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US Army Dugway Proving Ground, Utah

Dugway Proving Ground - Science Serving Warfighters and Citizens

Whole System Live Agent chamber Unique by definition and design

Story and photos by Al Vogel
Public Affairs Specialist

Dr. Wing Tsang is serious one moment and grins the next when he says “wiz-lat.” He’s certain it will save lives someday – that’s the serious side – but he can’t help grinning with pride that it’s likely unique.

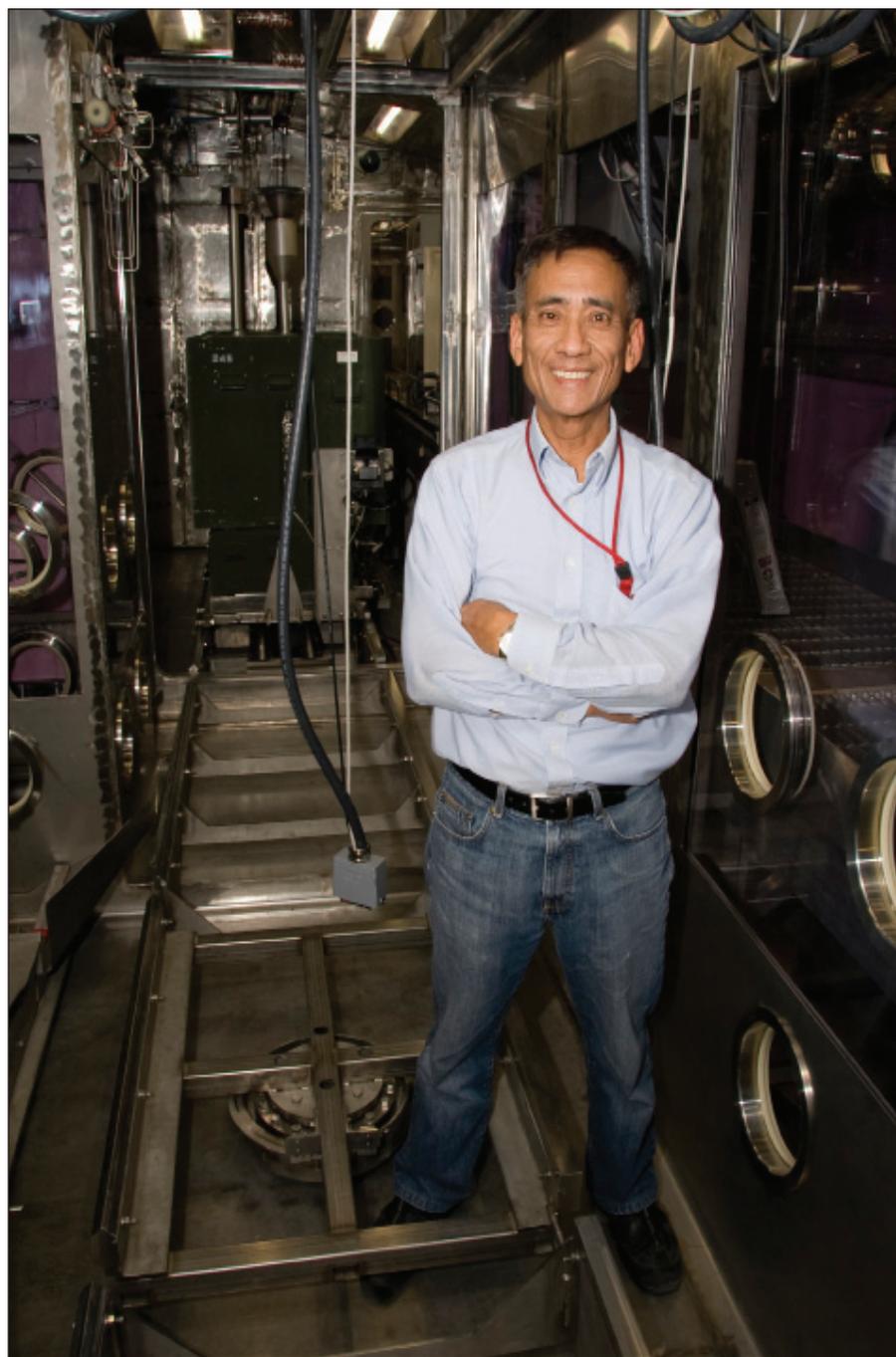
Unique. That word is often misapplied today, but the dictionary defines it as, “being the only one of its kind.”

The Whole System Live Agent Test chamber (WSLAT) at Dugway Proving Ground is certainly unique. It’s the first in the Department of Defense. Tsang and others believe it is the first in the world.

The WSLAT is designed to test detectors/ identifiers that warn of the presence of biological agent aerosols and identify the agent. These include anthrax, plague, and the toxin that causes botulism – typical biological agents that might be weaponized by terrorists or rogue nations.

In late 2009, The Department of Defense Joint Project Manager for Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Contamination Avoidance (JPM NBC CA) awarded a \$13.7 million contract to Teledyne Brown Engineering, Inc., of Huntsville, Ala.

Teledyne Brown designed WSLAT, fabricated its components, then shipped them to Dugway. From January to June 2012, HHI Construction of Farmington, Utah installed the WSLAT within the renovated Baker Laboratory, a massive building dating to the early 1950s.



Dr. Wing Tsang, a microbiologist who has overseen the WSLAT project from the beginning, stands in the glovebox where detectors and other defenses will be prepared prior to testing. In the background are two biological agent detectors in the testing chamber, moved there along the stainless steel track at his feet.

But the WSLAT is not yet ready for detector/identifier testing. It must undergo verification and validation testing, to ensure that it works properly and safely. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) will certify the chamber for safety and reliability, before testing begins.

The WSLAT should be ready for its first detector test this summer.

What makes WSLAT unique? Two key features, thanks to its test chamber that’s 23 feet long, 13 feet wide and nearly 9 feet high.

First, the WSLAT allows the testing of biological agent detectors in their entirety.

Currently, bio-detectors at Dugway are tested in chambers no larger than one cubic meter (35 cubic feet) in volume. Individual components that sample air, identify a threat and notify the operator are tested separate from the entire detector. This lacks realism.

“Ideally, if you want to test a detection system, you test it as it would be manufactured, not modified, because that’s how they’re going to use it in the field,” said Tsang, a microbiologist who has overseen the WSLAT project at Dugway’s Life Sciences Division since its inception in 2009.

Secondly, WSLAT will be able to test two bio-detectors side-by-side in its large chamber, believed to be another world-first.

“If one system goes down, you can continue testing, or you can compare System A to System B, while they’re being challenged with a live biological agent,” Tsang said.

See WSLAT page 3

Moving forward into 2013: Tighten belts but not brains

It's a brand new year and let me begin by congratulating everyone for a successful year. You have been asked to contribute much to support, protect, and enable our armed forces, first responders and allies.

We serve in a time of rapid change, asked to test new methods and technologies and pioneer ways to exceed. This year will be just as challenging as last year, perhaps even more so, as we tighten our budgetary belts.

Cutbacks have hit every part of the military. We must do more with fewer resources. This will not be easy, but I am confident that we will continue to meet and exceed all that is asked.

