

# The Outpost

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

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## U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground hosts Concept Focused Warfighting Experiment

By Mark Schauer

The Army's Aviation Future Capability Directorate (A-FCD) conducted activities connected with a Cross Domains Fires Concept Focused Warfighting Experiment (CFWE) at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) in early March.

The experiment focused on integrating command and control, sensing, targeting and effects delivery as part of Multi-Domain Operations.

The effort was part of a larger distributed test that also saw activity at Fort Sill, Okla., and YPG's fellow Army Test and Evaluation Command facility White Sands Missile Range. Participating along with A-FCD were multiple private industry vendors



An AH-64 Apache helicopter launches an Altius 700 Medium-Range Launched Effect during the Cross Domain Fires Concept Focused Warfighting Experiment 26 Aviation Excursion, held at Yuma Proving Ground March 2-6, 2026. The excursion focused on advancing the Army's aviation capabilities within a joint, multi-domain environment. (U.S. Army Photo)

and Soldiers from the 1st Armored Division at Fort Bliss, Tex.

A key event during the excursion was the successful launch at YPG of an Altius 700 Medium-Range Launched Effect from an AH-64 Apache helicopter.

Launched effects provide a decisive advantage to ground commanders, giving them the capability to extend the range of sensing and use machines instead of Soldiers to make first contact with an adversary. The Army is rapidly integrating layered UAS and LE across formations in a combined arms fight that is synchronized with fires and maneuver across phases to penetrate, exploit, and defeat

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# 2026 Yuma Air Show fun for all



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From watching the heroes of the Military Freefall School jumping in the baton to open the show to the chance to get up and close and personal with the gear used and tested by the elite Soldiers of Yuma Proving Ground's (YPG) Airborne Test Force, thousands of people enjoyed U.S. Army YPG's participation in Yuma County's largest annual public event. YPG's Public Affairs Office was on hand to talk about things like the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle and Bradley Fighting Vehicle on display, and young folks interested in a military career could talk with several of Yuma's Army recruiters. To see all the fun in action, scan the QR code with your phone! (Photos by PAO staff)

Scan the QR code for the 2026 Air Show video



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# Army Emergency Relief Fund is now local at YPG

By Ana Henderson

Getting a hand-up from the Army Emergency Relief Fund is now a more personal process at U.S. Army Garrison Yuma Proving Ground (YPG).

Army Community Service Director Clarissa Ayala is YPG's local contact who can provide one-on-one guidance for those interested in financial help from the AER. In the past, the vetting process was routed through the headquarters, now the interview and decision are done at the local level.

AER is a non-profit organization which offers grants and interest free loans. Repayment of the loans

takes into consideration how much the borrower can responsibly repay, explains Ayala.

"We go based on what they are making, seeing their budget and really working that out, so we are not putting them back in a deficit."

Payments can start as low as \$25 and are deducted as an allotment.

Ayala remarks that the goal is to, "relieve that stress from the families."

Visit <https://give.armyemergencyrelief.org/> or call Clarissa Ayala at 928-328-2332 for details on the program. For those wishing to help, donations can be made via the website or at the Exchange.

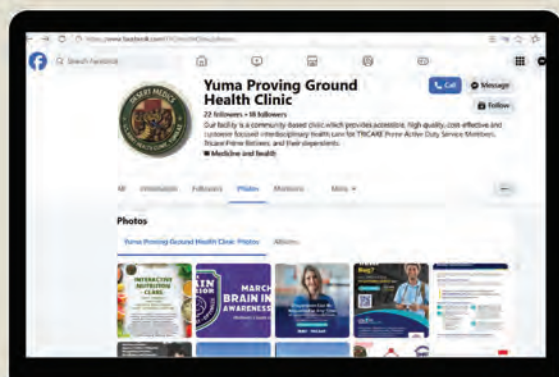
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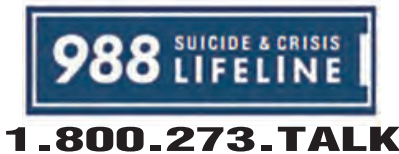
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# CFWE

FROM PAGE 1

near-peer adversaries in a complex environment.

“They accomplished the launches from both a hover and while moving,” said Edgar Castillo, YPG Project Engineer. “Hosting this was really good for us and the Army.”

