

# The Outpost

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

VOLUME 70 NO. 21 OCTOBER 25, 2021

## 'The heart of Project Convergence:' Army network sets foundation for experimentation

By Claire Heininger

Connecting sensors to shooters across vast distances. Weaving together mission-critical message threads for the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines. Providing commanders with a "single pane of glass" to visualize critical battlefield data and act decisively.

This is the role of the Army's network as the Army's Project Convergence 21 capstone experiment gets underway.

"The Army network may not be our official number one priority, but it underpins all of our modernization efforts," Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. James McConville said this week. "It must be resilient, reliable, and operate and endure in a contested environment. This is the heart of



A U.S. Army Paratrooper assigned to 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division talks into a radio microphone during an exercise. The 82nd Airborne is participating in Project Convergence 21 at Yuma Proving Ground, Ariz., this fall to experiment with new technologies and tactics, including how the network supports integrating weapons systems and command and control systems and enables communications with the Joint Force. (Photo by Sgt. Justin Stafford)



Project Convergence."

Project Convergence is the Army's signature campaign of learning designed to advance and integrate the Army's contribution to Joint All-Domain Command and Control (JADC2). It requires a network to integrate weapons systems and command and control systems, communicate with the Joint Force, and rapidly and continuously integrate effects so the Army can act faster and more effectively than the adversary.

The Army's network at Project Convergence 21 (PC21) is designed

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Day is back!  
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YPG supports community  
G.A.I.N. event  
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Zephyr takes  
flight at YPG  
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# YPG supports G.A.I.N. community event



Yuma Proving Ground's (YPG) display at the annual Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods (G.A.I.N.) event on Saturday Oct. 9, drew enormous interest from visitors, and included special visits from YPG Commander Col. Patrick McFall and Command Sgt. Maj. Herbert Gill. The event, with displays from YPG's Airborne Test Force, Health Clinic, Police Department, Heritage Center, and Public Affairs Office, resumed after being cancelled last year. (Photos by Mark Schauer)



## The Outpost

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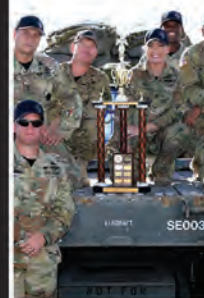
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# Effective interaction: Communicating with and about people with disabilities in the workplace

**Submitted by The YPG Equal Employment Office**

As children, we are curious — pointing to anything unfamiliar and asking questions. We have few, if any, inhibitions. As adults, we learn to censor our queries, feeling uncomfortable with anything unfamiliar. This is true when we are faced with new technologies. It is true when we are faced with tackling new projects for which we may not feel prepared. It is often true when we meet people who speak a different language or come from a different culture.

It is human nature and not unusual, therefore, to be concerned about interactions with people who use wheelchairs, who are blind, who are deaf, or whom we find difficult to understand. We may be concerned that we will say the wrong thing, ask an inappropriate question, or unintentionally offend. We do not want to appear uninformed or insensitive.

Tips for speaking or writing about people with disabilities a key to any effective communication is to focus on the communication itself — what information needs to be transmitted and how best to transmit it. Positive language empowers. When writing or speaking about people with disabilities, it is important to put the person first — to focus on the person, not the disability. Group designations, such as “the blind,” “the deaf” or “the disabled” are not empowering. It is important to use words that reflect individuality,

equality or dignity — the person who is blind, the child who is deaf, the individual with a disability. For examples see the provided chart with positive and negative phrases.

## Tips for interacting with people with disabilities

Appropriate etiquette when interacting with people with disabilities is based primarily on respect and courtesy. Below are a few tips to help you communicate effectively

- When speaking with a person with a disability, talk directly to the person, not his or her companion. This applies whether the person has a mobility impairment, a speech impairment, a cognitive impairment, is blind or deaf and uses an interpreter.

- Extend common courtesies to people with disabilities. Extend your hand to shake hands or hand over business cards. If the individual cannot shake your hand or grasp the card, he or she will tell you, and direct where you may place the card.

- If the person has a speech impairment and you are having difficulty understanding what he or she is saying, ask the individual to repeat, rather than pretending to understand. Listen carefully, and repeat back what you think you heard to ensure effective communication.

- If you believe that an individual with a disability needs assistance, go ahead and offer the assistance — but wait for your offer to be accepted before you try to help

- If you are interviewing a job candidate with a disability, listen to what the individual has to offer. Do not make assumptions about what that person can or cannot do.

- If you are speaking to a person who is blind, be sure to identify yourself at the beginning of the conversation and announce when you are leaving. Don't be afraid to use common expressions that refer to sight, such as, “See you later.”

