

The Outpost

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

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Yuma Proving Ground tests Low Altitude Stalking and Striking Ordnance

By Ana Henderson

Stalking and striking — that's the goal of an emerging initiative by the U.S. Army, intended to put loitering munitions in the hands of Soldiers by the summer of 2028.

Product Manager Precision Strike & Reconnaissance Systems (PSRS) is conducting risk reduction testing of four vendors at Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) for the Low Altitude Stalking and Striking Ordnance (LASSO) initiative.

Aviation Systems and Electronic Test Division test engineer Walter McCormick explained how the LASSO assets work.

"Soldiers would be patrolling an area. A couple of miles down, there's a tank up the road. They



This airborne munition is one of four that Product Manager Precision Strike and Reconnaissance Systems is conducting flight and live-fire testing of at Yuma Proving Ground for the Low Altitude Stalking and Striking Ordnance initiative. The U.S. Army intends to put loitering munitions in the hands of Soldiers by the summer 2028. (U.S. Army Photo)

would send one of these up to fly over and take the tank out."

While the concept is not new, the difference, McCormick says is the "man-portable" aspect.

These systems are designed for the airborne and ground Soldiers, they are man-packable.

"A Soldier would have their Fire Control System and fly it like any drone. Turn it on, launch it and fly it into the area. There's a camera on it, a daytime and an IR [Infrared] camera so you can see heat signatures then just fly it out to that general area, see the target and then initiate or blow it up basically."

The systems can also perform waypoint following, meaning using

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YPG commander keynotes local Independence Day celebration, Soldiers recognized

By Mark Schauer

U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) was well-represented at the Caballeros de Yuma's 40th annual Fourth of July Flag Raising Ceremony at Armed Forces Park on July 4, 2026.

YPG commander Col. Charles Seaberry served as keynote speaker on the nation's 250th birthday. YPG Chaplain (Maj.) Byron Denman provided the event's invocation.

During the ceremony the Yuma Military Affairs Council recognized YPG's Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, Sgt. Joseph Baggott of the elite Airborne Test Force, and Soldier of the Year, Pvt. 1st Class Nicholas Venus of the YPG Health Clinic.

In his remarks, Seaberry discussed at length the sacrifices of America's men and women in uniform in defending the United States' liberty and way of life.

"I believe that the Declaration of Independence gave America its promise and that every generation since has done its part in holding



U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground Commander Col. Charles Seaberry provides keynote remarks at the 40th annual Caballeros de Yuma Independence Day Flag Raising at Armed Forces Park on July 4. "I believe that the Declaration of Independence gave America its promise and that every generation since has done its part in holding that promise high," Seaberry said.

that promise high," he said. "Some stood at Lexington and Concord, some fought at Gettysburg, some stormed the beaches of Normandy, some endured the frozen mountains of Korea, and some fought in the jungles of Vietnam. Some fought in the deserts of Iraq and the mountains of Afghanistan: nearly

one million Americans have given their lives defending this great nation on a promise first written in the Declaration of Independence."

Seaberry also noted Yuma's extraordinary appreciation for the military and YPG's position at the forefront of Army transformation efforts in recent years.

"Before America asks a Soldier to drive a vehicle, rely on a weapon, rely on new technology, or to fight and win with the capability that he or she is given, it is tested at YPG. We stress it and test that capability to its limits because somewhere there is an American servicemember who will eventually depend on it."

The Outpost

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Sgt. Joseph Baggott (center) of U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground's elite Airborne Test Force is recognized as NCO of the Year at the 40th annual Caballeros de Yuma Independence Day Flag Raising at Armed Forces Park on July 4.



Spec. Nicholas Venus (center) of U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground's Health Clinic is recognized as Soldier of the Year at the 40th annual Caballeros de Yuma Independence Day Flag Raising at Armed Forces Park on July 4. (Photos by Mark Schauer)

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Command Team thanks workforce for their role in keeping Soldiers safe



Leading up to Independence Day on July 2, Yuma Proving Ground Commander Col. Charles Seaberry along with the YPG Command Team walked the halls of the headquarters personally thanking the workforce for the work they do to maintain the county's independence. "Every system tested, every round fired, every data point collected, every vehicle maintained, and every mission supported contributes directly to ensuring America's Soldiers receive equipment they can trust when it matters most," Seaberry said.



