



July 2016 E-Update

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Greater Yuma EDC

Mission Statement:

To expand economic activity within Yuma County by attracting commerce and industry to the region, and by assisting in developing the region's existing industry to its fullest potential.

Vision Statement:

Greater Yuma will be recognized as a globally competitive region— one that embraces advancing technology, attracts and retains human capital and continues to develop & foster the amenities that make the Yuma Region a great place to live and work.



Message from the President



The 2016 Arizona Mexico Summit was held in Scottsdale this past June and Yuma's own Jonathan Lines was the MC for this very important event. This is a recap of the summit and the game changing programs that are in pilot test mode as well as fully implemented. We are seeing major commitment from both Governor Pavlovich and Governor Ducey, towards making this mega region a strong international player.

2016 AMC Summit Overview on behalf of Marcos Garay, AMC Executive Director

We are pleased to share that the 2016 AMC Summit was an overwhelming success. We saw record breaking attendance at last week's event (over 500) and an unprecedented magnitude and level of participants in our organization's 57 years of history. Our speakers included three cabinet level Mexican government officials (Secretary of Agriculture Jose Calzada, Secretary of Tourism Enrique de la Madrid, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Claudia Ruiz Massieu), the Undersecretaries of Energy and Transportation and ambassadors, entrepreneurs like the designer of the Soccket, Victor Angel, and top mining executives such as Jaime Lomelin.

Governor Ducey and Governor Pavlovich sent a clear signal promoting our region and forging closer ties at our Summit. The Governors participated in several private meetings with officials from Mexico's highest levels of government and our binational committees' co-chairs. The Governors also spoke at our Decision Makers Panel and signed agreements of cooperation between our states during the plenary session. The agreements included:

- **Health:** *Declaration of Cooperation between the Arizona Department of Health Services and the Sonora Secretariat of Public Health to promote opportunities for exchanges and training of public health professionals of both states and to join efforts to address concussions in the Arizona-Sonora region.*
- **Real Estate:** *Declaration of Cooperation between the Cadastral Institute and Registry for the State of Sonora and the Arizona Department of Real Estate to coordinate the sharing of information regarding the registration process in Sonora and Arizona.*

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- **Economic Development:** Declaration of Cooperation between the Arizona Commerce Authority and the Sonora Secretariat of Economy to coordinate regional promotion in business attraction efforts. Arizona and Sonora have already jointly made a pitch to a company to relocate to both states as a region. This noteworthy effort was led by our partners at the Arizona Commerce Authority and coordination with our Sonoran counterparts was led through the AMC.
- **Infrastructure and transportation:** Agreement on collaboration between the Arizona Department of Transportation and Department of Infrastructure and Urban Development of the State of Sonora (SIDUR) on collaboration and participation in Arizona-Mexico Corridor Study.

In addition, representatives of U.S. Customs and Border Protection and Mexican Customs (“Aduanas”) made an announcement during the Summit that both Customs services are implementing a Pilot Program to Co-Locate Aduanas personnel inside the Mariposa inspection compound. U.S. Customs personnel will enter Mexico to conduct pre-inspection and therefore pre-clear US-bound conveyances. Once these conveyances cross the border and enter the US inspection facilities they are treated as low risk shipments and are expedited through the inspection process. This pilot program stands to make Nogales the envy of every other port of entry on the US-Mexico border.

Our event also received widespread coverage from members of the media locally, nationally and internationally. Some articles include:

- Ducey y Pavlovich prometen activar ‘mega región’- [La Voz](#)
- My Turn (Secretary Claudia Ruiz Massieu): Grow trade with Mexico now (or regret it later)- [AZ Central](#)
- Exclusive: Ducey talks rebuilding, expanding relations with Sonora, Mexico- [Phoenix Business Journal](#)

Lastly, on behalf of the rest of my team, thank you again for your important contribution to the 2016 Arizona-Mexico Commission Summit. Our event’s success was truly a measure of your excellent support and leadership.

Marcos Garay, Executive Director AMC



A heart procedure at Yuma Regional Medical Center, the Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR), is exceeding national averages with patient success rates.

The TAVR procedure is minimally invasive and involves a balloon-expandable valve that is delivered via catheter through the groin or between the ribs, YRMC said. With this procedure, the patient does not require the chest opened for surgery or put on a heart-lung (bypass) machine.