- If you wish to get the attention of a person who is deaf, tap the person gently on the shoulder or arm. Look directly at the person, and speak clearly in a normal tone of voice. Keep your hands away from your face, and use short, simple sentences. If the person uses a sign language interpreter, speak directly to the person, not to the interpreter.

- If you encounter an individual with a service animal, such as a dog, please do not touch or distract the animal. Service animals are working, and it breaks their training to interact with others when they are on duty. When the

animal is not working, some owners may allow interaction.

- If you are having a conversation with a person who uses a wheelchair, if at all possible put yourself at the person's eye level. Never lean on or touch a person's wheelchair or any other assistive device. A person's assistive device is part of the person's personal space, and it is jarring or disturbing for anyone to have his or personal space invaded.

- If you are speaking with an individual with a cognitive disability, you may need to repeat or rephrase what you say. If you are giving instructions on how to perform a task, you may also need to give the instructions in writing.

- Relax. Whether conducting an interview or day-to-day workplace communications, focus on the subject matter and not on disability related issues. Treat the individual with the same respect and courtesy that you extend to all job candidates and employees. Any initial concerns will quickly disappear as you focus on effective communications.

### Positive Phrases

Person with an intellectual, cognitive, developmental disability  
 Person who is blind or visually impaired  
 Person with a disability  
 Person who is deaf or hard of hearing  
 Person with multiple sclerosis  
 Person with cerebral palsy  
 Person with epilepsy or a seizure disorder  
 Person who has muscular dystrophy  
 Person who uses a wheelchair; wheelchair user  
  
 Person who is unable to speak, person who uses synthetic speech  
 Person with a psychiatric disability  
 Person with a physical disability, person who is physically disabled  
 Person who is successful, productive

### Negative Phrases

The retarded; mentally retarded  
  
 The blind  
 The disabled; handicapped  
 The deaf; deaf and dumb  
 Someone afflicted by MS  
 A CP victim  
 An epileptic; person with fits  
 Someone stricken by MD  
 Person confined, bound or restricted to a wheelchair  
 A mute  
  
 A crazy person  
 Person who is crippled, lame or deformed  
  
 Person who has overcome his/her disability person who is courageous



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## HEART

FROM PAGE 1

for experimentation, supporting operational scenarios across the spectrum from competition to crisis to conflict. During the PC21 capstone event at Yuma Proving Ground, Ariz., and White Sands Missile Range, N.M., the Army and Joint service partners will assess key network capabilities that increase communications resiliency, range extension, and data management.

With more than 110 different technologies participating – many of them newly emerging – it is critical

to properly integrate systems across the PC21 network not only to provide information to warfighters executing the PC21 mission, but also for the Army to understand technology performance after the event concludes.

“Our priority is a good test run of what these technologies might bring to the future of the Army, and what holes can be filled for the next iteration,” said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Michael Reyes, information series technician with the 82nd Airborne Division, who is supporting network operations at PC21. “It’s bringing it all together to utilize all capabilities, across all domains including cyber, and presenting it to the commander

in a digestible format so he can make informed decisions.”

As Project Convergence has evolved from 2020’s inaugural, Army-only event to incorporate Joint service partners in 2021, the experiment provides a rare opportunity to put Joint systems side by side in an operational environment and determine the best ways to deliver information supporting JADC2, officials said.

“It’s important that we leverage a redundant communications network – take advantage of the sensors [the services] have integrated together, share that data rapidly, and send that data to the right shooters,” said Navy Cdr. Rollie Wicks, a requirements officer for artificial intelligence and machine learning at the Navy Digital Warfare Office who is a liaison with the Army for Project Convergence. “We are taking great steps – there is a growing list of ‘firsts’ we are accomplishing.”

Working side by side with Army and Joint service network experts are Soldiers like Reyes from the 82nd Airborne Division and the Multi Domain Task Force, who are using Project Convergence to experiment with new technologies and tactics. Maj. Gen. Chris Donahue, 82nd Airborne Division Commander, said he is passionate about identifying ways to better share information and execute mission command.

“PC21 is about convergence and getting commanders at all echelons to start to see exactly what’s going on, [in] as real-time as possible,” Donahue said. “Without that network, it’s not going to work.”

While the Army does not expect every system and scenario at Project Convergence to run seamlessly, it was able to reduce risk by executing several lab-based communications exercises in advance of the capstone event, leaders said. For example, the variety of messaging formats and complexity of data connections across the network have increased significantly with the addition of Joint service partners, said Lt. Gen. Jim Richardson, Deputy Commanding

General for Army Futures Command (AFC), which manages Project Convergence.

