

The Outpost

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

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YPG marks 20 years since 9/11

By Mark Schauer

By turns somber and passionate, Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) remembered the 20th anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks

in a Patriot Day ceremony earlier this month.

Dozens of members of the workforce participated in

SEE **20 YEARS** page 6



The Yuma Proving Ground community gathered to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the morning of Sept. 9. Turn to page 6 for more photos.

Smart anti-tank munition tested at YPG

By Mark Schauer

U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground's (YPG) position at the forefront of Army modernization efforts is well-known, and extends far beyond the developmental testing of equipment like the Extended Range Cannon Artillery.

One recent example of YPG shaping the future force through testing of equipment is the XM204 interim wide area top attack munition.

The phase of testing that just ended at YPG will allow the munition to enter limited initial production for government testing, which will occur here.

"Contractor System Verification Testing is the capstone for this test phase," said Lt. Col. Isaac Cuthbertson, Product Manager for Terrain-Shaping Obstacles. "The XM204 is in support of



Testing of the XM204 interim wide area top attack munition took place at Yuma Proving Ground. The launcher's large carrying handle came as a result of combat engineer feedback during a Soldier touchpoint. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

an operational needs statement directly from U.S. Army Europe, thus managing the schedule is key to the program."

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From 1951 to the present, Outpost history long, varied /Page 11



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Yuma Proving Ground



THIS IS MY SQUAD

Soldier spotlight

By Ana Henderson

Sgt. Justin Neubert is currently serving as the Religious Affairs Non-Commissioned Officer at the Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Chapel. He's one of two members on the

Chapel staff who assist Chaplain Maj. Jeffrey Crispin with providing support to Soldiers, their family and the YPG community.

Neubert is originally from Toledo, Ohio and has been serving in the



Sgt. Justin Neubert (right) works alongside Staff Sgt. Ricardo Luna Chaplain and Maj. Jeffrey Crispin and at the Yuma Proving Ground Chapel. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

The Outpost

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Army nearly seven years.

He's been married for just over seven years and has four, as he describes "amazing children" ranging in age from six years to five months old.

Outside of work he's studying to earn his associates degree in criminal justice and enjoys fishing, woodworking, and playing board games with his family. He's also working on becoming a youth sports coach at YPG.



Sgt. Justin Neubert is pictured with his family. (Photo courtesy of Sgt. Justin Neubert)

Army Commendation Medal awarded to Health Clinic administrator

By Ana Henderson

Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Commander Col. Patrick McFall and Command Sgt. Maj. Herbert Gill recently presented Maj. Joshua Chase with the Army Commendation Medal on behalf of the Secretary of the Army.

The citation credits Chase for his, "exemplary performance as the YPG Clinic Administrator during the midst of the COVID-19 global pandemic."

Between January and July 2021, the YPG Medical Clinic hosted 48 vaccination events across the installation outside of the clinic to provide the COVID vaccines to, "all willing and eligible YPG Soldiers, Family members and

workforce personnel."

Chase praised the Soldiers working at the clinic for their work.

"It was a lot of extraordinary effort. We are not a large facility. There were some folks that were working well above the ranks on their chest."

On top of administering the vaccinations, the team also provided information on the vaccine, booked appointments, tracked vaccine numbers, maintained rosters, and set up the pop-up clinic sites.

Chase notes, "there is still work to be done" referring to the active duty mandate. Vaccines are still available for eligible individuals.



Yuma Proving Ground Commander Col. Patrick McFall and Command Sgt. Maj. Herbert Gill presented Maj. Joshua Chase with the Army Commendation Medal on behalf of the Secretary of the Army.



The YPG Medical Clinic hosted 48 vaccination events across the installation. (Photos by Mark Schauer)

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Marines 3D-print rocket headcap for mine-clearing test at YPG

By Matt Gonzales

The Marine Corps continues to leverage additive manufacturing to benefit the warfighter.