Seaberry then had some good ol' fashioned fun celebrating with families on post who enjoyed hot dogs and the splash pad at the Red, White and Blue Celebration courtesy of Desert Oasis Housing. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground Commander fosters interagency relationships

U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Commander Col. Charles Seaberry (right) Command Sgt. Maj. Joshua Holthus, and other YPG personnel met with Yuma Sector Border Patrol leaders on July 14, receiving briefings and a visit to the border in Yuma County.

"The visit with the Border Patrol is timely," said Seaberry. "Right now, YPG has an initiative with the Joint Interagency Task Force that will provide us collaborative solutions to integrate what they're seeing in the drone world. That's going to inform what we've been directed to look at from the President's executive order on drone dominance."

Since the establishment of Joint Interagency Task Force 401 by Secretary of War Pete Hegseth last August, U.S. Army Yuma Test Center has been designated as the primary, dedicated interagency Counter-small Unmanned Aerial Systems test and training range. (Photos by Mark Schauer)







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Hooves on the highway: Wild burros can appear without warning

By Mark Schauer

For most of its 83-year history, U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) has seen itself as a natural laboratory, testing equipment Soldiers use in the most realistic natural environment possible.

As such, YPG has a deeply vested interest in being good stewards of the environment, and the proving ground's record in this area shines.

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, is now flourishing thanks in part to Arizona Game and Fish officials intentionally introducing the creature into YPG as a 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.

"We try to do proactive things to help the environment," said Daniel Steward, YPG wildlife biologist. "That way, the range is always ready to be used for military testing."

Among the multiple species found within YPG's over 1,300 square

miles of range space are wild horses and burros, well known to all YPG personnel who spend their days on the range testing equipment for warfighters.

"There are a lot more burros than there are horses," said Steward. "We track where they're at for our safety."

Though the burros are generally popular with the YPG workforce, the creatures occasionally cause mischief. For example, some years ago a clever burro managed to turn on a water spigot—he drank his fill, then departed with the tap still running.

"Food, water, and shelter are what draw wildlife into our area," Steward explained. "When it gets really dry, horses and burros are looking for water. Landscaping and sprinkler systems provide water: we really try to watch out for pooling water that would attract burros."

Slow moving and with binocular vision, burros are incapable of moving out of the way of a vehicle moving at highway speeds in time to avoid a costly—and deadly—accident. Mitigating the burro threat to motorists on Highway 95 is no easy task, but Steward and other wildlife



Aside from favorable weather and plenty to eat and drink, burros tend to live long lives due to their sheer size and wary pack mentality that deters desert predators. "They've got a lot of personality," said Daniel Steward, wildlife biologist. "Burros are less likely to shy away from people than deer. They're entertaining -- people truly do enjoy seeing these animals around." (Photo by Mark Schauer)

officials have done the best they can.

"We've eliminated water sources near the roads to try to keep horses and burros as far away from Highway 95 as possible," Steward said. "It's not healthy for the horses and burros to be exposed to high levels of traffic, for the animals or for the people."

The Arizona Department of Transportation's current project to add traffic circles to the intersections at Imperial Dam Road and Martinez Lake Road has created a new hazard: the presence of cement barriers separating the temporary roadway from the main road under construction has been an adjustment for both motorists and animals. Recently, a pack of confused burros found themselves penned in by the barrier, requiring a response from the YPG Police Department to direct traffic around them until the creatures were able to exit.

"Construction zones are inherently dangerous," Steward said. "When you add burros, it makes it even more so. It's all the more reason to slow down and be cautious, especially at night."

Aside from favorable weather and plenty to eat and drink, the creatures tend to live long lives due to their sheer size and wary pack mentality that deters desert predators.

"Horses and burros are big, strong, and have a herd to protect each other. A lot of times they are too dangerous for a predator to take down—it happens, but it is rare. Mountain lions are typically associated with sheep, not horses or burros."

The burros are probably helped by the goodwill of their human neighbors, too.

"They've got a lot of personality," Steward said. "Burros are less likely to shy away from people than a deer. They're entertaining -- people truly do enjoy seeing these animals around."

Nonetheless, Steward cautions that burros are wild animals that should be treated as such. Feeding wild burros is a particularly bad idea.

"When people start feeding the burros, they become a real nuisance. These are wild animals—one begging for food can be ornery. You want to keep a respectful distance from any wild animal."



