

The Outpost

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

VOLUME 74 NO. 20 OCTOBER 13, 2025



Border mission Soldiers train at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground

By Mark Schauer

The U.S. Army currently leads Joint Task Force (JTF) Southern Border to assist U.S. Customs and Border Protection with border security.

Though U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) hasn't housed troops for an extended length of time, the post's Training and Exercise Management Office (TEMO) has been 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



Deployed earlier this year to the Customs and Border Protection's Tucson sector in support of Joint Task Force Southern Border, the 2nd Infantry Division's 212th Stryker Brigade, typically stationed at Fort Carson, Colo. recently accomplished a full week of live fire training at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground. (Photos by Mark Schauer)

equipment with a largely civilian workforce."

Deployed earlier this year to the Customs and Border Protection's Tucson sector in support of Joint Task Force Southern Border, the 2nd Infantry Division's 212th Stryker Brigade, typically stationed at Fort Carson, Colo. recently accomplished a full week of live fire training here that included simulated medical evacuations.

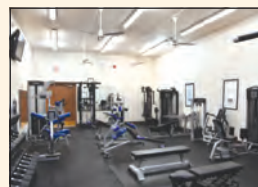
"This is a great opportunity for them to get some hands-on experience," said David Dupuis, TEMO exercise coordinator. "They brought their field mess hall and line hauled their vehicles on tractor trailers."

SEE **BORDER** page 6

Maintenance Division
dedicates room to
Kimberly Butler
/ Page 2



YPG expanding
Fitness Center
hours
/ Page 4



Commander thanks
employees for
storm response
/ Page 5



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Maintenance Division dedicates room to Kimberly Butler



Colleagues who became like family to the late Kimberly Butler gathered on Sept. 29, to dedicate the conference room at the Maintenance Division, Combined Maintenance building to her. Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) and Yuma Test Center (YTC) leadership presented her husband Clint, with a traditional Desert Rat certificate and other YPG and YTC mementos. He then hung a mirrored plaque on the wall of the room renaming it the Kimberly Butler Conference room. Butler worked as an Equipment Specialist -Inspector until her passing on Sept. 1. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

In memory of Kimberly Butler



included deployments to both Iraq and Afghanistan, demonstrating her courage and dedication to defending our nation. After her military service, she continued serving at Yuma Proving Grounds as an Equipment Specialist. Her commitment to service and excellence was evident throughout her career, where she earned the respect and admiration of her colleagues and superiors alike.

Kimberly is survived by her devoted husband, Clint Butler; her two beloved sons, Christopher Butler, and Dade Butler; her mother, Betty Walker; and her father, Jim Herring. She leaves behind a legacy of service, creativity, laughter, and love that will be cherished by all who were fortunate enough to know her. Her strength, humor, and generous spirit will be deeply missed but never forgotten.

Content provided by Jaysen Lockett

Kimberly Butler passed after a valiant fight with cancer. Kim was 52 when she peacefully left us on Sept. 1, 2025.

Kimberly dedicated 20 years of her life to serving our country in the United States Army, where she served as a Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic and Motor Sergeant. Her distinguished military career

The Outpost

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NOTICE: Content for the Oct. 13, 2025, issue of The Outpost was submitted to the publisher prior to the government shut down.

Suicide awareness outreach around post



Yuma Proving Ground's vast size allowed for live fire training using both 120 mm mortars and M2 .50 caliber machine guns during simulations of a convoy attack, all without disrupting developmental tests of military equipment in progress elsewhere on the range. (Photos by Mark Schauer)



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YPG working on expanding Fitness Center hours

BY Elisa Reitman

At Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) it's no surprise to see Soldiers and first responders working around the clock. Rising early mornings and staying up throughout multiple nights, it can be difficult to find time for self-care.

The YPG Fitness Center is resolving this inconvenience by opening the center to be 24-hours.

"Nobody out here works the same hours," said Fitness Facility

Manager, Dani Compton. "It will be very convenient for those who don't work the same hours as everybody else."

Soon, this will allow the YPG community to scan themselves into the gym individually at any time, whether it's 4 a.m. or 11 p.m. The gym will be available for those usually unable to come in within normal hours.

"I think 24/7 access is going to be helpful in just accommodating

everybody, and we at MWR are trying our best to do that," said Compton.

In preparation, the gym staff are working on getting more cameras, modifying access control and creating after-hours protocols.

"We've been working on this project for a very long time," said Compton.

Gym goers who want to use the 24-hour fitness center must be 18 or older, and have to register through

the Fitness Center in person.

There's no set date of when this will be in motion however users are encouraged to register now for future access and keep an eye out for the ribbon cutting.

Anyone who has interest in registering for the 24-hour access and has any questions can reach out to the Fitness Center by calling 928-328-2400. They can look for updates on Facebook at 'Yuma Proving Ground Family and MWR.'



Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Fitness Center staff have been working on bringing 24/7 availability to the gym. This will allow YPG gym-goers to come in at any time and the center's staff are currently developing new security protocols and functions in place to make the gym safer when the new hours are finally established. Rooms like the Performance Fitness Room will be accessible and the newly remodeled weight room with all the new weight machines. (Photos by Elisa Reitman)

YPG uses push-up challenge to encourage being present for others



Yuma Proving Ground's (YPG) Suicide Prevention Team hosted a push-up challenge for the month of September, which is Suicide Prevention Month. The goal was to get people to connect. They encouraged the workforce to do push-ups and if they could not, they could still cheer from the sidelines saying it's someone's presence that matters. On Sept. 23, Col. John Nelson motivated the workforce and he and others performed push-up. (Photos by Ana Henderson)



On Sept. 30, the Suicide Prevention Team and YPG leadership held the push-up challenge at the Munitions & Weapons Division (M&W). M&W personnel are leading in the numbers of pushups with nearly 60-thousand combined.



YTC Commander hosts town hall



On Sept. 25, the U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground workforce gathered for a town hall at Post Theater. YPG Commander Col. John Nelson, Command Sgt. Maj. Joshua Holthus and Chief of Staff Omar Silva presented to the workforce about several topics and took questions. The workforce heard about upcoming events from the Morale Welfare and Recreation marketing department and about the Push-up Challenge where YPG as a whole has done more than 100-thousand pushups. (Photos by Ana Henderson)



YPG employees place in ATEC AI Challenge



Three Yuma Proving Ground employees are making a name for themselves in the world of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Instrumentation Division employees Tyler Roberg, Joseph Kharzo and Pedro Lugo (not pictured) competed in the Army Test and Evaluation AI Challenge and placed in the top five out of 20 teams. Col. John Nelson presented them with a coin for their job well done on the proof-of-concept project using a large language model to improve report writing efficiency. (Photo by Jeffrey Rogers)

Commander thanks employees for storm response



Left to right: Command Sgt. Maj. Joshua Holthus, Jose Jimenez, Ofc. David Thompson, Ofc. Bryan Evans, Tyler Pitts, Matthew O'Donald, Col. John Nelson.

YTC Commander thanks special operations chief



On Sept. 24, Lt. Col. Kevin Hicks presented CW4 Tim Evan, the Branch Chief for Lethality and Effects/Air Launched Effects Lead for Special Operations Aviation Command with a Commander's Coin and thanked him for the work he's done supporting Yuma Test Center's Mission. (Photo by Kurt Harrison)



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Yuma Proving Grounds's vast size allowed for live fire training using both 120 mm mortars and M2 .50 caliber machine guns during simulations of a convoy attack, all without disrupting developmental tests of military equipment in progress elsewhere on the range. (Photos by Mark Schauer)



The same aspects that make YPG an ideal place for tough natural environment testing of weapons and equipment also have applicability to training. "This is a great opportunity for them to get some hands-on experience," said David Dupuis, Yuma Proving Ground Training and Exercise Management Office exercise coordinator.

BORDER

FROM PAGE 1

The overwhelming majority of YPG's workforce plays some role in developmental testing of equipment for troops. Nonetheless, in recent years well over 100 units have utilized the post for training purposes, including multi-week stays in the proving ground's elaborate forward operating base. When they needed somewhere to accomplish

training while deployed in support of border operations, the 212th Stryker Battalion turned to YPG.

"In Arizona itself there is limited training capability for large-scale combat operations for Army ground units," said Maj. Eliot Corey, operations officer for the battalion. "We took a couple of meetings with Mr. Arroyo and his team and they were on board to supporting anything we asked for. It's been excellent, with top notch support."

The same aspects that makes YPG

an ideal place for tough natural environment testing of weapons and equipment also have applicability to training.

"The environment is unforgiving and stresses systems," said Corey. "The terrain is difficult as well: you almost have to use satellite communication because the terrain is so rough. It's been a good experience for the whole team."

YPG's vast size allowed for live fire training using both 120 mm mortars and M2 .50 caliber machine guns

during simulations of a convoy attack, all without disrupting tests of military equipment in progress elsewhere on the range.

"This is the best range control I've ever worked with," said 1st Lt. Andrew Rodgers, Fire Support Officer. "They're very reasonable and understanding and make things very simple. They gave us a lot of good advice and definitely set us up for success."



Though Yuma Proving Ground hasn't housed troops for an extended length of time, the post's Training and Exercise Management Office (TEMO) has been 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



The 212th also slept at Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) during training in efforts to fully recreate an expeditionary environment. In recent years well over 100 units have utilized YPG for training purposes, including multi-week stays in the proving ground's elaborate forward operating base.



The 212th brought along their field mess hall to the week-long training at Yuma Proving Ground. It's been excellent, with top notch support," said Eliot Corey, operations officer for the battalion.