YRMC says the hospital's TAVR program "helps patients suffering from severe cases of the aortic valve being dangerously narrow." These patients, YRMC notes, are typically high-risk and not considered good candidates for open-heart surgery.

The hospital's news release stated that YRMC recently compared its own statistics with those from TAVR programs at hundreds of hospitals around the nation and several positive trends emerged that YRMC leaders call "amazing."

YRMC's release showed that the hospital administers the procedure on those more ill patients and still maintains positive results, according to Charles Harmon, administrator of the Cardiovascular Service Line at YRMC: "We obviously have an excellent program here in Yuma. We do more of our TAVR procedures on sicker patients and we still are having excellent outcomes with the TAVR procedure. Our outcomes place us in the top percentile among TAVR programs around the country."

YRMC Heart Procedure Tops National Averages

By Rachel Twoguns, @RTwoguns Updated Jun 27, 2016



LOANED PHOTO

A heart procedure at Yuma Regional Medical Center (see in photo), the Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement, is exceeding national averages with patient success rates. People wanting more information about the TAVR procedure or to see if they may be a candidate should contact their cardiologist, YRMC said, or call (928) 336-2165.

For instance, TAVR patients in Yuma spend an average of three days hospitalized, YRMC said, compared to a national average of 7.2 days. The release notes this statistic places YRMC's outcomes in the top 25 percent of TAVR programs in the United States.

Additionally, the release shows that the TAVR program at YRMC places in the top 25 percent of programs around the nation for the number of patients who are doing well enough to be discharged directly home, circumventing the need for care in a skilled nursing facility.

"The procedure lasts approximately three hours and involves a recovery time of two to five days," YRMC's release noted. "Open heart surgery usually requires seven to ten days of recovery time post-operation. TAVR patients also resume their regular activities and schedules one to two weeks after the procedure compared to approximately six weeks for open heart surgery patients."

Health experts predict that TAVR could replace all open-heart valve procedures by 2018, the hospital said.

In early 2014, the Yuma hospital commenced its TAVR program and has reached the milestone of the program's 100th procedure in January of this year.

In addition to the statistics, Harmon says he knows that YRMC's program is a success because of the improvements he sees in patients' daily living. It was stressed by the administrator that the "difference is almost immediate" following a TAVR procedure.

"Oh, it's pretty incredible," he said. "For many patients the result is a complete resolution of their symptoms. Before the procedure, they have shortness of breath and just feel terrible because their valve is not working very well."

"After the procedure, they have more energy," Harmon added. "They sleep better and generally just feel better. They can get up and walk longer than before."

The TAVR program at YRMC encompasses a team of health professionals: Cardiologists Evren Kaynak MD, Mark Awar MD, Habteab Feseha MD and Joseph Cardenas MD, along with surgeons James Moon MD, Peter Tsai MD and Ramaswamy Ravikumar MD.

Harmon credits the cardiologists and surgeons who care for the program's patients as the reason for the program's successes.

"We have very skilled practitioners," he said. "That is obvious. All around, this is just very high quality of care."

YPG's Space Capsule Parachute Test Scrubbed

By **Blake Herzog**, @BlakeHerzog Updated 18 hrs ago

A Wednesday morning test at Yuma Proving Ground for the Orion space capsule's parachute system was called off due to problems with the oxygen system for the plane which was to drop the test dart from an elevation of 38,000 feet.

A malfunction in the oxygen system on the C-17 military transport aircraft delivering the test run meant the pilots would not have been able to safely open the door and dispatch the load, so it never got off the ground in Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., said Jim McMichael, capsule parachute assembly systems and integration engineering lead at NASA.

YPG Public Affairs Officer Chuck Wullenjohn said later Wednesday that the test is not being rescheduled for the rest of this week or all of next week.



Photo by Randy
Hoeft/Yuma Sun

Ellen Ochoa, director for the Johnson Space Center in Houston, and the first Hispanic female astronaut in NASA history, talks Wednesday morning at the U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground drop zone about the program that tests parachutes designed to bring NASA'S Orion space capsule safely to Earth.

Dozens of NASA engineers, YPG leaders and personnel and others had gathered at the "Robby" drop zone in the northern reaches of the testing range to watch as the testing of the Orion capsule parachute entered its final phase of testing.

