

Yuma Proving Ground's Threat Targets second to none

By Mark Schauer

As the busiest test center in the Army, U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) evaluates virtually every piece of equipment a Soldier is likely to put their hands on. The post's personnel conduct this developmental testing in the natural environment in as realistic a manner as possible. Using realistic threat targets are a critical aspect of this testing, and the U.S. Army's Threat Systems Management Office (TSMO) has long kept a large repository of foreign systems at YPG. From T-72 tanks to Scud Missile Launchers, American weapon systems can be tested against real adversary equipment they are likely to encounter in battle. "We're the largest primary oper-



The Threat Systems yard of Yuma Proving Ground's Sensor Branch consists of mechanics, welders, and fabricators. "This is a unique group of people," said Carlos Molina, YPG test officer. "The community of people that can operate and sustain foreign vehicles is small. It's hard to find people that can work and troubleshoot these types of systems." (Loaned photo)

ators for TSMO, which is a great advantage," said Carlos Molina, YPG test officer. "It saves a lot in transportation costs to our customers because they are located here." The Threat Systems yard of YPG's Sensor Branch consists of mechanics, welders, and fabricators. Molina worked for the section for 17 years and has extensive experience with both sides of the branch's activity. The branch assists in all aspects of testing, including things like supplying moving targets. "They support remote control operations of tracked and wheeled vehicles, from tanks to motorcycles," Molina said. "They can instrument any vehicle to make it autonomous

SEE **THREAT TARGETS** page 6

YTC's new
Simulation
Branch Chief:
Brianna Carlson
/ Page 2



U.S. Army Yuma
Proving Ground hosts
Arizona Commanders
Summit
/ Page 7



Col. Seaberry
leads first
town hall as
commander
/ Page 8





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YTC's new Simulation Branch Chief: Brianna Carlson

By Ana Henderson

Yuma Test Center (YTC) leadership selected Brianna Carlson as the new Simulation Branch Chief.

Carlson has dedicated her career to U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground since June of 2011, when she was hired as a test officer in the Air Delivery Systems Branch of the Air Combat Systems Directorate. Carlson was recruited during a career fair on the Arizona State University campus where she earned a bachelor's degree in engineering with a focus in Mechanical Engineering.

She grew up in Phoenix and liked the idea of being close to home, but not too close. "I liked the idea that my parents would have to call before showing up," she joked.

After about a year in that position, she moved over to the Sensors Test Branch as a test officer. She was then promoted to a team lead in the Aviation Systems Branch in 2019.

In 2024, Carlson applied and was selected to work in a position de-



It's a family affair for the Carlson family at Yuma Proving Ground. Brianna Carlson is pictured with her husband, Nick Carlson, who works as the Budget Division Chief at YTC and their three children. (Photo by Ana Henderson)

The Outpost

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tail, which means she's embedded in a division outside of her own within YTC for an extended period of time. In Carlson's case, it was the Simulation Branch Chief. Carlson also worked in a position detail as the Metrology Branch Chief in 2025. Both these positions fall under the Metrology and Simulation Division.

"At first I just wanted to try something new," she said about applying for the positions.

She soon felt a sense of responsibility for the team. "I enjoyed the ability to make changes and to support the team with what they needed," she said, adding, "Everyone with the Met and Sim Division is fantastic. Having a wonderful team, and then being able to work with them, learning new stuff, and being presented with challenges or problems and working with the

team to find solutions. It's been a lot of fun," Carlson said of the experience.

In April of 2026, that experience paid off when Carlson was officially named the Simulation Branch Chief.

During her position detail as Simulation Branch Chief, Carlson worked with her team on obtaining funding from PM-CAS to update the vibration tables which are used to support PM-CAS with its munitions. The funding helped buy equipment to support the entire division and now in her role as chief, she's able to see that equipment be used for the benefit of YTC and its industry partners.

Carlson touted the team's willingness to work with test officers to accomplish their testing needs and said, "I hope to support them however possible to enable them to continue doing an excellent job."

Grateful for Yuma community's support



U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground Commander Col. Charles Seaberry was guest speaker at the weekly meeting of the Yuma Sunrise Rotary Club on Sept. 2, 2026, talking about recent test activities that put the post at the forefront of Army modernization efforts and thanking the Yuma community for their staunch support. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

YPG Chaplain gives invocation at Yuma City Council meeting



U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground Chaplain (Maj.) Byron Denman gives the invocation at the biweekly session of the Yuma City Council on September 2. Denman, who has served on active duty since 2004, spent his first 10 years in uniform as an enlisted Soldier. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

Visit with Optimists



U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground Public Affairs Officer Mark Schauer gave a YPG update at the weekly meeting of the Sunrise Optimist Club of Yuma on Aug. 26. The group, composed of a wide gamut of Yuma citizens, learned about YPG's proud history and its current developmental test mission at the forefront of Army transformation. (Loaned photo)



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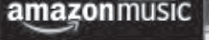


