

The Outpost

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

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Ballistic Simulator bunker fabricated at Yuma Test Center

By Ana Henderson

It took months of work, thousands of pounds of steel and more than a dozen welders and machinist to make the vision of engineer Diep Ho become a reality: a steel bunker to contain the aftermath of firing a propelling charge.

The Ballistic Simulator (BSIM) Bunker is a non-permanent structure of steel reinforced with concrete blocks enclosing a ballistic simulator. The Machine Shop team at Yuma Test Center (YTC) recently fabricated the enclosure, a first at YTC.

Munitions and Weapons Test Officer Daniel McCloud explains what happens within those armorer walls provides the customers with vital information.

“What the customer gets is a detailed visual representation of what’s going on inside of that



The Yuma Test Center team who worked for months to design and fabricate the Ballistic Simulator Bunker gathered at the gun position to appreciate their work. Test Officer Diep Ho thanked them for their dedication to the project. (Left to right) Fernando Godinez, Pablo Villalobos, Conrad Rico, Diep Ho, Sergio Enriquez, Marco Cuadros, Chris Tennant, Jason Trepanier, Bobby Lakey, Daniel McCloud, Mathew Keddy, Greg Branch, Andy Pinkerton, Matt Hunnicutt, Martin Toledo. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

simulated chamber.”

The ballistic simulator has a clear acrylic tube which models the chamber of a weapon system. As it fires high-speed cameras capture 30,000 frames per second.

“You get the first seven to 10,000 psi of what’s going on before the explosion happens,” explained McCloud. Adding, “What they are interested in is that very minute time between when the primer ignites until it transfers its energy to the charges inside there. The only way you can get that is through high-speed video.”

To capture video in a safe controlled environment Munitions and Weapons Test Officer Ho, known for his ingenious inventions, designed the bunker. It’s equipped with peepholes for high-speed cameras, wiring for data collecting

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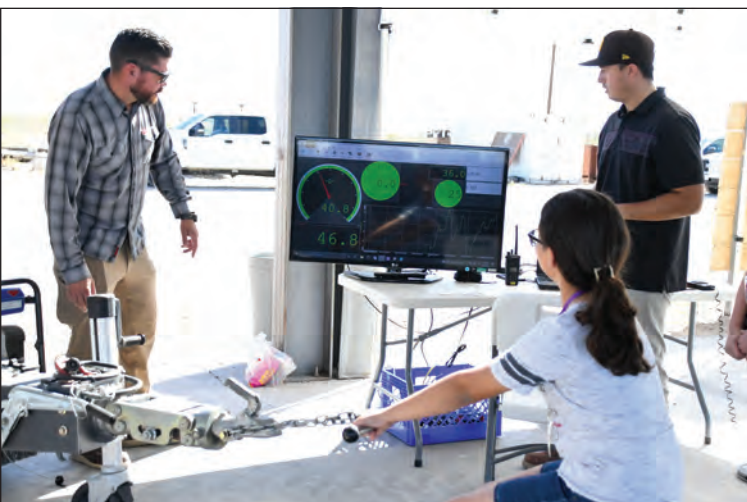
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STEM camp at YPG is a hit with students



Students through a variety of labs which included, firing rockets, water balloon ballistics, vehicle acceptance testing, MRE's for lunch and bacteria 101 where they swabbed surfaces to analyze the bacteria. Students even rode in a Humvee.



Week one and two of the Gains in the Education and Mathematics and Science (GEMS) camp got underway at Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) on June 3 and June 9, 2024. Forty students each week — in total 80 students ranging in grades sixth through eighth learned from engineers, scientist and Soldiers about Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). (Photos by Ana Henderson)



GEMS is made possible by the Army Outreach Education Program. More information on the program can be found at: <https://www.usaep.com/program/yuma/>

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The Editor, Outpost, Yuma Proving Ground, Yuma, AZ, 85365
Phone: (928) 328-6149 or DSN 899
Visit our website at: www.yuma.army.mil
or email to: ana.c.henderson.civ@army.mil

Commander: Col. John Nelson
Public Affairs Officer: Mark Schauer
Public Affairs Specialist/Outpost Editor: Ana Henderson
Visual Information Manager: Eugene Garcia
Cold Regions Test Center Photographer: Sebastian Saarloos



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Instrumentation Division chief reflects on two decades in the field

By Mark Schauer

U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) is at the forefront of Army and Joint Force modernization efforts.