I want us to be closer to the needs of our troops and come up with new ideas and better ways that ensure successful missions.

In everything we do at Dugway Proving Ground, especially in testing and training, we must stand ready to support our Army, our nation, its citizens and our allies.

I'd ask that each of you use creative thinking and a rock-solid work ethic to meet the goals that serve and protect our men and women as they defend America.

More than ever before, our testing serves other military branches or civilians. Many times we think, "for the Soldier" as we test an item, but really, that same item may be used by Sailors,



COL A. Scott Estes

Marines, Airmen and Coast Guardsmen, as well as the FBI, firefighters, police and environmental agencies.

Work with your peers. Innovation occurs when bright, talented people discuss, reason and explore

the pros and cons of what is most valuable to our nation and its people, in and out of uniform.

We may have to tighten our belts, but we don't have to tighten our brains. Working together, use innovation and creative thinking to recognize and solve problems that will improve the product, service or process.

Set sharp, defined goals to reform and transform the way we do business. Dugway Proving Ground's location and expertise provide unique capabilities and opportunities, but we must become leaner, more efficient.

Customers seeking testing or training also demand more "bang for the buck," so we need to continue meeting that demand, and exceeding it.

In the end, our most important customer is the service member or civilian that will rely on what we've tested or taught.

Since 1942 we've accepted this responsibility and challenge, and defended our nation, its people and our allies.

Thank you for your hard work in 2012. For more than 70 years, Dugway Proving Ground's calling has been to protect and serve our Warfighters.

There's no one, and nowhere else, that can do what we do, to the standard we do. Together, we will ensure a successful 2013.



Thank you Holiday Assistance

Wrapped in holiday spirit and riding atop a Dugway firetruck, Santa Claus delivered gifts to 74 children as part of the Army Community Services' Holiday Assistance Program.

More than \$7,000 was raised by individuals and organizations for clothing and toys that benefited 32 service member Families.

Some of the sponsors also donated time to help with the shopping and wrapping gifts.

"This event brings a great deal

of excitement and joy to these families," said Brent Console, ACS Holiday Assistance manager. "Much thanks for the generous support of the Dugway community and to the Dugway Fire Department for providing transportation for Santa."

One recipient was impressed.

"A big thank you to Santa, his helpers and everyone involved for making our Christmas here on Dugway so wonderful and memorable," said one family member. "We will never forget this!"



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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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A worker prepares the insulation that will go over the area of the fan system. Extremes of humidity, temperature and wind may be simulated in the chamber. The WSLAT and its gloveboxes occupy most of a large room in the refurbished Baker Lab. It's so large, that getting an inclusive photo of it is difficult.

WSLAT

► Continued from page 1

The WSLAT's unique attributes will aid many in biological defense.

"The entire test community, including the project management offices that build the detector/identifiers, the system evaluators – and most importantly – the Warfighters should benefit from the chamber's size, environmental control capabilities and extended aerosol dissemination capabilities," said Chee Chan, an engineer and team leader with the JPM NBC CA.

"Using this test fixture will provide the user – the Warfighter – with a better understanding of the capabilities and limitations of systems in a battlefield," said Derek Harberts an engineer with the JPM NBC CA.

Dugway is only licensed to store and test with agents up to BioSafety Level 3, for which there is a vaccine or cure. Dugway does not store or test with BSL-4 agents, which have no cure or vaccine and are tightly controlled.

But realistically, a biological attack would likely involve a BSL-3 agent, because producing them requires a far less-sophisticated lab, and

BSL-3 agents are more readily available from illicit sources.

Testers could use simulants: benign microbes with the same characteristics as bio-agents. But to really challenge a bio-detector you must use its *raison d'être*: live biological agent. After all, it may someday monitor a battlefield, a public event, airport or city street.

Because live agents are used, the WSLAT is designed for safety. Its design includes multiple negative pressure barriers, and ultra-high performance filters, that make agent escape from the WSLAT impossible. Air goes into the large room that houses it, which also filters the air before release outdoors.

Jutting from the WSLAT are three, long gloveboxes – sealed, stainless steel "wings" with glove portholes

along their sides. Instruments and detectors are prepared for each test by using the sealed gloves.

One glovebox houses the bio-detector(s) to be tested.

Once prepared, the detector is moved into the test chamber along a stainless steel track. The dissemination glovebox

is where the test begins; scientists generate biological aerosols that mimic an attack.

These aerosols are then introduced into the test chamber, for detection and identification by the system under test.

Two other gloveboxes contain referee instruments that provide information on the aerosolized bio-agent, to ensure test parameters are met.

The entire WSLAT, apart from viewing windows, is constructed of stainless steel to resist strong decontaminants that inactivate any residual bio-agents after the entire test is completed.

"The entire test community, including the project management offices that build the detector identifiers, the system evaluators – and most importantly – the Warfighters should benefit from the chamber's size, environmental control capabilities and extended aerosol dissemination capabilities."

*– Chee Chan
Engineer and team leader, JPM NBC CA.*

The WSLAT will ensure that, if a detector passes testing, it may be trusted to be accurate under a wide range of conditions. Upon this trust will be based crucial, life-altering decisions.

Ultimately, the saving of untold lives may someday be traced to a test chamber in the remote Utah desert that correctly defines the word, *unique*.



A worker installs instrumentation around the exterior of the chamber. The walk-in chamber can accommodate two large biological agent detectors, testing them simultaneously. The WSLAT is made almost entirely of stainless steel, for longevity and resistance to decontaminants.

Native American Heritage Month

PRIDE IN THE LEGACY

Story and photos by Al Vogel
Public Affairs Specialist

A descendant of Comanche Chief Quanah Parker was the guest speaker at the Nov. 28, 2012 Native American Heritage Celebration at Dugway Proving Ground.

Chuck Birdsong, former branch chief of Optics, came to Dugway as a Soldier and photographer in the 1970s. He retired in 2006 as chief of the Optics Branch. A native of Utah, Birdsong traces his ancestry to Cynthia Ann Parker, kidnapped in 1836 by Comanches from the family's Texas fort at the age of nine.

Adopted into the tribe, as a young woman she married Peta Nocona, a chieftain. It was a happy marriage, and the couple had three children: a son named Peanuts; a daughter, Topsannah (Prairie Flower) and a son, Quanah Parker, who became a famous Comanche chief. Cynthia Ann Parker lived with the Comanches for 25 years before being "rescued" by Texas Rangers in 1860.

Famous nationwide, she didn't adjust well to her return. Her daughter died in 1864 from influenza. Cynthia Ann Parker died in 1870, more from grief than sickness.

"Her life, and the life of her granddaughter Nelda Parker Birdsong, are fascinating," said Birdsong. "Tales of brutality, massacres, racism and reintegration into the white man's world."

But rather than examining his family history, Birdsong honored Medal of Honor recipients with

**Kota Bear
of the Goshute
Indian Tribe
performs a
colorful,
traditional
dance.**

Native American heritage – and the difficult irony facing early enlistees.

"I can't imagine going back to my father and

saying, I wanted to fight for the country that conquered your country," he said.

