

# The Outpost

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

VOLUME 74 NO. 5 MARCH 03, 2025



## Arctic Regions Test Center automotive test track tests for military and private industry

By Mark Schauer

U.S. Army Arctic Regions Test Center (ARTC) is the Department of Defense's lone extreme cold test facility.

Tasked with testing virtually everything in the ground combat arsenal in a natural environment where winter lows drop far below zero, ARTC testers are masters of arctic test and evaluation.

Among other platforms, the test center, located at Fort Greely, Alaska, has conducted rigorous tests of the Stryker combat vehicle and M109A7 Paladin self-propelled howitzer, both of which utilized ARTC's Mobility Test Complex as part of their testing. Concurrent with this military testing, ARTC's automotive test track accommodates multiple customers



Arctic Regions Test Center, located at Fort Greely, Alaska, has conducted rigorous tests of the Stryker combat vehicle and M109A7 Paladin self-propelled howitzer, both of which utilized ARTC's Mobility Test Complex as part of their testing. ARTC's automotive test track also accommodates multiple customers from private industry, something it has done since its start in 2004. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

from private industry, something it has done since its inception in 2004.

"When we have low military workload, being able to do commercial testing allows us to maintain capabilities and upkeep equipment that is used for these types of tests, as well as the expertise for doing those things," said Jeff Lipscomb, technical director. "That way, when a military test does come, we're not scrambling to figure out how to support it. To me, the biggest benefit of the commercial automotive workload is that it keeps us on the cutting edge of automotive testing."

In addition to keeping ARTC's cold-weather automotive testing knowledge razor sharp, hosting

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# YPG engineers talk rockets with the Gators

By Ana Henderson

Members of Yuma Proving Ground's (YPG) S1 Workforce Development team and engineers made their way to Gowan Science Academy, on the morning of Feb. 11, 2025, to talk rockets.

The Gowan Gators second grade class has been studying rockets and invited the local experts at YPG to show them firsthand how rockets work.

YPG test engineers Bryan Sprouse

and Caleb Little along with the S1 Team, Janett Rios, Teresa Elizade and Maria Hernandez and the help of teachers, parent volunteers and seventh grade students guided the second graders through assembling a rocket.

Parent Erika Urbieta volunteered with her daughter Aria's class. She's familiar with YPG but has never had the opportunity to see the test items up-close.

"Even though we live right next to

YPG, there's not a lot of exposure to it. So, bringing it to the schools and having the kids build the rockets and learn more is great."

Little has taken part in other STEM-related camps that YPG has hosted and is an uncle to two nieces. He enjoys the opportunity to teach kids about science.

Little remarked, "Working with the kids is a lot of fun, and it's just as simple as that."

Once the students were done with the hard work of building, it was time to watch the rocket show. Nearly 100 students had the opportunity to launch their rocket

with the guidance of the YPG team.

YPG puts emphasis on reaching out to local students and teaching them about YPG's mission as the premier extreme natural environment test center for weapons and technology and exposing them to the world of science, technology, engineering and mathematics in hopes they will choose a career in STEM.

Little explains, "They're at such a young age where you can ask them a question and it's almost a trick question, but it gets them to think."

And that thought might just spark an interest in STEM.



Members of Yuma Proving Ground's S1 Workforce Development team and engineers visited Gowan Science Academy, on the morning of Feb. 11, 2025, to talk rockets. YPG puts emphasis on reaching out to students and teaching them about YPG's mission and exposing them to the world of science, technology, engineering and mathematics in hopes they choose a career in STEM. (Photos by Ana Henderson)



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U.S. Army Proving Ground's display at the MCAS-Yuma Airshow includes static displays and Soldiers with the Airborne Test Force as shown in these photos from the 2024 event. (Photos by Ana Henderson)



# Learn about YPG's mission and meet airborne Soldiers at March events

By Ana Henderson

If you are looking to learn more about the mission of U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG), there are several opportunities in the coming months.

Representatives from YPG and Soldiers are setting up camp, well more like a booth, at the Marine Corps Air Station-Yuma Airshow Sat. March 15 and at the Military Appreciation Day on March 22 in downtown Yuma the following

weekend.

Gates for the airshow open at 9 and close at 3:30 p.m. The military appreciation event takes place on Main Street and typically runs from 10 to 3 p.m.

Both events are free and open to the public.

Community members can also mark their calendar for June 14, 2025, when the U.S. Army celebrates its 250th Birthday. More details of that event will be released as plans are set.



