

The Outpost

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

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Driving the mission at Yuma Test Center

By Ana Henderson

At Yuma Test Center (YTC), the mission is to test items for air and ground combat so when it comes into the hands of the warfighter, there's no doubt that it works.

One method used to assess the capability of combat vehicles is to drive them, and that is the mission of the Test Vehicle Operators.

The term drive is used lightly, as these are not casual drives on regular roads. YTC Test Vehicle Operators drive the vehicles on paved, sand and gravel courses. There are steep elevations, washboard roads, potholes and bumps. They drive through sand slopes, dust and mud courses, and roads with vertical steps and gaps. They perform braking, acceleration, steering and handling tests, and evasive maneuvers. Engineers need



One method used to assess the capability of combat vehicles is to drive them, and that is the mission of the Test Vehicle Operators (TVOs). TVOs drive the vehicles on paved, sand and gravel courses. There are steep elevations, washboard roads, potholes and bumps. They drive through sand slopes, dust and mud courses, and roads with vertical steps and gaps. They perform braking, acceleration, steering and handling tests, and evasive maneuvers. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

to find what, if anything, it takes to make the vehicles fail.

Test Vehicle Operators Clayton Wall and Jaime Quinones were drivers on the M1311 Medium Equipment Trailer test together. Quinones gained experience driving a semi prior to his career at YTC, Wall received on the job training. Regardless of their experience, each YTC Test Vehicle Operator is trained specifically for the vehicle by the manufacturer.

“You have to get a license for each type of vehicle,” explained Wall.

Quinones further explained, “First you get a training, once you drive it for a while with a trainer, then they give you a test, then they issue you a license.”

They each hold more than 25 licenses.

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ATEC Commanding General presents award to long-time test officer



It's not every day the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command presents an award in person to a Yuma Test Center employee. However, that was the case on April 10, when Maj. Gen. Patrick Gaydon presented Diep Ho with a Superior Civilian Service Medal. The citation read, "His experience and dedication to the test mission at YPG is second to none, he has been instrumental in the developmental testing and fielding several artillery programs development spanning his 37-year career." Ho who started his career at YPG in 1986 entered the world of retirement in mid-April. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

Yuma Test Center Employees of the Quarter

— Mission —

Name: David Bates
Job title: Cross Functional Team Integrator, Air Combat Systems Directorate

Years of Service: 8 years plus 4 years in the U.S. Army
Recognition: Employee of the Quarter for playing a crucial role serving as the acting Chief of Aviation System and Electronic Test Division and spearheading the Air Combat Systems investment submission prioritization.

Reaction: After being surprised with the award Bates said, "Thank you everybody. I had zero idea. Great

way to keep a secret." He told Lt. Col Kevin Hicks, "Sir, thank you again for your recognition. I really appreciate it."



On April 8, Yuma Test Center Commander Lt. Col. Kevin Hicks presented David Bates with a Civilian Service Achievement Medal for being selected as the Mission, Employee of Quarter for the second quarter. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

— Mission Support —

Name: Amanda Chavis
Job title: Equipment Specialist, Metrology & Simulation Division
Years of Service: 7 years

Recognition: Civilian Service Achievement Medal for being selected as the Mission Support Employee of Quarter for the second quarter. The citation noted, "Chavis continually went above and beyond, demonstrating exceptional dedication to YPG." Outside of her normal duties Chavis works providing suicide prevention training and worked with the GEMS program.

Reaction: After

being surprised with the award Chavis said, "I was thoroughly shocked. I do my job, and I am glad it's being noticed."