This summer, the Program Manager for Ammunition (PM Ammo) at Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC) 3D printed a headcap for a rocket motor used to detonate a M58 Mine Clearing Line Charge (MICLIC). The MICLIC is a rocket-projected explosive line charge that provides a demining capability for Marines.

“The process of 3D printing allows Marines to create a physical object from a digital design,” said CWO2 Justin Trejo, a project officer with PM Ammo at MCSC. “We essentially created a 3D-printed product and incorporated it into a highly explosive system.”

Marines use the MICLIC to clear paths through minefields and other obstacles on the battlefield. However, traditional manufacturing methods for creating the headcap can be both timely and costly, said Trejo. MCSC wanted to identify a more efficient method for producing the part.

PM Ammo found the answer to this dilemma in additive manufacturing.

In 2019, PM Ammo began exploring alternative solutions for manufacturing the headcap. After many hours of research as well as developing and testing a prototype

headcap, the team collaborated with Naval Surface Warfare Center Corona Division to produce a 3D-printed version.

Earlier this year, NSWC Corona produced the 3D-printed, stainless steel solution. The next month, PM Ammo representatives assessed the 3D product during a test event at Yuma Proving Ground in Yuma, Arizona. The evaluation involved launching the rocket motor to detonate the mine-clearing line charge.

Trejo said the event went flawlessly.

“In the future, we’d like to attempt to 3D print the headcap with its nozzles attached,” said Trejo.

He stressed the significance of the successful test event because it further confirmed the effectiveness of 3D printing, which has been growing in popularity within the Department of Defense.

Additive manufacturing provides Marines with a streamlined solution to meet their needs. In 2019, MCSC established its Advanced Manufacturing Operations Cell to serve as a 24/7 help desk for Marines who need assistance with 3D printing, and other sustainment and manufacturing solutions.

AMOC is available to answer questions, field requests for prints and fully vet any part that requires fabrication by a Marine organization.

The team of skilled Marines and civilians has employed additive manufacturing to develop everything from innovative maintenance tools to a reinforced concrete bridge.

Caleb Hughes, an engineer with MCSC’s PM Ammo who supported the Yuma testing event, said 3D printing saves the Marine Corps time and money.

“The previous process of traditional manufacturing is outdated, while 3D printing is a more modern manufacturing technique,” said Hughes. “I truly believe 3D printing is the next generation of the Marine Corps.”

Trejo believes additive manufacturing aligns with Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. David Berger’s vision in that 3D printing helps increase Marines’ battlefield efficiency. Trejo said the manufacturing method enables the warfighter to be “lighter and faster,” critical attributes when supporting various missions.

“We’re able to create equipment parts and other assets for whatever particular mission we’re engaged in,” said Trejo. “This 3D-printed headcap represents the Marine Corps going above and beyond to support our Marines.”

FOREIGN COLLECTION METHODS

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KEEPING SAFE

on Social Media



SOCIAL MEDIA SITES

Social media sites and applications are great ways to connect and share information. However, these sites can provide adversaries with the critical information they need to disrupt your mission and harm you, your co-workers, or even your family members.

Practicing good operations security (OPSEC) will minimize the risks that come from using social media and help you protect your critical information.

THE OPSEC PROCESS



CRITICAL INFORMATION

Your critical information is any information that you or your mission considers sensitive. Here are some examples:

- Names and photos of you, your family and co-workers
- Schedules and travel itineraries
- Social Security numbers, credit card, and banking information
- Usernames, passwords, computer and networking information
- Work or personal addresses and phone numbers
- Operational, security, and logistical data
- Interests, hobbies, likes, and dislikes
- Mission capabilities or limitations
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KEEPING SAFE

on Social Media



Being aware of your critical information and using simple countermeasures will help keep you safe while on social media.

