

# TRACKS

VOL. 36, NO. 4

COMBAT VEHICLE CENTER OF THE FREE WORLD

FEBRUARY 29, 2024

## Plumbers - keeping water flowing despite frigid temperatures

By ED WEDGE | Staff writer



U.S. Army Photo by Ed Wedge

Blake Gilchrist, a 16-year veteran plumber, repairs an O-ring at one of the depot's many lavatories.

The fire sprinkler alarm goes off at the child development center and alerts Anniston Army Depot's team of plumbers, police, and fire department personnel.

Lamon Hearn, depot fire inspector, along with Demetro Warwick, police officer, and Daniel Lee, paramedic, roll up to the center with lights flashing, prepared to jump into action.

John Proctor, plumber, and Brett Sparks, sprinkler mechanic, also arrive on the scene to assess the situation.

The veteran plumber explained how during frigid temperatures, it's not uncommon for water valves or water lines to crack, causing air to escape and set off these alarms.

"With the weather as cold as it has been, many pipes and lines on the depot freeze and leak," he said. During freezing temperatures, the depot's plumbing team can expect to receive several calls because of the many exposed lines outside.

Roy Swafford, plumbing shop supervisor, said, this year, the depot has experienced "an unusually cold winter."

"When the weather dips down into the teens for more than 24 hours, we expect frozen pipes," he said.

According to Swafford, the plumbing shop is responsible for everything on the depot that has water in it or relies on water or air pressure. This includes the 4,000 toilets, water fountains as well as the main waterlines providing service to the depot.

"It is a monumental task to keep all the sprinklers, valves, and lines working daily," he said. "Our plumbers could be called upon to fix anything, including water mains, sprinkler systems, and steam leaks."

Scott Armbruster, pipefitter lead, has worked at the depot for 36 years and has only seen a few years where the temperature has been this cold for such an extended period.

"The shops on the depot are given advanced warning when the weather approaches these extremes," he said. "We put up signs to ensure that the heat is on in areas that are not fully insulated, and directives to keep the water flowing from spigots."

He admits that the only thing that helps the exposed lines are heat tape and insulation. Heat tape is a cable wrapped around exposed lines and plugged in with a thermostat that turns on the heat to the cable when temperatures reach below freezing.

And for added protection, personnel from the directorate of emergency services are dispatched whenever an alarm goes off, notifying them that a serious situation has developed, such as when fire suppression sprinkler systems fail especially in critical areas like the paint shop, the child development center, or other facility.

The fire department can shut off the water in some small cases. However, the plumbers are required to shut off any main lines.

The plumbers are not on 24-hour shifts; however, they do respond to emergencies during off hours and weekends.

# The Hatch Act - may's and may not's

GEORGE WORMAN | Legal Office

During election campaign time, federal employees need to be mindful of the prohibitions on partisan political activity in the workplace.

Here is a quick list of some things federal employees may and may not do under the Hatch Act.

## Activities allowed

- Register to vote and vote as you choose
- Be candidates for public office in nonpartisan positions
- Contribute money to political parties and candidates
- Attend public fundraising events for candidates and/or political parties
- Sign and circulate petitions outside the workplace and while not on duty
- Campaign for candidates and/or political parties outside the workplace and while not on duty
- Display a standard size bumper sticker on a personal vehicle that supports a candidate



or political party, but not signs or flags

## Activities not allowed

- Display or distribute campaign materials of any kind in the workplace

- Wear or display political signs, shirts, hats, masks, buttons or other items of clothing in the federal workplace or while on duty (including items pertaining to a specific candidate or a political party)

- Use social media while in a duty status to campaign for or against any candidate for partisan political office

- Make political contributions or accept political contributions in the workplace or while on duty

- Invite co-workers or other federal employees to political fundraisers while in the federal workplace or while in a duty status

- Use a government computer to send, forward or distribute political material to anyone

- Solicit or discourage political activity of anyone who has business pending before your employer



## CYS adds stop to bus route

Child and Youth Services School Age is offering before school care to all Oxford City schools which now includes Coldwater Elementary.

The bus departs the center at 6:45 a.m. However, there is no after school pick-up at Coldwater.

This service is offered throughout the year during school breaks in the fall, winter and spring; and during inclement weather and school delays at no additional cost for before and after school patrons.

There is an additional cost for early release days if care is needed.

Of special note, CYS is also hosting a Spring Camp, March 18-22. Cost is based on total family income.

For more information on the CYS care program or its upcoming spring camp, call parent central at (256) 235-6273.