Among the multiple species found within U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground's over 1,300 square miles of range space are wild burros, well known to the personnel who spend their days on the range testing equipment for warfighters. Slow moving and with binocular vision, burros are incapable of moving out of the way of a vehicle moving at highway speeds in time to avoid a costly accident. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

YPG engineers teach students about STEM by coding robots



Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) subject matter experts took part in a STEM project day at Woodard Jr. high in late June. Division Chief of Metrology & Simulation Brad Cox and Metrology Branch Chief Savanna Silva conducted the STEM lab with the about 20 students. They had students build robots using LEGO STEM kits and use coding to maneuver the robots through an obstacle course. Young volunteers, Oliver, Orlando, and Gavin helped with the activity. (Photos courtesy of Patricia Conley)

Operation Homefront provides backpacks and supplies to children of Soldiers



Across the country, school-aged children and their parents are preparing for the new school year. Operation Homefront and Yuma Proving Ground's Army Community Services (ACS) ensured that children of those currently serving or who have served our nation are well-equipped. Representatives and volunteers from Operation Homefront and ACS provided free backpacks and school supplies to military dependents entering kindergarten through 12th grade on July 23. Military-affiliated families filled the YPG Fitness Center, selecting from the available items, as ACS personnel and volunteers like Rachelle Seaberry and Command Sgt. Maj. Joshua Holthus and wife Tiffany lent a hand. (Photos by Mark Schauer)



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coordinates to send the munition airborne to autonomously patrol the area, then the user engages the target.

“They are backpack portable, one or two people can launch it, and you don’t need a lot of support asset,” explained McCormick.

Tim Van Goethem, a PSRS test engineer who has attended various testing in Yuma said, “As part of another risk reduction test, we are going to be testing four times here in Yuma. This is the first step, and we will have the live-fire warhead test in November.”

Test Officer Myra Angulo, who was on-site for the initial test explained that YPG is conducting safety flights to ensure the safety contingencies work as intended before using explosives on the systems.

“They are testing their lost link to make sure it returns to where it is supposed to. They check the geofence, which is a safety boundary so when it’s armed, it doesn’t leave the fly box.”

The four test items will also

undergo rigorous conditioning chambers, rough handling, and climactic testing to conclude with high explosive flight tests to assess its reliability and durability.

Van Goethem said, “So far, it’s

gone pretty well. I appreciate all the support we have been given at YPG and I hope to have many more tests out here in the future.”

YPG’s role is vital because data collected will aid PSRS in fielding

decisions.

“The overall goal is to get all four vendors fielded and then from there start seeing the differences,” said McCormick and determine which will end up in the Soldiers’ hands.



This airborne munition is one of four that Product Manager Precision Strike and Reconnaissance Systems is conducting flight and live-fire testing of at Yuma Proving Ground for the Low Altitude Stalking and Striking Ordnance initiative. The U.S. Army intends to put loitering munitions in the hands of Soldiers by the summer 2028. (U.S. Army Photo)



An operator checks the low altitude stalking and striking ordnance prior to a test flight at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground in early August. The munition is one of four vendors under test by Product Manager Precision Strike and Reconnaissance Systems. (Photo by Ana Henderson)



The team conducting the Low Altitude Stalking and Striking Ordnance initiative testing at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground, conducted safety flights. The four test items will also undergo rigorous rough handling, and climactic testing to conclude with high explosive flight tests to assess its reliability and durability. (Photo by Ana Henderson)



Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) successfully supported a full-scale, live-fire hypersonic warhead test out of a cannon base test system. The initiative began two years ago as a bold concept: utilizing a cannon-based approach to fire hypersonic warheads to conduct lethality assessments. (U.S. Army Photo)

Historic Milestone Achieved: Joint Force successfully executes Cannon-Launched Hypersonic Warhead lethality test

By DEVCOM AC

In a decisive moment for U.S. military testing and evaluation capabilities, Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) successfully supported a full-scale, live-fire hypersonic warhead test out of a cannon base test system, establishing a critical testing capability for modern national security initiatives.

This landmark achievement is the culmination of efforts to develop a high throughput, alternative method for assessing terminal effects at velocity and scale, demonstrating the lethality of warheads on targets.

The sequence was executed flawlessly. Following successful instrumentation checks and the uncovering of the targets, a test-purpose truck backed the Integrated Launch Package up to the weapon. The fuze was armed, and the gun crew meticulously loaded the warhead, followed by the propelling charge.

Personnel retreated to designated bunkers, inserting hearing protection as palpable tension filled the

connexes. As the Test Director initiated the countdown, eyes remained glued to the telemetry screens.