COUNTERMEASURES

- Follow Good Security Guidelines:** Adversaries prefer easy targets. Install updates on your devices when available and monitor your security settings to help keep your information private.
- Be Alert to Suspicious Activities:** Adversaries employ phishing techniques to get you to click on a link or download an attachment which may contain malicious software (malware). If you're unsure of something, navigate directly to the site or use a search engine instead of clicking the link.
- Be Aware of Your Physical and Virtual Surroundings:** Accessing your social media applications by open internet hotspots provided at hotels, cafés, and airports may leave your device susceptible for adversaries to spy on your activities both physically and virtually. Adversaries can also access your device and your information if you leave Bluetooth and Wi-Fi enabled.
- Don't Post Critical Information:** If you don't want it public, don't post it. Internet archives take snapshots of your profiles and store them for all the world to see. Nothing deleted on the internet is ever truly removed.
- Keep Your Password Secure:** Use unique and strong passwords for each online account and update your passwords every three to six months. Never share your passwords.
- Monitor Your Cyber Footprint:** Search for yourself online to determine what information about you is already available to an adversary. Know what they know about you before you post.
- Don't Depend on Social Media for Privacy:** Social media sites/applications that aren't open and public can become so due to hacking, poor data management practices, and data brokering. In some cases, the site terms of service explicitly claim ownership of all your posted content.
- Review Your Friends' and Family's Profiles:** Photos and information they post about you may reveal your critical information. This includes posting pictures while you're still on vacation. Don't let those you trust tell the adversaries what they need to know.
- Know Your "Friends":** Verify every "friend" request you receive to make sure it is actually the person you may know. Adversaries create profiles of those you may know to get close to you.

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Interns get hands-on experience at Yuma Proving Ground

By Ana Henderson

Two university students recently spent their summer at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) getting hands-on experience through the Test Resource Management Center (TRMC) Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Internship Initiative.

Both students are current mechanical engineer majors, yet the TRMC STEM internships are available to students in other STEM fields.

Esteban Cook and Russel Gee didn't know what to expect during their internship at YPG. Cook said while he knew YPG was a test installation, he didn't realize the caliber of testing and also the workforce behind it.

"Once we went to the testing sites, I was pretty amazed to see how the test took place-- all the logistics behind every test," said Cook.

Cook, a senior, and Gee, a junior, were both embedded within a division at YPG and assigned a mentor. Cook's mentors were Jose Rodriguez and Jacob Lopez. Steve Taylor mentored Gee.

To their surprise, YPG uses the same computer aided design program they use in school. They also felt comfortable with the

engineering process since what they learned in school translated into the real-world.

"I was tasked with designing camera mounts for the Kineto Tracking Mounts. I had to go through three different prototypes. I would make it in Solid Works, come up with a different version of it, then print them with the 3-D printer and see which worked the best. Then, I talked with the team about what changes could be made to improve it," said Gee. He adds, "Overall it was a huge collaborative process."

As for Cook, he realized he enjoyed the quality control aspect of engineering that the Automotive Instrumentation section specializes in overseeing.

Both value the summer they spent alongside the engineers at YPG.

"This has been my most productive summer of my life. I have learned a lot about how the Army works and the logistics behind it," remarked Cook.

Gee agrees, "I like to say this is a once in a lifetime opportunity. I never thought I would have the privilege to work with the military."

"The benefit of the program is primarily for the enrichment of the intern and to bring awareness of possible career opportunities



Russell Gee and Esteban Cook (top center) were embedded into the Instrumentation division at Yuma Proving Ground during their 10-week summer internship. (Top, left to right) Maria Villegas, Steve Taylor, Russell Gee, Esteban Cook, Jose Rodriguez, Daniela Villegas, Yelitza Candelas (Bottom, left to right) Lance Kerestes, Jacob Lopez, Ruben Hernandez, Justin Warren (Photo by Ana Henderson)

within the test and evaluation organizations," explained YPG Workforce Development and STEM Outreach Manager Paula Rickleff.

