

U.S. Army

## **YUMA PROVING GROUND: ARIZONA**



Adjacent to the Colorado River, Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) lies in the heart of the Sonoran desert, near the Arizona-California border. The U.S. Army traces its presence at YPG to an 1850's hilltop fortification that

overlooked a once vital Colorado River crossing. Today, at 1,300-square miles in size and controlling nearly 2,000 miles of restricted airspace, YPG is one of the largest military installations in the world.

YPG's harsh terrain lends itself perfectly for testing nearly every weapon system in the Army's ground arsenal. As such, YPG is a prominent testing facility for artillery, unmanned aerial systems, parachute systems, armored vehicles of all types, and much more. It features America's longest overland artillery test range and the Nation's most highly instrumented helicopter armament test range. YPG also contains over 200 miles of improved road courses for testing military vehicles, over 1,000 miles of fiber-optic cable linking test locations, and the most modern mine and demolitions test facility in the western hemisphere.

With an annual economic impact of roughly \$450 million and over 2,500 employees, YPG is the main non-agricultural employer of civilians and primary high technology employer for the region.

### **FAST FACTS**

- » Location: **Yuma and La Paz Counties, AZ**
- » Land Area: **1,300 square miles**
- » Special Use Airspace: **1,861 nautical miles**
- » Military Personnel: **150**
- » Civilian Personnel: **2,500**



**Above:** An M1 Abrams tank negotiates a test course at YPG. (U.S. Army photo)



**Above:** A Maxx Pro Ambulance at YPG. (U.S. Army photo)

**Left Top:** Silhouette of soldier at YPG at sunset. (U.S. Army photo)

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

To plan, conduct, assess, analyze, report and support developmental tests, experiments, production tests, and integrated developmental/operational tests; and provide training support to Army, sister service, Department of Defense, U.S. Government, international, and commercial customers.

### **VISION STATEMENT**

A Team YPG that is the premier testing authority - competitive, comprehensive, and accurate; valued and respected by our customers and decision makers; and ensuring the utmost Warfighter success.

### **CONTACT**

**Public Affairs Office**  
928-328-6533/6149

## UNIT MISSIONS

- » **Yuma Proving Ground:** Responsible for managing operations at three Army test centers: Yuma Test Center (YTC) at YPG; the Cold Regions Test Center (CRTC) in Alaska; and the Tropic Regions Test Center (TRTC) in Panama, Hawaii, Honduras, Suriname, and other tropic areas. YTC is responsible for desert environmental testing. CRTC primarily conducts extreme cold weather testing. TRTC is optimized for tropic climate testing.
- » **Yuma Proving Ground Garrison:** Responsible for the management of Yuma Proving Ground's infrastructure, including roads, water, buildings, electricity, and environmental management. Physical security services and the operation of the proving ground's family morale, welfare, and recreation activities are also provided by garrison personnel.
- » **Military Freefall School (MFFS):** A joint forces training school that covers all aspects of military freefall parachuting and trains over 1,000 students per year. Students come from all U.S. military Services. MFFS is part of the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, headquartered at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.
- » **Special Operations Terminal Attack Controller Course (SOTACC):** The purpose of the course is to teach Special Forces troops from the military services the conduct of close air support missions and fully certify them as qualified Joint Terminal Attack Controllers (JTAC). All bombing and firing missions take place over Yuma Proving Ground.
- » **Test Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment (TMDE):** Provides calibration and repair of sophisticated instrumentation used throughout YPG's test ranges. TMDE technicians are responsible for ensuring all adjustable equipment is tuned and aligned in accordance with detailed specifications to ensure test accuracy.



**Above:** YPG weapons operators prepare a M777 155mm howitzer for firing. YPG's gun crews are among the most experienced in the Army. (U.S. Army photo)



**Above:** YPG weapons operators prepare a M119 105mm howitzer for firing. (U.S. Army photo)

### COMMANDER RANK

Colonel

### TESTING & TRAINING RANGES

- » Kofa Firing Range
- » Cibola Range
- » Mine/Countermine Complex
- » Smart Weapons Test Range
- » Simulated overseas village areas
- » Six airfields and over a dozen parachute drop zones
- » 240 miles of vehicle road courses
- » Specialized facilities for Soldier and Military Working Dog training, including firing ranges

- » **Military Working Dog Training:** Upwards of 250 military working dog teams come to the proving ground for training each year from around the nation. The inter-service courses range from two weeks to two months in length and take place at specialized YPG training areas, even simulated overseas villages. Veterinary care is provided by the YPG veterinary clinic.
- » **Specialized Improvised Explosive Device Testing:** Begun at YPG early in the last decade, technology that counters the threat of improvised explosive devices has been routinely tested at the proving ground. Numerous facilities have been constructed, including overseas village areas, to ensure this testing is as realistic as possible.
- » **General Motors Desert Test Center:** General Motors opened an automotive test complex on 2,000 acres at the proving ground in 2009, arranged through the Army Joint Use Lease process. The complex is used by General Motors to test civilian automotive products, but YPG personnel use the facility frequently for Army automotive testing at no cost to the government. The facility was formerly located near Phoenix.



**Above:** Unmanned Aircraft System at YPG takes off into Yuma's uncrowded sky. (U.S. Army photo)

#### **UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS**

- » One of the largest military installations in the world and the Army's busiest test organization
- » Tests nearly all artillery weapons and ammunition for U.S. ground forces and many foreign nations.
- » Between 60 and 90 ongoing tests at any single time
- » Terrain and temperature closely match Southwest Asia and the Middle East
- » Improvised explosive devices testing facilities
- » Environmental conditioning chambers
- » Specialized facilities for unmanned aerial system testing and training
- » No known endangered animal species or urban encroachment concerns
- » Operates one of the world's largest vertical wind tunnels
- » Unique partnership allows the Army to test at the General Motors facility and vice versa

For more information, please see < <http://www.yuma.army.mil> > and < <http://www.facebook.com/USAYPG> >