unimaginable in the desert.



The M1 and its variants have been tested at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground and its constituent test centers for more than 40 years.



Improvements under test included: improved fire control electronics; the armor and onboard diagnostics. (Photos by Sebastian Saarloos)





Since testing began in January 2020, the SEPv3 was driven more than 2,000 miles in three seasons of sub-Arctic weather, fired hundreds of rounds, and underwent testing of its auxiliary power unit, as well as numerous other sub-systems.

“While we were doing the main weapon firing, we ran into a system issue where we weren’t able to fire,” said Elissa Palm, test officer. “After some pretty extensive troubleshooting, we were able to work with the product manager to identify a fix.

We were able to prevent non-mission capable tanks from being fielded and implemented the fix across the fleet, then validated here with additional testing.”

Conducting evaluations in the extreme cold of an interior Alaskan winter usually brings unexpected challenges even for the rugged professionals of CRTC, and this test was no different. One night, overflow ice from the nearby Delta River flooded the gun position, then quickly refroze rock-solid.

“We had one of the portable latrines with ice that was hip-high: you weren’t going to move it until it got

melted,” said Greg Netardus, Chief of CRTC’s Test Operation’s Division. “All of the equipment was frozen in: wheeled vehicles carrying the ammunition would not have been able to maneuver down there. It was not safe to put people down here.”

CRTC’s vast expanse includes other ranges that could be utilized, but not ones that had important infrastructure that the testers needed.

“We don’t have multiple ready-to-fire ranges with targets at known distances for the tank, so our Allied Trades shop did a really nice job in a very short time building a new mobile target based on a Conex and getting it set up for us,” said Palm.

The target that CRTC’s Allied Trades shop had to recreate on the fly consisted of tall poles upon which a target is pulled into place with a hand crank. The fixed target is emplaced in the ground, which required approvals

for work and brush clearance prior to construction.

“We used a 40-foot ISO container as a base, so there was no dirt work or anchoring required,” said Sam Porter, CRTC’s Allied Trades Lead. “An ISO container meant we could build it off-site in the shop, where we had cranes and a man lift. We took the design of the target that was in place and modified it.”

The mobile target was re-used in the summer, and provides a flexible new capability for future tests.

“With this, they should be able to set it up and utilize wherever they are able to fire that gun,” said Porter.

To take advantage of the coldest temperatures possible, weapons firings were oftentimes conducted in the small hours of the morning. Possibly the most difficult testing challenge, however, occurred earlier in the calendar year: when the COVID crisis

hit in March 2020, eight members of the testing team who had come to CRTC from Yuma were especially impacted by sudden restrictions in travel and new temporary duty (TDY) authorizations.

“A lot of times on these long-term tests, we like to trade people in and out so they can get back to their families,” said Palm. “This time it was really hard for us to get TDY approvals, so the crew was great in that most of them volunteered to stay until the end of the effort.”

The M1 and its variants have been tested at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground and its constituent test centers for more than 40 years, and likely will continue to be for as long as the system remains in the ground combat arsenal. This testing has played a vital role in keeping the M1 the most capable tank in the world.





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# Lifeguards needed: Training provided at YPG

By Ana Henderson

Across Yuma County there is a lifeguard shortage due to many factors associated with the COVID pandemic.

The situation at Yuma Proving Ground's (YPG) Kahuna Lagoon Pool is no different. The Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (FMWR) program at YPG is solving the problem by providing lifeguard training.

YPG Lead lifeguard Mindy Cordova is hosting an American Red Cross lifeguard training at YPG. One class was held in April where four lifeguards were certified. Cordova will be hosting another certification session in mid to late May.

Some of the requirements include being able to swim a continuous 300 yard swim with controlled breathing, a two-minute tread using only legs and timed brick dive.

Those who receive their certification and would like to work at the YPG community pool will have to undergo a security clearance. Cordova explains the Red Cross certification can be used to lifeguard at other locations in Yuma as well.