Birdsong emphasized that all who serve in the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force or Coast Guard – whatever their background – deserve our thanks for risking their lives to protect America.

Of the 3,468 Medals of Honor awarded since its creation in 1863, 28 recipients have had known Native American blood in their veins. Surprisingly,

16 of those 28 received it during the Indian Wars (1492-1890).

The first recipient was Co-Rux-Te-Chod-Ish or "Mad Bear," who in 1869 as a Pawnee scout sergeant pursued a dismounted Indian. He was severely wounded by his own men.

No combatants of known Native American ancestry received the Medal of Honor in World War I.

In World War II, seven with Native American blood were awarded the Medal of Honor. Perhaps the most unusual was Gregory "Pappy" Boyington, a Marine aviator of Sioux ancestry, awarded it while still a Japanese prisoner of war. Boyington shot down 26 Japanese aircraft before his capture.

He was raised in Idaho and Washington.

Five Korean War Native American combatants received the Medal of Honor, the last not until 57 years after earning it.

Master Sgt. Woodrow W. Keeble, a Dakota Sioux, was wounded Oct. 15, 17, 18 and 20 while fighting Chinese soldiers in 1951. He was twice recommended for a Medal of Honor by his men; both recommendations were lost. Keeble's men tried to submit it a third time, but were told regulations prevented it.

After the war, Keeble returned home to North Dakota. Tuberculosis and the removal of a lung triggered strokes that left him speechless, partially paralyzed and unable to work. His wife soon died, and he raised his son alone. He later remarried, and this wife led the fight to have him awarded the medal. Keeble died in 1982, not receiving it.

His family and friends persevered for decades. In 2008, President Bush was scheduled to present the medal to Keeble's widow, but she died shortly

See Legacy page 5 ►



Alpha Battery Soldier honored as Dugway Soldier of the Year



Pfc. Brandon Coryea was named Dugway's 2012 Soldier of the Year, and was awarded the Army Achievement Medal for the distinction.

**Story and photo by Al Vogel
Public Affairs Specialist**

Pfc. Brandon M. Coryea was named Soldier of the Year at U.S. Army Dugway Proving Ground, Utah after being selected as the top enlisted man to appear before a review board.

Coryea, 20, joined the Army 16 months ago and was stationed to the remote Utah post in April. He is a resident of Bloomfield, N.Y.

His wife is Justina Coryea. He is the son of Greg and Vanessa Coryea of Bloomfield, N.Y. and the late Donna Coryea. His grandparents are Walter and Nina Coryea of Bloomfield, and Robert and Edith Surprenant of Mooers Forks, N.Y.

Coryea is at Dugway Proving Ground with Alpha Battery, 3rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, testing JLENS (Joint Land Attack Cruise Missile Defense Elevated Netted Sensor System) in the remote Utah desert west of Salt Lake City.

JLENS carries radar and other defensive

systems aloft on aerostats (dirigibles) to gain a longer view and better detect hostile cruise missiles. It also monitors friendly, unknown and hostile forces in the air and on the ground, to better protect American and allied lives and resources.

"Coryea is an outstanding Soldier, very knowledgeable and dedicated to Army values," 1st Sgt. Michael Cornish of 3rd ADA said.

"He's a great soldier," his squad leader Sgt. Francisco Macias said. "He's dedicated and committed to the Army. He's a perfect example of what a Soldier should be."

The competition was open to all Soldiers, regardless of age or time in service. Pfc. Coryea appeared before a board of five senior noncommissioned officers, and was asked questions that tested his knowledge on military subjects, training and field manuals, command policies and leadership skills.

For earning Dugway Proving Ground's 2012 Soldier of the Year, he was awarded the Army Achievement Medal.

LEGACY

► Continued from page 4

before the event. Keeble's stepson accepted it on his behalf.

The last Medal of Honor recipient with known Native American ancestry received it posthumously in 1954, for sacrificing himself during the Korean War. In 1952, Army Pfc.

Charles George, a North Carolina Cherokee, covered a grenade with his body to save his comrades.

Birdsong read the list of 28 recipients: their bravery and acts befitting a people whose warrior heritage goes back thousands of years.

In closing, John Davis of Test Support Division related how the discovery of the Americas by Europeans was catastrophic to Native Americans. Some tribes lost an estimated 90 percent of their

population, or became extinct, from foreign diseases within a few years of contact.

It was an ironic observation: one of Dugway's missions is to test defenses against diseases that might be used as weapons, or occur naturally.

Charles Hobson of Optics Branch began the event with an invocation. Col. A. Scott Estes, commander of Dugway Proving Ground, made opening remarks. The event was arranged by Alexis Andrus of Test Support Division.

A colorful highlight was traditional dances performed by the Bear family of the nearby Goshute Indian Reservation: Leanne and Jerry Bear, and their children Lonnie, Kota and Tyi. Leanne and her sons, in beaded and feathered buckskin, hopped and whirled to ancient songs while Jerry kept time with a buckskin drum. They also provided displays of various cultural items.

A video entitled "The Culture" by *The 1491s* Indian comedy group was presented by Candace Bear. Using humor, it repudiated the notion that all tribes are alike, and emphasized their diversity.

Estes presented certificates of appreciation to each of the Bear family members, and to Andrus, Birdsong and Davis. A free dinner of Navajo Tacos followed, prepared by the Community Club staff of the Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation office. The flatbread tacos were heaped with hamburger, cheese, lettuce and two foods native to the Americas: corn and beans.

An estimated 120 attended the event, and about half that number filled their bellies with Navajo Tacos --- and their minds with a new appreciation for the culture and contributions of Native Americans.



Lonnie Bear, the son of Jerry and Leanne Bear in the background, receives a Dugway Certificate of Appreciation from Col. A. Scott Estes, commander of Dugway Proving Ground. Col. Estes and many others were delighted by the authentic, colorful dancing.

Fire displaces two families; no injuries



The family housing of Barry and Meg Morse was damaged by fire Jan. 14 but no injuries were reported. The home of Rick and Jenny Kimler in the adjoining family unit received smoke damage. Both families moved out of their quarters.

Story and photo by Al Vogel
Public Affairs Specialist

A Jan. 14 house fire on Dugway displaced two families, and badly damaged one family's quarters, but neither family members or firefighters were injured.

Dugway firefighters responded at 12:01 p.m. to the single-story unit that houses family quarters A & B at 347 W. Third. Later, Dugway Fire Chief Dave Landis said that a light fixture in the bedroom ignited the blaze.

Smoke poured from a bedroom in the northeast corner of unit A, the home of Barry and Meg Morse, when firefighters arrived. Both were away working, she at Dugway High School library and he at the computer center in Ditto.

Residents of Dugway Proving Ground for 28 years, the Morses have lived at 347 A since 1995. In unit B, Jenny Kimler was unaware of the fire at the other end until told to evacuate by firefighters. She hurriedly changed from slippers to proper sub-freezing footwear, taking the family dog Gracie with her.

Husband Rick Kimler was at work for Jacobs, a contractor. Their 14-year-old daughter, Cynthia, and another 14-year-old girl staying with them, were at school. The Kimlers lived in Unit B for 12 years and have lived at Dugway since 1990.