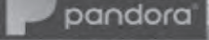




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Are you prepared for a disaster: National Preparedness Month

By Reginald Boler

Here at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) rigorous testing and readiness are some of our daily priorities. However, mission success depends not only on technical capabilities but on the resilience and safety of our civilian workforce, military personnel, contractors, and families. Given YPG's unique desert environment marked by extreme heat, flash floods, monsoons, and isolated testing complexes preparedness is essential to maintaining operational continuity and safeguarding personnel. During September, you may see reminders on your computer and TV of how to be prepared for what could happen. Re-

member it was not that long ago heavy rain washed out YPG's roads, and we became an island. So having some of

the essentials on hand and a plan could ease the burden during an emergency. For more tips on staying prepared

check out www.ready.gov/stand-ready. Stay Alert, Stay Alive! Core Preparedness Pillars:

Pillar	Focus Area	Action Items
1. Make a Plan	Family & Workplace Communication	Establish emergency contacts, evacuation routes, and accountability procedures.
2. Build a Kit	Emergency Supplies	Maintain at least 72 hours of water (1 gallon/person/day), non-perishables, first aid, and extreme weather gear.
3. Stay Informed	Range & Weather Alerts	Register for installation emergency notification systems (e.g., ALERT) and monitor local weather advisories.
4. Practice & Review	Operational Readiness	Review workplace emergency action plans and conduct tabletop or drill exercises.



Antiterrorism Awareness doesn't end



The official month of Antiterrorism (AT) Awareness may be over but that doesn't mean the vigilance should stop. AT Officer Reginald Boler cautions, "Antiterrorism is a continuous cycle of awareness that demands our vigilance every day. The threats we face never sleep, and our readiness is constantly being tested." As an incentive, a ticket was given to each person who stopped by the information booth. When the tickets were drawn Damian Flores won the AT chair. He is pictured with Boler (Photos by Ana Henderson)



YPG Commander talks Counter-Unmanned Aerial System capabilities



U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground Commander Col. Charles Seaberry took part in a panel on testing Counter-Unmanned Aerial System capabilities at the Institute for Defense and Government Advancement summit in National Harbor, Maryland on Aug. 26. Seaberry shared the stage with fellow Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC) Col. Tony Perez at the Army Counter-UAS Summit. Seaberry highlighted ATEC's support to Joint Interagency Task Force-401 and YPG's partnership in Falcon Peak, while reinforcing faster access to ranges due to the Army's Permissive Range Initiative and test data. (Loaned photo)



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Maintaining vintage foreign equipment never utilized by the American military with engine components and gauges labeled in foreign languages is an advanced task that takes years of institutional knowledge to practice.

“This is a unique group of people,” Molina said. “The community of people that can operate and sustain foreign vehicles is small. It’s hard to find people that can work and troubleshoot these types of systems.”

In addition to being utilized in multiple major test events at Yuma Test



Center, from Project Convergence 2020 and 2021 to the Experimental Demonstration Gateway Event and



In the event a test requires a system that isn’t available in the inventory, the branch can fabricate stunningly realistic full-scale replicas of military vehicles complete with simulated heat signatures, as seen here. (Loaned photos)

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Combined Focused Warfighting Experiment, they are also utilized at YPG’s other natural environment test centers, Arctic Regions Test Center (ARTC) at Fort Greely, Alaska, and the Tropic Regions Test Center (TRTC) that conducts jungle environment testing on leased land in Central and South America.

“This group maintains and operates a lot of the instrumentation used locally at YPG but also support a lot of safari operations at TRTC and ARTC and other military branches,” Molina said.

In addition to providing threat targets for YPG’s test mission, the branch has long supported realistic training for things like the Marine Corps’ twice-annual weapons and tactics instructor course at MCAS-Yuma.

“This section doesn’t only support YPG test, they have projects for off-site support of the Marine Corps and Navy,” said Molina. “We support MCAS-Yuma with steel targets and radar maintenance.”

In the event a test requires a system that isn’t available in the inventory, the branch can fabricate stunningly realistic full-scale replicas of military vehicles, self-propelled howitzers, and air defense guns complete with simulated heat signatures.

“They are very creative,” said Molina. “Any time customers have requirements for a vehicle we don’t have in our inventory, we’ll provide the option of building a surrogate. There are times where customers will want a thermal package for it, which we can also provide.”

U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground hosts Arizona Commanders Summit

By Mark Schauer

Effective communication is a vital commodity, something of which one can never have too much.

With the purpose of sharing information and building relationships, military commanders and senior leaders from across Arizona gathered for a day of discussions at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) on Sep. 2.

The summit, the first hosted by YPG Commander Col. Charles Seaberry, was the first held on post since 2022.

“It gives me an opportunity to meet my fellow commanders in Arizona,” said Seaberry. “It is good to collaborate and learn about the creative things they are doing that I could potentially leverage with YPG. I think we are going to have a lot of opportunities to synergize our initiatives and be less duplicative in areas where we are resource constrained.”