## TRACKS

**TRACKS** is an official Army news magazine authorized for members of the Department of Defense. Its content is not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government or the Department of the

Army. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the Anniston Army Depot Public Affairs. The editorial office is located in the Abrams Building, Room 128, telephone (256) 235-6281.

The **TRACKS** editorial staff invites comments and contributions from its readers. Email correspondence to: [usarmy.anad.tacom.list.publicaffairs@army.mil](mailto:usarmy.anad.tacom.list.publicaffairs@army.mil) or mail

to: Editor, TRACKS, Attn: TAAN-PAO, 7 Frankford Avenue, Anniston, AL 36201-4199.

**Commanding Officer** - Col. Craig Daniel  
**Deputy to the Commander** - Abby Quinn  
**Administrative Officer** - Reginald B. McFadden  
**Chief, Public Affairs/Editor** - David San Miguel  
**Staff writers** - Christian Pettus and Ed Wedge

[facebook.com/AnnistonArmyDepot](https://facebook.com/AnnistonArmyDepot)

[youtube.com/annistonarmydepot](https://youtube.com/annistonarmydepot)

[twitter.com/ANAD\\_PAO](https://twitter.com/ANAD_PAO)

[linkedin.com/company/anniston-army-depot](https://linkedin.com/company/anniston-army-depot)



# Protective equipment ensures employees safety

By ED WEDGE | Staff writer

Taking care of Anniston Army Depot's most valued commodity – its employees – safety office personnel are hard at work, ensuring depot directorates and offices are equipped to execute their mission in support of the nation's military forces.

Charged with educating the workforce on the proper use of personal protective equipment, Caleb Turner, safety specialist, says he can't emphasize how important it is to ensure their safety.

"Employees must be trained on PPE use that is required for their jobs," he said. "Employees should be trained on PPE requirements during initial safety permit, job hazard analysis and safety data sheet training."

This protective equipment protects the wearer from hazards that can't otherwise be controlled, and assessments should be ongoing, especially when new hazards are introduced, Turner said.

PPE signs are posted wherever personnel may encounter industrial hazards that require safety shoes, eye and hearing protection.

## Foot protection

"Supervisors must identify those areas, operations and occupations which require protective leg or footwear," Turner said. "Safety shoes must be sturdy and have an impact-resistant toe. Only shoes meeting or exceeding the National Standards Institute Class 75 impact standard are approved for the depot."

The only exceptions for foot protection are tour groups, otherwise individuals must wear closed-toe shoes and remain in designated aisle ways.

## Eye protection

Individuals are required to wear protective eyewear, including safety goggles, face shields and safety glasses before entering an eye hazard area. Eye protection must meet American National Standards Institute Z87.1.

"Plano" eyewear may be used for visitors with prescription glasses.

"Shaded or tinted safety glasses are not authorized unless specifically identified for a particular task such as welding, grinding, laser operations or with a prescription," Turner adds. "Regular prescription glasses are not considered PPE for eye hazard areas and employees who wear them must also wear the required eye protection or depot-approved prescription safety glasses with side shields."

## Hearing protection

"Hearing loss caused by loud noise is permanent and is not medically treatable," Turner warned. Hearing protection is required before entering a noise hazard area.

Noise can damage your hearing at 85 decibels for continuous noise and 140 decibels for impulse noise.

"A good rule to follow: if you have to raise your voice to be heard at three feet, the area is loud enough to require hearing protection," Turner said. "Always use properly fitted hearing protection when exposed to hazardous noise. Remember hearing protection only works when used properly."

## Hand protection

Gloves protect from various hazards and should be specific to the type of work hazard. PPE requirements can be found in numerous locations such as job hazard analysis, safety data sheets, technical manuals, letter of instructions, and standard operating procedures.

The safety specialist adds that in some circumstances, gloves may not be appropriate, especially around rotating parts or when an object requires a sensitivity that is difficult to achieve while wearing gloves.

In those cases, an individual's supervisor, in concert with the safety office findings, must determine whether gloves are not required for a specific process, Turner said.

## Respiratory protection

According to 29 Code of Federal Regulation 1910.134, a respirator shall be provided when such equipment is necessary to protect the health of the employee. In such instances, the employer is required to provide respirators which are applicable and suitable for the purpose intended. The employer shall be responsible for the establishment and maintenance of a respiratory protection program as noted in AR 11-34, Army Respiratory Protection Program and ANADR 385-13, Respiratory Protection Program.