“It’s all about data and how that data flows,” he said. “That’s what this team has worked through.”

Richardson emphasized that technologies that demonstrate operational merit and technology readiness during PC21 will be poised to transition and scale from Army science and technology development into potential production with a program office or industry partner. For the network, priority technologies for near-term transition include multipath satellite connectivity through low-earth orbit and medium-earth orbit capabilities, as well as data fabric technologies that improve data discovery, synchronization and security while paving the way for artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning to be more effective on the battlefield, leaders said.

“We need data fabric in order to have the machine learning and AI [tools] to actually aggregate that data and present it to the commander when necessary,” said Brig. Gen. Jeth Rey, Director of the Network Cross-Functional Team within AFC. “This will enable decisions at the speed of relevance for the future.”

In addition to data management and increased communications robustness and resiliency, other network technology focus areas for PC21 include range extension using aerial tier networking and energy efficiency through enhanced command post power solutions.

Rey said what the Army learns at PC21 will be critical to designing the objective state of the future network, as well as increased interoperability with coalition partners participating in PC22. It will also inform the Army’s tactical network Capability Sets, which are fielded to units on a two-year, iterative cycle, and which share many of the network baseline systems participating in PC.

“You have to make it work with what we have today before we can transform for tomorrow,” Reyes said. “We are trying to lay the foundation.”





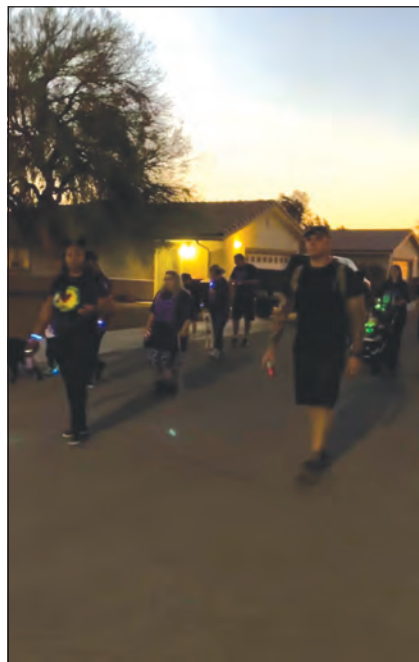


# October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

## Take back the night walk



Members of the Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) community gathered on the evening of Oct. 13 to take a stand, in this case a walk, against domestic violence. (Loaned photos)



The Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation Director Iselle Oquendo, Army Community Service Family Advocacy Program Manager Cathynn Robinson, and Garrison Manager Ron James took part in the walk to show support for a safe community free of intimate partner violence.



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# Zephyr flies at Yuma Proving Ground—and beyond

By Mark Schauer

Records are meant to be broken.

When it comes to the Zephyr unmanned aircraft produced by Airbus, U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) is the launching ground for longer flights into the next generation of aviation.

In 2010, the Zephyr unmanned aircraft stayed aloft for two straight weeks high above YPG, setting a world record. In 2018, an upgraded Zephyr returned to YPG and shattered its previous record, flying continuously for 25 days, 23 hours, and 57 minutes in YPG's vast air space at altitudes far higher than normally achieved by commercial airplanes.

Today, the same aircraft used in 2018 is back at YPG, albeit with some differences.

"It has some design upgrades to make it a more capable system," said Simon Taylor, head of Zephyr program. "The aircraft physically isn't

very different, it's what sits inside the aircraft and the clever software inside it."

Testers intended to double their previous feats by flying more than one aircraft simultaneously utilizing the same ground control station.

"We're going for a much more ambitious flying campaign than we've ever attempted to date," said Taylor. "Previously we've only ever successfully flown one aircraft in the flying window."

Also new was the intention of flying the aircraft outside of YPG's 2,000 miles of restricted airspace.

"They have an FAA certificate of authorization now to leave YPG restricted airspace and fly in national airspace," said Lori Slaughter, YPG test officer. "They will leave our air space at altitude and stay at altitude in the national air space, above commercial aircraft."

The construction of the Zephyr is

minimalist. Constructed of composite carbon fiber, the craft weighs a feather-light 100 pounds and has no wheels or landing gear—it is launched off of the shoulders and from the hands of five running individuals. Virtually every square inch of the 80-foot wingspan is covered by lightweight solar cells that charge batteries that power twin electric motors. Also onboard are sophisticated electronics that allow the craft to be monitored and steered from a ground control station. All of this runs on the electrical power equivalent to that needed to light a single commercial light bulb.

