

# Arctic Mobility Sustainment System tested at U.S. Army Arctic Regions Test Center

### By Mark Schauer

Deployed soldiers are constantly loaded with gear, but nowhere more so than when operating in a cold weather environment.

In addition to their conventional weapons, Soldiers need to utilize heavy equipment like space heaters, cooking stoves, fuel, and heavy-duty thermal tents to survive operations in the Arctic.

The Army's Arctic Mobility Sustainment System (AMSS) and allregions tactical clothing with updated cold weather clothing, snowshoes, and ski poles underwent rigorous testing at U.S. Army Arctic Regions Test Center (ARTC) this winter with the help of soldiers from the Army's 11th Airborne stationed at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.



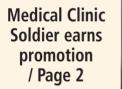
On a typical day, Soldiers would pack the AMSS sled under test with the tent, a heater, and their basic standard issue items for Arctic infantry operations, then pull the sleds in either nine-Soldier squads or four to five soldier teams as Arctic Regions Test Center's test personnel led the way. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

"We're traveling longer distances to get the snow that we need," Hannah Henry, ARTC test officer. "We're getting a lot more data this year."

The AMSS items under test will replace the legacy Ahkio sled and 10-person tent the Army currently uses. Testers expected and coveted extreme cold for the multi-week test, and the interior Alaska winter delivered a wide span of arctic conditions, from brutal temperatures below 0 degrees Fahrenheit to rapid, but short-lived swings to relatively mild winter temperatures only slightly below freezing.

"We're testing some different base layers," said Steven Prewitt, ARTC test officer. "Our unusually warm

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Vehicle tester races off-road in spare time / Page 4



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### **Medical Clinic Soldier earns promotion**



Soldiers at the Yuma Proving Ground Medical Clinic gathered to watch Pvt. Hardi Patel's promotion to Private First Class. Staff Sgt. Christian Perez pinned Patel during the Feb. 18 ceremony at the clinic. In addition to moving up in rank, Patel also became the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (B.O.S.S.) program president. (Photos courtesy of Hardi Patel)

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# Garrison's 2024 Professional of the Calendar Year and of the Fourth Quarter

Name: Steven Tracy Years of Service: Civilian two and a half years and government contractor one year.

Job title: Budget Analyst for Garrison Resource Management

**Recognition:** U.S. Army Garrison leadership named Tracy the Professional of the Year for the calendar year of 2024 and the Professional of the Fourth Quarter. He received a Civilian Service Commendation Medal for Professional of the Year and a Civilian Service Achievement Medal for Professional of the Fourth Quarter.

**Reaction:** "It was truly an honor to hear that I was selected for these awards. My performance has been a reflection of the great leadership and support I have received from my team."



On Feb. 27, 2025, Garrison Manager, Kenneth Musselwhite recognized Steven Tracy during the Garrison Employee Recognition Ceremony held at the Halo Chapel. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

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### **YPG workforce wows senior visitors**



The Range Commanders Council serves the technical and operational needs of U.S. test, training, and operational ranges, and U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) hosted senior personnel from test ranges around the country for talks and overviews of the proving ground's capabilities during the last week in February. YPG Commander Col. John Nelson was so impressed with the overwhelmingly positive feedback he received from attendees that he sent an all-hands email to the entire YPG workforce at the week's close, noting senior visitors who were, "motivated and inspired by the culture of excitement exhibited for testing, along with the energy to innovate in-house solutions" at YPG. (Photos by Mark Schauer)





### Lunch and Learn Resiliency





The kickoff to the Lunch and Learn Resiliency classes took place Feb. 25, inside the large ROC conference room. The 30-minute classes for YPG Soldiers and employees are short classes meant to provide tools to boost resiliency. Each class has a different topic. A list of classes can be found on the YPG R2 page. (Photos by Ana Henderson)





Though he grew up in the Great Plains, Janis (fifth from left) was familiar with the desert Southwest prior to working here thanks to his family's keen interest in off-road racing going back to the 1970s. (Loaned photos)

# Vehicle tester races off-road in spare time

### By Mark Schauer

Few people can truly utilize their individual passions in their regular job.

Jade Janis, a test officer for U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground's Combat and Automotive Systems Division is an exception.

The South Dakota native and mechanical engineering major never expected he would spend years working at the Army's premier test and evaluation facility.

"I was fresh out of college and my internship ended," he recalled. "I was unemployed working on the family ranch when I saw the job listing on Indeed.com and applied."

Though he grew up in the Great Plains, he was familiar with the desert Southwest thanks to his family's keen interest in off-road racing going back to the 1970s. His uncle, Monte Tibbitts, had competed in races in Las Vegas and Plaster City in Janis' youth, and he admired the region.

"There's a lot to do here. The outdoor desert-type stuff aligns with my hobbies."

He made the trip to Arizona and

was hired, quickly getting involved with bigger and badder vehicles than he had ever dreamed of.

"They took me out to see a Bradley, and I wasn't aware of what



Combat and Automotive Systems Division Test Officer Jade Janis tests the Army's most cutting-edge military vehicles on the job but races his own truck that he purchased in 2018 on his own time. "It's real competitive—it's kind of what I live for," said Janis.

a Bradley actually was until I started here," said with a laugh.