Firefighters not only contended with the blaze, but temperatures around 10 degrees Fahrenheit, and nearly a foot of snow, that numbed fingers and slickened roads and walkways.

See Fire page 13 ►

Dugway's NCO of the year

Story and photo by Al Vogel
Public Affairs Specialist

Staff Sgt. Casey J. Ferris was named 2012 NCO of the Year at U.S. Army Dugway Proving Ground, Utah. He was selected after competing against other noncommissioned officers before a review board.

Ferris joined the Army nearly six years ago and has been stationed at Dugway Proving Ground for a year. He is a resident of Garden City, Mich.

He is the son of Linda Ann Ferris of Garden City, and the late John Lee Ferris. His grandparents are Harold Ferris of Northville, Mich., and the late Mary Ferris.

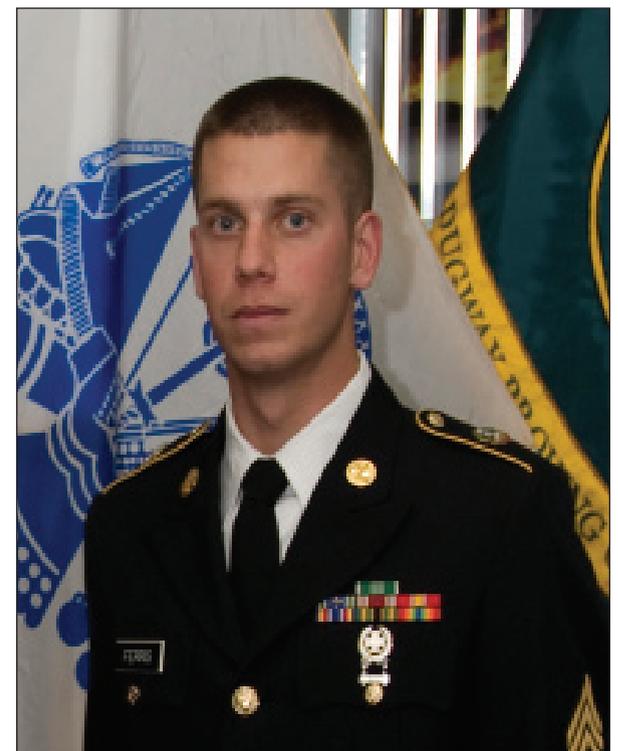
Staff Sgt. Ferris is at Dugway Proving Ground with Alpha Battery, 3rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, testing JLENS (Joint Land Attack Cruise Missile Defense Elevated Netted Sensor

System) in the remote Utah desert west of Salt Lake City.

JLENS carries radar and other defensive systems aloft on aerostats (dirigibles) to gain a longer view and better detect hostile cruise missiles. It also monitors friendly, unknown and hostile forces in the air and on the ground, to better protect American and allied lives and resources.

"Staff Sgt. Ferris is a top-notch NCO who lives and leads by the Warrior Ethos," said 1st Sgt. Michael Cornish of the 3rd Air Defense Artillery.

Ferris competed against other sergeants and staff sergeants, appearing before a board of five senior noncommissioned officers. He was asked questions that tested his knowledge on military subjects, training and field manuals, command policies and leadership skills. For earning Dugway Proving Ground's 2012 NCO of the Year, he was awarded the Army Achievement Medal.



Staff Sgt. Casey Ferris is DPG's NCO of the Year.

Gray Eagle hangar completion celebrated by RIAC team



Photo by Al Vogel

The Gray Eagle hangar at Dugway Proving Ground's Michael Army Airfield was dedicated Oct. 31. The hangar is one of six completed for the Rapid Integration Acceptance Center for Unmanned Aircraft Systems. Left to right cutting the ribbon is Marvin Nichols, director of RIAC; Lt. Col. Tony Davila, project manager for Gray Eagle; Col. A. Scott Estes, Dugway commander; and Mike Cole, Army Aviation & Research Development at Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

**Story by Bonnie A. Robinson
Public Affairs Specialist**

Teamwork to provide situational awareness to Soldiers to give them a decisive edge on the battlefield was the theme of a ribbon cutting ceremony in October as the Rapid Integration and Acceptance Center's (RIAC) at Michael Army Airfield at Dugway Proving Ground (DPG) celebrated the completion of its Gray Eagle Hangar.

The \$90 million Gray Eagle is a descendant of the Predator and manufactured by General Atomics. The aircraft is a medium-range multipurpose unmanned aircraft system (UAS) that has seen duty in Afghanistan with the Army. In demonstrations earlier this year at DPG, the MQ-1C was tested with the Ground Based Sense and Avoid (GBSAA) system, a ground-based radar that monitors the UAS and the aircraft around it.

Dugway was chosen as an Army unmanned aircraft test and evaluation site because of its abundant restricted air space, available radio frequencies and its ability to expand the Army's unmanned aircraft vision of operating, maintaining and housing the Gray Eagle aircraft.

"This hangar is not new news at Dugway, said Col. A. Scott Estes, DPG's commander. "Two and a half years ago, the Army envisioned a series of

hangars that would house the Army's Unmanned Aircraft Systems. Today, we officially finish the final of five hangars."

The 10,000 square foot hangar made the display of three aircraft the MQ-5B Hunter, RQ-7B Shadow and the Gray Eagle set up for the ceremony appear small. The construction used 7,000 linear feet of red iron to erect the building frame and roof, 3,600 feet of conduit and 40,000 square feet of siding for the walls and roof. More than 600 square feet of concrete was poured for the foundation.

Estes also announced that an Air Force hangar, now in the planning process, will be built at the test center.

"In three to five years we will double the more than 1,000 sorties flown this year," he said. "We are just beginning to envision our capabilities."

The hangar ceremony followed a successful two-week demonstration at Dugway, in July, of a new GBSAA system for the Gray Eagle that allows UAS operators to track aircraft altitude, speed and heading and will notify the user if it is ascending or descending. It also tells the

operator whether another aircraft is transmitting identifying information or if the crew is communicating with air traffic control by radio.

Marvin Nichols, RIAC director, recognized the efforts of the contract teams that have supported the UAS hangar effort over the past three years.

"Look how far we have come. Thank you for all the good work since day one," he said expressing appreciation for AAI Corporation's Shadow, General Atomics' Gray Eagle, and Northrop Grumman's Hunter teams and their high-tech training that has helped expand the center's ability to relay critical information, in real-time to commanders on the battlefield."

Lt. Col. Tony O. Davila, project manager for Medium Attitude Endurance MQ-1C Gray Eagle from Redstone Arsenal was the final speaker.

Davila said the Gray Eagle recently completed a successful initial operational test and evaluation and is working toward a full rate of production this April.

"Today we continue to work diligently to improve system reliability and direct support to our deployed units. There is a continuing push for quick reaction capabilities to address evolving threats with persistent surveillance" he said.