The proving ground’s clear, stable air and extremely dry climate combined with an ability to control a large swath of the radio frequency spectrum makes it a desired location for the type of testing the CFWE was interested in: testing launched effects, extending network access, and flying autonomous and semi-autonomous systems collaboratively. YPG’s wealth of other infrastructure meant other sectors of the post’s test mission were utilized to support the demonstration, including technical and tactical targets.

“Yuma provides a critical advantage with its expert teams, threat simulators, and instrumentation, especially for aviation,” said Col. Bryan Jones, A-FCD Experimentation Division Chief. “To guarantee a system is ready for the field, we have to push its limits in complex, realistic scenarios. The unrestricted environment at Yuma is essential, allowing us to identify and resolve issues early, ensuring we deliver the most reliable and effective capability to our Soldiers.”



Yuma Proving Ground’s clear, stable air and extremely dry climate combined with an ability to control a large swath of the radio frequency spectrum makes it a desired location for the type of testing the Concept Focused Warfighting Experiment was interested in: testing launched effects, extending network access, and flying autonomous and semi-autonomous systems collaboratively. (U.S. Army photos)

YPG’s deep institutional knowledge allowed the participating industry partners to run complex tactical test scenarios each day across three weeks of demonstrations, and the event paid dividends that could inform the Army for years to come.

“There are only so many places in the world where you can safely test these weapons,” said Ernad Basic, senior director for research and

development at Elbit. “This is the one place where I can get access to the range to fly a Class III UAS and push it to its limit.”

The industry participants also appreciate YPG’s ability to test in a cost-effective way.

“From the get-go, YPG helped facilitate our test,” Josh Higgins, Senior Director for Army Aviation Strategy at Anduril Industries. “My whole team had never had such a tremendous experience like this at a private range or government facility.”



Yuma Proving Ground’s deep institutional knowledge allowed the participating industry partners to run complex tactical test scenarios each day across three weeks of demonstrations, and the event paid dividends that could inform the Army for years to come.



A key event during the excursion was the successful launch at Yuma Proving Ground of an Altius 700 Medium-Range Launched Effect (MR-LE) from an AH-64 Apache helicopter. The Army is rapidly integrating layered UAS and LE across formations in a combined arms fight that is synchronized with fires and maneuver across phases to penetrate, exploit, and defeat near-peer adversaries in a complex environment.



Having drones available provided real-time physical targets for sensors and effectors at Fort Sill, Okla. during the Cross Domain Fires 26 Concept Focused Warfighting Experiment. Here, a member of the Joint Counter-small Unmanned Aircraft Systems University team, launches a UAV to stimulate sensor collection. The experiment was supported with excursions by the DIESEL team at White Sands Missile Range and the Aviation Future Capability Directorate at Yuma Proving Ground. (Photo by Michael Whetston)

## CDF 26 Furthers Army Fires Transformation

**By Michael Whetston**

On behalf of the Futures and Concepts Command, the Fires Future Capability Directorate (F-FCD) led the execution of the Cross Domain Fires (CDF) 26 Concept Focused Warfighting Experiment in late February and early March at Fort Sill.

CDF 26 was an integrated and distributed, scaled field experiment led by the Fires FCD and supported with excursions by the DIESEL team at White Sands Missile Range, N.M. and the Aviation Future Capability Directorate at Yuma Proving Ground, Az.

The Fires FCD coordinates the modernization efforts for Integrated Offensive and Defensive Fires through development of Fires concepts, requirements, and experimentation to realize materiel solutions and future capabilities to enable combined arms maneuver and continuous transformation.

“Cross Domain Fires 26 gave the Army a unique venue to assess emerging cross-domain fires capabilities and capability gaps at echelon,” stated Col. Doug

Simmons, director of the F-FCD Fires Experimentation Division. “Experiments like this are critical to informing emerging Army concepts and requirements by demonstrating how fires synchronize across land, air, maritime, space, and cyber domains to achieve overmatch.”

Designed to assess emerging gaps and capabilities identified within the Army Warfighting Concept, Cross-Domain Fires Annex, and Future Capability Workbooks, experiment findings will be used to provide recommended Doctrine, Organization, Training, Materiel, Leadership & education, Personnel, Facilities, and Policy -- or DOTMLPF-P -- solutions for conceptual formations and capabilities of the Army of the future.