During Military Appreciation Day (MAD) in Downtown Yuma, event goers will have the opportunity to meet YPG's leaders and Airborne Test Force Soldiers, learn about its mission and check out static displays as shown in this photo from 2024. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

## Marine Operational Test & Evaluation Squadron 1 learns about YPG's capabilities



On the morning of Feb. 19, 2025, U.S. Yuma Proving Ground's (YPG) command team welcomed the VMX-1 command element. The Yuma based, Marine Operational Test & Evaluation Squadron 1, Commanding Officer Col. John Dirk (center), Executive Officer Lt. Col. Jacob Schwinghammer, Chief Operational Test Director Maj. Kyle McLeod, Sgt. Maj. Luis Galvez and Asst. Chief of Operational Test Mary-Beth Weaver (center) are pictured meeting YPG Commander Col. John Nelson and Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Millare. Nelson invited the squadron to show YPG's capabilities and discuss opportunities to work together. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

Join in the excitement as Marine Corps Air Station host their annual Air Show!

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## Family Advocacy Program brings awareness to dating violence



ABOVE: The Family Advocacy Program hosted a Wear Orange Day to bring awareness to dating violence. During this awareness month, the FAP team set up booths around post including the ROC atrium where many employees pass through. They provided information and snapped photos of people holding orange balloons including YPG Commander Col. John Nelson.

LEFT: Youth Services employees adorned their office with orange balloons in support of the observance. (Photos provided by Mariah Boykin)

## Teen town hall focuses on health relationships



The Family Advocacy Program (FAP) team hosted a teen town hall on Feb. 25, 2025, at the Youth Services Teen Center to discuss healthy relationships. FAP Manager Mariah Boykin said, "The teens did a great job; they were engaged in the conversation and interested in the subject. I was impressed by the answers they gave regarding how to treat people respectfully." The curriculum used is from the "One Love" foundation, named after a young girl, killed by her boyfriend. The focus is teaching teens how to maintain healthy boundaries in relationships, including with peers, siblings, parents, and employers. (Photos and content courtesy of FAP)

## Chaplain's Corner Perseverance

**Chaplain's Corner**  
Chaplain Maj.  
Ryan Pearse



The word of the day is doggedness. It means to be determined, persistent, and tenacious.

The Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study is a series of international assessments of the mathematics and science knowledge of students around the world. Before taking this exam, students are asked to fill out a long questionnaire.

What researchers noticed was that the student's ability to finish the questionnaire and the ability to excel on the math part of the exam

are one in the same. In other words, if you are willing to work hard and not give up at filling out a long questionnaire, you are more than likely willing to work hard and not give up at completing math problems on a long exam.

Most people don't like math. Most Americans become disillusioned with math even before middle school because they're, "not very good at it." Being discouraged at such a young age sets oneself up for failure in a particular domain for the rest of their life. We must be willing to persevere and display doggedness until the end no matter how hard it gets.

Matthew 24:13 tells us, "But the one who endures to the end will be saved."

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# YTC Commander recognizes Instrumentation Division personnel

On Feb. 18, 2025, Yuma Test Center Commander Lt. Col. Kevin Hicks visited the Instrumentation Division for an intimate town hall giving

employees the opportunity to ask questions and share concerns. Hicks also recognized the following individuals in front of their peers.

## — Years of service awards —

20 years

15 years



**Nickolas McColl and Salvador Camacho**

Not pictured, Dennis Winterton and Curtis Overstreet (40 years).



**Dean Da Silva and Jason Brack**

## YTC Commander's Coin recipients



**Ruben Hernandez and Jamie Coronado**

Hicks gave the two a coin after receiving positive feedback from the Army Evaluation Command for their work supporting a test. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

## Airborne Test Force Soldiers awarded for test support

Feb. 11, 2025, Yuma Test Center (YTC) Commander Lt. Col. Kevin Hicks visited the Airborne Test Force complex at YTC to say farewell to Staff Sgt. Sean Finley before his permanent change of station. Hicks also took the opportunity to recognize nine Soldiers for their support during a sling load test. They each received an Army Achievement Medal for their role in the mission success. (Photos by Darcy Broom)



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# 2025 Organizational Day

*Promoting camaraderie and Esprit de Corps among the Soldiers and civilians*

Feb. 13, 2025, the Yuma Proving Ground workforce and Soldiers gathered to show their physical and mental strength. Organizational Day is a day for

all who support the mission to unite and enjoy working as a team to win the coveted Commanders Cup trophy. (Photos by Ana Henderson)