“FIRE.”

A massive boom echoed all the way through YPG front offices. As the dust settled, key players lined up to review the high-speed camera results. The tense silence was quickly broken by loud cheers confirming a complete success.

The initiative began two years ago as a bold concept: utilizing a cannon-based approach to fire hypersonic warheads to conduct lethality assessments. Hypersonic warheads in particular derive much of their lethality from their kinetic energy; a gun platform is one cost-effective means of achieving velocities.

A joint team from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and The U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Armaments Center (DEVCOM-AC) set forth to integrate the payload into a gun-hardened launch package. The teams designed the specialized

sabot package, rigorously assessed the interior ballistic dynamic effects on the warhead, and successfully integrated a DEVCOM-AC electronic safe-and-arm fuzing device to meet the unique testing requirements. Before manufacturing ever commenced, multiple rigorous peer reviews were conducted to analyze, verify, and guarantee the safety of all facets of the concept.

Bringing YPG into the process was critical to the mission’s success. YPG steered the complex integration, including the initial inert firing of the proof of concept leading up to this successful test. Data from the inert firing decisively proved the endeavor’s feasibility. Following the implementation of design refinements and lessons learned, the team proceeded into live warhead testing.

The testing method’s initial success has garnered immediate interest from various hypersonic development programs looking to integrate this cannon-launch meth-

odology into their master evaluation plans. By leveraging this technology, the services can significantly increase their test and evaluation tempo to gather the vital data engineering teams require, allowing them to make highly informed decisions much earlier in the development cycle.

The live warhead test served as the ultimate proving ground. All concerned parties gathered at YPG under incredible weather, operating with one common objective: witnessing the warhead perform exactly as predicted.

Thanks to this incredible partnership, the joint services now possess a highly capable, alternative testing platform to assess hypersonic warhead lethality accurately and efficiently at meaningful scale and velocity. Crucially, this new option supports accelerating a range of development efforts, pushing for innovative solutions at a fast pace, and rapidly delivering vital capabilities to the armed forces.

Vacation Bible School at YPG Chapel serves up fun and friendship

By Mark Schauer

Religious services are as much a source of strength and solace to Soldiers as to civilians.

The U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Chapel serves both throughout the year but had a particularly popular getaway for kids on post during the long, hot summer: Vacation Bible School (VBS).

With a rainforest theme this year, much of the chapel complex is spending a solid week decorated as a tropical jungle. The event looks like it is professionally done and lavishly funded but is in fact assembled on a shoestring budget with the dedicated labor of more than 20 teen and adult

volunteers.

"It would be tough to do anything with much less than what we had for volunteers," said Chaplain (Maj.) Byron Denman. "These are people who have come back every day to help with the set-up and are now involved in leading a group or leading an activity station."

About 40 YPG youngsters divided into three groups from preschool to sixth grade are participating in the fun, which lasts an entire morning each day starting July 13. While VBS typically takes place early in the summer at churches in the civilian world, Denman waited until July to allow an opportunity for new



"VBS is one of my most favorite things that I look forward to every single year, other than Christmas and Easter," said Allison Riggs, who has volunteered in the program since 2023. "Vacation Bible School is where we can really get the community in and give the kids something over this hot summer."



U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) Chaplain Byron Denman speaks to Vacation Bible School students at the YPG Chapel on July 13, 2026. While Vacation Bible School typically takes place early in the summer at churches in the civilian world, Denman waited until July to allow an opportunity for new children on post accompanying a parent on a permanent change of station move to participate. (Photos by Mark Schauer)



The students had fun listening to stories, singing songs, and rotating among stations that saw them learning about the Bible, making arts and crafts, and playing games.

children on post accompanying a parent on a permanent change of station move to participate, particularly as outdoor temperatures stay in the triple digits.

"We hope it pulls them into some sense of community and belonging," said Denman. "During the summer months at YPG, kids aren't going outside in the same way. The hope is that they come here to get connected, then take that back into the neighborhood or when they're back in school in a few weeks."

The students had fun listening to stories, singing songs, and rotating among multiple stations at the chap-

el, across the street at the community center, and at the post fitness center that saw them learning about the Bible, making arts and crafts, and playing games, with new activities slated for each day of the week. Snack time is also a popular station.

Allison Riggs has been volunteering at the chapel's VBS programs since arriving here in 2023.

