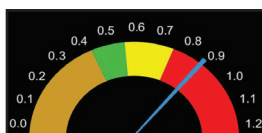




**Pine Bluff  
Arsenal  
24/7 SHARP  
Hotline  
870-209-4093**

## PBA Safety Glance



**Safety Element for fiscal  
year 2021**

**Lost Day Case Rate: 0.89  
Award Goal: 0.57**

**\*Lost time injuries for fiscal  
year 2021 is six. There is zero  
lost time injuries for August  
2021.**

**\*Recordable injuries for fiscal  
year 2021 is seven. Recordable  
injuries is zero for  
August 2021.**

**\*Pine Bluff Arsenal days  
without a lost time injury is  
97.**

**\*Pine Bluff Arsenal days  
without a recordable injury  
is 97.**

**\*Estimated hours worked  
without a lost time injury:  
399,037.**



# PBA textiles production looks to make explosive worker coveralls

By Rachel Selby

Pine Bluff Arsenal's Directorate of Chemical and Biological Defense Operations Production Division, specifically protective clothing/textiles, has expanded their mission greatly the past few years. This includes the production of many different items such as neck dams, patient wraps, integrated footwear systems, and cloth face coverings.

Now, the Arsenal's textile production area is keeping its personnel's skill sets fresh by helping PBA provide protective coveralls for the workforce.

"We were fortunate enough to be approached by PBA's Directorate of Public Works. They provide the protective clothing for the Arsenal's ammunition operations areas," said Jason Fullen, project coordinator. "They had us in mind for their needs, and knew we had the skill set. This just helps us build our textile portfolio."

Shane Oliver, chief of the Business Operations and Integration Division with DPW, said they knew the textile production area personnel were making a large number of diverse products since the skills were established in 2016. "It just took off from there," he said.

Julie Jafar, DPW's Mobile Equipment Division chief, said they initially approached Fullen in late 2020/early 2021 and got an estimate. Approximately five sets are needed per

production worker in the ammunition area. "This allows for the laundry to get them cleaned after a day's work, and they have extra if they are working weekends too," she said.

Oliver said Jafar provided a couple pairs of coveralls to the textiles production personnel. "They did all the research to find the correct specifications for the product. We sent them a purchase request with the specification, and they reached out to their vendors to find the fabric needed," he said.

Approximately 50 green and 100 blue coveralls are in the works to be produced.

Fullen said he is hoping once they get their feet under them with this project, there is a possibility to reach out to other installations with explosives or ammunition missions, such as McAlester Army

See COVERALLS page 2



Photo above, Molly Moore, production operator, in the Protective Clothing/Textiles area of Pine Bluff Arsenal's Directorate of Chemical and Biological Defense Operations, sews on a pair of coveralls. Protective coveralls for the Arsenal are being made by the directorate.



Photo left, completed coveralls sit on a cart near the textile production area. By allowing operators to make these items for the Arsenal's production areas, skill sets are kept fresh.

U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY  
RACHEL SELBY

## Right Today

Accomplishing the mission "right today" simply means complying with regulations, policies, plans, work instructions, SOPs, and other requirements. We will not compromise the quality of products that will be used by our Warfighters and when we make these products, we will minimize impact on the environment and we will ensure no one gets hurt in the process.

## Better Tomorrow

"Better tomorrow" means that every day, we will make improvements. Every time we start a manufacturing or administrative process, it should be more efficient and more environmentally friendly than it was before. Every day should be safer than the last one.





A pair of blue coveralls hangs in the production area in the Textiles building. Pine Bluff Arsenal's Directorate of Chemical and Biological Defense Operations is now working to create coveralls for explosives workers on the installation. Two textile operators will be dedicated to the task. U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY RACHEL SELBY

## COVERALLS from Page 1

Depot for similar work. Sustained workload for textiles creates efficiency, said Fullen. "If I can show on paper that we can be cost competitive, I will reach out to the other installations," he said.

"Even the little things we make for visitors such as our card holders with our cards in them, most of the time it may go nowhere but all it has to do is hit one customer," he said. "I give a lot of credit to thinking out of the box to the men and women who work on the textile lines. They are the ones with the great ideas."

Textile operations has

gone from four people with only eight machines to a room full of talented personnel.