## Best Dish/ Morale, Welfare and Recreation for ribs



## The U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground team show their pride for the mission



## Overall winners of the Commander's Cup/ Munitions and Weapons Division



## 1st place winners

Basketball Free Throw ..... MFFS  
 3-Legged Race ..... S-2/3/4/5  
 Sand Bag Buddy Relay ..... M&W  
 Wacky Relay ..... M&W  
 Landi Ski ..... CASD  
 3x3 Basketball ..... ASET  
 Cornhole ..... IMCOM

Family Feud ..... Ammo & Armaments  
 Pickleball ..... TID  
 2v2 Volleyball ..... M&W  
 Closest to Pin Chip ..... CASD  
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 Dodge Ball ..... CASD  
 Ping Pong ..... TID

Longest Football Throw ..... M&W  
 Football Throw Relay ..... CASD  
 Grenade Throw ..... MFFS  
 Tire Flip ..... CASD  
 2v2 Soccer Goal ..... S-2/3/4/5  
 HMMWV Push ..... M&W  
 Tug of War ..... CASD & M&W



# Exploring the great outdoors



The Yuma Proving Ground community struck gold with the visit by the Southwestern Prospecting and Miners Association out of San Diego. More than 60 parents and kids attended the gold prospecting hike Feb. 15, 2025, hosted by the Halo Chapel. They learned how to prospect and mine for gold and the differences in the property of gold versus other metals. No one left empty handed as all the kids received a gold flake in a vial. (Content and photos provided by Chaplain Maj. Ryan Pearse)

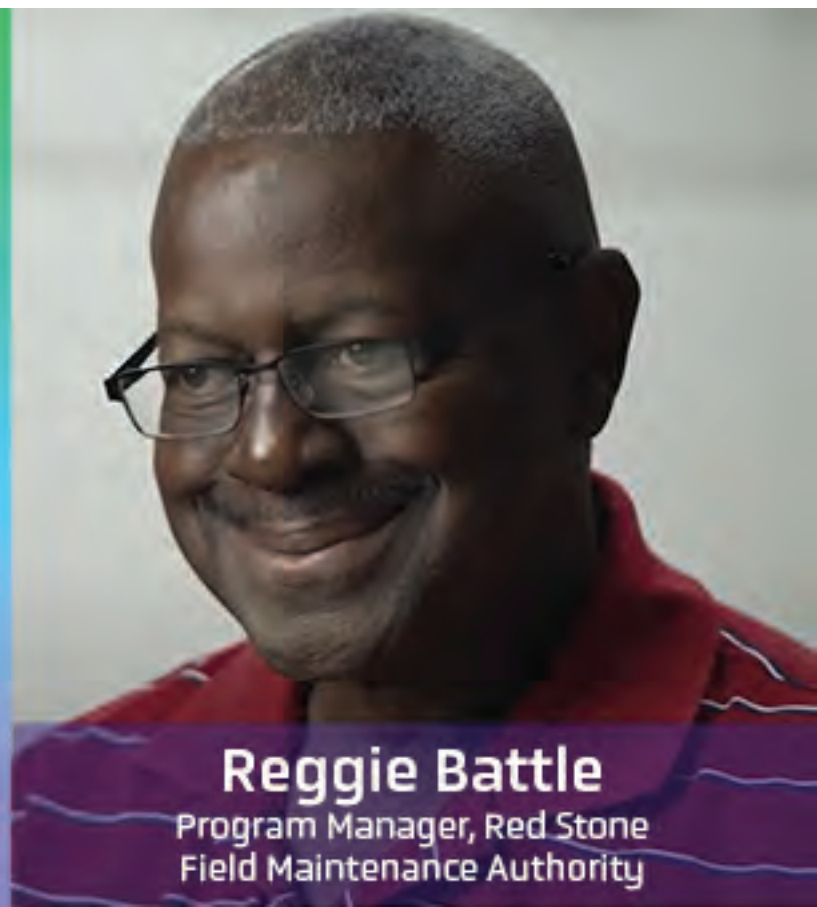


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## ARTC

FROM PAGE 1

commercial testing means the test center's mobile snow-making machines and other specialized track grooming equipment not found elsewhere in the Department of Defense keeps moving, which saves maintenance costs in the long run. Further, continuous use means the skill the test center's equipment operators have gained operating the esoteric machines doesn't degrade, for instance, in unskilled hands a mobile track dryer could ruin the track's asphalt while melting snow and ice.

