

# The Outpost

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

VOLUME 75 NO. 10 MAY 11, 2026

## YTC Proof Gun System supports Army's goal of increasing munition production

By Ana Henderson

In the past, testing a gun tube required an accompanying weapon system. The future is here where that is no longer necessary.

Yuma Test Center (YTC) acquired a Proof Gun System (PGS) developed by U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Armaments Center, which allows a gun tube to be mounted and fired for testing without the weapon system.

"The idea was to build a system that would allow them to put a number of different tubes in," explained Quentin Sorenson, the test officer with the Munitions and Weapons Division who oversaw the installation of the PGS at YTC.



Yuma Test Center acquired a Proof Gun System (PGS) developed by U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Armaments Center, which allows a gun tube to be mounted and fired for testing without the weapon system. (U.S. Army photo)

He further explained, "There are no electronics, it's hydraulic or mechanical. It was specifically designed to sit out in the desert. They are hoping for a 30–50-year lifespan."

The timing of this advancement is no coincidence. In fact, its funding comes directly from the U.S. Army's initiative to ramp up overall production capacity for 155mm artillery munitions. The Army's goal is to produce 100,000 artillery rounds per month. The PGS will aid with production testing.

For the last several months, YTC has worked to acquire, assemble, emplace, and test fire the first of two PGS. YTC crews placed the system

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## Airborne Test Force Soldier reenlists



Congratulations to Airborne Test Force Solider (ATF) Sgt. 1st Class Jonathan Harris for his recent reenlistment in the U.S. Army. Yuma Test Center Commander Lt. Col. Kevin Hicks administered the Oath of Reenlistment while Harris repeated it as both raised their right hand.

Harris, who originally enlisted in 2014, made the continued commitment to uphold the U.S. Constitution during U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground's Bring Your Children to Work Day as his family, fellow Soldiers, Command Sgt. Major Joshua Holthus and Master Sgt. Donald Bullock looked on.

Harris serves as the ATF Senior Healthcare Non-commissioned Officer and this month graduated from Southern New Hampshire University with a bachelor's degree in healthcare administration.



## YPG Soldiers and engineers take part in school outreach event



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U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground puts an emphasis in reaching out to students to introduce them to the opportunities the Army has to offer both as a Soldier and civilian. On April 29, Staff Sgt. Sean McCarron an Airborne Test Force Test Parachute Jumper, Carlos Anaya the Branch Chief of Air Delivery and Ervin Rosales a Test Engineer with Air Delivery took part in Tierra Del Sol Elementary School's Career Day Vehicle Exhibition and provided approximately 150 students with an insight into their careers. (Photos by Carlos Anaya)

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# Abandoned trailers at YPG give new life to local veterans' organization

By Mark Schauer

After a devastating fire last year, one of Yuma County's most active veterans service organizations struggled to regroup and reopen.

American Veterans of Yuma's Foothills location has long been a source of fellowship and assistance for local veterans of all conflicts back to World War II.

The post's managers approached U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) employees about the possibility of obtaining disused storage containers for use as a temporary facility.

As luck would have it, the post had two abandoned trailers that had been selected for demolition.

"These were trailers that weren't being used anymore and had to be disposed of due to policy," said Jonathan Olbert, Operations Division Chief. "It was going to cost around \$50,000 for demolition. We had been hesitant to act on that based on budgetary limitations."

Leased by a contractor located at YPG for many years, the contractor vacated the trailers when the lease expired. The lessor subsequently left the trailers in place and relinquished all claims to ownership. Under Army policy on relocatable buildings, the unwanted trailers would have to



After a devastating fire last year, one of Yuma County's most active veterans service organizations has been struggling to regroup and reopen. U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground provided the organization a disused 1,600 square foot modular trailer system that had been sitting vacant after being abandoned by a contractor. (U.S. Army photo)

be disposed of unless converted to real property and maintained with government funds. Other ideas for disposing of them likewise had unbudgeted costs associated with them. The trailers still had value and were habitable but were not ideal for use in supporting the test mission at YPG.