Yet she notes, "YPG does benefit in the sense that our mentors and

supervisors have the opportunity to help influence and grow future STEM professionals. Mentors work with the interns and oversee their immersion with the workforce and our mission."



Steve Taylor mentored Russel Gee during this internship at Yuma Proving Ground. Both interns had to present a final project. Gee's including testing an item he designed. (Courtesy of Paula Rickleff)

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20 YEARS

FROM PAGE 1

commemorative events, a formal ceremony followed by a five kilometer remembrance walk-run in the quiet early morning hours.

In remarks at the ceremony, Col. Patrick McFall, YPG commander, reflected upon the bitter losses of that grim day.

“On September 11, 2001, our memories and consciences were seared by the sight of mighty buildings burning and collapsing, and the bitter knowledge that more than 3,000 of our fellow citizens, people like you and me going about their daily business, were cruelly



During the flag raising ceremony, Yuma Fire Department Firefighter Jeremy Tyree played “Taps” and “Amazing Grace” on the bagpipes. (Photo by Mark Schauer)



Yuma Proving Ground Soldiers along with members of the workforce and community participated in the 5k run following the flag raising ceremony. (Photo by Mark Schauer)



murdered,” he said.

McFall gave particular credit to the heroism displayed by the more than 400 police officers and fire fighters killed in a valiant effort to save others that day.

“We mourn their loss and honor their sacrifice, but also take comfort and pride in the knowledge that there are millions of other first responders who would, without hesitation, do the exact same thing,” he said. “That includes the police officers and firefighters of YPG.”

McFall also asked the audience to remember the burden borne by our nation’s Soldiers and the key role YPG played in saving countless others from death and injury.

“After 9/11, thousands of Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, and Airmen made the ultimate sacrifice to defend our nation and values,” he said. “But thousands— I repeat, thousands-- more of our troops were

saved from death and injury by the work performed by our dedicated employees at Yuma Proving Ground. Our workforce proved year after year that it will rise to any challenge if it involves protecting our nation and its troops.”

McFall said this important work could not have been accomplished without the longstanding support of the Yuma community, which YPG has enjoyed for nearly 80 years.

“The citizens of Yuma County are the most patriotic and supportive of the military that I have encountered in my nearly 25 years in uniform. Local government organizations like Yuma County and the City of Yuma have always given their utmost to

help us carry out our vital mission.”

McFall vowed to continue to honor the sacrifices wrought by the September 11th attacks and urged others to live by the attack’s important lesson.

“If 9/11 taught us one thing, it is that we can never take for granted that the victories won on behalf of freedom will endure -- they must be vigorously defended by a new generation. Freedom isn’t free—it never has been. Let this day be a reminder of that for all time.”



During his remarks, Col. Patrick McFall, YPG commander said, “Freedom isn’t free—it never has been. Let this day be a reminder of that for all time.” (Photo by Mark Schauer)



Members of the Yuma Proving Ground Fire Department ran the 5k in full gear in honor of the firefighters who died saving lives during the Sept. 11 attacks. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

MUNITION

FROM PAGE 1

The XM204 is part of a new generation of terrain shaping obstacles able to target and deter tracked vehicles operated by a near-peer adversary in open terrain. This eliminates the old method of hand emplacing land mines.

“Any time a commander wants to influence enemy forces’ ability to maneuver in an area without natural obstacles like a river or mountain, you can either build obstacles or emplace lethal obstacles,” explained Cuthbertson.

In the case of a small element of Soldiers facing the threat of being outnumbered and outmaneuvered by an adversary with heavy tracked vehicles, the portable and easily-emplaced XM204 can help them hold their own until reinforcements arrive. The size of a large suitcase, the launcher module bears four top attack munitions that, when triggered, launches a top attack submunition into the air. The submunition tracks and identifies threat vehicles and then fires an armor-piercing slug at the target.

