



**SHARP**  
SEXUAL HARASSMENT/ASSAULT RESPONSE & PREVENTION  
**Pine Bluff Arsenal**  
**24/7 SHARP Hotline**  
**870-209-4093**

**PBA Safety Glance**



**Safety Element for Fiscal Year 2026**  
**Lost Day Case Rate: 0.56**  
**Award Goal: 0.95**

\*Lost time injuries for fiscal year 2026 are two. There is zero lost time injuries for June 2026.

\*Recordable injuries for fiscal year 2026 are five. Recordable injuries is none for June 2026

\*Pine Bluff Arsenal days without a lost time injury is 43.

\*Pine Bluff Arsenal days without a recordable injury is 43.

\*Estimated hours worked without a lost time injury: 113,250.



# JMC cases unit colors

By Matthew Wheaton, Joint Munitions Command, Public and Congressional Affairs

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL, Ill. — During a casing of colors ceremony for the Joint Munitions Command, the organization’s flag draped gracefully from its pole Wednesday morning inside historic Heritage Hall at the Rock Island Arsenal.

The colors, first unfurled when JMC became a major subordinate command under the Army Materiel Command in 2005, carry the insignia that symbolizes the organization’s heritage within the Ordnance Corps and its responsibility for the U.S. Army’s ammunition enterprise.

Moving forward, JMC’s colors will remain encased behind glass and the command’s functions are being integrated under the Army Sustainment Command. This move aims to strengthen the end-to-end munitions lifecycle, from wholesale to retail, ensuring the Army is always positioned to support Soldiers in a rapidly evolving global environment.

“As we formally case the colors of JMC, we do it with immense respect for what those colors represent,” said Lt. Gen. Chris Mohan, AMC’s commanding general. “For 23 years, JMC has been synonymous with excellence, and none of it – none of it – would have been possible without this workforce. Your professionalism and your pride in the mission is the legacy being honored today.



Joint Munitions Command’s final commander and command sergeant major, Brig. Gen. Daniel Duncan and Sgt. Maj. Paul Ellis, case the colors during a ceremony June 10 at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill. U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY SHAWN ELDRIDGE



Pine Bluff Arsenal Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason speaks during the White Hall Memorial Day service at the White Hall Historical Museum May 25. STORY ON PAGE 4. U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY HUGH MORGAN

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## 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.

# Commander's Column

Team,  
 Last month, we reflected on the trust our partners placed in us, which set the stage for our transformation. Today, I am filled with immense pride as we look at the results of that trust. What was once a vision—the 'Arsenal of Tomorrow'—is now our reality. Together, we have journeyed from a moment of uncertainty to a year of unprecedented expansion, and it is clear our future is not just bright; it is here.

This month, we will celebrate the landmark achievements you have made possible. We will also continue our discussion on the ARSENAL READY framework, highlighting the second "A"—Adaptability. And finally, we will kick off a new leadership series on the OODA Loop, a powerful tool that will help us manage our incredible growth and sustain our momentum.

## Breaking News

A New Critical Mineral Partnership: In a landmark move for national security, a recent Army press release on June 25 announced that Pine Bluff Arsenal will host a new critical mineral processing facility through an Enhanced Use Lease (EUL) with Empire State Mines. This partnership will establish American graphite independence, a crucial step in securing our defense supply chains.

## A Year of Unprecedented Success

Thanks to your hard work and dedication, the past year has been nothing short of transformational. We have not only secured our future but have positioned Pine Bluff Arsenal as a vital hub for the nation's defense. Here are just some of the highlights that you made happen:

**Strengthening the Industrial Base:** We have been selected for two EULs. HDUSA and now Empire State Mines are here and coming to PBA. We have also forged a Public-Private Partnership (P3) with General Dynamics and are actively discussing options with others. Let me be clear, we are not just looking for any partner, but instead, looking for the right partners. As we



**Col. Matthew C. Mason**

see these opportunities, my baseline priorities for integrating a partner into the Arsenal are:

• **Shared Workload:** Pushing for agreements that integrate our government Workforce into the operations wherever possible.