Davila noted that UAS programs are expected to increase at Dugway as the Army seeks to continue its rapid testing and fielding. He also talked openly about the Department of Defense interest in more joint aviation operations, homeland security and new partnerships within the Defense Security Cooperation Agency, coalition partners and with national and local industry customers

"Unmanned aircraft systems have played a critical and constantly expanding role in U.S. intelligence and military operations. We are moving to a single standard for testing and training, and it is expected that the entire cycle will be accelerated as the focus is on bringing technology, operations, tools and processes together to solve mission requirements," he said.

Finally, Davila expressed appreciation for the team effort that built the new hangar.

"Let me thank you for your efforts in the completion of this hangar. You have brought together an incredible collaborative team with a terrific work ethic. It shows your commitment as we continue to move forward.

This facility will continue to house one of the most powerful tools the Army provides for our Warfighters use -- real-time intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities."

In closing, Davila thanked the team members "It doesn't matter if you wear military uniforms or civilian attire; you are part of saving lives on the battlefield."



Photo courtesy Readstone Arsenal

The MQ-1C Gray Eagle UAS is a technologically advanced result of the Predator unmanned aircraft.

Inspiring student success

What makes a great teacher?



David Gardiner, Dugway High School language arts teacher, reviews Oscar Valdiezo's notes as he prepares his paper discussing which character in John Steinbeck's novel "Of Mice and Men" he would choose to raise his children, if he should die. Gardiner is known for his creative teaching style at the school, which has recently been ranked No. 2 in the State of Utah.

**Story and photos Bonnie A. Robinson
Public Affairs Specialist**

Choices of character, parenting and dying were the subject of Dugway High School's 10th grade language arts class taught by David Gardiner the day before holiday break in December.

The students are studying John Steinbeck's novel "Of Mice and Men." The question posed for their consideration: You are dying, who are you going to leave your kids with, George or Slim?

For those of us that are no longer in the 10th grade, the novel is the story of two migrant ranch

workers in search of new job opportunities during the Great Depression. To answer the question the students must not only make a decision, but support it with character evidence from the story and provide a counterargument.

The students are eager to analyze the characters. Their hands quickly pop up. Once the discussion has begun, they easily discuss the merits of their choice. The conversation is relaxed — effortless — as easy as any after-school banter or chat.

Dugway High School is a small, 89-student school on Dugway Proving Ground, a remote

Army post 80 miles southwest of Salt Lake City in the west desert area of Utah. In December, the State of Utah announced DHS was ranked No.2 in the state.

What makes a school successful? It is a simple question. It has a simple answer: Teachers engage with their students. Gardiner's class is an excellent example.

This reason for the students' eagerness is clearly that Gardiner has taught them the importance of engagement. When asked, his students said he is: "tough, demanding, encouraging and he thinks what I say is important." Those words seem obvious as his students gather around after class to ask their final questions before he reminds them that the next class is about to begin.

It is easy to see that Gardiner has a personal connection and investment in their learning.

Gardner said as far as he could remember, he always wanted to be involved with English, reading and writing. Before becoming a teacher he considered becoming a writer or journalist. But during a two year mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, he discovered how much he loved teaching.

"I love teaching. Helping kids discover things that they didn't really understand before is so rewarding," Gardiner said with an easy smile. "I like to watch as they figure out something for the first time. I love when they realize that even though it was challenging, it was also fun."

Gardiner's commitment to his students is not unnoticed by the school's leadership.

"Mr. Gardiner has high expectations for all his students. He requires his students to write and proofread their own work and to analyze the literature they read and make interpretations based on multiple texts," said Robin Nielson, Dugway High School principal.

Although, Gardiner, with his short-cropped hair and boyish grin looks to be just a few years older than his students, his confidence as a teacher makes it surprising to learn he is in the middle of his second year as a teacher.

Gardiner doesn't teach at the front of the room or sit behind a desk. He prefers to be constantly moving between his students, attentive to his their opinions, challenging assumptions and openly delighted when his kids become animated about the topic. Part of what he does is nothing short of cheerleading, as he praises a clever answer or gives a quick pat on the back to show his approval when a student is willing to express a viewpoint.

Gardiner's gregarious support clearly connects with his students. His personal enthusiasm prompts the kids to trust that what they think, feel and believe matters. His kids eagerly shoot their hands into the air and actually plead to ask a question or provide an opinion.

Creating a positive and supportive classroom is important to Gardiner.

"I want my students to trust that what they have

See Gardiner page 9 ►

DHS ranked No. 2 high school in Utah

Story **Bonnie A. Robinson**
Public Affairs Specialist

How does the State of Utah and the Tooele School District measure student performance and assess the effectiveness of their teachers?

In December, the new Utah Comprehensive Accountability System (UCSA) assessment ranked Dugway High School the second highest school in the state. The new assessment was based on grades 7 to 12 with all other public, private and charter high schools in the state, said Dugway High School principal Robin Nielson.

Last June, the U.S. Department of Education announced that it had granted Utah's request to replace the Federal Adequate Year Progress (AYP) report, which was part of the No Child Left Behind Act, with the UCSA. The state believed that UCSA would give a much more accurate gauge of how well a school is performing academically.

"The new system is a better way to measure school accountability," Nielson said. "The new [UCSA] assessment requires students to take a nationally-normed state test three times per year and uses more core testing data to check the results of their progress."

The progress is determined by comparing students fall-to-fall test scores, giving the school boards a clearer report than by using just one standardized test per school year, as they had been

doing under the old reporting system.

"This new ranking, based on three test scores, also includes the number of students who have shown improvement over their last testing period and the graduation rate," said Nielson, who feels the UCSA removes the disadvantages for smaller schools, like DHS, under the old system.

According to the State of Utah Education website, each school receives up to 600 points with 300 points based on student achievement that is measured by core test in math, science and language arts and 300 points based on student growth. Math, science and language arts, each have a total of 50 points with 150 points awarded according to the school's graduation rate.

Although Nielson is quick to credit all of her teachers for the school's successful rating, because the new system measures primarily language arts, math and science, four teachers are largely responsible for the school's high state and county ranking: David Gardiner for language arts; Richard Davis for math; Randy Gross, biology and integrated science; and David Gregor who teaches physics, chemistry and math.

"Each teacher in these core areas has six different subjects in their field of expertise to teach daily," Nielson said. "That's a huge amount of responsibility and I am very pleased by their efforts."

Nielson met with students shortly after the state scores were announced.

"To say I am extremely proud of my students is an understatement. I told them how pleased I am of their achievement and that they should be proud of themselves and their accomplishments," she said.

The students in language arts classes received their highest score, a whopping 98 percent proficiency rate. High school students are required to take four years of language arts to meet graduation requirements. There are four senior students who study English using concurrent college enrollment. Gardiner is responsible for all the other language art students in the school, which is considerable since DHS also houses grades 7 and 8.

DHS's 78 students (grades 9 to 12) showed that they easily led the Tooele School District with an impressive score of 554 points. A perfect score is 600. Wendover High School took second place with 450. Tooele High School came in third with 437.

Teachers, students and parents have every right to be proud of how well DHS has performed during the assessment.

"I believe the UCSA scores will encourage teachers to set high expectations of their students and encourage them to set the education bar high," Nielson said.

When students feel successful it builds confidence and fuels self-esteem. That's a win for everyone.