The Arizona Commanders Summit is a semi-annual event in which commanders and senior leaders from YPG, Marine Corps Air Station-Yuma, Fort Huachuca, Luke Air Force Base, Davis-Monthan Air Force



U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground Commander Col. Charles Seaberry briefs attendees of the Arizona Commanders Summit held on post on Sep. 2. “I think we are going to have a lot of opportunities to synergize our initiatives and be less duplicative in areas where we are resource constrained,” he said.

Base, the Arizona National Guard’s Papago Park Military Reservation, and other Arizona and California-based military units along with local and state government representatives to discuss mission and installation sustainment. Though not a decision-making body, the group hears presentations on key topics throughout the day.

“I like the ability to go to all of the installations and see what they are like,” said Chas Buchanan, Director of the 56th Range management Office at Luke Airforce Base. “Seeing the remoteness of some of the

installations and the challenges they face that are different than those we face in Phoenix really helps get the broader picture.”

The forum was an opportunity to compare challenges and network to share assets to accomplish the mission. For example, although YPG’s primary mission is conducting developmental testing of military equipment, the post also supports military training exercises. YPG is also part of the recently announced Army Permissive Test Range Expansion Initiative, which prioritizes commercial access to specialized environ-

ments ideal for testing unmanned aerial systems (UAS), counter-UAS technologies, long-range fires and low-cost interceptors at several facilities, including West Cibola Range, a newly opened component of YPG within YPG’s existing boundaries.

“That has dramatic implications into the future,” said Yuma Mayor Douglas Nicholls, who attended the event. “As we bring the amazing capabilities of YPG to bear for private industry, I think it will be a gamechanger for us for years to come.”

Multiple attendees noted the support the proving ground enjoys from the greater Yuma community, as well as the important role YPG plays in ensuring our nation’s defense. Nicholls gave a comprehensive presentation about what the city of Yuma offers early in the event.

“The military is important to our community and as a representative of the city I want to let everyone in the state know that Yuma is a community committed to the defense of our nation and preparing our warfighters,” said Nicholls. “It’s part of what makes Yuma, Yuma.”



U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground Commander Col. Charles Seaberry and Command Sgt. Maj. Joshua Holthus greet attendees as they arrive for the Arizona Commanders Summit. The summit was the first held at YPG since 2022. (Photos by Mark Schauer)



Yuma Mayor Douglas Nicholls speaks at the Arizona Commanders Summit held at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground on Sep. 2. “The military is important to our community and as a representative of the city I want to let everyone in the state know that Yuma is a community committed to the defense of our nation and preparing our warfighters,” he said.

Mission & Installation Contracting Command recognized for extraordinary work



Yuma Test Center Commander Lt. Col. Kevin Hicks visited the Mission & Installation Contracting Command at Yuma Proving Ground on Sept. 1 to thank them for their extraordinary work. Hicks told the group, "We wouldn't be able to do what we do without you." He then recognized three members of the team for their work in support of a program for the Instrumentation Division. (Left to right) Teresa Dinwiddie, Roxanne Hursey, Amanda Ramirez and Hicks. (Photos by Ana Henderson)



Col. Seaberry leads first town hall as commander



Col. Charles Seaberry led his first town hall as the Commander of U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground on the afternoon of Aug. 31. Seaberry opened with a motivational video giving a message to not fear change that makes one better. He and other YPG leaders talked about upcoming events, like The Desert Stars Gala aka YPG ball on Feb. 28, strategic command engagements, and the Highway 95 roundabouts under construction. Yuma, Arctic Regions and Tropic Regions Test Center representatives talked about recent testing and MWR provided information on events and gave MWR bucks to a lucky few. (Photos by Ana Henderson)

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This initiative goes beyond push-ups. It's about promoting wellness, building camaraderie, and raising awareness for mental health across our community.



YPG PUSH-UP CHALLENGE

EVENT STARTS 01SEP25 AT 0100

No sign-up required! Just show up and represent your division, department, Command or group — that's your team. Whether you can do 5 push-ups or 50, you're welcome to join. Modifications are encouraged, and teamwork is what makes it powerful.

Recognition for the Top team will have their name placed on the Challenge Trophy. Top 3 individual Males and Top 3 Individual Females will be recognized.



Event Ends 30OCT26 at 2300. Winners to be announced shortly after.

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Connect to protect: Suicide Awareness and Prevention outreach



True readiness begins with human connection. At the Access Control Points, Yuma Proving Ground leadership stepped out from behind their desks and into the lanes, placing critical suicide prevention materials and crisis hotlines directly into the hands of the workforce. By greeting each commuter with genuine care and reinforcing our 'Connect to Protect' mission, leadership demonstrated that mental health stigma has no home at YPG. We are one team, one community, and we ensure no teammate walks through hardship in silence. (Photos and content courtesy of William Lloyd)

MONSOON AWARENESS

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June 15th - Sept. 30th

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10 MILES

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