• **Immediate Warfighter Impact:** Prioritizing companies with current or impending government contracts that deliver immediate capabilities to the Warfighter.

• **Arsenal Ecosystem:** Selecting partners that synergize with and rely upon other Arsenal tenants to support the end mission

**Pioneering Future Capabilities:** We have been selected and funded to support the AMC SkyFoundry program, been awarded \$21M for the new Eagle Fang combat protective system and have been funded to support two new obscuration grenades and two drone deterrence systems.

### Modernizing Our Core Missions:

We have secured funding to produce another 1,360 West Point Parkas, received \$500K to update our large filter production line, and have been funded to support the Army's new 3KTWPS Water Purification System.

### Expanding Our National Impact:

We have been selected by AMC and Army G4 to manage and produce the Military District of Washington (MDW) Uniforms, we were chosen as a Training with Industry (TWI) installation, and are being considered to support a large-scale Army textile recycling and repurposing facility. We also delivered critical capability to 20th CBRNE and Warfighting

units with M12 decontamination systems.

This momentum has attracted the attention of our nation's senior leadership, including visits from the Chief of Staff of the Army, the Secretary of the Army, and Assistant Secretaries of the Army, the Honorable Brent Ingraham and the Honorable W. Jordan Gillis.

Our next key visit will be from the AMC Chief Information Officer who is looking for opportunities to support PBA with cyber and information technology modernization.

Tell me this is not the definition of the "Arsenal of Tomorrow." You, the Workforce, have made this possible. However, we can't be satisfied with what we have achieved so far, we must continue to seek transformation and expand our capabilities.

## ARSENAL READY

### Deep Dive: Adaptability

Our achievements are not a series of fortunate events; they are the direct result of our commitment to the ARSENAL READY framework. This month, we highlight the second "A" in ARSENAL, which stands for: Adaptability: embracing change and evolving processes to meet future combat needs.

Adaptability is more than just a word; it is a mindset that this team has embodied. It is the leadership team that transforms the threat of closure into an opportunity by embracing new partnership models. It is a workforce that willingly takes on new and complex missions, from advanced textiles to critical minerals, proving that we are ready

for any challenge. You have proven that adaptability is our greatest strength.

### Looking Ahead: Mastering Our Tempo with the OODA Loop

Our success has brought incredible growth, and with that growth comes complexity. To sustain our momentum and flawlessly execute our expanding mission, we must refine how we operate over the next year and beyond. To guide us, we will begin a new leadership series on a powerful decision-making framework known as the OODA Loop: Observe, Orient, Decide, and Act.

This month, we dive into the first "O": Observe. This is the foundational step of gaining situational awareness. It is not a passive activity but an active search for information. Our leadership team did this when they observed the critical shortfalls in the U.S. industrial base and saw an opportunity for PBA to fill the gap. You do this every day when you observe a potential safety hazard or identify a process that can be improved or conduct mission analysis on what buildings and spaces are potentially available for expanded work or industry partnerships. The quality of our decisions depends on the quality of our observation.

Looking back on this year, I am not only proud, but I am also deeply grateful for your trust, resilience, and unwavering commitment. You have turned a moment of uncertainty into a legacy of success.

This is not a finish line; it is a new starting line. In the year ahead, we will break ground on new facilities, welcome our first TWI Soldiers, and continue to master our execution. The challenge ahead is to sustain this excellence. I have no doubt that you are ready. Let's make the next year even more successful than the last.

**"Right Today,  
 Better Tomorrow" --  
 "America's Arsenal,  
 Arsenal Ready"**



## ARSENAL READY:

**Adaptive, Resilient, and Strategic**

**"Empowering the Military to Dominate Tomorrow's Battles"**

- A – Accountability:** Upholding responsibility for **QUALITY, SAFETY,** and **MISSION READINESS.**
- R – Readiness:** Ensuring preparedness to deliver critical materials and support on time.
- S – Sustainment:** Maintaining excellence in production, storage, testing & delivery of critical resources.
- E – Efficiency:** Streamlining operations and adopting innovative technologies to maximize output.
- N – Networks:** Strengthening collaborations across the OIB, industry, military units, and Senior Leaders.
- A – Adaptability:** Embracing change and evolving processes to meet future combat needs.
- L – Leadership:** Driving modernization efforts and setting the standard for excellence in defense logistics.