Four Dugway High School teachers are largely responsible for the students' high ranking (No. 2) by Utah's new Comprehensive Accountability System Assessment.

Left to right: David Gardiner, language arts; David Gregor, physics, chemistry and mathematics; Randy Gross, biology and integrated science; and Richard Davis, mathematics.

Gardiner

Continued from page 6

to say is important," he said. "I want them to be creative thinkers and I want them to be college bound. A college education is so closely linked to success on the job that I feel it is critical on my part to ensure they have a solid [language arts] foundation."

Later as his students map out their support for either George or Slim's character as a potential parent, Gardiner quietly walks down the rows of desks, stopping often to check if anyone needs a one-on-one discussion before they begin their

essays.

Recently, a nationwide Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll substantiated the importance of connection between students and their teachers. More than 1,000 Americans responded to the telephone survey. They were asked about the teacher who has had the most positive influence in their life. When it came to that special teacher, they used much the same words Gardiner's students did about him.

Their responses included, "caring, encouraging, attentive, believed in me, strict, tough, challenging, demanding, a good or great teacher, committed and dedicated."

"Kids live in an uncertain and changing world and they are doing their best to get through it. It's my job as a teacher to create a classroom where they can be challenged to explore new ideas, be secure enough to express them and find the support that will eventually link them to success."

Obviously, the day's lesson wasn't just about parenthood choices by fictional characters

Thanks to a teaching philosophy like Gardiner's, the lesson is about building a solid education foundation, and that should be much appreciated by parents, educators and anyone else who cares about kids.

New Pool gives hope to residents for a first splash by Memorial Day weekend

Story and photos by Bonnie A. Robinson
Public Affairs Specialist

Jumping into the cool crisp water of the community pool on a raging hot day, or toasting the summer away hanging out with your best buds playing Marco Polo, seemed to be a thing of the past when it was discovered that the Dugway pool could no longer be patched to prevent it from leaking thousands of gallons a day.

A pool expert estimated the pool was leaking up to 24,000 gallons every 24 hours, said Kent Hawkins, general engineer for the Dugway's Directorate of Public Works. The pool has received two major renovations in its 57 year history, once in 1969 and again in 1986, but this time it wasn't feasible to repair again.

Concern over closing the pool reached a fevered pitch last fall as kids and their parents learned that, due to magnitude of the leaking and cracking of the pool and deck areas, it would be impossible to repair the pool for another year.

"The pool was one of the top issues for Army Family Action Plan conference last year," said Brent Console, Army Community Services AFAP coordinator. "A lot of military families were concerned about the possibility of the old pool closing, so they wanted to get their concerns to the Dugway leadership."

At the end of the summer, Col. A. Scott Estes, Dugway's commander and Audy Snodgrass, garrison manager, decided that the old pool, built in 1955, could no longer be repaired to meet the community's needs. A bid request was issued.

Diversified Maintenance System Inc., a Salt Lake City general contracting company specializing in construction and maintenance services for federal projects, won the nearly \$750,000 contract. Diversified is the same company who helped build the Renau Court housing project that opened in May.

Construction on the new pool complex began Nov. 26, west of the Shocklee Fitness Center.

The new pool will be 82 feet long and 35 feet wide, which is half the size of an Olympic pool. A 30 by 18 feet wide, zero-depth entry pool is attached to the pool's east side and will serve as the wading pool for small children. The deep end will be 10 feet and have a diving board. A circular slide will be placed across the pool from the sloped wading pool.

"Zero-depth entry means that the pool will gradually slope from the deck into the water, getting deeper with every step to a maximum depth of 1 foot 6 inches. The slope complies with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements," Hawkins said. "There will be a



The new Dugway pool, being built on the northwest corner of the Shocklee Fitness Center, will be 82 feet long and 35 feet wide -- half the size of an Olympic size pool.

separation wall between the wading pool and the main pool. The main pool can be easily accessed from the wading pool steps."

Decking around the pool will be a minimum of 10 feet, but will not be rectangular in shape. There will be two grassy areas adjacent to the deck on the east and northwest of the pool. DEcking around the deep end of the pool will have additional 5 feet, to accommodatsate a driving board.

Decking will be laid between the locker rooms of the Shocklee Fitness Center. The complex's design easily incorporated the fitness center's existing bathroom and shower areas and will use the emergency exits, saving building funds for

other amenities. A ramp and stairway are part of project design, to connect the bathrooms directly to the deck area, Hawkins said.

The complex includes a pool equipment and storage area, and a lifeguard office to be built on the northeast corner next to the fitness center.

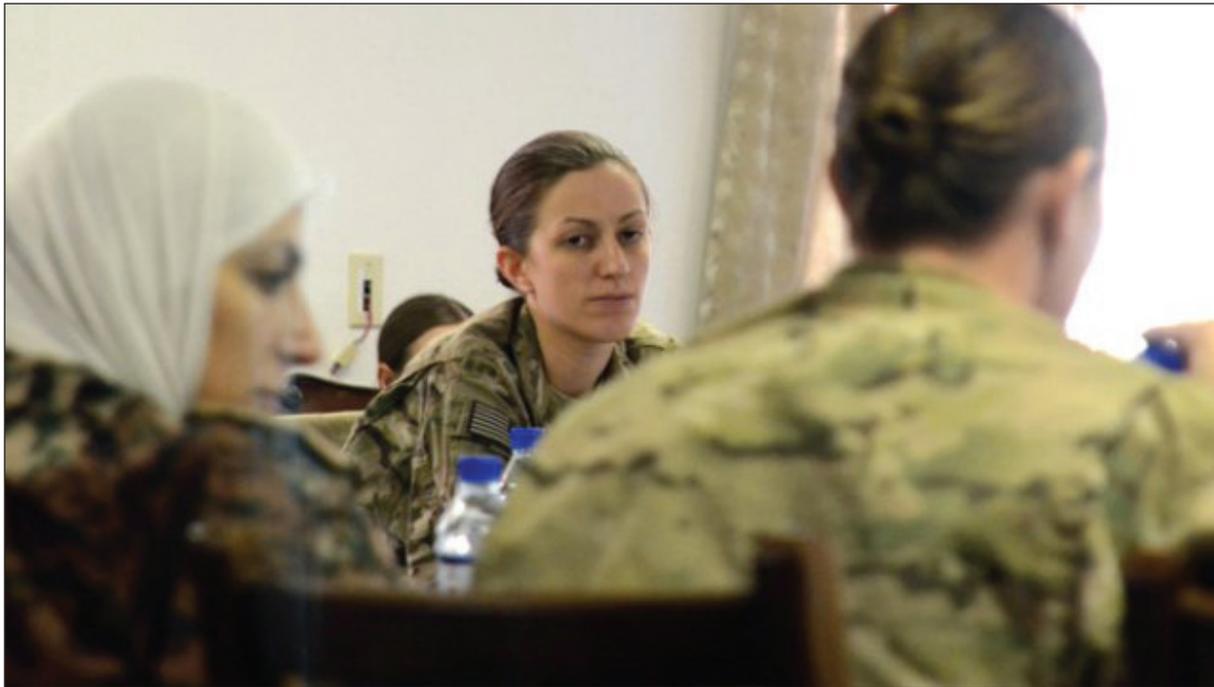
"We're working hard to make sure this pool can be open for Memorial Day," said Steve Beck, foreman of the pool construction crew. He said he understood a lot of military residents are excited about the pool complex.