"When we were brainstorming how to dispose of these trailers without funds, one of the things we considered was using it as a target on the range," said Ramon Noriega, YPG Facilities Manager. "However, the environmental cleanup afterward would have been another cost."

The 1,600 square feet of interior

space the structures offered isn't extravagant, but the veterans post

gratefully received them.

"I see those trailers and get goosebumps," said Mike Condon, a Korean War veteran who serves as post manager. "That's the answer to our construction, period. Those trailers are wonderful."

"It was a benefit to the Government to have a no-cost disposal of these items," said Olbert. "A private firm was able to do the relocation from our range to their facility at no cost to the government. We reduced the environmental impact by being able to reuse these facilities and helped the community we work in."

American Veterans expects to occupy the trailers by the end of the summer.

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# U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground Soldiers encourage local Army recruits

By Mark Schauer

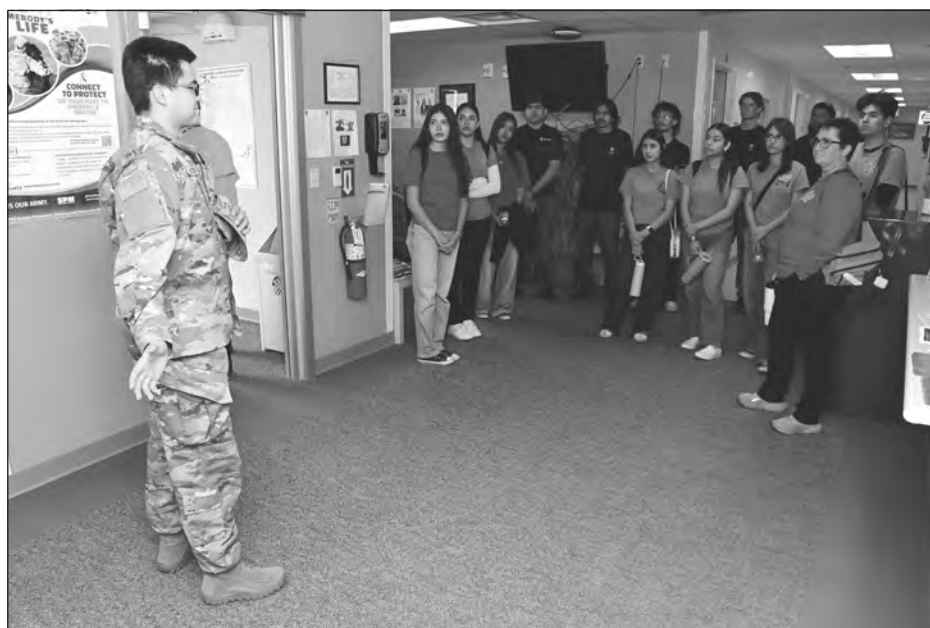
New Army recruits are the future warfighters U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground's (YPG) developmental test mission will someday serve.

Most newly enlisted recruits' knowledge of Army service is secondhand. If they're part of the lucky few, perhaps a parent or other close relative served. Others know of it entirely from television and movies.

A group of about 30 young people made up of both Army recruits under contract and members of San Luis High School's Emergency Medical Services class paid a visit to YPG on April 23 to ask questions about Army life in the medical field with medics assigned to the YPG Health Clinic.

Over the years, YPG has supported such visits to the workplaces of virtually every active-duty military occupational specialty (MOS) assigned here.

"It's a great opportunity for our people about to see the reality of



Sgt. Luis Flores (left) of the U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground Health Clinic gives a tour of the facility to a group of about 30 young people made up of both Army recruits under contract and members of San Luis High School's Emergency Medical Services class on April 23, 2026. "It's a great opportunity for our people to see the reality of what the Army is," said Staff Sgt. Rigoberto Montoya, Army recruiter. "The purpose is both to understand what working in an Army clinic is like and the quality of care that is available to all U.S. Army Soldiers."

what the Army is," said Staff Sgt. Rigoberto Montoya, recruiter. "The purpose is both to understand what working in an Army clinic is like and the quality of care that is available to all U.S. Army Soldiers."

Montoya, an Army medic himself, has seen significant interest among potential local recruits in military occupational specialties related to the medical field.