Conducting developmental testing of the Army's most cutting-edge systems requires a staggering array of high-tech equipment to record, quantify, and verify performance.

From radars and acoustic scoring systems to high-speed cameras and specialized weather-measuring equipment, the YPG Instrumentation Division's equipment enables testers to collect the data Army decision makers need regarding weapons systems under evaluation.

"Every piece of instrumentation serves a unique role and is part of accomplishing the mission," said Jason Swain, Instrumentation division chief. "Depending on what the test is and what kind of data they're looking for, we could use a variety of types of instrumentation. For long-range tests, there are more instrumentation requirements that come along with it: everything from geodetics and surveying at the gun position, to sensors on the weapon system itself, to high-speed cameras, to downrange radars and optical tracking mounts and



Jason Swain, Yuma Test Center's Instrumentation Division Chief, is in his 23rd year working at the proving ground. He's pictured presenting to local media leaders in May of 2024. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

telemetry."

Now in his 23rd year working at the proving ground, the Oregon native got his first job here using the website Monster.com.

"I had never heard of Yuma," he recalled. "I had a geographic filter set that included Arizona, and that's where it popped up."

During the first 18 years of his time here he worked for the post's largest contractor in telemetry, and saw technology evolve across the years.

"It's getting more and more

complex every day. It's amazing how personal computers have proliferated and how much that is incorporated into instrumentation in general. More of it is run by software versus hardware."

During the multiweek Project Convergence 21, for instance, YPG gathered scores of terabytes of data and provided dozens of live video feeds of various parts of the range that were watched by hundreds of people in real time. The entire instrumentation effort took well over 100 YPG personnel to accomplish.

"It was a challenge, for sure," Swain said.

YPG relies on multiple radars to gather test data on a variety of systems under test. The largest of the proving ground's fleet is a MPS-25 radar that sports a 12 foot dish and puts out one million watts of peak power. Remarkably, it has been a denizen of YPG's ranges since 1976 and was originally designed for use by NASA in 1958. This well-maintained system still excels at tracking a single object, but supporting tests of modern weapons systems capable of firing hundreds of sub-munitions exceeds its capabilities. The Range Radar Replacement Program has been gradually replacing YPG's aging fleet with modern radars more suited to future test items.

"We're still maintaining those older assets as they are being replaced by the newer ones," said Swain. "The majority of our systems will be very new here within the next couple of years, giving us more capabilities and better quality of the track. There will be more power to put on a specific target and track multiple targets at the same time, which will give us more capabilities for future missions we haven't supported yet."

ATEC Commander's Initiative Group chief visits YPG



Col. Michael Johnson Chief of the newly formed Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC) Commander's Initiative Group visited Yuma Proving Ground on June 5, 2024. The group's purpose is to tackle ATEC's vexing problems. Johnson met with senior leaders and the workforce to learn about YPG's capabilities. Following two days on the ground, he said, "I am amazed at the complexity of the mission. How much is done on a daily basis, how they're able to track and manage all those operations at the same time, in real-time." (Photos by Ana Henderson)

Garrison Employee Recognition Ceremony

U.S. Army Garrison Yuma Proving Ground employees gathered for the Garrison Employee Recognition Ceremony May 22, 2024, where Garrison General Manager Kenneth Musselwhite presented awards to the workforce.

Professional of the Quarter First quarter for 2024



Jodi Bolger

Outstanding performance as an Emergency Services Dispatcher. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

Civilian Service Commendation Medal



Gregory Harper

Exemplary performance as Conservation Law Enforcement Officer. Harper recently received multi-agency recognition for instrumental coordination efforts to rescue a hiker, that had fallen into a mineshaft.



Clarissa Vargas

Exceptional performance as the acting Chief for the Business and Recreation Division.

Civilian Service Achievement Medal



Jessica Bailey

Outstanding performance as the Child Development Center Acting Director.



Sommer Cloinger

Exceptional performance and diligence as Child and Youth Service Coordinator. Cloinger's passion for the mission, love for her job, and dedication to duty have resulted in a positive impact to the operation and YPG Community.