"We have more than 55 pieces of equipment in our production room now," said Fullen.

"I was talking with one of the leaders, Julie Johnson, discussing the reality of possibly running out of room for more equipment. This is a good problem to have. It means we are growing and becoming more diverse. With us doing the work, DPW can just come to us for their needs. There will be smaller runs on an as needed basis."

# Col. Masson visits Pine Bluff Arsenal



Photo above, Jason Fullen with Pine Bluff Arsenal's Directorate of Chemical and Biological Defense Operations shows Col. Alicia Masson, Commander of U.S. Army Environmental Command, and her official party, just a few of the items produced on the protective clothing/textile production line during a visit Aug. 10. Masson visited PBA for an environmental site visit, and also got to tour a few of the Arsenal's ammunition and CBD production lines.

Photo right, Col. Alicia Masson, Commander of U.S. Army Environmental Command, and Allen Huff, with Pine Bluff Arsenal's Directorate of Ammunition Operations, tour the M1124 load, assemble and pack line during her visit in August.

U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY HUGH MORGAN





## Commander's Column

Team Pine Bluff,

It is hard to believe I have been here at Pine Bluff Arsenal for an entire year. I am reminded every day I have command over an incredibly talented Workforce. Being the Commander of any organization is a challenge, however, my experience so far has been rewarding and I have learned so much.

August weather continues to be hot but rains have made it a bit more bearable than July. School is already back in session, and fall is fast approaching as the Arsenal continues its mission requirements.

We need to continue to be mindful of our outdoor activities – here at work and at home. Stay inside during the hottest times of the day, and limit strenuous outdoor activities. We need to continue to watch out for each other and stay hydrated to eliminate heat stress.

Col. Alicia Masson, Commander of the U.S. Army Environmental Command, visited PBA Aug. 10, for an environmental site visit. Masson and her party received an overview briefing about the Arsenal, viewed the commodity display at the Dilly Conference Center, and toured several key production lines, including the M1124 155MM infrared projectile load, assemble and pack line, the Quality Evaluation Facility, and the M295 decontamination kit production.

We need to continue to be mindful of safety. By remembering our trainings, paying attention, watching out for each other and



**Col. Patrick S. Daulton**

reporting hazardous conditions, we can shape our safety attitudes. Our daily tasks here at Pine Bluff Arsenal can be dangerous at times, and we need to remember all of our safety protocols. The Arsenal is a family and we need to take care of each other.

I know COVID-19 and the rise in area cases, hospitalizations and deaths is on the minds of everyone. The surge in numbers has mostly been for the unvaccinated. Please educate yourself, and consider getting the vaccine. Our doctor and physician assistant at the post Health Clinic are available to anyone who has questions about the vaccine.

The Arsenal's Health Protection Condition HPCON level has moved from BRAVO to BRAVO+. This status change, under my discretion, is due to the elevated virus transmission in the surrounding area. We are limiting visitors to the installation, and the Arsenal's

Recreation Center will be limited to vaccinated personnel only at this time. These measures may change as area numbers change. The situation is unpredictable at this time. However, we want the Workforce to be safe.

Workforce members, which includes contractors, should be doing their daily COVID-19 self-assessment checks before they come through the gates every day.

Masks will be worn by everyone, regardless of vaccination status, indoors. This includes offices with two or more people, common areas such as hallways, bathrooms, breakrooms, etc., and in GSA vehicles, when occupied by two or more people.

Everyone should continue to practice social distancing, wash your hands and/or use hand sanitizer often. Your health and well-being is very important to me. Our Workforce is the Arsenal's greatest asset.

Thank you for what you do for America's Arsenal every day. You – the Workforce – are important. You are what makes Pine Bluff Arsenal great. You make our Team a success.

I'm very proud of this installation for everything you have done, are doing and will continue to do in the future.

*The 39th Commander*

## Hails and Farewells

### Hails

**Tyler J. Cox**, Utility Systems Operator, has joined the Directorate of Public Works.

**Jerrime B. Heird**, Utility Systems Operator, has joined the Directorate of Public Works.

**Julian O. Hampton**, Industrial Worker, has joined the Directorate of Ammunition Operations.

## Army Regulation 360-1

AR 360-1 is the regulation that governs the release of public information. This includes what to release and how to release it to the public, non-releaseable subjects, and items that need to be cleared through public affairs channels prior to release. The Public Affairs Program is the overall responsibility of the Arsenal commander.

