



## **Enlist for a unique stop when you visit Yuma**

*Since the days of Fort Yuma – which overlooked and protected the Yuma Crossing – the military has been a big part of the Yuma community. Find out more about how Yuma has answered the nation's call, past and present.*

### ***Yuma Quartermaster Depot State Historic Park / Civil War Days***

For nearly 20 years beginning in 1864, all the military posts in the Southwest traced their lifelines to the Yuma Quartermaster Depot. Ocean vessels brought goods to the Gulf of California, where they were loaded onto steamboats for the trip upriver to Yuma. From Yuma, supplies were shipped farther upriver or overland in wagons pulled by the 20-mule teams of Western lore. This beautiful 10-acre park includes some of Arizona's oldest and best-preserved buildings, and will host **Civil War Days** Jan. 29-30, 2011, with re-enactment groups camping on site and staging battles with authentic gear. Two minutes off the interstate, visitor information center & extensive gift shop, free admission. Allow 1 hour.

### ***Yuma Proving Ground Heritage Center / Prisoner of War "Castle" / Big Guns / Wahner Brooks Display Area***

Yuma County's largest single civilian employer, Yuma Proving Ground traces its history to World War II. Because the Colorado River's flow could be controlled at Imperial Dam, this was an ideal location to try out bridging equipment. The Heritage Center tells the YPG story from 1943 to the present, along with that of General George S. Patton's Desert Training Center, which stretched along the California-Arizona line north to Nevada. About 45 minutes from interstate, admission free (base entrance requires picture IDs, vehicle registration and proof of insurance), allow one hour. For additional photo opps, don't miss the paint shed that Italian prisoners of war built to look like a castle, the M65 atomic cannons ("big guns") at the highway turnoff, and an outdoor military equipment display area that's loaded with firepower.

### ***Marine Corps Air Station Yuma / MCAS 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Air Show***

The busiest air station in the Marine Corps, MCAS Yuma supports 80 percent of the Corps' air-to-ground aviation training because of its access to training ranges and superb flying weather. The main runway at MCAS Yuma is 13,300 feet long and contains enough concrete to pave 37 miles of two-lane highway – it's a back-up landing site for the space shuttle. Guided group tours are free and available as training and military necessity allow. The annual air show (March 26, 2011; March 24, 2012) is one of the largest in the Southwest and features both static displays and death-defying aerial acts.

### ***Spirit of Yuma Military Festival (Jan. 21-23, 2011)***

Join in as Yuma honors active-duty service members and veterans with a special three-day festival highlighting our local military bases and their importance in the local economy and community. Country singer Stephen Cochran will perform Jan. 22. Static displays, vendors, educational programs, live entertainment. Festival admission free, group pricing available for concert.

**For more information about this and other Yuma tours, contact Leslie McClendon at 928-318-6539**