On April 21, Yuma Test Center Commander Lt. Col. Kevin Hicks presented Amanda Chavis with a Civilian Service Achievement Medal for being selected as the Mission Support, Employee of Quarter for the second quarter. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

The Outpost

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ATEC Commanding General visits the workforce



Maj. Gen. Patrick Gaydon, Commanding General of the Army Test and Evaluation Command, spent an action-packed day at Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) on April 10, visiting test facilities, a test in progress at a gun position, and mission employees. (Photos by Mark Schauer)



Gaydon also stayed for lunch at the retirement ceremony potluck for Diep Ho, a Munitions and Weapons Test Officer who had worked at YPG since 1986. He mingled with the workforce, asking them how long they have worked at YPG and about their careers. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

High-ranking official visits YPG



On April 16 U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Commander Col. John Nelson and other senior leaders hosted a visit from Brent Ingraham, the official performing the duties of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Acquisition. After receiving a comprehensive YPG command overview, Ingraham spent the day having an in-depth experiential interaction with Yuma Test Center's Air and Ground Combat Directorate workforce, visiting test support shops and two gun positions, as well as presentations regarding YPG's ongoing digital transformation efforts and the management of YTC's extensive range operations. (Photos by Mark Schauer)

During his visit, Ingraham (fourth from left) with YPG and YTC's Commanders, stopped to take a picture with Munitions and Weapons Division and Armaments Branch personnel working on a test. (U.S. Army photo)



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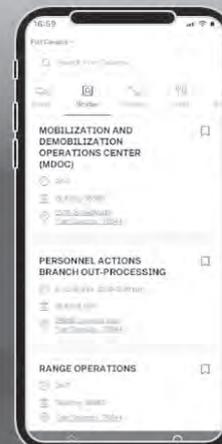
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Full enforcement of concurrent jurisdiction begins May 31

By Mark Schauer

In 2022, then-Arizona Governor Douglas Ducey signed a bill authorizing concurrent criminal jurisdiction on U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG).

The law brought YPG into alignment with most other military installations within the continental United States.

Until the change, YPG Police only had the authority to issue DD Form 1408s, which have no penalty or deterrence associated with them for individuals who are unaffiliated with the Department of Defense.

Now, the YPG Police are empowered to issue Central Violations Bureau (CVB) citations, which have financial penalties associated with them.

After a grace period in which YPG Police continued to issue DD Form 1408s, CVB citations are slated to begin May 31, 2025, which will mean additional consequences for people cited for speeding, illegal dumping, trespassing or other violations on YPG.

Individuals cited for a traffic infraction on post still face the possibility of their on-post driving privileges being suspended or revoked by the YPG commander in



Beginning May 1, 2025, the Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Police will issue Central Violations Bureau citations, which have financial penalties associated with them. This means additional consequences for people cited for speeding, illegal dumping, or trespassing on YPG's test ranges. (U.S. Army photo)

addition to soon facing the financial penalties associated with the citation.

There are two more significant differences with CVB citations in addition to the financial penalty.

“Unlike with 1408s, if you get a Central Violations Bureau citation it will be reported to the Department of Motor Vehicles and your auto insurance company,” said Donnie Lucas, YPG Police Chief.

The change will also increase penalties for trespassing on YPG's test ranges.

“If some person is riding and inadvertently crosses within YPG's boundaries without an intent to do so

and we've never written that person a ticket before, we will issue a warning citation,” said Lucas. “If it's a case of multiple violations, we will cite the individual and they will have to pay a fine or plead their case to a federal magistrate. It gives some teeth to the bark to try to deter people from trespassing and speeding.”

Similarly, illegal dumping on YPG's ranges will also be subject to citations with financial penalties associated with them, albeit without the initial warning citation.

The YPG Police are interested purely in the deterrent effect of the financial penalties and have no

further motivation to collect fines.

“The fines are primarily set by the Central Violations Bureau with some leeway from the local command,” said Lucas. “YPG receives none of the money associated with the fines.”

Lucas says the concurrent jurisdiction arrangement is a welcomed force multiplier for ensuring YPG's security and safety. A variety of federal law enforcement agencies issue CVB citations. If the Arizona Department of Public Safety or Yuma County Sheriff's Office personnel observe suspicious activity on YPG land while patrolling Highway 95, for instance, the officer is now empowered to issue a trespassing or speeding citation that would be adjudicated by the federal magistrate.