"Unlike previous variants of Zephyr, this aircraft doesn't need to drop out of the stratosphere overnight," said Taylor. "This aircraft is capable of staying aloft above 60,000 feet, which means you are de-conflicting the weather masses below you, this leads to a very high mission probability of success."

The Zephyr's ability to fly at extremely high altitudes means it can safely evade bad weather while aloft. However, it is vital for the aircraft to perform its ascent and descent in favorable conditions. Part of the aircraft's remarkable design involves coping with the stratosphere's temperature, which is far colder than

at ground level.

"The aircraft is effectively designed to operate in the stratosphere, so certain parts of the aircraft are shielded to keep temperatures under control," said Taylor. "We also have thermal control on the equipment as well."

The Zephyr crew labored at YPG since late last year utilizing test flight vehicles constructed at 30% scale of the actual Zephyr and an instrumented full-sized aircraft that flew 18 days over YPG collecting data prior to this summer's attempt at another record. "We've done an awful lot of work proving out the design upgrades on the smaller-scale aircraft, building up to two aircraft operation," said Taylor. "We have an immense amount of data from that flight test that will assist us with moving the design forward and informing the design of a future iteration of Zephyr."

YPG averages 360 days of clear weather annually, and boasts stable air that is perfect for aircraft testing.

"The air mass here at Yuma Proving Ground is relatively stable compared to other parts of the world," said Taylor. "What makes Yuma Proving Ground very attractive to us is the amount of weather data in the area and the relative isolation of its restricted airspace."



Records are meant to be broken. When it comes to the Zephyr unmanned aircraft produced by Airbus, U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground is the launching ground for more flights into the next generation of aviation. In 2010, the Zephyr unmanned aircraft stayed aloft for two straight weeks high above the proving ground, setting a world record. (U.S. Army photos)



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The Zephyr personnel gave high marks to YPG's flexibility and consideration of their desire for maximum efficiency in their flight plans.

"After we flew here late last year, Yuma Proving Ground kindly allowed us to leave our aircraft assembled in the hangar," said Taylor. "That really gave us a jump start to achieve our mission objectives without having to re-assemble and go through all the

validation tests again."

Helping to make the testing successful involves the efforts of multiple YPG offices and shops, and the seamless interaction to achieve the Zephyr's groundbreaking goals has impressed the team.

"We're immensely appreciative of the support, and for having the ability to be here," said Taylor. "There's very few places in the world that offer the services of Yuma Proving Ground."



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## Energy Action Month: "Power to win"

By Gregory Skaggs

October is the Army's Energy Action Month. This year's theme, "Power to win" reinforces the importance of resilient and secure energy and water at Army installations and overseas locations to enable Warfighters to accomplish their mission.

So, what can you do to improve Army resilience for Energy Action Month? Installation personnel can have an impact on resilience and affordability through efficiency. The less energy and water that we use for our critical missions, the less energy and water that we need to provide during outages and shortages. The Army also has overall annual efficiency goals to reduce energy intensity by 2.5% per year, water use by 3%, and energy costs by 5%.

What actions do we all need to take to improve efficiency? There are really only four things that we need to do:

1. Pay attention to thermostat settings. The Army temperature standard for an air conditioned space is 78 °F. When the area is unoccupied, such as nights and weekends, the temperature standard is 85 °F. The number one action to save energy and money at Yuma Proving Ground is to set thermostats to the Army policy. What happens if you want your office to be a cooler than Army policy? Setting the temperature lower uses much more electricity. A setting of 72 °F will use about 30% more energy than setting of 78 °F. A setting of only 76 °F will still use 13% more energy. For heat the standard is 68 °F

occupied, and 55 °F for unoccupied times like nights and weekends.

2. Turn off the lights and equipment that you are not using. Do you remember to turn your lights off when you leave your office? Do you leave the lights on in conference rooms when no one is there? Do you leave equipment on when you are not using it? If you don't need the lights or equipment to be on, and they don't have a sleep mode, just turn them off.

3. Buy energy efficient equipment. Department of Defense policy is to purchase only Energy Star rated equipment, when available. So, if you are purchasing equipment, first check to see if Energy-Star versions are available.

4. Prevent waste of energy and water. Keep doors and windows to air-conditioned areas closed. Are there any problems in your building that causes energy or water to be wasted? Can you see light streaming in around outside doors and windows in air-conditioned areas? Do you have any leaking fixtures or toilets or faucets that drip or run? Does your air compressor run when no one is using it? Just call the Shearwater Mission Support desk and put in a service order to have these facility issues corrected.