“It can ‘hear’ tracked vehicles and feel them coming,” said Steve Patane, YPG test officer. “When it does, it uses a mechanism that starts tracking the vehicle. When the threat-tracked vehicle is a certain distance away, the XM204 will shoot a submunition into the air to fire the warhead down at the

target within its zone of authority.”

The ruggedized launcher module has a mechanism to indicate whether the system is armed or not. It also has a self-destruct switch with different timed settings to prevent the possibility of the system lying dormant and dangerous years or decades after the end of a conflict, as happened with previous US and foreign land mines.

The launcher’s large carrying handle came as a result of combat engineer feedback during a Soldier touchpoint at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

“We ended up redesigning the box because of direct feedback from the Soldiers so they could pick up the box in their full gear,” said Cuthbertson. “The butterfly design for the battery box came from the same Soldier touch point.”

YPG is the ideal place to conduct rapid testing of this vitally important munition. In addition to having wide open spaces far from any populated areas, decades of institutional knowledge, and a full complement of realistic threat target vehicles at hand, the post’s test site is highly instrumented and designed specifically for this type of testing. Built in the mid-1990s, the site is intricately networked with fiber optic cable and hard power lines, without which noisy generators could interfere with the testing.

“This test site is a phenomenal range for us because it gives us an



YPG’s test site is highly instrumented and designed specifically for this type of testing. Built in the mid-1990s, the site is intricately networked with fiber optic cable and hard power lines, without which noisy generators that could interfere with the testing. (Photos by Mark Schauer)

opportunity to run vehicles through a relevant environment for this particular system,” said Cuthbertson. “The threat representative vehicles give us the best data and best idea of how the system will perform in a real-world situation.”

For the evaluation, YPG’s vehicle operators drive vehicles such as main battle tanks and infantry fighting vehicles across the test track at various speeds. The course allows tracked vehicles easy maneuverability to turn around in. Sensors on the XM204 use an algorithm to deploy the munitions at the most favorable time depending on the size and speed of the threat vehicle within its zone of authority. Most of the current testing involved testing the accuracy of the munition’s sensors, and in these portions human drivers operate the vehicle. Rather than detonate the XM204’s high explosive (HE) top attack rounds, the XM204’s on-board sensors use a camera reticle to take a photo at what would normally be the point of deployment.

“The camera aim point gives us an idea of where the munition would hit if it actually launched,” said Cuthbertson. “During the times we tested the HE rounds, we used remote-controlled vehicles.”

One main battle tank in the test fleet, for instance, has multiple impacts from previous test fires of

predecessor munitions while the vehicle was being autonomously controlled.

“Putting steel on target speaks well for our program,” Cuthbertson said with a smile.

The Army first issued system requirements for the XM204 in early 2020, and kept testing throughout the COVID pandemic with individuals at the program office in New Jersey able to oversee testing with video, screen-sharing of real-time data, and teleconferencing. Much of the XM204’s abilities are derived from previous systems like the XM1100 Scorpion that were tested at YPG in years past.

“We’re able to go relatively fast because we are leveraging the technology and investments from predecessor programs,” said Cuthbertson. “That enables us to keep our schedule a lot shorter than the typical Army program of record.”

Testers ultimately intend to use legacy systems such as the Volcano mine dispenser to complement the XM204.

“This will allow us to take the legacy Volcano system canisters and connect them to a new base plate that we are developing,” said Cuthbertson. “The XM343 base plate can connect to the XM204 to fire the bottom-attack mines from the legacy Volcano system.”



One main battle tank in the test fleet has multiple impacts from previous test fires of predecessor munitions while the vehicle was being autonomously controlled. For this test, rather than detonate the rounds, the XM204’s on-board sensors use a camera reticle to take a photo of the point of deployment.