“That allows Bureau of Land Management or Arizona Department of Game and Fish Rangers to come on this installation and write citations for us,” said Lucas. “The YPG Police's jurisdiction does not extend beyond the boundaries of YPG, but these other agencies' jurisdiction does. It allows us to work hand-in-glove with our other partners and gives us resources we didn't have before.”

Antiterrorism Awareness Corner

Antiterrorism Awareness: Reporting drones

By Robert Barocio Jr.

Recent national incidents involving unauthorized Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) flying over secure facilities have underscored a growing concern that is no longer hypothetical, it's happening, and it poses a real threat. Even here at Yuma Proving Ground (YPG), we are not exempt from the risks these incursions bring. Whether during classified testing events or routine

field operations, the presence of an unidentified drone in restricted airspace jeopardizes more than our mission, it puts lives and national security at risk. Unauthorized UAS activity is a threat vector that can compromise sensitive technology, record classified procedures, or cause physical interference with ongoing operations. These systems can be small, silent, and fast, often going unnoticed until it's too late.

That's why every person on this installation regardless of their role plays a part in protecting YPG's people, work, and assets. We urge all employees and residents on YPG to remain vigilant and actively aware of their surroundings. You're the installation's first line of awareness, and your alertness matters.

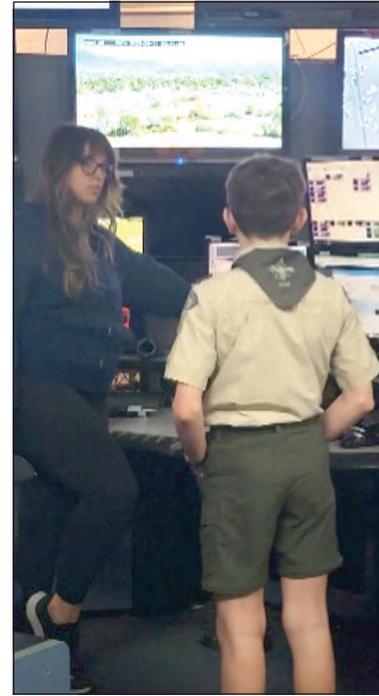
If you see any drone activity that appears suspicious, unexpected, or unauthorized, report it immediately by calling 911, Range Control, or notifying your supervisor. If safe to do so, take note of the following key details:

- Direction of travel
- Estimated altitude
- Type of UAS (e.g., quadcopter, fixed wing)

- Size and color
- Location and time of observation
- Any markings or identifiable features

Do not try to interfere with or engage the drone. Just report what you see. Accurate and prompt reporting can make the difference between a successful investigation and a missed opportunity. We take these incursions seriously because the work being done at YPG is serious. It supports the safety of U.S. service members and the security of our nation. We are one team and that means protecting each other and our mission. Stay alert, stay aware, and help keep YPG safe.

Boy Scout visits YPG fire station to earn merit badge



Lucas Estep, a 13-year-old Boy Scout working on earning his Emergency Preparedness Merit Badge stopped by Station 2 at Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) to learn the information necessary for his badge. Estep, took a tour of the station, followed by a drive in the fire truck to the YPG dispatch center. An emergency dispatcher talked about handling 911 calls and the importance of gathering the right information. Learning proper actions needed to perform before, during, and after an emergency are key elements in obtaining this merit badge so firefighters created a simulated situation where a palm tree and surrounding grass caught fire on Cox Field. Estep had to just into action and call dispatch to report the emergency and then help respond to the emergency. With the help of firefighters, he aided in deploying a hose to spray water and extinguished the simulated fire. Estep enjoyed the visit and met all his merit badge goals. (Photos and information courtesy of the YPG Fire Department)

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Motorists driving along Highway 95 may notice something is missing. Crew temporarily moved Yuma Proving Ground's (YPG) iconic Big Guns to make way for road improvements.



YPG's Big Guns temporarily moved for road construction

By Ana Henderson

Motorists driving along Highway 95 may notice something is missing. Yuma Proving Ground's (YPG) iconic Big Guns are gone! The dramatic move provides the space needed for a road improvement project.