"VBS is one of my most favorite things that I look forward to every single year, other than Christmas and Easter," she said. "Vacation Bible School is where we can really get the community in and give the kids something over this hot summer."

Progress on James D. Price Elementary School construction



There is now visible progress on the construction of James D. Price Elementary School. Heavy equipment trucks are on site at the future home of the elementary school on post at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG). On May 19, YPG and Yuma Elementary School District #1 officials gathered for the ceremonial break ground on a new building for the school. The existing school building has served kindergarten through fifth grade youngsters on post since the 1950s (Photo by Ana Henderson)

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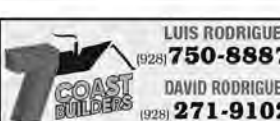
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Preventable tragedies: Understanding and combating suicide in our ranks and communities

By: Army Suicide Prevention Coordinator

As service members, we are trained to maintain situational awareness, look out for our battle buddies, and neutralize threats to our formations. However, one of the most persistent and devastating threats we face doesn't come from an adversary on the battlefield—it comes from within. Suicide remains a critical issue within the military and our local communities. Defeating it requires the same vigilance, leadership, and teamwork we apply to any mission.

The Reality on the Ground: Yuma County Statistics

To understand the scope of the problem, we must look at the data. Recent statistics highlight a severe vulnerability within our veteran and military populations compared to the civilian sector.

The Arizona Suicide Surveillance Report (2023) shows the numbers for our community are alarming:

- Highest veteran risk: Yuma County recorded the highest suicide mortality rate for veterans in the entire state of Arizona, at 90.0 per 100,000 residents.

- Statewide comparison: To put that in perspective, the statewide veteran suicide rate was 63.1 per 100,000, while the non-veteran rate was 20.4 per 100,000.

Key Takeaway: If you are stationed at or living near Yuma Proving Ground or MCAS Yuma, your surrounding veteran community is at a statistically elevated risk. We must actively engage with our transitioning service members and veterans to ensure they remain connected to support networks.

Recognizing the Warning Signs

Suicide is rarely the result of a single event; it is often the culmination of prolonged distress. Intervening early requires us to recognize the symptoms and behavioral shifts in our Soldiers, civilians, and family members.

Category	Specific Behaviors & Observations
Verbal Cues	Talking about wanting to die, expressing feelings of hopelessness, or stating they have no reason to live. Using phrases like “Everyone would be better off without me.”
Behavioral Shifts	Giving away prized possessions, abruptly writing a will, or putting personal affairs in order out of nowhere.
Withdrawal	Pulling away from friends, family, and unit activities. Isolating themselves in the barracks or at home.
Recklessness	Engaging in high-risk behaviors, such as driving erratically, increased substance or alcohol abuse, or mishandling firearms.
Mood Changes	Displaying extreme mood swings, suddenly appearing calm or relieved after a period of severe depression (this can indicate they have made a decision to act), or showing uncontrollable anger and agitation.
Sleep Patterns	Sleeping too little (insomnia) or sleeping excessively.

Actionable Next Steps: What You Can Do

If you observe these signs in a teammate, do not wait.

1. Ask Directly: “Are you thinking about killing yourself?” Asking this question directly does not plant the idea in their head; it shows you care and opens the door for a lifeline.
2. Keep Them Safe: Do not leave them alone. Secure any firearms, medications, or other lethal means if it is safe to do so.
3. Get Help: Escort them to the chaplain, a

behavioral health provider, or the emergency room.

Resources:

- Arizona Crisis Line 1-844-534-4673
- Veterans Crisis Line: Dial 988, then press 1.
- Text: 838255
- Your local installation's Chaplain, EAP, MTF and MFLAC.

Asking for help is not a sign of weakness; it is a demonstration of the resilience and courage required to stay in the fight. Look to your left and right—check on your battle buddies today.

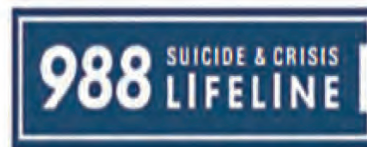
Christmas in July event gifts information on vital services



Yuma Proving Ground's (YPG) Family Advocacy Program (FAP) Manager Mariah Boykin continued the tradition of the Christmas in July event and enlisted the help of YPG Commander Col. Charles Seaberry and Command Sgt. Maj. Joshua Holthus. This event shares FAP resources, which support Soldier and Family quality of life through relationship building and abuse prevention education. (Photos by Ana Henderson)



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