"It is a really popular field in

Yuma," said Montoya. "A lot of students think the only Army MOSs available are combat-related. When they get to see the YPG clinic and Soldiers performing medical tasks, they want to talk to the recruiters about those jobs."

Attendee Damian Castillo was among the new recruits under contract in addition to being a current student. Enlisted as a 68W Combat Medic Specialist, he will head to basic training this summer after graduating from San Luis High School.

"I have a passion to help people and want to follow in the footsteps of my brother who was in the Army," he said. "Being a 68W combines the best of both worlds. It seems like something I'll pursue even after my military career is over."

Like the others, Castillo saw value in the visit.

"Talking to the Soldiers gave me a great insight into things I should expect when I ship out," he said. "It was a pretty good thing to have beforehand."



Spc. John Johnson of the U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground Health Clinic shows the radiology department to the group. "It is a really popular field in Yuma," said Montoya. "A lot of students think the only Army MOSs available are combat-related. When they get to see the YPG clinic and Soldiers performing medical tasks, they want to talk to the recruiters about those jobs."



Pfc. Nicholas Venus briefs the group about the 68W MOS [military occupational specialty] during the visit. "I have a passion to help people and want to follow in the footsteps of my brother who was in the Army," said Damian Castillo, recruit. "Being a 68W combines the best of both worlds." (Photos by Mark Schauer)

## YPG supports Denim Day



April marked the Army's Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month. As a sign of solidarity and support for victims of sexual assault, members of U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground's Command team and members of the workforce wore denim for National Denim Day. YPG Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention Coordinator Arlene Moraga provided information about the SHARP program which exists so the Army can prevent sexual harassment and sexual assaults before they occur. (Photos by Ana Henderson)



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on a reaction mass that was built to YTC standards by a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers contractor to sustain the immense power of firing.

“The concrete is about 7 feet deep and contains rebar grids and a fabricated cage that houses the removable mounting rods designed to secure the Ground Engagement System adapter plate,” explained Jered Ford the Chief of the Indirect Fire Modernization and Mines Branch.

Sorenson added, “It took us most of the day to get the PGS on the reaction mass. We had to get the adapter plate cleaned up and prepared

to emplace the saddle or lower portion, then we mounted the gun mount, or upper portion on top of that. Then we spent the rest of the week making sure everything was securely locked down.”

Crews used a special large pneumatic wrench to torque the mounting bolts to 3,100 foot-



For the last several months, Yuma Test Center (YTC) worked to acquire, assemble, emplace and test fire the first of two Proof Gun System. YTC crews placed the system on a reaction mass built to sustain the immense power of firing. (U.S. Army photos)

pounds. Then the carpenters constructed a wooden deck around the system to allow closer access to the PGS’s loading side. Once the system was set up Sorenson conducted acceptance firing.

“We fired at four QEs [quadrant elevations] just to make sure everything was good as we elevated

up and down. Most were done at zone five to introduce maximum shock and everything went well.”

YTC’s second PGS arrives in May. Currently, both systems work with M776 tube sleeves, yet there are plans to expand their capabilities to include other types.

This new capability provides

industry partners testing artillery flexibility, efficiency and cost savings explains Sorenson.

“You just swap the tubes in and out as you need and then you are not trying to constantly maintain a chassis because you have this one system that will handle everything.”

Currently artillery testing requires a significant effort to prepare and emplace an entire weapon system at the test site.

“We have to tow in a towed howitzer, like an M777A2 or an M199 or you have to drive in an M109A6. You have to bring in the whole system and then you have to have it ready and running to conduct your test.”

Omitting the weapon system cuts the extra time and effort needed on a test site and the time when switching between programs.

“It minimizes set up costs and it minimizes the mechanical effort of keeping the whole system functioning when all we really need is the tube,” said Sorenson of the new capability.



Crews used a special large pneumatic wrench to torque the mounting bolts to 3,100 foot-pounds. Then the carpenters constructed a wooden deck around the system to allow closer access to the Proof Gun System’s loading side.