On April 7, crews moved the Big Gun formerly on the north side of Imperial Dam Road to the Wahner Brooks Historical Exhibit, which is accessible to the public outside of YPG's Visitor Control Center.

The following week on April 14, crews moved the second M1 240mm howitzer inside the gates of the Walker Cantonment at YPG.

The Big Guns stood at the corner of Highway 95 and Imperial Dam Road since 1963, though one of the cannons was switched out several years back. They were a signal to

drivers that they had arrived at YPG. Almost daily motorists stopped to snap photos with the weapon systems and many community members and former service members have fond memories of them.

The move is necessary to continue improvements to Highway 95. For

several years now the stretch of road leading to YPG has undergone lane expansions which have improved its safety. This next phase consists of two roundabouts at the Laguna Dam and Aberdeen Road intersections and widening the Martinez Lake Road intersection. Plans also include

reconstructing and widening the existing two-lane roadway into a four-lane divided roadway.

The Arizona Department of Transportation plans to start the project in the fall of 2025 and estimates it will take 14 months to complete. The cannon is expected to return to prominent display once road construction is complete.



Crews moved the Big Gun formerly on the north side of Imperial Dam Road to the Wahner Brooks Historical Exhibit, which is accessible to the public outside of YPG's Visitor Control Center. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

Learn more about ADOT's road improvement project by scanning the QR code.



On April 14, crews removed the second M1 240mm howitzer that has stood since 1963 at the corner of Highway 95 and Imperial Dam Road. (Photos by Mark Schauer)

Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month

April is recognized as National Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month across the country. At U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground, the Army Community Services' Family Advocacy Program hosted and participated in a variety of events to bring awareness.



Resource agencies unit for proclamation



April 7, YPG's Family Advocacy Manager and representative from several other agencies including Amberly's Place and the MCAS Sexual Assault and Response representative who are all part of the Yuma Victim's Rights Counsel presented a Proclamation to the Yuma County Board of Supervisors. (Photo courtesy FAP)

Pinwheels for prevention



On the morning of April 17, children from Price Elementary School and the Child Development Center joined by Army Community Services' Family Advocacy Program (FAP) and members from the YPG Police and Fire Department planted pinwheels on the lawn of Price School. Blue pinwheels have become the symbol for the observance as they represent the innocence and carefree attitude of childhood. FAP Manager Mariah Boykin reiterated that this is a time for communities to come together to show their commitment to keeping children safe. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

Wear Blue Day



On Wear Blue Day the YPG community did not disappoint. People across the installation wore blue on April 10 to show their commitment to helping spread awareness about child abuse. YPG's Command Team, Soldiers from the Medical Clinic and Munitions and Weapons test officers are pictures wearing blue. (Photos by Ana Henderson and FAP)



Stomping out abuse by sharing resources for parents



Army Community Services' (ACS) Family Advocacy Program (FAP) Manager Mariah Boykin mingled with community members and children playing at a park on post the morning of April 21. Boykin and Victim Advocate Gisela Robles set up a table filled with pamphlets and shared resource information available through ACS and FAP. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

National Victim's Rights Week picnic



During National Victim's Rights Week YPG's Victim Advocate Gisela Robles and Family Advocacy Program Manager Mariah Boykin took part in the annual Victim's Right's Picnic held April 10, on the lawn of the Yuma County Main Library. Local dignitaries and agencies showed their support by attending including, members of the Yuma City Council and Yuma County Board of Supervisors, Yuma law enforcement, The Mexican Consulate, Yuma Legal Services, and Miss Yuma County. (Photos courtesy FAP)



Yuma Proving Ground hosts training for Southern Border mission

By Mark Schauer

The undeveloped desert around the southern border is a harsh and merciless place.

The same attributes that make it desirable for Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) testing and evaluating armaments in an extreme hot environment make it deadly for the unlucky individual caught in its expanse without water.

Thousands of undocumented migrants still attempt to pass through the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Yuma sector each year, and the U.S. Army currently leads Joint Task Force (JTF) Southern Border to assist with border security. Though YPG is not expected to house troops, the post's Training and Exercise Management Office (TEMO) is facilitating training

for Soldiers involved in the JTF's operations.