## Fall protection

Fall protection is required for all walking surfaces, including working surfaces, power platforms, man-lifts, and vehicle-mounted work platforms. As noted in ANSI Z3859, Fall Protection Code, "fall protection and fall restraint standards address fall protection equipment and systems for climbing, work positioning, fall arrest, rescue, evacuation, and other fall hazards. These standards also address training, and how to identify and abate hazards to prevent injuries when working at various heights.

## Head protection

Head protection is designed to protect employees from impact and penetration hazards as well as from electrical shocks and burns. Safety helmets and hard hats must comply with ANSI Z89.1.

Department of Transportation-approved motorcycle helmets are also required to be worn while operating a motorcycle or all-terrain vehicle on the depot and in Alabama.

"Combat vehicle operators are required to wear DOT helmets," Turner said.

Bump caps are constructed of lightweight materials and provide minimal protection against bumps or lacerations to the head.

"They do not afford adequate protection from high impact forces or penetration by flying or falling objects and must not be used as a substitute for hard hats," he said. "Their use must be determined by supervisors, in conjunction with the safety office."

## Body protection

Protective clothing is also available to protect personnel from heat, hot metals, chemicals, liquids, impact, cuts, corrosives, radiation, and electricity.

"Items such as vest, jackets, aprons, coveralls, and full body suits have been specifically designed for this purpose," Turner added.

"Hazards in an operation should be considered before selecting the proper personal protective equipment which may be a combination of several different pieces of PPE."

It's the user's responsibility to inspect their personal protective equipment prior to use, keep it clean/sanitary, and properly stored.

For more information regarding the proper use of PPE for your specific work area, contact the industrial hygiene office at (256) 235-6865 or the Safety Office at (256) 235-7541.

# Mobile equipment shop stands ready to support warfighter

By ED WEDGE | Staff writer

When John Kellett joined the Anniston Army Depot workforce, he took his oath seriously. Coming from a patriotic background – his two grandfathers served in World War II – the heavy mobile equipment lead, always considered his solemn duty was to support the warfighter.

He leads his team today with a “do it right or don’t do it at all” mindset.

Kellett notes that outside the gate, there are any number of shops to choose from when you need a mechanic, including shops for cars, lawnmowers, or chainsaws.

Here, at the depot, almost every piece of equipment on tracks,



U.S. Army Photo by Ed Wedge

**Bronson Vice is a welder and mechanic. Here, he’s working on a piece of heavy equipment; and stands at the ready to work where he’s needed, including out at the airport on missile loading equipment for the C5A cargo aircraft.**

rollers, or wheels ends up at the Directorate of Public Works’ heavy mobile equipment shop.

Kellett admits it’s always impressive to see the different types of equipment in the shop simultaneously, all different makes and models from John Deere to Case.

“We work on fire trucks and ambulances down to the heaters that the guards use at the main gate during cold weather,” Kellett said.

He has been working on the depot since he was 17 years old.

“I came over from the co-op and worked in several different departments before taking on the job as DPW lead,” Kellett said.

Here, at the depot, mechanics can expect to work on everything from hydraulics systems to internal combustion engines, he said. “A mechanic must be certified to work on many different devices.”

One of several certifications required is a mobile air climate system, or air conditioning certification.

His crew must be trained on just about everything because there are so many different pieces of equipment here.

“Every piece is different, everyone requires a certification,” Kellett said.

Each piece of equipment on the depot is computer-controlled for emissions and diagnostics. There are at least five different computers with as many pieces of software for diagnostics.

“There is even a digital screen for working on lawnmowers,” Kellett said.

The shop lead’s current project is setting up kits, including fuel, air, hydraulic, transmission, and engine oil filters for every piece of equipment.

At any given time, there are over a thousand work orders being worked on, Kellett said. However, the four guys working here are amazing. “They’re certified and qualified to do every job that comes in.”

Part of Kellett’s four-man team, Casey Martin is also a heavy mobile equipment mechanic.

He’s trained in all aspects of electrical and mechanical repair, and works on everything from bulldozers, bush hogs, excavators, forklifts, and anything else that might be broken.

“It’s trial and error,” Martin said. You’ve got to “take your time and work on each piece of equipment, one item at a time.”

He is one of the primary mobile mechanics, spending his days in the field and not in the shop, working on everything from weed trimmers to “Clyde,” the giant industrial crane.

A 22-year employee at the depot, Martin said he loves working here because “there’s something different every day.”

“You never know what to expect,” he said, and that doesn’t include the opportunity to work outside.

Christopher “Mack” Morrison and Brad Orman are also valued members of team, and we salute them for keeping the depot’s support equipment running.