This included about 30 staff and contract employees of the Johnson Space Center in Houston, led by Dr. Ellen Ochoa, its director and a former astronaut, having become the first Hispanic female to serve on a space flight crew in 1993.

She said she'd never witnessed an Orion parachute test in person before, and had been looking forward to seeing the visual spectacle provided by the main 'chute, 116 feet in diameter.

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"It'll be interesting, you can actually hear the chute kind of pop open when you're out here on the range, and then once the main is open it'll actually be quite visible," she said, while binoculars are necessary to see the smaller parachutes open.

This final stage of testing is checking to make sure the 11-parachute system performs as expected under eight different scenarios as it guides Orion back to earth, without any of the induced malfunctions of the "failure" phase to make sure the backup systems perform as needed, said Koki Machin, chief engineer for the capsule parachute assembly system.

Orion's first unmanned orbit around the moon is scheduled for 2018, with the first manned mission expected to take the same orbit in 2021, Ochoa said. There are no plans at the moment to land the capsule on the moon, she said, though some of NASA's international partners could choose to.

"We plan to do a number of missions in the near term, the 2020s, to demonstrate the capability to go to Mars in the 2030s," she said.

She said she brings 25 years of experience with manned space flight to her role at the center, but "the whole larger team is what you depend on, that dedication and talent that'll get us in space, keep up in space and allow us to go beyond earth orbit."

Ochoa grew up just outside San Diego in La Mesa, Calif., and got an undergraduate degree in physics from San Diego State University before going on to Stanford for a masters and doctorate in electrical engineering.

She'd visited YPG once before years ago, she said, and it still has the vast drop zones, free even of cacti which could snag equipment.

She added, "Open space is obviously important, but there's a particular expertise that YPG folks bring as well as people who work with them that make it an ideal place for us to test."

Yuma County Prepares For Zika Virus Threat

By MAYA SPRINGHAWK ROBNETT • JUN 21, 2016

[Kawc.org](#)

Yuma county officials are worried about the Zika virus. They have reason to be—Yuma has many agricultural workers who come from parts of Mexico and Central America, where the virus is present. Maya Springhawk Robnett of the Arizona Science Desk reports.

Richard Cuming is a Yuma County Vector Control specialist and his job is to reduce breeding sites for mosquitoes. On a 100-degree June afternoon, he hangs a mosquito trap in a cluttered yard in downtown Yuma. “We’ll go ahead and hang this in a front porch area; it’s gonna attract the mosquito, thinking they’re gonna get a bloodmeal,” Cuming says.

This is just one of many sites he will check in neighborhoods and recreation areas with bodies of water. One thing he hopes to learn is if the mosquito that can carry the Zika virus is increasing in numbers. “Before 2012 we didn’t even know we had it here,” he points out, “It’s a tropical mosquito so you wouldn’t think you’d find it out in the desert. Then we had a couple wet summers and then we started finding it here.”

Cuming later returned to his office, where examines the mosquitoes he’s caught. He lays out his specimens on white paper under a microscope. He spots what he’s looking for: the *Aedes Aegypti*. Cuming describes it as having white scales in a striped pattern “and it really pops out when you look through the microscope. You can’t mistake it for anything else.”

But Cuming won’t test the mosquito for the virus. In fact, the *Aedes Aegypti* in Yuma County have never been tested for Zika; the test is not yet widely available and it’s expensive. Cuming says he won’t suspect the mosquitoes of being infected until someone here is diagnosed with the virus.

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Empty mosquito traps

Maya Springhawk Robnett/Arizona Science Desk,
KAWC

Besides, there's not much he could do if the test DID come back positive.

Michelle Smith is the coordinator for the Yuma County Emergency preparedness program. Smith says *Aedes Aegypti* is one tricky mosquito—especially hard to get rid of because it lives indoors as well as outdoors, “And you can't go into somebody's house with a fogger and blow them out with mosquito insecticide.”

Smith says the most important thing the county can do right now is educate the public. “It's going to take everybody in the community being really diligent about looking around their homes making sure they don't have plants and toys things like that that tend to collect water out in the yard,” she says.

One place on alert is San Luis—a small border town, 25 miles southwest of Yuma.

San Luis has only one walk-in medical clinic, a branch of **Regional Center for Border Health**, treating many migratory workers who cross through the town in winter to agricultural fields all across the county. Dr. Charlotte Richards is an OBGYN at the clinic. “I sort of jokingly call it the Amsterdam of the United States,” she says of the San Luis border, “because people are in and out, but they eventually come back.”