To address the required learning demands, CDF experiment was designed around the Fires concept focusing on Corps Fires and their ability to integrate non-kinetic and kinetic fires from one domain to another while integrating Science and Technology enablers. The experiment was designed by the

Future Experimentation Directorate but encompassed expertise from all of FCC’s FCDs to design a realistic scenario which informed Army gaps and learning demands.

The Aviation FCD conducted live experimentation at YPG to replicate and assess the aerial capabilities essential for Multi-Domain Operations. The focus was on integrating command and control, or C2, with sensing, targeting, and effects delivery. This excursion provided essential data and learning demands back to the main effort at Fort Sill. This synchronization of task, terrain, technology, and timing directly advances key Army modernization priorities in support of the Army Transformation Initiative.

The Aviation Excursion provided the first major, live proof point that the core concept of Next Generation Command and Control, or NGC2, works across domains and vast distances. By successfully passing targeting data from an aviation asset at Yuma to a fires unit at Fort Sill, it demonstrated that the network fabric can connect disparate units to achieve a shared outcome.

While not the sole focus of the overall experiment, emerging technologies played an important role in adding fidelity and realism to experiment execution and data collection. Part of the data collection effort included getting Soldier feedback on the use of these emerging technologies, as well as measuring the systems’ capability to successful pass data across the network in a way that increases the responsiveness and effectiveness of the kill chain.

Approximately 55 technologies participated in the experiment across Fort Sill and the distributed sites, either in a real time “live” status or with their capabilities portrayed in the simulation. Technology capabilities were employed to support the learning demands at each site.

Efforts such as CDF 26 also serve a risk reduction function in terms of providing industry and the Army an opportunity to improve connectivity, interoperability, and reliability for future experiments planned as part of the Army’s persistent experimentation effort.



If you encounter a rattlesnake, do not attempt to move it or harm it. Like other animals, rattlesnakes can be territorial and possess survival instincts, so if they feel threatened, they may defend themselves and bite. "Rattlesnakes typically try to escape from humans," said Daniel Steward, Yuma Proving Ground Wildlife Biologist. "When they flee quickly, it can appear as though they are pursuing you, but they are just looking for a place to hide." (Loaned photo)

## Venomous snake safety important at Yuma Proving Ground

By Grecia Guillén

Warmer temperatures are here, and along with the heat comes snakes. Rattlesnakes are common in our area and are often found near our home and job sites.

Spring and fall are the times of year when we have the most encounters because that is when many snakes spend more time in the open soaking up a little sun before it

gets too hot.

They are most active at night, especially in summer. Rattlesnakes are venomous, and a bite to you or your pet is extremely serious and requires immediate medical attention.

Despite their fearsome reputation, rattlesnakes are crucial for maintaining ecological balance, supporting biodiversity, and protecting human health. Their

conservation is important not only for the environment but also for the indirect benefits they provide to agriculture and disease prevention.

Rattlesnakes are attracted by food and cover. Dense vegetation, wood piles or other debris attract rodents that in turn attract snakes. A rattlesnake's first line of defense is camouflage, so keep an eye on your surroundings and watch where you put your hands and feet. This is especially important this spring as our wet winter has resulted in a lot of vegetation growth. It is important to keep pets on a leash to prevent them from finding a rattlesnake and getting bitten.

If you encounter a rattlesnake, do not attempt to move it or harm it. Like other animals, rattlesnakes can be territorial and possess survival instincts, so if they feel threatened, they may defend themselves and bite. The best thing to do is to leave them alone. One of the most common myths about rattlesnakes, according to Daniel Steward, wildlife biologist at Yuma Proving Ground (YPG), is that if you encounter a rattlesnake, it will chase you down.

"In reality, rattlesnakes typically try to escape from humans," said

Steward. "When they flee quickly, it can appear as though they are pursuing you, but they are just looking for a place to hide."

It is important to follow safety guidelines to avoid encounters with them, whether they are venomous or non-venomous. Here are some key safety measures:

Maintain yard sanitation, as overgrown areas can provide good hiding spots for snakes.