To entice candidates, the classes are held

on two weekends and the cost is \$115 for those affiliated with YPG and \$150 for non-affiliated.

Cordova can be contacted directly at 928-261-7063 for more details.



YPG Lead lifeguard Mindy Cordova is hosting an American Red Cross lifeguard training certification course at YPG in mid to late May. During the April course, four new lifeguards were certified. (Photo courtesy of Mindy Cordova)

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# May Safety Awareness training

By Jeni Williams

May's Safety Awareness Training is focused on desert creatures. Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) is located in one of the hottest and most capacious deserts in the United States. The Sonoran Desert covers approximately 120,000 square miles spreading across Mexico, Arizona and California. The desert is full of a variety of wildlife. Among the variety of creatures to call the desert their home are wild horses/donkeys, deer, coyotes, rattlesnakes, scorpions, tarantulas, and bees to name a few.

It is always exciting to see desert critters in the wild but it is important to remember the desert is their home and we need to respect that. Any of the desert animals

can be dangerous if approached. Please refrain from approaching wildlife to feed them or take photos.

Also, be cautious when bees are in the area. Do not swat at bees or otherwise aggravate them. The more agitated they get, the more likely they will be to swarm/attack and sting you.

For more information on Desert Creatures access the following link on the YPG Intranet: <https://intranet.yuma.army.mil/cmd/Safety/SitePages/SAW%20Training%20Site.aspx>

After viewing the training material use the drop down menu located below the training link under "Acknowledgements," choose the

training you have completed (i.e. 03 March Driver Training) and then click on the small square box just below the training title (your name and date will auto populate) then click "submit." The square box must be clicked in order for the training/signature to be validated. The Safety Office will then send you a completed certificate that you will upload to ATTM on Sharepoint. Only Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC) employees use ATTM to



track mandatory training. Other YPG tenants should follow their local guidelines.

Once you are in ATTM, scroll down to YPG – CY21 SAW Training (May Module) and upload the certificate you received from the Safety Office.

As always, the training information that is provided each month is guaranteed to be useful, relevant as well as entertaining! So whether you are ATEC, Mission, Garrison, Military Free Fall School, Medical Clinic, contractor or any other YPG tenant, this training is for you.

If you have any questions please contact Jeni Williams at 928-328-2323/928-581-6920 or via email at [jeni.m.williams2.civ@mail.mil](mailto:jeni.m.williams2.civ@mail.mil)

## SAAPM 2021 SHARP CROSSWORD PUZZLE: ANSWER KEY

Down

### Across

1. **You** / Prevention of SH and SA in the Army is a team effort that starts with...
4. **Five** / SAFE kits are to be retained for how many years?
6. **Lead SARC** / Who co-chairs the SARB?
8. **Quid pro quo** / Two types of SH? \_\_\_\_\_ and Hostile environment.
10. **Senior Commander** / Who chairs the SARB?
12. **Verbal** / Three categories of SH? \_\_\_\_\_, Non-verbal and Physical contact.
14. **EEO** / Where do DA Civilians make SH complaints?
15. **Leader Led** / How Annual Refresher Trainer is to be administered IAW AD 2018-023.
18. **Direct** / List the second Bystander Intervention "D."
19. **Unrestricted** / Soldiers who file \_\_\_\_\_ SA reports may request an expedited transfer.
21. **Distract** / List the third Bystander Intervention "D."

2. **Unwelcome** / SH involves conduct that is perceived as \_\_\_\_\_ sexual comments/gestures.
3. **Overcome** / Using Personal Courage, what can you do to intervene and prevent SH and SA in the Army? Recognize and \_\_\_\_\_ Barriers!
5. **SAIRO** / Report that details actions taken or in progress to provide care and support to victim and to provide initial notification to appropriate commanders.
7. **Consent** / A freely given agreement to sex by a competent person.
9. **Direct** / List the first Bystander Intervention "D."
11. **Notice the event** / Bystander Intervention Process is five steps, what is the first?
13. **Anonymously** / What are the three ways to submit an SH complaint? Informally, Formally and \_\_\_\_\_?
16. **Expedited** / \_\_\_\_\_ Transfer is to assist in the victim's recovery.
17. **VARKS** / Provided to victims when their personal items are taken away as evidence.
20. **Confidentiality** / Is a fundamental principle at the core of victims' services and one of the cornerstones of the SHARP Program.