We do have the ability every day to have an impact on larger, Army-wide issues like resilience by taking actions every day to reduce energy and water consumption and lower utility costs. Please remain mindful of our energy and water use throughout the year and reduce consumption, and you too can help improve Army resilience.

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# Fire Prevention Week: never too young to learn



The Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Fire Department wrapped up Fire Prevention Week with the help of Sparky at the YPG Child Development Center. Sparky was handing out high-fives and hugs and the YPG Fire Department personnel taught the children about fire safety. RIGHT: The hugs didn't stop with the children. Sparky also shared the love with YPG Commander Col. McFall as well as information on fire safety. This year's theme was "Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety." (Photos by Mark Schauer)




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## Chaplain's Corner

# God cares in the hard times

### Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain Maj.  
 Jeffrey Crispin



"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for me in earnest, you will find me when you seek me. I will be found by you," says the Lord. Jeremiah 29:11-14

These words were written to some people who had been through some really bad stuff. They had been defeated in battle after a long siege and were now captives in the foreign land of Babylon that had very little in common with where they were from. It would be fair to say that they felt abandoned and isolated, without friends and forgotten even by God. So the prophet Jeremiah sends a message from home to encourage them.

If you are familiar with the Torah or Old Testament, you probably know this passage and a bit of the context. But many are not familiar with the opening part of the letter, where they are instructed to seek the well-being of the place where God had caused them to dwell and to pray that it would be blessed, and that they should go on with their lives and families in a hostile and foreign place.

That is what came before the promises that the prophet sends. What we read above is the, "So what do we do now?"

This passage is one that applies to us today as well. Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) may feel as foreign as another country to you, where you feel abandoned or isolated. Whether it is the location, or perhaps the things that are going on around us: COVID mitigation and mandates, political and social divisions, economic uncertainty, family circumstances, or something else, you too are wondering what you did to get to experience all the challenges you are feeling.

God is listening, talk to him. Pray until something happens and then pray some more! That's what previous generations have found helpful in the difficult times they faced. God knows what you are going through, and while some of the circumstances aren't of his making, the plans that he has for you are for good, for a hope filled future. A World War I Chaplain Oswald Chambers wrote that, "Prayer means that we get ahold God, not the answer."

Please join me in praying for the good of our community, YPG and for all of those who live and work here. Let's pray for the good of our neighbors and co-workers, that we all would receive the good plans that God has for us, as individuals and as a community. We should pray for our leaders and those in positions of authority and influence to do what is righteous and just. And as we lift up the needs of those around us, may we get in touch with the God who cares for us as we care for others through prayer.



U.S. ARMY



## Military Equal Opportunity (MEO) Commander's 24/7 Hotline (443)-910-1680

Contact: SFC Brandon C. Allen, Equal Opportunity Advisor

The MEO and harassment local hotlines provides 24/7 information on MEO and harassment policies and procedures on how and where to file complaints, the behaviors that constitute discrimination and harassment, and information about the DoD Safe Helpline for sexual assault and the SHARP ACOM, ASCC, DRU and Senior Commander hotline phone numbers. The hotline is an additional avenue for Soldiers to anonymously report incidents of MEO and Harassment.



As of 18 Oct 2021 The Cactus Cafe will be closed to the public until further notice. We apologize for any inconvenience. Please join us at Coyote Lanes Monday-Thursday 1000-2000 and Friday-Sunday 1100-2000 for all your dining needs.



## YPG Commander addresses chamber members



Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Commander Col. Patrick McFall gave the keynote address at the monthly Good Morning Yuma breakfast on the morning of Oct. 14. In his remarks he discussed recruiting, retention, and employee development issues, and praised the cultures of both YPG and the Yuma community. "People I speak to keep saying the same thing: 'we love your culture.' It's not because of me, it's because of the teammates in front of me who make it happen."



Col. Patrick McFall visited with Yuma Mayor Douglas Nicholls and Yuma Council Member Michael Shelton during the Good Morning Yuma breakfast. (Photos by Mark Schauer)

## State representative tours elementary school



Arizona House of Representatives member Joanne Osborne stopped by Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) on Oct. 12. Osborne represents District 13 which YPG falls within. She met with YPG Commander Col. Patrick McFall and Technical Director Larry Bracamonte. Afterwards she toured Price Elementary School and met with Principal Jarrod Norris and the school children. (Photo by Mark Schauer)



## Got a Crush?



Army Community Services distributed 92 cases of Orange Crush soda and nearly 150 razors donated to Yuma Proving Ground. Soldiers and members of the workforce happily lined up to get their share of the goodies. (Photos by Brandon Mejia)

  
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