Even though there are no reported cases of Zika here yet, Dr. Richards says its arrival is inevitable. The problem is, it's difficult to diagnose since only one in 5 individuals with the virus presents symptoms. Dr. Richards is especially concerned about her pregnant patients because Zika is believed to cause microcephaly, a condition in which a baby's skull and brain are underdeveloped.

Alondra Peralta is 31 weeks pregnant. She works at the clinic's front desk but she's here today for a check-up. Peralta says she isn't too worried about Zika now that she takes all the necessary precautions. “Well, at first I was scared, but I've followed the directions of not being outside during

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Richard Cuming, Yuma County Vector Control Specialist
Maya Springhawk Robnett/Arizona Science Desk, KAWC

the weather when it's humid or wearing long pants and long sleeve shirts.”

There’s also a high teen pregnancy rate in Yuma County. The clinic recently lost a federal grant that gave free contraception for girls as young as 14. And this worries Dr. Richards. “We’re trying very hard to keep people from getting pregnant here. Once we lost that grant, we got more girls in here than we had before.”

There is a lot of concern over available resources to fight Zika. Richard Cuming, who traps mosquitoes with the county vector program, says his budget has seen cuts for the past five years. So County officials will rely, for now, on education. They plan to post signs at the San Luis Port of Entry and hand out pamphlets, warning, among other things, that Zika is transferrable through bodily fluids. This winter, Yuma County’s agricultural season, tens of thousands of migrant workers will cross each day to work in American fields.



Regional Center for Border Health, Inc.

A 501(c)3 Arizona Not for Profit Organization

Taking Flight: MCAS Yuma Harrier Squadron Converted To F-35B Strike Fighters



By James Gilbert, @YSJAMESGILBERT | June 30, 2016 | Updated 15 hrs ago
Yumasun.com

Marine Attack Squadron (VMA) 211, known as the Wake Island Avengers, became the first AV-8B Harrier squadron in the U.S. Marine Corps to be converted to a F-35B Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter squadron during a re-designation ceremony Thursday morning at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma.

As part of the ceremony, which was held in the squadron's hangar, the squadron also welcomed a new commander as Lt. Col. William Maples, who has been in charge of VMA-211 the past 13 months, relinquished command to Lt. Col. Chad Vaughn, who was assigned to the air station in July 2015.

"It is a bittersweet moment, because the job is over. I feel very blessed to have been a part of the Avengers," Maples said. "The job of commanding officer is a servant's job, equipping the Marines with everything they need to accomplish their mission. I think it the best job in the Marine Corps is being in a position to lead a squadron like this."

Having flown its final flights with the AV-8B Harrier on May 6, and received its first two F-35B aircraft on May 9, VMA-211 was officially re-designated to Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 211.

Maples called the squadron's re-designation a milestone for the Marine aviation, in that it is replacing all of its aircraft – the F-18 Hornet, the AV-8B Harrier, and the EA-6 Prowler, with the F-35. He added that while it will still be many years before it happens, eventually once every squadron has been converted, the Marine Corps will have about 420 F-35Bs.

Saying the squadron was a very special place, Maples also had some words of encouragement and some advice for Vaughn.

[Continue next page ...](#)

"There is a culture of excellence that is imbued in the Wake Island Avengers," Maples said. "It is not because of me. It is because of the Marines in the squadron, who do such an incredible job day in and day out."

Maples noted, "You are absolutely the right man for the job, and you are up to the task. If I had any advice for you it would be to lead with compassion, listen to your heart, and most importantly, listen to your wife."

As the squadron's new commander, Vaughn said among his immediate priorities is building up the maintenance capacity and getting pilots more experience flying the F-35B in preparation for future deployments. He added that because the squadron passed a maintenance inspection last month it can now begin flight operations.

"We are writing the book on how this transition process happens," Vaughn said. "It is pretty remarkable what this squadron has done. I look forward to working with them, for them, beside them and leading them for the next 18 to 24 months."

Vaughn said the squadron currently has seven F-35Bs assigned to it, but is scheduled to have 13 by the end of the year, and a full compliment of 16 by next spring.