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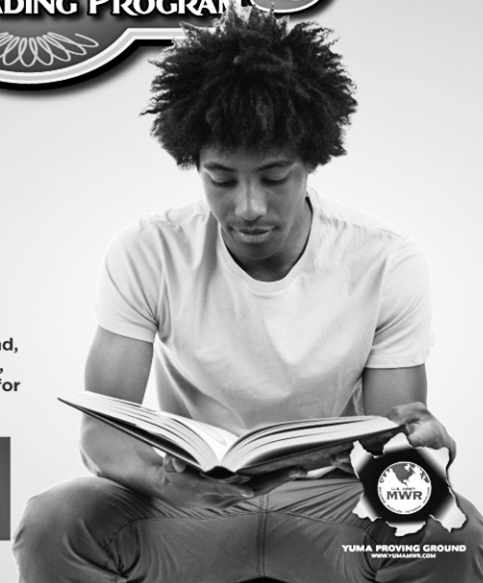
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# Shearwater uses new equipment to spruce up installation and keep crews safe

By Ana Henderson

It seems every corner you look around the installation, a member of the Shearwater / EMI Services Team is working on some aspect of up-keeping.

Most recently they have been using the new stump grinder for the removal of about 10 salt cedar trees. The stumps were not only an eye sore but also a great place for spiders, snakes, and other venomous critters to hide.

“They can also be a potential fire hazard,” tells Shearwater / EMI Services employee Don Parks who worked on the project.

“Some of those stumps are three feet in diameter and takes time,” adds Parks.

Shearwater / EMI Services’ team is responsible for maintenance and repair of facilities and infrastructure of almost all of Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) and Yuma Test Center aside from the housing area. All 14 acres of Cox Field and other grassy and zeroscape areas around the installation require some type of maintenance, throughout the year. With YPG being nearly the size of Rhode Island, the job is a huge undertaking.



Don Parks used a stump grinder for the removal of salt seeder stumps. The stumps were not only an eye sore but also a place for spiders, snakes, and other venomous critters to hide. (Photo courtesy of Jaysen Lockett)

The Shearwater / EMI Services Team recently acquired eight pieces of equipment which include a stump grinder, two riding lawn mowers, two drop bed trailers, road grader, gannon, and a bush hog rotary mower. The acquisition of the equipment was made possible with the support of the YPG’s Department of Public Work (DPW), Pat Driscoll and Tom Cimins who understand the importance of good equipment to do a job properly and safely.

Shearwater / EMI Services Project Manager Jaysen Lockett explains, “The equipment not only helps my team be more effective, but also helps make their work a lot safer. For example the drop trailer, instead of climbing up and down on a trailer, we can actually lower the

trailer, drive the equipment on and lift them hydraulically. This helps prevent any potential back injuries.”

As of the printing of this article, Shearwater / EMI Services Team had more than 600 days without a vehicle accident and more than 800 days without an accident resulting in loss of work time. “Safety is an issue YPG and the Shearwater / EMI Services will not compromise” adds Lockett.

“Safety is our top priority, we want to work smart and be safe. We have the benefit of working for a company and a leader that truly believes in safety,” says Shearwater / EMI Services General Maintenance Worker Adrian Villarreal.

In the coming weeks and months, the crew will be working on brush clearing to avoid any fire hazards and removing unsafe hanging tree branches, spraying herbicide to keep weeds under control, and fogging for mosquito control in preparation for monsoon season.

The YPG community will also notice another crew on-site laying all the conduit to replace copper lines with fiber on the Howard Cantonment Area.



As of the printing of this article, Shearwater / EMI Services Team had more than 600 days without a vehicle accident and more than 800 days without an accident resulting in loss of work time. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

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