

The
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Dispatch



US Army Dugway Proving Ground, Utah

Dugway Proving Ground - Science Serving Warfighters and Citizens

Issue No. 5

Team Dugway Winter Ball celebrates 2013 accomplishments

Story Bonnie A. Robinson
Public Affairs Specialist

With traditional Army pomp and circumstance, Dugway Soldiers, Family members, employees and residents gathered Dec. 7 at the Hilton Double Tree Inn near the Salt Lake City airport for the Team Dugway Winter Ball, a night of food, speeches, live entertainment, and dancing. The party was hosted by Col. Ronald F. Fizer, commander at Dugway Proving Ground, and his wife René.

About 90 people attended the celebration in style with décor that reflected a winter wonderland.

The night also honored, with a photo display, the gallantry, unquestionable heroism, and sacrifice of service members who defended Pearl Harbor during the 1941 Japanese attack that launched the United States into World War II.

It is estimated that only 2,000 to 2,500 Pearl Harbor survivors are still alive. There are only nine survivors of the USS Arizona.

Retired Col. Gary Harter, a former Dugway commander, was the guest speaker. Harter is the director of the newly formed Utah Department of Military Affairs, which combines veteran's affairs, military affairs and installation outreach services for 165,000 Utah military veterans, active duty service members and their families on matters pertaining to employment, health care, education, training and recognition.

"I am immensely proud to be connected to Dugway and to have served as its commander. You have an incredible chemical and biological team that adds an enormous value to the security and defense of our nation. There is nowhere else in the United States like it," he said.

Fizer was the final speaker. He said he appreciated all who attended on such a snowy winter's night.

"It is good to gather and celebrate together as we close out this year. You are the best ambassadors for the good work we do at Dugway. I want you to know that I sincerely appreciate your efforts," he said.

A plaque, crafted by Fizer and his wife, was presented to Harter. Fizer said it was the first of its kind. It features a wood cutout in the shape of DPG and a cut and polished Dugway geode.

Special thanks are extended to the A-Battery 3rd Artillery Defense for providing the color guard,



Photo by James Esteban

Retired Col. Gary Harter of the Utah Department of Military Affairs, René Fizer and Col. Ronald F. Fizer, Dugway's commander, greet guests at the 2013 Team Dugway Winter Ball Dec. 7 at the Hilton Double Tree Inn in Salt Lake City. Harter, a former commander of Dugway, was invited as the guest speaker.



Photo by Bonnie A. Robinson

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Devey Wallace, a Korean War Veteran who served more than 35 years in the Utah National Guard, shares career experiences with retired Maj. Michael M. Robinson, who works as an environmental specialist at West Desert Test Center.

the Utah National Guard Army Band, Dr. Kenneth Gritton for the invocation, and Paula Thomas for the benediction. Thanks are also expressed for those who planned and set up the ball: James Esteban, Alexis Andrus, Cheyenne Scott, Cassidy Scott, Jerry Jobe, Pfc. Daniel Wallace and Kelly Wright.



Photo by Bonnie A. Robinson

Jeff Garcia, chief, Dissemination & Explosives Division, mugs for the camera while dancing with his wife Bonnie at the Winter Ball.

2013 at end; Team Dugway to shine in 2014



COL Ronald F. Fizer

As 2013 closes, Team Dugway has a lot to be thankful for. This year has been an extremely busy one; filled with first-ever events that we should build upon and a few

events that we hope will never be repeated.

Our firsts include mountain bike and extreme running races, a biological test week for industry and allied partners, a family open house, and a myriad of safe and successful testing and training events.

Every *Team Dugway* member should take pride in the key role they have that enables these events, as well as their outstanding support that makes every day successful.

We should also remember we weathered a significant number of challenges: furlough, government shutdown, wildfire and the loss of power, and even the grebes. Each of these events, while challenging and not ones we would willingly repeat, proved that together we can successfully meet any challenge.

This holiday season we should all reflect on how we have grown throughout the past year and recharge so we can meet the challenges and opportunities of 2014.

Keep safety at the forefront of all you do—at work, at home, or at play. Be extra vigilant when driving in challenging winter conditions and plan your events to ensure you have the proper gear to return safely home, and to work.

Finally, I want to remind everyone that we are in the final stages of drafting a Strategy for Dugway Proving Ground. This tool will help guide our efforts to maintain the vital capabilities DPG provides to our nation for the next five to 10 years. One of those critical capabilities is you — our employees. Each of you is a valuable member of the team. Enjoy the holidays safely, and prepare to make 2014 the best year ever for *Team Dugway*.

Smile Santa! You're on RADAR!

The North American Aerospace Defense Command tracks Santa Claus on his Dec. 24-25 flight.

For more information see www.noradsanta.org



Photo by Al Vogel

After having a mint, a girl blows into the sampling port of a chemical agent detector set to detect the presence of Oil of Wintergreen. The result: an onscreen spike. This demonstration showed the sensitivity of chemical agent detectors that continually monitor the lab.

Left, Tammy Lopez helps her grandson decorate a plastic petri dish filled with blue Jell-O at the LSTF.



Photo by Bonnie A. Robinson

Families visit for Get to Know Dugway day

Family members visited the Combined Chemical Test Facility (CCTF) and the Life Sciences Test Facility (LSTF) Dec. 5 during a Get to Know Dugway family day.

More than 120 family members visited the test center, where presentations, displays and demonstrations explained how defensive items are tested in the labs.