Meghaan Flood

Exceptional performance and diligence as Youth Services Program Director. Flood's displayed professional, exceptional, and personal commitment and selfless dedication to the overall outstanding accomplishment of the Army Higher Headquarters Inspection.



Heather Banda

Outstanding performance as Fire Fighter/EMT, Banda participated in the City of Yuma Fire Department's Annual Camp Inferno 2024.



Beatrice Brimmage

Outstanding performance as a Library Technician. Brimmage's dedication to the YPG Post Library is exemplary. (Photo by Mark Schauer)



Sarah Bartley

Outstanding performance as the Business Operations and Integration Chief for the Directorate of Public Works. (Photo by Tyler Pitts)



Raquel Overstreet

Outstanding performance as IT Specialist for Policy & Planning, Plans, Analysis, and Integration Office.

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Dan Carter

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5 Years



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Rafael Silva

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Ryan Ingham



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Kimberly Butler

15 years



Patrick Kelly



Roy Gomez

(Photos by Ana Henderson)

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BUNKER

FROM PAGE 1

instrumentation, deflection panels that can withstand the pressure of munition firing and contain the remnants from the acrylic tube that shatters after each firing, lighting, and ventilation.

Ho noted, “We had to design the bunker to contain all the unburnt propellant and broken acrylic.”

He enlisted the help of the trusted Machine Shop team which is extremely skilled and regularly fabricates bombproofs, bunkers, blast shields and catch boxes. They used armored plate steel that can support impacts. If the steel used were laid side by side, Ho said it would be a mile long.

Lead welder on the project, Fernando Godinez, said the most challenging part was the doors and hinges which Godinez made from steel. “You got to have everything balanced.” He estimates each door weighs about 600 pounds.

Ho explained, “We had to build it so we can open and close it. All the pressure inside can push it out. So, we had to figure out how to hold it all together.”

The team fabricated the pieces in the Welding Shop then transported



The team who made the Ballistic Simulator Bunker a reality gathered for a group photo by the sign marking the test site. Jason Trepanier fabricated the sign along with the tubing frame for the bunker and various other parts. (Left to right) Greg Branch, Martin Toledo, Marco Cuadros, Conrad Rico, Daniel McCloud, Mathew Keddy, Pablo Villalobos, Bobby Lakey, Andy Pinkerton, Matt Hunnicutt, Chris Tennant, Sergio Enriquez, Jason Trepanier, Diep Ho, Fernando Godinez. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

them to the test site for assembly. They setup the steel bunker on top of a base comprised of leftover unusable concrete target panels laid into place with the help of support services personnel.

“The floor part is two pieces, the walls are different pieces, the roof is three pieces, all the framing comes separate,” explained Godinez.

Ho also designed the table holding the ballistic simulator. Pablo

Villalobos who helped source all the material estimates it weighs 10,000 pounds on its own.

The bunker is unpainted which gives it a rustic industrial look because the heat from firing would melt the paint and cause toxic fumes.

Another unique detail about this non-permanent structure is that it was built with reclaimed steel sourced from federal agencies through a reutilization service —

slicing the price tag on the project. Ho insured he had an inventory of material available and used only that to fabricate the bunker.

“We looked for material first then we designed based on what we had to design the bunker.” Meaning the material was not uniform, “We did a lot of fabrication, we cut this, cut that. That’s the hard thing. We built with what we had.”

The team was brought together at the test site to view their work after months of working in separate facilities housing the Machine Shop and welding department.

“The fabricators, welders, everybody that you see here, pitched in,” remarked Villalobos.

Greg Branch and Mathew Keddy, who collaborated for months with Ho on the table and made many modifications to the safety latches said respectively, “Glad it’s done, glad it works,” and “It turned out really nice.”

The first BSIM test was successfully conducted in March 2024 and the customer, PM-CAS, was pleased with the data collection and test results. During the After Action Review they commented that the new BSIM site is expertly constructed and will be valuable sub-scale tool.



The team that had a role in making the Ballistic Simulator Bunker a reality gathered at the test site. Engineer and Munitions and Weapons Test Officer Diep Ho (left) thanked them for their work the last several months.