- R – Resilience:** Building robust systems and infrastructure to sustain operations under any conditions.
- E – Excellence:** Striving for superior quality and innovation in every task.
- A – Agility:** Quickly adapting to shifting demands and operational requirements.
- D – Dedication:** Committing to the mission and exceeding expectations to support modernization goals.
- Y – Yield:** Delivering measurable results that enhance readiness and operational effectiveness.

**"America's Arsenal – Arsenal Ready"**

# Hails and Farewells

## Hails

**Clayton N. Copeland**, Industrial Worker, has joined the Directorate of Ammunition Operations.

**Weston G. Kinley**, Utility Systems Operator, has joined the Directorate of Public Works.

**Jonathon L. Smith**, Engineering Equipment Operator, has joined the Directorate of Public Works.



*Editor's Note: This is a new addition to the Arsenal Sentinel suggested by Joyce (Penny) White-EEO. If we have left off any names/dates, please let Rachel Selby know. Thanks!*

- |                             |                               |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Devion James – June 1       | Geraldine Robinson – June 16  |
| Allen Dehagani - June 2     | Raven Turner – June 17        |
| Michael Johnson - June 2    | Tythann Rockamore – June 17   |
| Michael Patterson – June 2  | Jeremiah Rice – June 18       |
| Sonya Moore – June 4        | Jeffrey Smith – June 18       |
| Barbara Abraham – June 5    | Arey Surratt - June 18        |
| Marchelle Carter – June 5   | Danny Huntley - June 19       |
| Rachel Selby – June 5       | Daniel Beckwith – June 20     |
| Clark Ladisky – June 7      | Drew Spakes – June 20         |
| Christopher Malone – June 7 | Joyce White – June 20         |
| Brandon Patrick – June 7    | Alice Morris – June 21        |
| Jayla James – June 7        | Brad Sweeney – June 22        |
| Jason Mizell – June 8       | Mike Tallent – June 22        |
| Kristi Huntley – June 9     | Joseph O'Bryan, Jr. – June 23 |
| Ginger McDaniel – June 10   | Victor Lowe – June 24         |
| Tareika Smith – June 11     | Shawn Eversole – June 25      |
| Boston Hartley – June 12    | Robert Gibson – June 26       |
| Leah Lampirez – June 12     | Tony Laymon – June 26         |
| Edmund Nickolson – June 12  | Lou McPherson – June 27       |
| Mark Rainwater – June 12    | William Vestal – June 27      |
| Thomas Jester – June 13     | Gavin White – June 29         |
| Sandra Llewellyn – June 13  | Morgan Hobbs – June 29        |
| Tabatha Baird – June 14     | Chris Broughton – June 30     |
| Gordon White – June 15      | Joseph Hurt – June 30         |
| Tanya Tiernan – June 15     | Pamela King – June 30         |
| D'Andrea Kindall – June 16  | Parker Rotton – June 30       |

## Years of Service

- |                            |                              |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Cameron Girley - 5 years   | Verlinda Harris - 25 years   |
| Leah Lampirez - 10 years   | Robert Mabry - 25 years      |
| Keela Williams - 25 years  | Danny Nicholson - 25 years   |
| Anthony Gray - 25 years    | Ginger McDaniel - 20 years   |
| Stacy Gossett - 25 years   | Abraham Boston - 25 years    |
| Shonda Gonzalez - 20 years | Marilyn Franklin - 25 years  |
| Justin Nix - 20 years      | Jennifer Reynolds - 15 years |
| Leslie Jackson - 25 years  | Rachel Selby - 20 years      |
| Gary Bentley - 10 years    | Cara Carroll - 25 years      |



Pine Bluff Arsenal Acting Deputy to the Commander Danielle Graves swears in Weston Kinley, who joins the Directorate of Public Works as a utility systems operator, Jonathan Smith, who joins the Directorate of Public Works as an engineering equipment operator, and Clayton Copeland who joins the Directorate of Ammunition Operations as an industrial worker. U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY HUGH MORGAN



## Retirement

Laverne Graham received a flag flown over Pine Bluff Arsenal from Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason during a retirement ceremony June 25. Graham was recognized for more than 37 years of civilian service. She began her career at the Arsenal in February 1988.