An F-35B pilot, Vaughn said a lot has been made of the aircraft's capabilities. But what makes the plane so lethal to him is the word 'Marine' written on it.

"It is a really an awesome aircraft to fly. The aircraft has a lot of capabilities, but when it is sitting on the ground, those capabilities don't do anything," Vaughn said. "It is the hard work of all the Marines, their ability to turn the jets around quickly and get them airborne in accordance with to procedure, and to load one more bomb a couple of minutes faster, in literally any time and place."

Vaughn also thanked the members of VMFA-121, for all the squadron's help during the conversion, saying it wouldn't have been possible without them. Known as the Green Knights, it was the first F-35B squadron ever formed.



U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Col. William Maples (right) congratulates Lt. Col. Chad Vaughn on Vaughn's taking over command of the newly re-designated Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 211 (VMFA 211) during Thursday morning's change of command and re-designation ceremony inside the "Avengers" hangar. Maples is the squadron's outgoing commanding officer. The squadron is the first AV-8B Harrier squadron in the Marine Corps to be converted to an F-35B Lightning II squadron.

CRANE SCHOOL DISTRICT

& Goodwill of Central Arizona

Teacher-Substitute Teacher-Instructional Aide-Bus Drivers

Recruitment Fair- July 13th



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Bring a Resume and CoverLetter

Meet with:

**Crane Human Resource Staff
Crane Transportation Staff
Rio Salado College**

What: Job/Information Fair

When: July 13, 2016 11 am -2 pm

**Where: Pueblo Elementary -Library
2803 W 20th St, Yuma, AZ 85364**

Pre-Register: <https://goo.gl/02bYot>

**Goodwill of Central Arizona
3097 S. 8th Avenue
Yuma, Arizona 85364
928-343-7600**

Yuma Community

Career & Education Expo

Expó de Educación y Empleo

September 7, 2016

9 am - 1 pm

Yuma Civic Center
1440 W. Desert Hill Drive



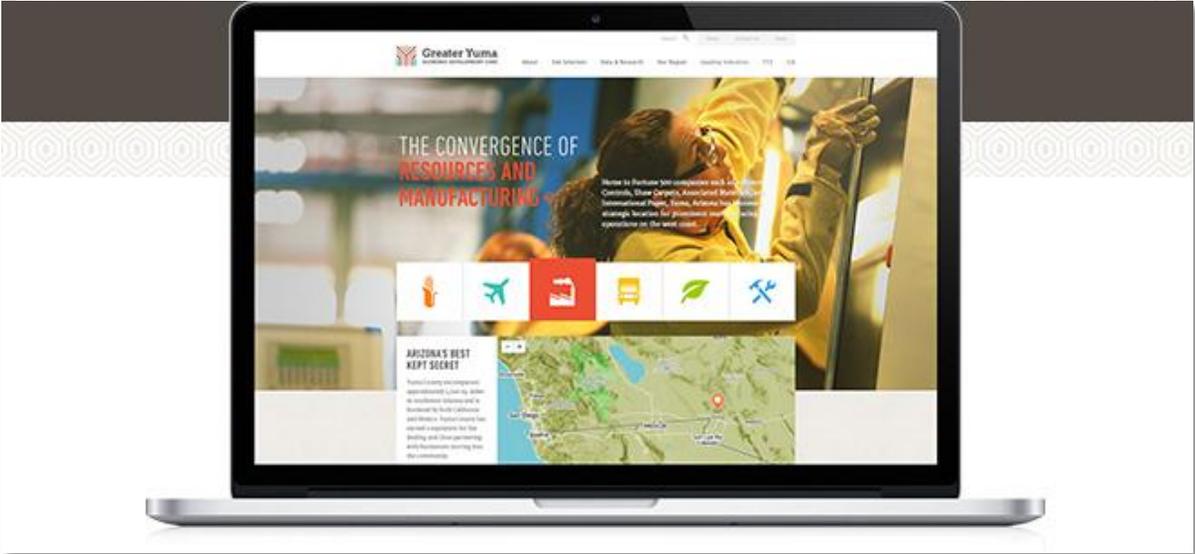
Equal Opportunity Employer / Program Auxiliary Aids and Services are Available Upon Request to Individuals with Disabilities.

Empleador con igualdad de oportunidades / servicios y asistencia auxiliares disponibles para personas con discapacidades



Yuma Community Career Expo Contact Numbers

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