Coronavirus Disease 2019

COVID-19

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 Diarrhea	Rare	Sometimes	No	No

To learn more about COVID-19, visit:

www.tricare.mil/Coronavirus

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and World Health Organization



Current as of April 13, 2020

Chaplain's Corner Created to connect

Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain Maj.
Jeffrey Crispin

September is national Suicide Prevention Month. This year's theme is "Connect to Protect: Support is Within Reach." Hopefully you have seen flyers and e-mails in your work-space that help offer support whether you are struggling with thoughts of self-harm, or are wanting to support someone who is struggling with suicidal ideation.

I want to offer an analogy I learned in a Spiritual Resilience class about this idea of connecting. Imagine that someone who is struggling with an issue, whether suicidal ideation or depression, or substance abuse, etc. is a person in the middle of a rapidly flowing stream (their circumstances that put them at risk). They are in a life ring with a rope or ropes to the bank on either side. But they are at risk. The current is strong and wants to sweep them away, and the water is really cold and if they stay there too long, they won't be able to hang on.

Each of those ropes is a connection, a relationship to someone in their lives. So not all ropes are the same size or strength: kite string, fishing line, inexpensive cotton rope, etc. all the way up to some worn "550" parachute cord. The different relationships are able to bear more weight than others, and some have been cut, by the person on shore or the person in the stream.

Some of the relationships go way back, a coach, classmate, or teacher that was an influence, a grandparent or extended family member that they haven't seen in a while. Some of the relationships

that the individual thought would hold weight didn't – insincere people who were only there when there was something in it for them, social media "friends", family members with "issues," an "ex" after a messy relationship ending, etc. Other relationships are able to handle some weight, such as immediate family, co-workers and supervisors, a faith leader or buddies.

What is important is to find out who else has a connection to your person at risk. Work together to get them out of the middle of the stream rather than playing tug of war. The best way to do that is to listen to the person at risk. Ask them about their story, who they talk to regularly, what they like to do to "let off steam" or if there's someone from their past that means a lot to them and if you can reach out to that person. Sometimes someone is closer to a recreation league sports team than their family. We are all different.

The more people you have working together, the load is considerably lighter and "teamwork makes the dream work" to get your person at risk to safety.

If you are struggling with thoughts of self-harm or suicide, please reach out and connect! Sometimes you have gotten so tired swimming against the current, you can't make it to shore all by yourself. Hopefully I've given you some ideas about some people you can connect with already. I'm offering to be there as well. My cell-phone number is (928)920-9771. If for some reason you can't reach me, the national suicide prevention lifeline is 1-800-273-8255 (TALK) or you can text them, 838255.

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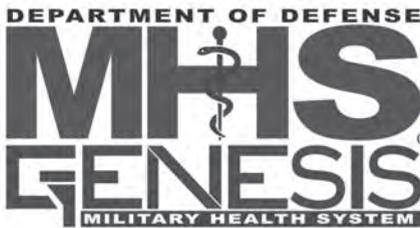
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From 1951 to the present, Outpost history long, varied

By Mark Schauer

From its inception, U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) has relied on state-of-the-art technology to ensure that the equipment issued to Soldiers works as it should all the time, wherever they serve.

For 70 years, a long line of proving ground commanders have relied on the installation's newspaper, printed using technology available at the time, for sharing information with the several thousand employee workforce scattered across 1,300 square miles in Yuma and at test centers in Alaska and the tropics.

YPG has been continuously served by a post newspaper since 1951, during the proving ground's earliest days. The title of the publication was the "Sidewinder" until 1981, when Spc. Patrick Buffet, who was editor at the time, ran a contest to give the newspaper a new name. The winning entry, *The Outpost*, was on the flag of the June 3, 1981, edition, with the explanation that the new name, "best symbolizes the past history of Yuma Test Station and the basic mission of the post today." Spc. Richard Johnson of the post medical detachment received a \$25 savings bond and a letter of appreciation for submitting the winning entry.