"Her self-motivation and attention to detail contributed greatly to the mission of Pine Bluff Arsenal," read the retirement certificate. "Her job performance throughout her career has exemplified the Army values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage."

Graham also received a Civilian Service Commendation Medal during the ceremony.

U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY HUGH MORGAN



## Retirement

Deputy to the Commander Roch Byrne received his retirement certificate June 24. Tina Cranford, Executive Administrative Specialist, celebrated with him.

Byrne retires with 40 years of service. As deputy, his strategic vision and leadership has been a cornerstone to the Arsenal's success.

He was a vital advisor to numerous commanders and a steadfast mentor to the Workforce. His legacy of integrity and selfless service sets a high standard for civilian excellence. U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY RACHEL SELBY

# Arsenal Sentinel



- Col. Matthew C. Mason, Commander
- Roch Byrne, Deputy to the Commander
- Cheryl Avery, Public Affairs Officer
- Rachel Selby, Sentinel Editor/Social Media
- Hugh Morgan, Photographer
- Tristian Cherry, Webmaster

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# Mason speaks at Memorial Day event at WH Museum

By Rachel Selby

Pine Bluff Arsenal Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason was the guest speaker at White Hall's Memorial Day program May 25. The event was held at the White Hall Historical Museum/Veterans Monument with Jeff May, Deputy to the Mayor, officiating.

The colors were posted and retired by the White Hall JROTC. The National Anthem was led by Beaver Johnson, with sign language interpretation by Sandy Thompson. Johnson also led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mason greeted the large crowd and thanked them for attending. "It's an honor to join you here as we pause to remember the men and women who gave their lives in service to our nation," he said. "Today is a day set aside for reflection, gratitude and remembrance."

The Arsenal's 42nd commander spoke about White Hall's long history of coming together.

"The very name 'White Hall' comes from a simple, whitewashed building that served as a school, a church and a meeting hall for the first settlers drawn to the good water of Crenshaw Springs," Mason said. "It was the heart of the community. Much of the growth in this area is intertwined with the Arsenal, established just before our nation entered World War II."

When the call came, this community answered, he said.

"The Arsenal swelled with 10,000 civilian workers — the 'home front heroes' of their day. Many were women stepping into roles on production lines and in support services, doing their part for the war effort while their husbands, brothers and sons fought overseas," Mason said. "That bond between community and service continues today."

Mason highlighted several stories of service that make Memorial Day a powerful remembrance.

He spoke about Sgt. Earl Elkins, who was unable to tell his wife, Dorothy, about his location in the Pacific during



White Hall Deputy to the Mayor Jeff May speaks at the White Hall Memorial Day Service. U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY HUGH MORGAN

World War II. "He simply carved her name and address on a coconut and mailed it home. A simple, profound message: 'I am alive, and I love you,'" he said. "There's the story of W.P. Murphy of the First Marine Division. He brought home a Japanese flag, autographed by the men in his battalion. This was not a trophy of war but a testament to the bond of brotherhood forged in one of the war's fiercest battles."

Mason also talked about a more recent sacrifice. "Sgt. Michael J. Strachota was a son of this community, graduate of Pine Bluff High, who served in Iraq and gave his life in Afghanistan in 2012," he said. "I am told that when a group threatened to disrupt his funeral, hundreds of Patriot Guard Riders formed a silent, protective shield around the church, ensuring his family could grieve in peace. That is the spirit of White Hall."

Closing his remarks, Mason said today was a day to honor all.

"From the Revolutionary War to today's missions around the world, American service members have stood ready to defend freedom," said

Mason. "This Memorial Day, I hope each of us takes a moment to reflect on the bond we share with the generations who came before us, with men like Earl Elkins, W.P. Murphy, and Michael Strachota—those who served with courage and paid the ultimate price."