"We have a 3.2-mile paved, two-lane oval track with a big ice pad in the middle of it, as well as a lateral acceleration pad where we can put an ice and snow circle within that course," said Russel Hollembaek,

the test track's manager. "We also offer double splits of ice to test traction control during braking and acceleration."

Both military and commercial customers have access to a desirable facility that boasts a 1000-foot by 800-foot lateral acceleration pad, a 200-foot by 1200-foot skid pad, and grades ranging in steepness from 50% to 60%, a dramatic difference from the 6% or less grades an American motorist finds on an interstate highway in the lower 48.

"We have interior cross-country trails within the compound itself as well as outside the compound for longer range testing," said Hollembaek.

The track can accommodate as many as 35 vehicles simultaneously, though typically there are no more than 20 to 25 at a given time. Though military customers take priority, there has never been a scheduling

conflict in more than 20 years of operation. No taxpayer money is used to subsidize commercial testing.

"We make sure we are meeting their requirements without doing something with government money for private industry," said Lipscomb. "They pay the whole bill for everything they use and do here."

Virtually every major commercial automotive manufacturer known to the average American motorist has conducted testing at ARTC's automotive track at some point during its existence, though usually with specialized testing that doesn't require running laps on the oval. Commercial car companies are eager to maintain trade secrecy with their competitors, and ARTC is happy to accommodate this desire, going so far as to carry an opaque screen alongside personnel if it becomes necessary to walk past another company's activities. Scheduling time

at the track is relatively simple, too.

"One of the reasons commercial automotive companies like to come here is security," said Hollembaek. "We have our own security team that takes care of things for them that is usually much stricter than what they normally deal with."

Though summertime maintenance following ARTC's extreme winters can be rigorous, the track itself was constructed with care to prevent frost heaves, a ruinous road condition caused by thawing permafrost under a road surface causes the ground to soften and sink, ensuring its viability for many years to come.

"The track was built to a standard of far more compaction than a highway," said Lipscomb. "We wanted to make sure we didn't get a frost heave. It was dug far down to and re-filled with gravel to ensure there was no permafrost that would affect the track."

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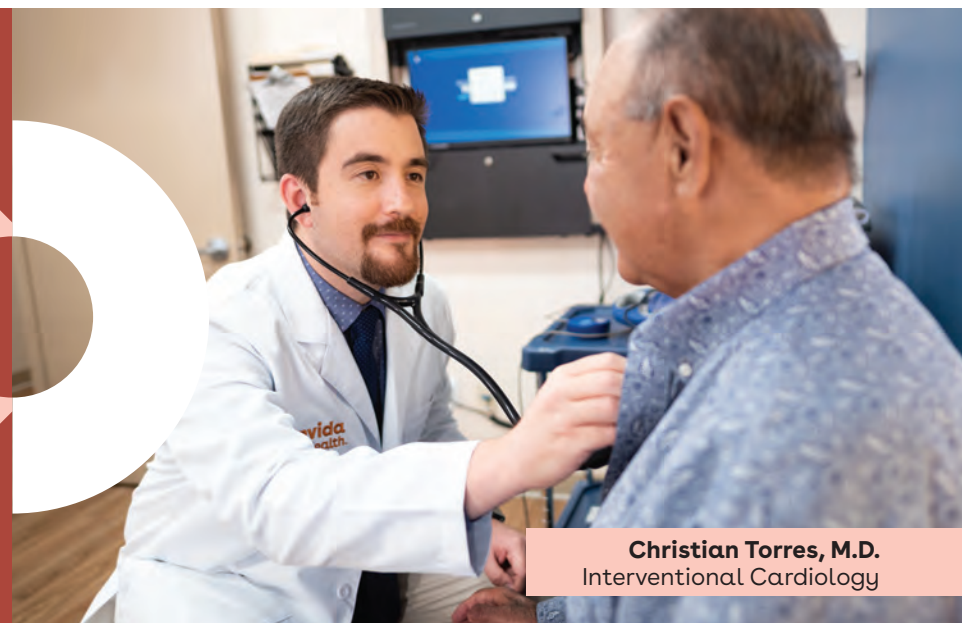
# Words of love event at the library



For those who like to give presents made with love, the Yuma Proving Ground Post Library hosted a make your own Valentine's Day Card event on Feb. 12, 2025. Participants choose from a variety of stickers, feathers, and other craft items to decorate the cards to give to a friend or family member. (Photos provided by Library staff)

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