He wasn't alone, though: Janis credits the mentorship of Jake Obradovich, Sarah Hogan, and Eric Thomas from his earliest days working here. Soon he was involved with fascinating tests that evolved. When he tested Advanced Running Gear for potential use on the future Next Generation Combat Vehicle's Operationally Manned Fighting Vehicle using a Bradley as a surrogate early this decade, the hydraulic suspension components informed Mobile Protected Firepower, which became the M10 Booker he is currently testing.

Off-duty, however, his devotion to off-road racing only increased. After years of serving in crews for racers in his family, he bought his own truck in 2018 and participates in regional races.

"It's real competitive—it's kind of what I live for."

# YPG employees are recognized in Yuma's Best competition



and his wife Crystal earned "Yuma's (Photos courtesv of Shawn Devoe)



side his family on Fridays. His wife's business, Sweet Cream & Rose, won "Best Day Spa." Lugo joked that he's an unpaid employee there. He's pictured with his wife, Michelle West. (Photos courtesv of Pedro Lugo)

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Christian Torres, M.D. Interventional Cardiology

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# **Garrison Employee Recognition Ceremony**

On the afternoon of Feb. 27, 2025, Garrison Manager, Kenneth Musselwhite Recognition Ceremony held at the Halo Chapel. (Photos by Ana Henderson) recognized the following employees during the Garrison Employee

15 Years



**Gerlie Reitman** 

# <text><text>

Kasandra Bedoya



5 Years

Jacquelyn McCormick

### **Garrison Manager's Coin**



Rhett Mendoza Not pictured: Spenser Clark, Jose Garcia, Beatriz Ramirez, Meagan Castiglione



Paula Alarcon



**Glenda Bishop** 

Not pictured: Sasha Belenski

**Civilian Service Achievement Medal** 



winter here has been very good for observing insulating and moisture management factors with the clothing."

On a typical day, Soldiers would pack the AMSS sled under test with the tent, a heater, and their basic standard issue items for Arctic infantry operations, then pull the sleds in either nine-soldier squads or four to five soldier teams as ARTC's test personnel led the way. Moving the heavy sleds across CRTC's hilly tundra, thickly forested areas, and the dense, frozen boggy vegetation called muskeg is challenging in any conditions, but particularly so in extreme cold and deep snow.

"Our snow is so dry and powdery," said Isaac Howell, Chief of ARTC's Test Operations Division. "You don't stand on it at all, whether you are on

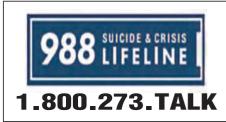
skis or in snowshoes—you don't go across the top of it, you go through it. You are plowing snow the entire day regardless of whether you are wearing snowshoes or not."

After a two-and-a-half-hour movement, testers kept track of how long it took the soldiers to emplace and erect each tent and get the space heaters operating. Following a cold weather Meal Ready to Eat for lunch. the soldiers disassembled the tent and heater and returned to their day's starting point following a different route. Following a sensing survey on their opinion of the items and hot meal, the soldiers reassembled the tents and heaters and prepared to sleep in the long, cold Arctic night. Through it all, telemetry on the Soldiers measured their body core and extremity temperature for both feedback on the clothing and for safety. They also participated in a comprehensive feedback focus group every week.



The interior Alaska winter delivered a wide span of arctic conditions, from brutal temperatures below 0 degrees Fahrenheit to rapid, but short-lived swings to relatively mild winter temperatures only slightly below freezing. "Our unusually warm winter here has been very good for observing insulating and moisture management factors with the clothing," said Steven Prewitt, ARTC test officer. (Photos by Mark Schauer)







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# **Read Across America week celebrated**





In recognition of Read Across America week, the Yuma Proving Ground S1 team headed to Somerton Middle School to teach kids about the places they can go if they work hard at school. On March 11, Janett Rios and Teresa Elizalde spoke with six classes of seventh and eighth grade students to emphasis the importance of reading, writing and mathematics. They showed the students a video demonstration of the work done at YPG as the premier extreme natural environment test center for weapons and technology. YPG's Manpower & Workforce Development Division put emphasis on reaching out to local students and exposing them to the world of science, technology, engineering and mathematics in hopes they will choose a career in STEM and with the Army. (Photos courtesy of Janett Rios)





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At U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground's Post Library, the staff hosted daily events to celebrate a week dedicated to encouraging reading. Visitors could take photos in front of a Dr. Seuss-themed photo booth, play games, and, of course, read. One activity involved patrons guessing how many Swedish Fish were in a jar. Malachi Even was the winner, with the closest guess of 163. (Photos courtesy of Bea Brimmage)







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The U.S. Army has introduced a new app called My Army Post App, MAPA for short. MAPA replaces the Digital Garrison APP. Yuma Proving Ground will launch on MAPA in March.

scheduler, please call to schedule appointments

## **Farewell lunch for YPG Travel Camp residents**







U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) leaders gathered March 6 to bid farewell to Veterans from all over the country who make the YPG Desert Breeze Travel Camp their winter residence. YPG Commander Col. John Nelson, Command Sqt. Maj. Mark Millare, Garrison Manager Ken Musselwhite, and Deputy Garrison Manager Dan Carter were on hand as Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Staff served lunch. Approximately 200 people live temporarily at the travel camp during the winter and typically leave within the next month. (Photos by Mark Schauer)



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