Come Memorial Day, hot summer days at Dugway will be cooler for decades to come, thanks to leadership who listened to residents' concerns.



The new pool will have a 30 by 18 foot zero-depth entry wade pool. The water will gradually go from 0 to 18 inches deep. The deep end is 10 feet and will have a diving board. A circular slide will be placed directly across the pool from the wading area.

Soldiers in Afghanistan continue mission as 2013 arrives



Soldiers contribute to a Regional Command-East Female Engagement Team conference, which focused on increasing the role of women in Afghanistan's police force. The conference was at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, this month.

**Story and photo by David Vergun
Army News Service**

WASHINGTON – As Americans ring in the new year, Soldiers, Afghan security forces and their coalition partners are engaged in combat, training and humanitarian operations.

Fighting in Afghanistan continues, as evidenced by battlefield dispatches dated Dec. 31.

It was confirmed that a top Taliban leader in the Andar district of Ghazni province was arrested by Afghan and coalition security forces, according to an International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) Joint Command operational update.

“As one of the most senior Taliban leaders in the district, the insurgent executed tactical planning, kidnapping operations, detainee operations and strategic planning to support the Taliban insurgency. He was directly involved in attacks against Afghan and coalition forces and in contact with local Taliban leadership,” the report states.

Additionally, a Taliban leader was arrested in the Nad ‘Ali district of Helmand province. The leader commanded a direct action cell operating in the district. He also planned and coordinated multiple ambushes and IED attacks against Afghan and coalition forces, according to the ISAF report.

A Haqqani leader in the Pul-e ‘Alam district of Logar province was arrested as well, the report said. The leader coordinated and prepared improvised explosive device, or IED, attacks against Afghan and coalition forces. He also facilitated the distribution of weapons, IEDs and suicide vests to insurgents throughout the district,

the report states.

The report continues with details concerning other combat operations around the country.

During a security operation in search of a Taliban leader in the Andar district of Ghazni province, two insurgents were arrested by an Afghan and coalition security force. The leader commands a large number of insurgents and manages IED attacks against Afghan and coalition forces.

Afghan and coalition forces killed several armed insurgents during an operation in the Ghaziabad district of Kunar province as well. During the operation, the security force observed the armed individuals engaged in hostile activity and engaged them.

AFGHANS TAKING LEAD

Soldiers continue to train Afghan police and security forces as U.S. forces continue to draw down. And now, Afghans themselves are training other Afghans.

For example, at Camp Parsa, an Afghan National Army-led, six-week counter-IED course is set to graduate 40 Afghan soldiers who will be proficient at defeating the IED threat.

Although the Afghan National Army, or ANA, initiated the training and implementation of the course, U.S. Soldiers provide assistance to ensure the trainers are taught the latest lessons on counter-IED tactics.

“We conduct a train-the-trainer effort here,” said Capt. Michael Wilda, officer in charge of the counter-IED partnership.

Even though U.S. Soldiers offer assistance, little is needed or requested, he said.

“These guys are really good at what they do,”

Wilda said. “Very seldom do they ask much of us. When they do, we give them our advice and ensure they understand what we’re showing them and then they run with it.”

According to an ISAF report, from January 2008 to September 2012, IEDs accounted for an estimated 63 percent of all casualties sustained by the Afghan and ISAF forces.

During the summer of 2013, it is expected that Afghan forces will be in the lead for security across the country. Twenty-three of Afghanistan’s 34 provinces are now entirely in the transition process, according to a ISAF report released Dec. 31.

GREATER ROLE FOR WOMEN

Soldiers and coalition partners met at Bagram Airfield this month to develop a unified plan to recruit women into the Afghanistan police force and provide them with important training.

“This conference enabled us to draft a basic training instruction plan,” said Lt. Col. Scott Perrenod, Regional Command - East, deputy chief reintegration officer. “We added very important elements to include literacy, tactical questioning, evidence-based operations and witness statements, and an Afghan peace and reintegration program.”

Nadereh C. Lee, the RC-East and Combined Joint Task Force-1 senior development officer and deputy senior civilian representative, attended the conference to ensure a civilian perspective was represented.

“It’s critical to have women involved in everything here to be able to move forward in Afghanistan,” Lee said. “We need to start thinking of women differently, as powerful actors economically, in security forces and in every aspect of Afghan life.”

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

U.S. Soldiers continue to help Afghans with critical infrastructure improvements. For example, one of the many projects of the Army Corps of Engineers is to provide more reliable electricity to Kandahar by the end of 2013. This includes work on substations and transmission lines.

“These capital improvement projects will be the enduring legacy of coalition and U.S. efforts from the last decade,” said Lt. Col. Robert Bensburg, officer in charge of infrastructure in RC-South’s Stability Division. “The Afghan government will be the recipient of a great opportunity to provide multiple levels of services to its citizens that would most probably not have been available for another 30 years.”

ESTABLISHING RULE OF LAW

In 2012, the Afghan criminal justice system continued to make strides in implementing

See Afghanistan Outlook page 12 ►

Wounded Warrior Care

Fly fishing, tying helps vet heal, reflect



Story and photo by Sgt. Mark Cloutier
Army News Service

JOINT BASE LEWIS-McCHORD, Wash.—

For many of America's war-torn and disabled veterans, adjusting to life as a wounded warrior can be the mental and physical journey of a thousand miles. Through learning the art and craft of fly tying and fishing, Soldiers assigned to the Warrior Transition Battalion (WTB) are able to find peace and "Healing Waters" in the eye of rehabilitation's storm.

Some of the Soldiers who end up at the WTB are injured combat veterans. Here, they receive comprehensive medical care to meet their physical needs, as well as the respect, dignity and compassion befitting a hero. Here, each one begins a very personal journey — one of healing — from the physical and emotional scars of war.

As a warrior, each of these Soldiers is on a mission not only to heal, but also to transition either back to duty, or else to continue on as a veteran in their home communities.

For many of these veterans, however, the emotional struggles of adjusting to life with disabilities can exact a devastating toll. It is at this point that Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing Inc., comes through in the clutch.

As a nonprofit organization, its mission is one of dedication to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled military active duty personnel and medically retired veterans.

Through fly tying and rod building instruction, fly casting and fishing excursions, participants with all manners of injury learn to tap into the magical healing properties of the great outdoors.

For those who take advantage of it, Project Healing Waters teaches a new skill set, paving a way for lasting peace and emotional relief to help last a lifetime.

Each Tuesday, 3 to 7 p.m., in a conference

room at the WTB, instructors teach wounded veterans in the gentle, soothing art of fly tying.

"You can easily get addicted to it," said Jeffrey Thompson, a medically retired Soldier who lives in Port Orchard, Wash.

Thompson shows up like clockwork every Tuesday afternoon and has been fishing for a while now. He was medically retired in September of this year after losing a portion of his left hand to a rocket-propelled grenade as it blasted in through a window of the mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicle he was riding in.