"YPG wasn't a realistic location for them to billet on a long-term basis because we don't have mess halls and other facilities conventionally associated with an Army post," said Luis Arroyo, TEMO chief. "YPG's primary mission is conducting developmental testing of military equipment with a largely civilian workforce."

One example of YPG's support of the border security mission is training Military Police to use the Ground Based Operational Surveillance System (Expeditionary) (GBOSS (E)), a multi-spectral sensor and persistent surveillance system that underwent developmental testing at YPG in years past.

"The purpose of the training is to



"The purpose of the training is to equip Soldiers on how to use this radar system," said 2nd Lt. Erica Esterly of the 759th Military Police Battalion at Fort Carson, Colo. "Picking up on movement, heat signatures, anything that would indicate the presence of people being where they shouldn't be and using these systems to monitor where the traffic is flowing."

equip Soldiers on how to use this radar system," said 2nd Lt. Erica Esterly of the 759th Military Police Battalion at Fort Carson, Colo. "Picking up on movement, heat signatures, anything that would indicate the presence of people being where they shouldn't be and using these systems to monitor where the traffic is flowing."

"Our mission with this was to provide space for the training unit," said David Dupuis, TEMO exercise coordinator. "Our goal was to

deconflict their training activities with any test operations. We facilitate anything from meals and generators to port-a-johns and hand washing stations."

In addition to the GBOSS (E) training, YPG is poised to support future units with things like weapons qualification range space.

"All of our different staff sections from our battalion have been in contact with YPG folks for sustainment and other needs," said Esterly. "The communication has been really good and YPG is helping us as much as they can."



The Ground Based Operational Surveillance System (Expeditionary) is a multi-spectral sensor and persistent surveillance system that underwent developmental testing at Yuma Proving Ground in years past. (Photos by Mark Schauer)



Yuma Proving Ground's Training and Exercise Management Office is facilitating training for Soldiers involved in Joint Task Force Southern Border. Here, Soldiers from the 759th Military Police Battalion at Fort Carson, Colo. train on the Ground Based Operational Surveillance System (Expeditionary).



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FROM PAGE 1

Their workday starts with doing pre-maintenance checks on the test vehicle they are driving. Quinones details the list of items they check. “We check for fluids, leaks, everything to make sure it’s good. We check the tires to make sure they don’t have flats. Make sure all our levels are good. All the lights are working.”

If something is not working as it should, they make a note of it in their log and report it to the test officer. If everything goes well during the pre-check, they can start driving.

Sometimes drivers are on their own, other tests require more than one driver for visibility depending on the size of the vehicle. When

driving there is no time for chit-chat or zoning out while listening to a podcast. They are fully attentive to their surroundings.

“We have to be focused,” said Quinones. “If he’s driving, I need to be watching.”

When asked to guess how many miles they drive in a year, they struggled to find a number because of the variety of the courses and the vehicles.

“It depends what kind of vehicle you are running because, if you have a Bradley and an AMPV, you go from different courses,” said Quinones.

Wall roughly estimates that in one year he drives about one-hundred thousand miles.

“Some are short tests, three or four hundred miles, some are thousands,” Wall shares.

Both men know they have a cool

job driving combat vehicles and realize the purpose behind their job is impactful.

“We are the first ones to test it. If

it passes it goes to the Solider. So, we know we are doing something for the Soldiers. It’s safe for them to use,” remarked Quinones.



Test Vehicle Operators Clayton Wall and Jaime Quinones each hold more than 25 licenses. Each Test Vehicle Operator is trained specifically for the vehicle by the manufacturer and must get a license for each type of vehicle they operate.



A Test Vehicle Operator’s workday starts with doing pre-maintenance checks on the test vehicle. They check for multiple things including fluid leaks, the tires for flats and ensure the lights function. Clayton Wall and Jaime Quinones are pictured inspecting the M1311 Medium Equipment Trailer. (Photos by Ana Henderson)



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