“The fabricators, welders, everybody that you see here, pitched in,” remarked Pablo Villalobos with the Targets Shop under Threat Systems. He estimates the table weighs 10,000 pounds and is used to elevate the ballistic simulator he’s pointing towards.

Yuma Test Center Commander recognizes Combined Maintenance Division

— Civilian Service Commendation Medal —



Extraordinary performance in support of the Maintenance Division. (Left to right) Eddy Patchet, Larry Bracamonte, Lt. Col. Shane Dering, Toney Brooks, David Salazar, Robert Kimber, Col. John Nelson. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

— Civilian Service Achievement Medal —



Extraordinary performance in support of the Weapons Maintenance test team. (Left to right) Col. John Nelson, Larry Bracamonte, Eddy Patchet, Michael Morningstar, Jose Roque, Anthony Pegram, Krista Hughes, and Lt. Col. Shane Dering.

Certificate of Achievement



Extraordinary performance in support of Maintenance Division specifically for the Ballistic Simulator project. (Left to right) Col. John Nelson, Larry Bracamonte, Eddy Patchet, Mathew Keddy, Andy Pinkerton, Jason Trepanier and Lt. Col. Shane Dering.



Extraordinary performance in support of the Ground Combat Procurement Cell for the Maintenance Division. (Left to right) Larry Bracamonte, Eddy Patchet, Col. John Nelson, Annette Silva, Gail Essary, Patricia Marquez and Lt. Col. Shane Dering.



Jaysen Lockett for outstanding support to the Flight Services Division in 2022 for the Aviation Resource Management Survey. David Short for his support of the Maintenance Division. (Left to right) Larry Bracamonte, Eddy Patchet, Col. John Nelson, Jaysen Lockett, David Short and Lt. Col. Shane Dering.



Francisco Ayala for his role as the Collateral Duty Safety Officer.

Commander's Coin



Stephen Defries for showing exceptional performance and leadership qualities during his temporary duty assignment at Arctic Regions Test Center.



Marco Navarro the Electronic Integrated System Mechanic and subject matter expert for the Bradley Fighting Vehicle and M1A2 Combat Vehicle successfully trained three individuals to work on the vehicles.



Robert Valencia safely and efficiently handled a complex coordination of personnel and equipment. As a result, three tests in remote range locations had the blast shields, bomb proofs, and office boxes in place ahead of the required date.

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Pops with cops connects community



Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Police Officer Austin Howard drew a crowd for the Pops with Cops event on June 4, 2024 at the Post Library. Howard read books, "Agent Lion" and "Little Red Riding Hood" while listeners enjoyed popsicles provided by library staff. In between books the audience ask questions. Howard shared with the group that he grew up at YPG and attended the daycare and school on post which is why he feels extra connected to the community. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

Splash pad opens for the season



The Yuma Proving Ground community came out on the first 110-degree day to enjoy the re-opening of the Desert Oasis splash pad on June 6, 2024. Kids enjoyed splashing in the refreshing water and parents might have noticed the new flooring. Desert Oasis Housing also provided popsicles to keep everyone cool. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

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PTSD Awareness Month: Breaking the silence and building support