Only the commander and his designated representatives are authorized to speak for the Pine Bluff Arsenal. The PAO acts as the liaison between the media and the installation. However, employees are encouraged to speak to civilian professional groups on matter in which the individual has personal knowledge and expertise. This should be coordinated with PAO. They shouldn't comment on military matters that are beyond their knowledge. Classified information won't be discussed.

## Arsenal Sentinel



This newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the Arsenal Sentinel are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of Army or Pine Bluff Arsenal. It is published monthly - digitally/print. <http://www.pba.army.mil>

# COVID-19 myths addressed, questions answered

*(Editor's note: Our doctor and physician assistant at the Pine Bluff Arsenal Health Clinic address some of the biggest myths on the COVID-19 vaccines in the article below.)*

**By Maj. (Dr.) Sung Baek and Maj. Patrick DePriest, PA-C/MPAS, MPH**

**Pine Bluff Arsenal Health Clinic**

**The vaccines were made too quickly. I don't trust them.** You should! The vaccines were produced and distributed in about a quarter of the time it normally takes for a new vaccine, but without cutting corners on safety. How? There are three reasons: 1) Changes in vaccine production technology, 2) changes in the approval process, and 3) global resources.

First, the vaccines were made with a production technique that has not been used before for large-scale production. The technique, mRNA-based vaccines, has been around and proven safe over the past 50 years. It has not been used on a large scale before now because established production techniques were cost-effective. Pharmaceutical companies were not going to go through the money and hassle of changing their production methods without a good reason. The need to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, however, has been a good reason to employ the mRNA-based technology.

Second, the regulatory approval process was changed. Normally, each step in the approval process happens one after the other. Because this is a global health emergency, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration had separate committees looking at each step at the same time. If any of these steps had failed, then the vaccines would not have been approved so safety would not be compromised. No steps were shortened and no corners were cut short in sacrifice of safety.

Third, the amount of resources put into the production were incomparable. The world was watching and waiting to get these vaccines. Instead of the vaccine being developed by one lab in one pharmaceu-

tical company, many biopharmaceutical companies and their investors focused their resources in producing this vaccine. The rapid rollout of the COVID vaccine is what can happen when you have research centers across the globe are working together.

**People with the vaccine are still getting sick. Also, I've heard that vaccinated people have higher death rates.** No safety measure, including vaccines, is 100 percent effective. However, we do know people who are fully vaccinated are less likely to catch COVID-19, to become seriously ill, and to die from the infection. How much less likely? An unvaccinated person is 64 times more likely to get sick, 79 times more likely to be hospitalized, and 740 times more likely to die than a fully-vaccinated person. The vaccines are very effective at preventing infection, severe disease, and death.

**Do I need the vaccine after having COVID-19?** Yes! Natural immunity from a past COVID-19 infection starts to significantly lose effect within six months, sooner for the delta variant. For people who have had a past COVID-19 infection, unvaccinated people are 2.4 times more likely to get a re-infection than someone who got the vaccine after their infection.

**I'm worried about side-effects from the vaccine.** You may have some soreness in your arm, a headache, fatigue, or even a low-grade fever after your vaccine. These side-effects will quickly pass without any long-term issues. More serious side-effects can occur, but they are very rare. Approximately three to five per one million people have had serious side-effects following a vaccine, and probably not all of those are due to the vaccine itself (for example, if I get a blood clot after I receive the vaccine was it because of the vaccine or because I'm one of 900,000 people in the U.S. who get blood clots every year?). It is about 300,000 times more likely that an unvaccinated person will catch COVID-19 today and end up in the hospital than it is

for a vaccinated person to have a serious reaction to the shot.

**Can the mRNA vaccines alter my DNA?** No. Messenger RNA (mRNA) is NOT DNA, and it can't change your DNA. mRNA are like recipes for your body to build necessary immune components. The mRNA vaccine provides instructions to build an armory against the virus. The mRNA does not contain any parts of the virus (like traditional vaccines) and it is destroyed by your body after the instructions are read. The mRNA does not enter the nucleus of your cell, where your DNA (the blueprint) is stored, and cannot change your genetic makeup. You will still be you and your DNA will still be intact.