## PAO seeks help to tell your story

The public affairs office staff wants to hear from you.

Any story ideas or suggestions on how the staff can improve the depot’s communication products is greatly appreciated.

Please contact the public affairs staff at (256) 235-6281, or drop by the office in Building 7, Room #128.

WE WANT  
TO HEAR  
FROM YOU

# Tech pub resource center

## Enabling depot workforce to better serve the military

By CHRISTIAN PETTUS | Staff writer

Providing employees with the latest information and resources available to execute their mission, the tech pub staff drives Anniston Army Depot's efforts to achieve success.

Technical publications is broken down into three sections: technical writers, illustrators, and the library resource center.

The tech writers go into the shops and observe how the work is done and then writes and/or rewrites technical manuals, letter of instructions, and shop instructions.



U.S. Army Photos by Christian Pettus

**Mischa Dye, library resource file clerk, uses a microfiche film reader to research, print and update older technical manuals.**

The illustrators provide graphic illustrations, going into the shops as well and taking photographs to complement the instruction text.

In this article, the writer's focus is on the library resource center and how it serves the depot's workforce.

The library center hosts a myriad of resource publications, including technical manuals, depot maintenance work requirements, national maintenance work requirements, letters of instruction, shop instructions, and graphic illustrations.

Amanda Hulsey, library resource file clerk, said graphic illustrations are a large part of what she and her teammate, Mischa Dye manage.

They operate plotters, giving them the capability to print several feet of illustrations at a time, all to help mechanics and quality inspectors maintain quality standards for build/rebuild projects.

"They're basically blueprints to help ensure accuracy," she said. These illustrations help save the depot money because they can be used by the machine shop to fabricate new parts as opposed to purchasing them.

"The library is essential," Hulsey said. It provides the workforce with the instructions they need to complete their tasks.

"If someone doesn't know how to do something, they can come to us, and we can provide them with a technical manual and drawings that tells them anything they need to know to get the job done," she said.

Hulsey is a product of using these resources to learn new jobs.

She originally was trained as a hydraulic mechanic, but when that shop didn't need any additional personnel, she was assigned to building 143 to work on tank turrets.

Being trained on hydraulics as opposed to working as a mobile



**Amanda Hulsey, library resource file clerk, retrieves one of a thousand copies of instructional manuals.**

equipment mechanic meant she wasn't fully prepared for her new job assignment.

Fortunately, Hulsey's access to the library resource center, enabled her to research and learn about her new job.

With these resources, you can take someone who has very little knowledge of what to do or how to do it and provide them with the technical manuals, so that they can learn and do the job, Hulsey added. "It helps make the learning process a lot easier regardless of their previous knowledge on the subject."

Individuals requiring the most up-to-date instruction manuals can view them via the military publications link on the ANAD intranet applications page.

Printed copies of these manuals can also be obtained through the tech pubs library resource center.

For more information, call (256) 235-7059.

# Depot boasts mini tank museum

By ED WEDGE | Staff writer

A hidden gem hides in plain sight in the lobby of the headquarters building on Anniston Army Depot.

There, over 70 scale-model tanks, dating back to 1938 are on display. The attention to detail is overwhelming.

Bruce Cotton, retired public affairs specialist and past curator of the model tanks housed in building 7, worked on the display way back in 1988.

“The tank models had been in storage for a few years,” Cotton said. “Joan Gustafson was the public affairs officer back then, and I recall her saying they came to us through a private donation. She got the idea of creating a display of the tanks in the headquarters building lobby.”

While they had the tanks, they had no idea what they were (nomenclature, model, country of origin, etc.). Cotton’s part was to

research the tanks to figure that out.

This was pre-Internet, so it took many trips to the library and hours of pouring over old photos to identify as many as he was able.

“Some, I was never able to figure out,” he said. “I suppose those went back into storage.”

Small metal plates were printed up for the ones Cotton identified.

“I created the plates on a Macintosh computer, and the depot’s print plant printed them using photomechanical transfer. The small wooden stands for the plates and the display cases themselves were made by someone at the depot’s woodworking shop,” said Cotton. “I don’t know about now, but back then, you could have just about anything fabricated from scratch.”

Individuals are encouraged to come by and visit the display. It is available to you any time the depot is open.



U.S. Army Photo by Ed Wedge

The U.S. Army’s M7B1 tank, equipped with 105mm M2A1 Howitzer, stood as a formidable force, weighing in at 20.8 tons during the years 1944-45.