Thompson, as well as other Soldiers of the 1st Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, were returning from an escort run in Kunar province, Afghanistan.

"Tying these flies and then being able to take them to the river and watch them work as I'm standing there in water up to my waist is so calming — so peaceful — and it helps keep me out of the bars," Thompson said. "It has me fishing. So when I have to wake up early and go fishing, I won't go to the bars. What's really huge for me, is that I used to daydream a lot about combat. Now, I do more daydreaming about fishing. It's one of the best things that has happened to me since I left combat."

Chuck Tye is the Northwest Regional coordinator for Project Healing Waters, as well as the instructor on Tuesdays. He is a retired Marine Corps infantry officer, who says he can't think of another job he'd rather have. Having once been a fly fishing instructor for world renown Maine outfitter, L.L. Bean, Tye is perhaps, perfect for the job.

"A number of these guys have been doing this so long now that they're great instructors of the art, themselves," said Tye. "It's just amazing to watch, as a new Soldier comes to our group, sometimes hesitantly at first, and then to see the positive change that begins to develop in them as they start to gain confidence in tying these flies; and there's an obvious peace that comes with that. It's a wonderful tool for taking their minds off some of the not so wonderful things that they each must deal with."

What began in 1984 as an opportunity for a few wounded warriors at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center at Bethesda, Md., has grown into more than 140 programs nationwide. For many of this nation's hurting and healing combat heroes, Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing is making a difference.

Afghanistan mission Army 2013 Outlook

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the rule of law, and demonstrating its national sovereignty in the criminal justice system at the Justice Center in Parwan, or JCIP.

At the JCIP, the Afghans are partnering with the Rule of Law Field Force-Afghanistan. ROLFF-A's mission is to provide essential field capabilities, liaison and security to partnered Afghan and coalition civil-military teams to build Afghan criminal justice capacity, increase access to dispute resolution services, fight corruption and promote the legitimacy of the Afghan government.

In 2012, about 1,200 criminal cases were completed, as compared to only 436 in a 2011. These include primary level, juvenile and appellate court cases.

"These numbers depict a steady increase in the court's ability to dispense fair and impartial Afghan justice, which serves as a demonstrable example of Afghan sovereignty," said Brig. Gen. Ural D. Glanville, ROLFF-A commander.

"This is a total effort by our Afghan partners," Glanville continued. "Afghan judges, Afghan prosecutors and Afghan defense counsel are demonstrating their resolve and commitment to bringing the rule of law to their nation."

Glanville said the JCIP is a "clear example" of a working partnership between the Afghan government and coalition forces to bring to justice those who violate the laws of Afghanistan "in a fair, equitable and transparent manner."

2013 OUTLOOK

During a visit to Afghanistan this month, Secretary of Defense Leon E. Panetta met with U.S. commanders and later told reporters that "to a person, (U.S. commanders) said the Afghan forces are proving they can do the job."

Panetta said that continued coalition support for the Afghan forces will include a focus on leadership development, an effort to build their planning, logistics and procurement capabilities, and training that will allow them to provide larger and more complex operations on the battlefield.

Recent progress on security in Afghanistan "makes it all the more important to confront broader strategic challenges that we face, and we are doing that," Panetta said.

The rule of law must be strengthened and the nations must work together "to reduce corruption and promote the quality of governance that will support these hard-won security gains," Panetta said.

"Together with the international community we must promote sustainable economic development, education (and) healthcare to give the Afghan people the better future they deserve," Panetta said.

Brrrrrrrr... it's freezing outside



Photos by Al Vogel

Trees were covered with ice the morning of Jan. 14, remaining well into the next day . Since late December, snow has accumulated to more than a foot on the parade field, with temperatures below 0. Please ensure your pets have adequate shelter!

**Story by Bonnie A. Robinson
Public Affairs Specialist**

It's bitterly cold outside may seem like a bit of an understatement for the sub-freezing temperatures we have been experiencing in January.

Experts at Weather.com predict that this winter will be one of the coldest winters in years for the Intermountain states with ice, snow and frosts domineering the sub-zero temperatures. The storm conditions this winter are expected to closely mimic winter storms the nation experienced in the 1970s.

New this year, the storm team at The Weather Channel began naming significant winter storms. The recent storm that dumped close to a foot of snow on Dugway and along the Wasatch Front was given the name Gandolf for its blizzard-like cold that has impacted the Intermountain West and

Northern Plains areas

Naming noteworthy winter storms is new this year, and according to The Weather Channel's website, will offer many dividends.

"Naming winter storms will raise awareness, which will lead to more productive efforts to plan ahead, resulting in less impact on the public overall," said Tom Niziol, winter weather expert of Weather.com

Naming the storm also makes it much easier for social media and others to remember and reference in the future.

Here are five tips from Dugway Housing Office to deal with the cold.

1. If you will be away from your house for more than three days make arrangements with a friend or neighbor to periodically check on your house - heat on, no water leaks. If you will be gone for two weeks or more, notify the Dugway Housing Office at 831-3541 or 3542. or the

Dugway Police Department at 831-2929.

2. Do not set your thermostat below 65 degrees during any period of absence.

3. Do not leave your garage door open. Garage doors should remain closed to prevent water pipes from freezing and breaking.

4. Water pipes - even insulated ones - may freeze in the winter if the outside temperature drops below 10 degrees. Turn on faucets in the kitchen and bathroom sinks to allow a small trickle of water to run out. Moving water is less likely to freeze. Both the warm and cold faucets should be slightly opened. Often, the hot water pipes will freeze and break first since they are used less often.

5. Make it a nightly habit (before going to bed) to open cabinet doors surrounding pipes and laundry room doors to expose pipes to the heat under kitchen sinks, bathroom and vanity doors.

Housing Fire

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DuWayne Johnson, in the next housing building at 343 A, reported the fire at noon.

He smelled smoke, and stepped outside to check his furnace via its exterior door. Johnson immediately noticed the smoke pouring from the building next door.

Johnson asked his 19-year-old son, Brandon, if anyone was at the Morse home. Brandon replied no, prompting Johnson to call 911.

"I wasn't so much worried about notifying,

as much as being sure no one at home," said Johnson, a Navy veteran of Desert Storm. Johnson has lived on Dugway - off and on - since 1970 when he was a toddler.

He praised Dugway firefighters, who arrived within one minute of his calling 911.

"They had it under control really quick, so kudos to our fire department," Johnson said.

Dugway Police controlled traffic at both ends of Third. Dugway Emergency Services stood by with an ambulance. Moses Thomas, manager of the Housing Office, made arrangements for the Morse family to store their smoke-damaged property in a nearby unoccupied unit. Housing at Dugway's hotel, The Desert Lodge, was

immediately arranged.

The Kimlers, their visitor and Gracie the dog are staying with friends John and Valerie Gabrysiak on Dugway.

The Morses and Kimlers were scheduled to move into other quarters this spring. Most of the older Wherry housing units on Dugway's west side will eventually be demolished. Built in 1952, and modernized and refurbished many times, fewer users and increasing costs make them inefficient to retain.

The community has rallied to provide dinners and other support to both families until they move into their new quarters.