**Can the vaccines make**

**me sterile?** No. This myth started because the COVID-19 protein the vaccine tells your body to attack has small similarities to a protein needed for early pregnancy. These proteins have similarities but are not the same and your immune system will not mistakenly attack the wrong target. A good analogy I've heard is worrying that a hunter might shoot your cat instead of an elephant because they're both gray. We also know that the vaccines do not affect sperm count or menstrual cycles. Your ability to have healthy children will NOT be hurt by the vaccine.

**Are there toxins in the vaccine?** Cyanide, formaldehyde, phosphorous, chloride, copper, procyanidins, and epicatechins. These are just some

of the chemicals that can be found in apples. Yes, apples! There are many memes being shared hinting that the many strange-sounding ingredients found in the vaccine must be dangerous. The ingredients found in the vaccines are there to stabilize the vaccine for storage and make it easier for your body to use it. These ingredients have been used for decades without any cases of toxicity. Do not be afraid of long chemical names and don't trust all Internet memes.

**Are there tracking microchips in the vaccine?** No. The smallest GPS-capable chips that can be made are larger than a pea, which would require a giant needle to inject. While RFID chips can be

See COVID-19 page 6

## NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES POSTED BY ORDER OF THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION An Agency of the United States Government

This Notice is posted pursuant to an Order by the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, dated March 4, 2021, which found that a violation of the anti-retaliation provisions of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, and the Rehabilitation Act has occurred within the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, Pine Bluff Arsenal, Pine Bluff, AR.

Federal law requires that there be no RETALIATION against any employee or applicant for employment for opposing any practice made unlawful by the laws listed above or for participating in any stage of administrative or judicial proceeding under any of those laws.

The Facility was found to have violated the above laws when an employee was retaliated against for exercising their EEO rights. The Facility was ordered to provide the individual with appropriate damages.

The Facility will ensure that officials responsible for personnel decisions and terms and conditions of employment will abide by the requirements of all federal equal employment opportunity laws and will not retaliate against employees who participate in the EEO process.

The Facility will comply with federal law and will not in any manner restrain, interfere, coerce, or retaliate against any individual who exercises his or her right to oppose practices made unlawful by, or who participates in proceedings pursuant to, federal equal employment opportunity law.

  
PATRICK S. DAULTON  
COL, CM  
Commanding

Date Posted: August 3, 2021

Posting Expires: October 2, 2021



## EAP Corner

### Connect to Protect: Support is within reach

*Courtesy of Pine Bluff Arsenal Employee Assistance Program*

September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. It is a time to share and to shed light on this highly taboo and stigmatized topic. This month is a way to reach out to those affected by suicide, raise awareness and connect individuals with suicidal ideation to treatment services.

It is also important to ensure individuals, friends and families have access to the resources they need to discuss suicide prevention. This year's theme is "Connect to Protect: Support is within reach". Do you know the warning signs? How do you connect with those around you? Knowing those around you builds resilient, cohesive teams with engaged leaders who foster a culture of trust and intervention.

Throughout history, Americans have faced obstacles, barriers and challenges that seemed insurmountable. However, because of our ability to reach beyond what we thought possible, we have solved some of society's greatest challenges together.

As we face the tragedy of suicide in our nation, we must reach beyond what we have done before. We must change the way we think about, talk about, and address emotional pain and suffering. Suicide is preventable, but only if we empower ourselves and others with the knowledge, tools and resources we need to reach those who feel hopeless.

Reach is about preventing suicide. It is for and about everyone because we all have risk and protective factors that we need to recognize and understand.

When we reach out to those in need, we will provide hope. When we reach out because we are hurting, we will find help. When we reach out, we will prevent suicide (*U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, 2020*).

#### Risk factors:

- Prior suicide attempt.
- Chronic health concerns.
- Chronic pain.
- A history of mental illness.
- Substance use and misuse challenges.
- Access to lethal means.
- Overall sense of hopelessness.
- Recent loss such as the death of a loved one, divorce or loss of job.
- Legal or financial challenges.
- Relationship difficulties.
- Multiple traumas.