Under either title, few significant stories have escaped the attention of the public affairs staff over the decades: when the LeTourneau Overland Train, the longest off-road vehicle in world history, came to YPG for testing in 1962, a lengthy story appeared on the front page of the April 6 issue. When former President George H.W. Bush dropped into YPG for his first parachute jump in since World War II in 1997, the public affairs office was on hand to produce a front page story with action photos, even as they simultaneously escorted representatives from state and national media outlets. It was likewise when YPG hosted Project Convergence 20 last year.

Despite its venerable presence, the *Outpost* has been targeted for elimination several times over the



The title of the publication was the "Sidewinder" until 1981 when the editor ran a contest and "The Outpost" name was the winning entry. The paper also went from a newsprint, to a newsletter and back to a newsprint format. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

years. Starting in the early 1990s, various people suggested eliminating the *Outpost* as a cost-saving measure. Like their civilian counterparts, some Army newspapers have significantly reduced or ceased publishing. Fortunately, for the past decade the Yuma Sun has published the *Outpost* at no cost to the government in exchange for the right to sell advertising in its pages.

Assembly of a newspaper

The base newspaper was far different in the early days of Yuma Test Station.

Early copies of the *Sidewinder* were crudely typed and printed, but included captioned photos and other typical newspaper conventions. By the early 1960s, the *Sidewinder* was published professionally on newsprint, and, in the late 1970s, shifted to a black and white newsletter. From the earliest days until the early 1990s, the production and layout of the newspaper were performed manually. Stories were written on typewriters or early word processors and laid out manually on dummy sheets, pieces of paper onto which stories and photos were pasted after being carefully cut with X-Acto knives.

Photos were taken with film cameras, and innovations like autofocus, now taken for granted, were relatively new. Film was processed in a darkroom on post and the newspaper editor chose what size photo print was necessary. Though

the newspaper has now been laid out electronically for over 30 years, the early days of this process were far different: stories were delivered to the local printer on 3.5 inch diskettes, each of which had enough memory to hold one story. By the late 1990s, the editor used specialized software and a desktop computer to lay out the newspaper, and an internet site to transfer the completed product to an out-of-state publisher, who in turn shipped the printed newspapers back to YPG. In these years, the *Outpost* publisher changed frequently according to which company submitted the lowest bid for the work through the Government Printing Office at the end of each contract.

Though the newspaper alternated between broadsheet and tabloid-style orientation over the years, until the late 1990s it was always eight by ten inches in size. From 1997 to 2011, the newspaper was printed on 11 by 17-inch paper, the conventional size for a tabloid-style newspaper. A year after the switch, the *Outpost* won the Army Materiel Command's Maj. Gen. Keith L. Ware award for best small Army newspaper.

Regardless of its format, size, and paper quality, the *Outpost* has been a constant and vital part of YPG life

from its inception, with a new issue on the street every two weeks, no matter what. So far as the workforce is concerned, the *Outpost* is a unifying force that highlights the totality of YPG's test mission-- a person who reads each issue of the *Outpost* gets a much broader view of YPG than he or she would from their desk or work area alone.

The newspaper's influence extends beyond the boundaries of the installation, too. The public affairs office routinely sends off copies to elected officials responsible for making the decisions that enable YPG to continue its important work.

Though it now sports advertising and is printed on ordinary newsprint, the editorial content has remained the same throughout the years. Unlike some Army newspapers, the overwhelming majority of the *Outpost's* content is relevant to and produced by writers on post, as opposed to generic 'filler' material distributed by the Department of the Army.

Future

Given the dramatic differences that recent years have brought, 'Outpost' may now seem an incongruous title for the official newspaper of the test facility at the forefront of Army modernization efforts: far from being an isolated outpost, YPG is the epicenter of testing virtually every piece of equipment in the ground combat arsenal. Yet YPG's newspaper will remain an important aspect of proving ground life for as long as people continue to read and have an interest in seeking information.



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