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Chili competition gets spicy



Yuma Proving Ground's Plans Division hosted the inaugural Chili Cook-Off competition on Sept. 30. Employees were encouraged to use their culinary creativity to make the tastiest chili. More than 80 employees from around post tasted the nine delicious options and voted for their favorite. (Photos by Ana Henderson)



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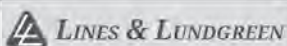
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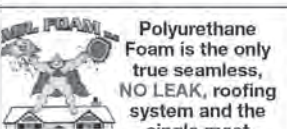


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Coyotes are typically not a problem for human communities if people refrain from feeding them. Landscaping in housing areas can also attract the creatures: palm trees, date palms, and even pods from mesquite trees can serve as forage for a coyote. Nonetheless, removing other sources of food can help deter them from wandering in yards. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

Coyotes among wildlife at YPG

By Mark Schauer

U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) is a natural laboratory in which equipment Soldiers use is tested to ensure it works as it should wherever in the world they are called upon to serve.

As such, YPG has a deeply vested interest in being good stewards of the environment, and wildlife abounds here.

The proving ground is home to one of the largest and most genetically diverse populations of bighorn sheep in Arizona. The Sonoran Pronghorn, virtually extinct in the early 2000s, has dramatically increased in population thanks in part to state and federal wildlife officials intentionally introducing the creature into YPG as a safe haven to help it regenerate. A fringe-toed lizard that is threatened in most of the American West thrives at YPG, as does the Sonoran tortoise.

Coyotes are among the many animals here and are usually somewhat elusive.

“Coyotes are always going to come through at night when we’re not looking,” said Daniel Steward, YPG wildlife biologist. “It’s been that way ever since there has been a YPG, and for several thousand years before there was a YPG. We are in a very good piece of habitat for all kinds of wildlife.”

Coyotes are nocturnal, foraging at night. The desert’s primary predator, they eat rodents and rabbits. YPG’s proximity to the Colorado River makes it attractive for a wide variety of species, including coyotes, Steward said.

“Anywhere in the state that I’ve ever been, when I hear coyotes yip and howl at night, it’s usually near water systems. Coyotes are going to be in the best habitat where there is lots of cover and forage, and there’s nothing better for habitat than the Colorado River corridor.”

Coyotes are typically not a problem for human communities as long as people refrain from feeding them.

“When coyotes are fed by humans, they lose their fear and start to expect to be fed,” said Steward. “There have been cases across the country where people get bit in communities where people are feeding coyotes.”

If a coyote makes repeat appearances at a work site, Steward said, the likeliest explanation is that someone in the area has fed it before.

“If somebody is handing that coyote a sandwich every morning, that coyote is going to keep coming back, and won’t necessarily know one person from another.”

Steward stresses the importance of educating visiting test personnel about the dangers of feeding coyotes or otherwise contributing to their loss of fear of humans.

“Our facility managers and test officers have reported having issues with visiting customers not being aware of our efforts to keep work sites clean of things that could

attract coyotes,” he said. “If you see something, say something. Make sure that our visitors and customers are following our rules to keep everyone safe.”

Landscaping in housing areas can also attract the creatures: palm trees, date palms, and even pods from mesquite trees can serve as forage for a coyote. Nonetheless, removing other sources of food can help deter them from wandering in yards.

“The best way to guard against that type of behavior is securing garbage, making sure pet food is put away, and limiting the amount of open water,” said Steward.

Though coyote hunting is legal in Arizona with a hunting license, doing so in residential areas is not. “We have about 250,000 acres on

YPG that are available to hunting with a YPG hunting access pass,” said Steward. “Our hunting units are very specifically chosen to make sure they are in areas that are not going to interfere with our test mission or in any areas that would cause a security issue. It’s easy to control coyotes in our hunting units, but not as easy to control them on our test sites or cantonment areas.”

Steward says that coyotes’ intelligence makes trapping them difficult.

“Coyote trapping is extraordinarily challenging. A coyote knows its environment and knows when you are doing something that doesn’t fit in.”

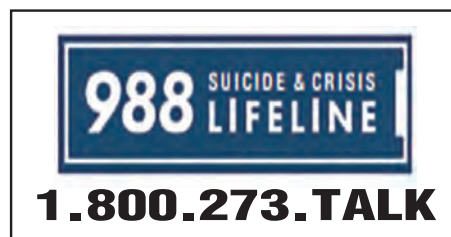
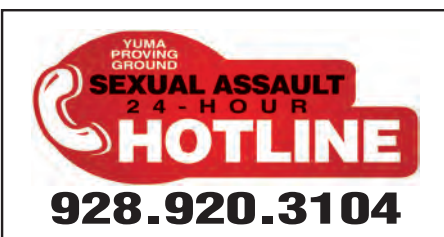
The best way to deal with coyotes is to ensure they maintain their

natural fear of humans.

“If a bighorn sheep walks up to you, I want you to be quiet and let the sheep pass on its own,” Steward said. “If a coyote walks up to you, I want you to be big, scary, and loud. When I see a coyote in a parking lot, I’ll bang things around and yell until I see the coyote run.”

Steward says filling a soda can with gravel and shaking it vigorously is a good noisemaker. He stresses keeping a safe distance from coyotes and other wild animals.

“They’re a wild animal. We have to keep our distance from any wild animal, for the animal’s safety and ours.”



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