# Salvaging, recycling efforts save big money

By ED WEDGE | Staff writer

Actively engaged in preserving the nation's natural resources, Anniston Army Depot maintains a recycling center, saving taxpayer money and ensuring "nothing goes to waste."

Terry Winn, environmental protection specialist, explains the depot's recycling process.

"The decision to scrap a part or supply is made at the shop level," he said. "If it is no longer helpful to the Army, it will be sold at auction, sold to contractors, or provided to the salvage yard to benefit all at the depot."

"We try to do an auction each quarter, dependent upon the receipt of items. We send out an all-users' email message with lots to be bid on," he added. "I list government property that is not eligible for the auction on the general services administration, or GSA website for federal requisition; however, if another federal agency does not claim it, then it ultimately rolls into the auction, making it available to depot employees."

Excess materials are placed in pans or dumpsters to be picked up by the recycling staff and transported to the yard for sorting and disposal.

Some items, such as those composed of aluminum and composite materials, are disposed of through contracted services before they get to the yard.

"Contractors will come in daily and remove this surplus and recyclables," Winn said.

"If the shops do their part in separating consumables into the correct bins, it is a tremendous savings for the depot and is reflected in the annual cash bonus employees receive," Winn said. "All containers are marked aluminum, steel, iron, wood, etc."

Current projects include reusing concrete, which is crushed and used to rebuild roads on the depot.

"We also recycle cardboard, paper, toner cartridges, batteries,

aluminum, stainless steel, and scrap metal," he added. "We also recycle used oil received from the shops."

Winn states the depot also maintains a contract with the Defense Logistics Agency for recycling used jet fuel, "rags", and drum containers.

Future programs being considered include plastic, glass, and other commodities.

Winn said the depot plans to expand its efforts to recycle antifreeze, and enlisting work-release prisoners to pull nails from lumber and rebuild pallets for reuse.

"Currently, the depot does not transport equipment on used pallets, and lumber with nails is discarded," he said.

Winn added that money saved through the depot's recycling program is used for safety and environmental enhancements; support for family, morale, welfare and recreation activities; as well as the commander's overhead discretionary fund that puts money back into the pockets of the workforce through the depot's bonus programs.

According to U.S. Army Environmental Command, these recycling initiatives are essential in reducing the amount of waste the Army generates.

Recycling efforts turn waste that otherwise would be disposed of in landfills or burned in incinerators into valuable resources, resulting in financial, environmental, and social benefits.

The AEC boasts how these programs not only protect the nation's natural resources, but they allow for the continued use of Army lands for military training.

Another benefit, recycling helps foster better relationships with local communities through positive environmental stewardship.

For more information about the recycling center, call (256) 235-6838.



U.S. Army Photo by Ed Wedge

At the ANAD salvage yard, a vast selection of recyclable materials is available for individuals who prefer to undertake their own DIY repairs. The yard provides an affordable option, priced at \$5 per truckload, catering to those seeking cost-effective solutions for repair needs.

# Employee Spotlight

## DONALD “BUTCH” GRIFFIN

By CHRISTIAN PETTUS | Staff writer



U.S. Army Photo by Mark Cleghorn

**Donald Griffin, artillery repairer, measures a 105mm gun tube.**

Take a minute to meet Donald Griffin, known by those in his shop as “Butch.”

Griffin has been a team member at the depot for 19 years now, and is an artillery repairer in building 423, the artillery repair shop and is the depot’s 105mm subject matter expert.

Griffin loves his job and takes great pride in all his work. He takes great pleasure knowing that he’s worked on nearly every 105mm to leave the depot.

The 105mm is such a sensitive piece of artillery that it has to be worked on in a “clean room.” A clean room is an actively cleansed engineered space which maintains a very low concentration of airborne particulates, well isolated, well-controlled from contamination.

Although he’s had the rare opportunity to work on these weapon systems and does what most in that field dream of, he says the best

part of his job is knowing that his work is supporting the warfighter.

Griffin admits, he hadn’t always planned to be an artillery repairer. During his youth, he wanted to be a racecar driver.

Today, when he isn’t repairing artillery, Griffin enjoys hunting, fishing, and most of all being with his family and taking some time to relax.

What’s his best piece of advice: “be responsible and always pay attention to detail.” It’s advice he takes to heart as he strives to pay attention to detail in all aspects of his life, especially as he anticipates the birth of two new grandchildren (twins) and prepares to retire.

If you see Griffin out on the depot, be sure to take a brief moment to say hey, and listen to some of his great stories about his time as an Anniston Army Depot team member.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment and service of 19 years and counting.