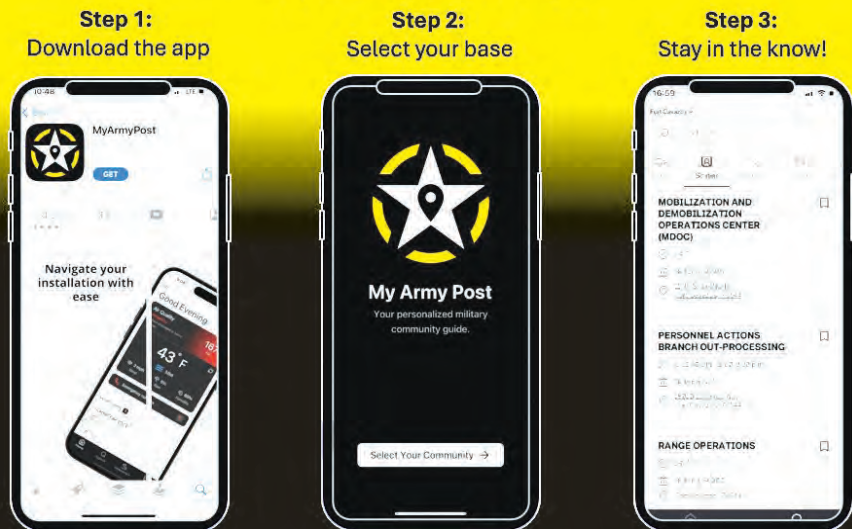
Be aware of your surroundings; rattlesnakes can camouflage themselves effectively to blend in, which is crucial for their survival as they rely on external heat sources.

**DO NOT** attempt to handle even after it's dead, reflex strikes with injected venom can occur for several hours after death.

If you see a rattlesnake, contact the YPG Police Desk at (928) 328-2720.

In the event of a rattlesnake bite, remain calm and contact emergency personnel immediately. Remove rings and any other constrictive jewelry or clothing. Do not apply ice or heat, use electric shock, apply tourniquets or pressure bandages, cutting, suction or venom extraction devices. Additionally, do not attempt to harm or handle the snake.

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# Army Family Team Building

Submitted by Gisela Robles

Army Family Team Building (AFTB) is a program designed to help you understand Army culture and give you the skills and resources you need to become a self-reliant, self-sufficient member of the military community. AFTB training will help you adapt to military life, manage change and embrace challenges.

This education provides the Army Family with the skills and tools to successfully maneuver through the Army system and access all the resources and services available to them.

**AFTB (Level I) Military Knowledge (k) Modules train basic information about the Army:** You'll learn about the Army life and how to maneuver through daily challenges by discovering how to decipher Army acronyms, utilize community resources, attain better financial readiness, and understand the goal and impact of the Army mission on daily life.

**AFTB (Level II) Personal Growth and Resiliency (G) Modules train personal growth skills:** Learn how to improve your personal relationships and communication and stress management skills. Discover how teams form and grow, how to solve

problems, and how to resolve personal conflict. You'll also learn about Army traditions, customs, courtesies and protocols.

**AFTB (Level III) Leadership Development (L) Modules train leadership skills:** Thrive in the Army and civilian life by expanding leadership skills and effective communication techniques and learning to mentor others into leadership positions. You'll learn about the different leadership styles,

how to run an effective meeting, how to manage group conflict, and how to coach and mentor.

FREE online training available for Soldiers, Family members and civilians: <https://www.armyfamilywebportal.com/>

For more information, contact Army Community Service at (928) 328-3350.



Scan the QR code to register



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

## Dr. Seuss themed story time



On March 3, children and their parents gathered for the monthly Storytime at the Post Library at Yuma Proving Ground to celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday. Yuma Proving Ground's Military Family Life Counselor Penny Collins read two stories, "The Cat in the Hat" and "Ten Apples Up on Top." Everyone had a wonderful time, which included making Dr. Seuss face masks and engaging in crafting activities. (Photos by Bea Brimmage)

## Roller Rave at Fitness Center a groovy time



On March 6, over 100 residents from the City of Yuma and Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) attended the Roller Rave event at the YPG Fitness Center. The evening was a community gathering supported by volunteers from the YPG clinic. The evening was filled with unforgettable moments and excitement, featuring live DJs from an out-of-state company that specializes in roller skating events, transforming the rink into a full-on rave. The atmosphere was pure magic all night, captivating both first-time skaters and seasoned roller enthusiasts. (Photos and content by Dani Compton)

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