Most offices provided a potluck lunch to introduce family members to one another.

Below, boys team together to push a heavy lab door shut and lock its redundant security devices at the Whole System Live Agent Test chamber (WSLAT), a one-of-its-kind lab designed to test detectors and other identifiers that warn of biological agent aerosols and identify the agent. The WSLAT is currently undergoing certification.



Photo by Bonnie A. Robinson



Photo by Bonnie A. Robinson

Doug Andersen, chief of the Life Sciences Division, explains the safety precautions taken at the Whole System Live Agent Test chamber to family members.



Photo by Al Vogel

Trying on gas masks and protective clothing ensembles was a popular activity with youngsters.



Photo by Al Vogel

Gloves inside the small Item Decontamination chamber make putting toy building blocks together a challenge in dexterity.

Protecting the environment

Re-seeding lowers wildfires

Story by Jeff Elkins

Garrison Environmental Programs Division

The Directorate of Public Works Environmental Programs Division is re-seeding the south side of access control gate (ACP 2) and north of Central Hazardous Waste Storage Facility between English Village and West Desert Test Center.

The re-seeding is a proactive effort to reduce the intensity and frequency cheatgrass that might fuel wildfires on the installation, said Jessica Delph, a botanist working with the Dugway environmental office.

The project begins at the edge of Stark Road and extends about 35 feet. It will eventually cover 30 acres of land. The location was chosen because the area was recently dug up when aerial power lines were buried. This caused a perfect opportunity for cheatgrass—a highly flammable, non-native weed-type species—to grow in place of the natural vegetation.

Wildfires are a serious concern in Utah. According to utahfireinfo.gov website, in 2013 more than 70,000 acres went up in flames due to lightning

strikes or human carelessness. Cheatgrass has an early and prolific seed production in the spring, which makes it a serious fire hazard as it matures and dries in early summer.

The current re-seeding project is the result of a 5-year process that the environmental office and the fire department have been collaborating on, said Pat Carnahan, an assistant fire chief for the Dugway Fire Department.

“It’s our attempt to be proactive and take the steps necessary to minimize the threat of wildland fires on the installation,” he said.

The project will use a plant seed mixture consisting of 13 species of grass, both native and non-native, which are less flammable and more habitat friendly than cheatgrass.

This multiple species mixture reduces fire hazards and provides habitat material beneficial to birds and



Photo by Bob Delph

Jessica Delph at the wheel of a tractor that will tow a spreader to distribute seed to reduce fires.

other wildlife, Delph said.

The environmental office estimates that 1,000 pounds of drill seed mix and 300 pounds of broadcast seed mix will be used, costing about \$20,000. The cost also includes the seed mix, herbicide, equipment and labor. The project is expected to continue through 2016.

Delph asked Dugway employees and residents to help make the re-seeding a success by not driving off-road in the affected area and avoid littering.

Substance abuse campaign urges safer driving during holidays and beyond

Story Bonnie A. Robinson
Public Affairs Specialist

The party was fantastic. It was fun to catch up with friends, share memories and have a few drinks together to celebrate the holidays. No big deal, just a good time, right?

Maybe, but the holiday season can be a prime time for drunk and impaired driving. Yet many people may never imagine that their celebration could cost them their lives, or the lives of their passengers.

December is National Impaired Driving Prevention Month. The Army Substance Abuse office is encouraging drivers to be sensible while still celebrating this season.

“Our goal is to help change the thought process of those who choose to drive impaired. We want it to be crystal clear that driving impaired is unacceptable,” said Paul Howell, the program manager. “If we can get individual drinkers to reassess their behavior and come to their own conclusion that they shouldn’t be driving, then we’ve made the road a safer place for everyone.”

Howell said he hopes to get the Dugway Police Department and the Safety Office involved with possible sobriety check points to deter impaired driving on post. Though the program highlights the holiday season, the awareness campaign will run through 2014 and will broaden to focus on teen drivers.

“Teens seem to be more likely to be risk takers, so we want to try and educate them to the dangers before they start these practices,” Howell added.

If you plan to drink, designate a non-drinking driver or use other means of transportation such as a taxi or public transportation.

Balance food and drink, and set limits on the number of drinks beforehand. It takes one hour for your body to process the alcohol in one drink. One drink is equal to a 12 ounce beer, 5 ounce glass of wine, or a 1½ ounce shot of liquor. Consider alternating alcoholic beverages with soda, juice or water.

Don’t mix alcohol with other drugs, including over-the-counter and prescription medications. Recent studies show taking drugs with alcohol can significantly increase the risk of a fatal crash.

Community Calendar

Martin Luther King Jr. Day



Wednesday, Jan 22
Dugway Community Club
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Speaker: Darrell Gray
Michelle Rosario, 831-2141

Outdoor Recreation & Travel Leisure



Jan. 4 - Rocky Mountain Gun Show
Jan. 7 & 21 - Cross-country Ski Lessons at Dugway during lunch hour
Jan. 11 - Ski Trip to Brighton Resort
Jan. 17 - Wendover Trip
Jan. 21 to 23 - Yurt Hut Back Country Ski Trip
Information? Contact Curt Fortie, 831-2318



Join the Dugway discussion
www.facebook.com/USArmyDPG



COMMANDER'S HOTLINE: 831-3737

People don't need to be told what's not working, but sometimes commanders do. Actions build communities. If there's a problem, let's hear about it. Leave a message, name and phone number.

THE DISPATCH



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