#### Protective factors:

- Access to health and mental health care (including substance misuse treatment).
- Sense of connectedness and belonging.
- Satisfying interpersonal relationships.
- Effective problem-solving skills.
- Belonging to a faith-based community.
- Sense of mission or purpose.
- Good physical health.
- Social and emotional well-being.
- Financial stability.
- High quality of life and/or other social determinants of health (such as secure employment, secure housing, safe environment, food security, strong support systems, and engagement in community (*CDC, 2021*)).

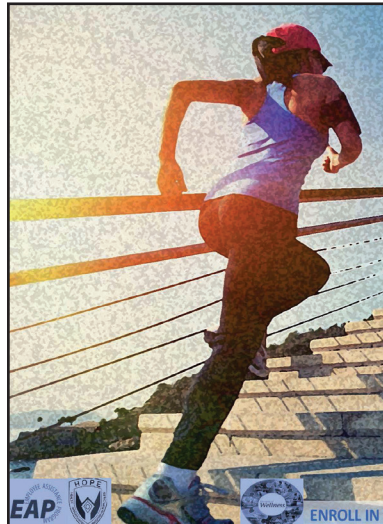
The Employee Assistance Office (ASAP/EAP) staff are here to help. Make every connection count. We are within reach. Our office is located at Building 13-040, and our phone number is 870-540-3094. The EAP Care line number is 870-556-0116.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Off Sym \_\_\_\_\_

### Connect to Protect: Support is within Reach

L H L J Q H W V P T S I Z H Y  
E P C J N E N A R E U K K C V  
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PAIN



### Now Walk It Out

- Maintain a healthy weight and lose body fat.
- Prevent or manage various conditions, including heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure, cancer and type 2 diabetes.
- Improve cardiovascular fitness, and muscle endurance.
- Strengthen your bones and muscles.
- Increase energy levels.
- Improve your mood, cognition, memory and sleep.
- Improve your balance and coordination.
- Strengthen immune system.
- Reduce stress and tension.

EAP  ENROLL IN THE PBA "WALK FOR LIFE" PROGRAM TODAY 870-540-3094



**Veterans Crisis Line**  
1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1

**For veterans struggling, who may be feeling a complicated mix of emotions, know the honor isn't lost. If you or someone you know is struggling, please reach out.**

EAP ASAP 



## DPW Spotlight



Kenneth Freeman, left and Shawn Eversole, right, both from Pine Bluff Arsenal's Directorate of Public Works, Electric Shop, work on the north side grenade line to replace Pneumatic controls and install intrinsically safe electronic controls supporting AM-14 Thermite grenades and M-330 HX grenades. U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY DPW

## COVID-19 from Page 1

smaller, they still need needles much larger than are used for vaccines and would not go unnoticed. It is not physically possible to sneak a tracking chip into your vaccine. Besides, your smartphone is doing a great job of tracking you all by itself, no injection needed.

**Who can't get the vaccine?** People who have had serious reactions to previous vaccines or have a known allergy to a vaccine ingredient. Everyone else 12 and older can get it. Pregnant, breastfeeding, elderly, immunocompromised, anyone. If you have a medical condition that may make it dangerous for you to get the vaccine, please discuss it with

your health care provider.

**Why should I get the vaccine?** They work, they're safe, and they're free. They will protect you from catching a very serious disease and running a significant risk of life-long disability or death. They will protect your community, especially children and other vulnerable populations, by stopping disease spread from person to person. It is the right thing to do for yourself, your family, and your community.

If members of the Pine Bluff Arsenal Workforce have questions about this article or further questions about the COVID-19 vaccines, call the Health Clinic at 870-540-3409.



## Safety and Yard Work

Yard work! For the average person these two words can either mean dread or enjoyment. Like it or not, it is a necessary evil for most of us. Regardless, safety needs to be a major part of your activities.