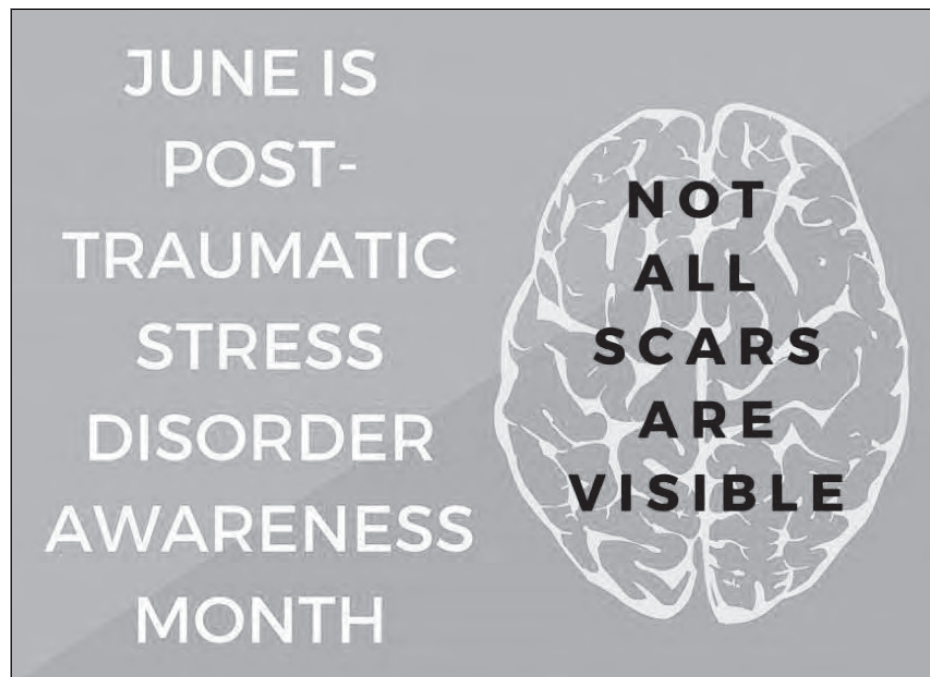
By Scott Zaehler

June marks Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Awareness Month, a time dedicated to shedding light on PTSD and the individuals it affects. Please join the Department of Veterans Affairs and the U.S. Army Garrison Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Employee Assistance Program in observing this month.

PTSD is a mental health condition that can develop after experiencing or witnessing a traumatic event. While commonly associated with combat veterans, PTSD can affect anyone who has experienced a traumatic event, such as survivors of violence, accidents, or natural disasters.

The purpose of PTSD Awareness Month is multifaceted. It aims to raise awareness about PTSD, its symptoms, and importance of seeking help. Many individuals may not recognize their symptoms as being related to PTSD or may feel ashamed or stigmatized seeking support. By increasing awareness, we can encourage individuals to recognize the signs and seek the assistance.

Far too often, individuals with PTSD face judgment or discrimination due to misconceptions about the disorder. By fostering open and understanding conversations,



we can create a more supportive environment.

For those living with PTSD, the journey to recovery can be challenging, but it's not one they need to undertake alone. Support from friends, family, and mental health professionals can make a significant difference in managing symptoms and improving quality of life. PTSD Awareness Month encourages communities to rally around those affected, offering understanding, compassion, and

resources.

It's essential for individuals with PTSD to work with qualified mental health professionals to develop a personalized treatment plan that addresses their needs and goals. Additionally, building a strong support network of friends, family, and peers can play a crucial role in the recovery process.

PTSD does not discriminate based on age, gender, race, or socioeconomic status. It can affect anyone. Raising awareness and

providing support for PTSD is not limited to a single month. It's an ongoing effort that requires continued attention and dedication. By working together, we can break the silence surrounding PTSD, reduce stigma, and build a more supportive environment.

For crisis assistance, the National Suicide and Mental Health Lifeline can be reached by dialing 988. The Yuma County Crisis Hotline can be reached at 1(866)495-6735. Both are available 24/7 and staffed by trained crisis specialists. The Yuma County Crisis hotline is staffed by behavioral health professionals who travel to the individual experiencing a crisis and provide assessment, stabilization and may triage the individual to a higher level of care, as appropriate.

For more information contact the YPG's Employee Assistance Program Coordinator at (928)328-2249 or scott.r.zaehler.civ@army.mil.

Resources

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services

Administration: <https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help>

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs:

<https://www.ptsd.va.gov/index.asp>

Self-screening: <https://www.ptsd.va.gov/screen/index.asp>

NOTE: Only a trained provider can diagnose PTSD. This is a screening tool that can help find out if a person's feeling and behaviors may be related to PTSD.



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(928) 329- 0990 x 3002 TTY 7-1-1

yumaonestop@ypic.com

OPORTUNIDADES DE ENTRENAMIENTOS DISPONIBLE:

Entrenamiento en el Trabajo, Pasantias pagadas, Asistencia de matricula para ocupaciones en demanda

Empleador / Programa de igualdad de oportunidades. Las ayudas y los servicios auxiliares están disponibles a pedido para las personas con discapacidades. ARIZONA@WORK-Programas de respuesta rápida y trabajadores desplazados del Título IB de la WIOA del condado de Yuma, financiados en un 100 % por el Departamento de Trabajo de los EE. UU. El monto de financiación para el año fiscal 23/24 es de \$2,593,558



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