Once the system was set up Sorenson conducted acceptance firing. “We fired at four QEs [quadrant elevations] just to make sure everything was good as we elevated up and down. Most were done at zone five to introduce maximum shock and everything went well.”

# YPG hosts Bring Your Child to Work Day

By Ana Henderson

Between 250-300 children had the unique opportunity to join their parent or grandparent at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) for the second annual Bring Your Child to Work Day on April 16.

The adults affiliated with YPG, either as Soldiers or civilians,

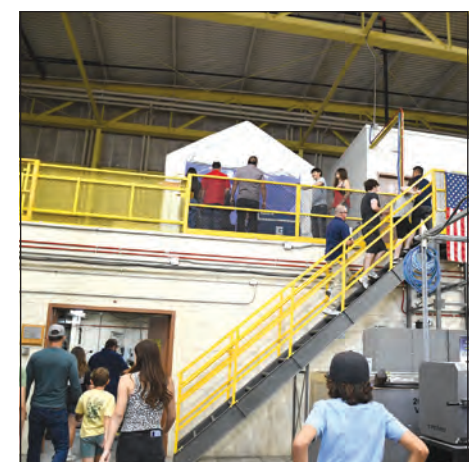
showed the children around their work areas then the families gathered on Cox Field for some food and fun.

Instructors with the Military Free Fall School jumped onto Cox Field and then did a low fly-by that amazed the crowd.

Several shops displayed weapons systems and various items used

for testing. Yuma Test Center Commander Lt. Col. Kevin Hicks even let some kids throw water balloons at him during a demonstration of Metrology and Simulations artificial rain facility.

In all, over 100 employees brought their children or grandchildren to work to learn their role in YPG's mission conducting developmental testing of military equipment for the Warfighter.



# A day in the life of a Military Free Fall student



A photographer recently documented a day in the life of the Military Free Fall students from the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School. The day on March 24 started with the students packing their parachutes prior to jumping onto Phillips Drop Zone at Yuma Proving Ground. Students who attend the free fall course are trained in basic free fall techniques jumping from altitudes of 9,500 to 25,000 feet with and without weapons, combat equipment, night vision goggles and supplemental oxygen in day and night conditions. (U.S. Army photo by K. Kassens)

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## STINKNET

### A REAL STINKER

In major cities such as Phoenix and Tucson,  
stinknet has invaded much of the area.



However, sightings are sparse in the  
Yuma area in comparison ... that is known of.



#### Threats to Communities

- Extremely flammable when dry and can easily spread fires
- Can cause headaches, rashes, difficulty breathing, and more symptoms
- Outcompetes and can displace native plants in ecosystems

#### How to Identify

- ✓ Yellow globe flowers without petals
- ✓ Dark leaves that resemble a carrot's
- ✓ Leaves have a strong turpentine-like odor
- ✓ Dried plants have tan flower heads with dark bronze stems
- ✓ Ranges from 2 in - 2 ft tall

#### Here's How You Can Help!

- Report your discovery!
- Pull or dig plants and bag securely after removing them to avoid spreading seeds
- Wear protective gear such as gloves and facemasks while handling
- Can consult with a professional to treat with herbicide if wanted

For more information on  
stinknet and to submit a  
report, please visit  
[www.stinknet.org](http://www.stinknet.org)  
via the QR code!



## Teambuilding stress-ball basketball tournament names champion



The 2026 YPG March Madness themed game using a stress-ball instead of a basketball, hosted its finals on April 30. Edgar Hurtado was named the champion of the weeks long competition that takes place during lunch breaks at various directorates across Yuma Test Center. (Photos by Ana Henderson and Savanna Silva)

## Students plant trees on Earth Day



Students from James D. Price Elementary School celebrated Earth Day by planting trees. Students planted the trees in a dirt lot across from Cox Field on post at U.S. Army Garrison Yuma Proving Ground along with help from YPG's Environmental Sciences Division. (Photos by Donnett Brown)



Open to:  
 All with pool access. DoD ID Cardholders and guests, retirees, disabled veterans, civilian and contractors.  
 \*Children must be 12 or older to attend without a guardian.  
 \*Pool admission fees will apply.



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