**As you plan your yard work, remember these simple points:**

- Always wear the recommended protective gear for the equipment being used. Consult the manufacturer's operating manual. Safety glasses, hearing protection, long pants and safety shoes should be standard protective equipment when using a lawn mower or weed-eater.
- Always check the oil and fuel levels in gasoline-powered equipment. Never add fuel to hot equipment. Gasoline could be ignited by the hot surface of an exhaust pipe or engine. Always add fuel to equipment in a well-ventilated area and properly store the fuel away from direct sunlight or other heat sources.
- Disconnect the spark plug to gasoline-powered equipment before working on, cleaning or adjusting the equipment.
- Always inspect the area before starting work. It should be clear of branches, stones, glass or other debris that could be thrown from the mower.
- Never mow the lawn when it is wet. There is danger of slipping and falling in the path of a moving mower, as well as the hazard of shock from an electric mower.
- Make sure people are not in the area being mowed, so they cannot be struck by flying objects or step into the path of the mower.
- Keep a firm grip on the lawn mower handle with both hands at all times. Never over-reach while operating a mower; it's important to keep your balance at all times.
- Be especially careful when mowing on sloping ground where you have less control. Mow across the fall of the slope, never up and down.
- Never operate a lawn mower if you are barefoot or while wearing sandals. Always wear safety-toed shoes; they could save your foot if it slips under the cutting blade.
- It's much safer to cut the grass while walking forward, keeping the mower ahead of you, rather than pulling it backward toward you.
- As a precaution, keep all bystanders at a safe distance and never allow children to operate a mower. Do not give anyone a ride if you are using a riding mower.
- Never remove clippings from the underside of your mower with your hands. Use a long handled scraper.
- Use a cutting line of the correct diameter for the weed-eating equipment. The wrong size line can cause the machine to malfunction and might result in eye injuries or other injuries.
- Never remove the safety line guard on the weed-eater. It is there to protect you.
- Keep pesticides locked up and out of reach of children and pets. Know the chemicals you are using and protect yourself with the proper PPE. Consult your local garden centre for information about organic matter you can use. The chemicals you use should come with a Material Safety Data Sheet which will tell you what you need to do to protect yourself.



**Regardless of your view of yard work, if you make safety a part of your experience. You can sit back, sip your lemonade and enjoy the results of your hard work.**

## WEINGARTEN NOTIFICATION

1. Section 7114 of 5 U.S.C. establishes an exclusive representative's right to represent unit employees. This includes granting the exclusive representative the right to attend certain formal meetings and investigative examinations between management and unit employees. Section 7114 (a) (2) (B) provides as follows:

“(2) An exclusive representative of an appropriate unit in an agency shall be given the opportunity to be represented at:

- (A) Any formal discussion between one or more representatives of the agency and one or more employees in the unit of their representative concerning any grievance or any personnel policy or practices or other general conditions of employment; or
  - (B) Any examination of an employee in the unit by a representative of the agency in connection with an investigation if –
    - (i) the employee reasonably believes that the examination may result in disciplinary action against the employee; and
    - (ii) the employee requests representation.
  - (3) Each agency shall annually inform its employees of their rights under paragraph (2)(B) of this subsection.”
2. This right is generally called the “Weingarten Right”. To qualify as an investigative examination, the meeting must involve questioning of an employee as part of a searching inquiry to ascertain facts. The right of the union to be present is triggered only by the employee's request.



# Radford IMCOM Visit



Photo above, Lt. Col. Russell Jones, Commander of Radford Army Ammunition Plant, Col. Patrick Daulton, Command of Pine Bluff Arsenal, and Davis Tindoll, Jr., Director of Installation Management Command Installation Directorate Sustainment, discuss the important munitions work being done at Radford in support of the Joint Warfighter.

Photo right, Robert Davis, Radford Deputy to the Commander, briefs the group visiting from IMCOM on how Radford uses steam from the new Natural Gas Steam Plant to co-generate electricity, by using the motor generators in the coal-fired power plant.

U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY RFAAP



The U.S. Army Staff and BAE Systems at Radford Army Ammunition Plant in Virginia, conducted a tour Aug. 4., with Lt. Gen. Robert Marion, Military Deputy, ASA (ALT) and Brig. Gen. William Boruff, Joint PEO for Armaments and Ammunition (JPEO A&A). Pictured above, is Lt. Gen. Marion with a BAE Systems employee in the 4th Rolled Powder area. The tour consisted of the Nitrocellulose (NC) Legacy Area, Solvent Propellant Area, Modernized NC Facility and Solventless Propellant Area. There were significant discussions about the current and future RFAAP modernization projects to fulfill the Vision of RFAAP, the Nation's best government and contractor workforce in the Organic Industrial Base. The projects will benefit the RFAAP's environmental footprint, the workforce and the Warfighter.

U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY RFAAP

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