During the ceremony, April Watts also presented the history of Gold Star Families. A moment of remembrance was held, and a memorial wreath was laid at the Veterans Memorial Monument.



Dr. Richard Bailey plays Taps during the conclusion of the Memorial Day Service at the White Hall Museum May 25. U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY HUGH MORGAN



Pine Bluff Arsenal Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason and Acting Deputy to the Commander Danielle Graves attend the ceremony for the Casing of the Colors for Joint Munitions Command June 10. U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY CHERYL AVERY

## COLORS from Page 1

Every change since then has been in refinement towards the munitions produced today. That long evolution eventually shaped the modern ammunition enterprise.

JMC was formed in 2003. At the time, it was a subordinate of Army Field Support Command, which was redesignated as ASC in 2006 when JMC and AFSC became separate commands. Throughout its history, JMC delivered ammunition readiness at the speed of war. The command did so while also confronting stockpile shortages, executing urgent buys, and modernizing production lines.

In the critical period following the Sept. 11 attacks, JMC rapidly supplied munitions for Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Over the years, JMC managed a global munitions stockpile valued at over \$69 billion, produced billions of rounds of ammunition annually, and consistently demilitarized tens of thousands of tons of obsolete stock to ensure a safe and modern inventory.

JMC's meritorious service has been recognized with multiple Army Superior Unit Awards, including for its critical support during OIF, OEF, Operation Odyssey Dawn in Libya, and the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021. Most recently, JMC played a pivotal role in executing directives to support Ukraine.

"JMC has delivered uninterrupted global ammunition readiness in war, in crisis, and in peace every single day," Mohan said.

The 15th and final commander of JMC, Brig. Gen. Dan Duncan, was praised for his leadership.

"Dan has led JMC with conviction and deep respect for the workforce," Mohan said. "His leadership over the past year strengthened every aspect of the enterprise. His vision and commitment to readiness have left a lasting impact on the Army and the Joint Force."

Duncan is proud he had the opportunity to spend time as JMC's commanding general.

"What has always set JMC apart is you, the people who make this mission possible," Duncan said. "Every success we have had, every challenge we have overcome, and every round delivered when it mattered most happened because of your dedication. You embody what it means to serve."

"You are quiet professionals who show up each day with purpose, pride, and an unwavering commitment to Soldiers," Duncan added. "You are the reason this command earned its reputation for excellence, and you are the reason its legacy will endure long after today's ceremony."

While the casing ceremony marked the end of JMC as a standalone command, Duncan emphasized that the heart of the mission endures.

"Thank you to everyone — past, present, and future — who has poured their talent and commitment into this enterprise," Duncan said. "While the JMC flag will no longer fly, its legacy of ensuring that ammunition was always there, on time, every time, will continue through the dedicated professionals carrying the mission forward within ASC."

## EAP Corner

# The combination of summer, barbeque, and alcohol

Courtesy of Pine Bluff Arsenal Army Substance Abuse Program/Employee Assistance Program Office

Summer grilling combined with alcohol consumption presents significant dangers, causing thousands of injuries annually due to falls, burns, and fire hazards.

Combining heat with alcohol increases risks of severe dehydration and heat stroke, while improper grilling poses hazards like carbon monoxide poisoning, fire, and potential cancer-causing compounds from charring.

The combination of summer heat, barbecue grilling, and alcohol creates a "perfect storm" of physical and health risks. Alcohol significantly increases your vulnerability by impairing judgment and coordination while simultaneously accelerating dehydration, which can quickly lead to heat stroke in high temperatures.

### Safety precautions while barbecuing

- **High Injury Rates:** Approximately 5,400 people are treated in emergency rooms for grill-related injuries annually, often peaking in July.

- **Alcohol-Related Accidents:** About 40 percent of grillers admit to drinking while barbecuing, which increases the likelihood of burns. Alcohol impairs judgment, leading to dangerous actions around open flames.

- **Fire and Burn Hazards:** Mishandling propane, using gas-line, or improper cleaning causes flames to erupt. Grill accidents are common when hot, unattended grills are left in reach of children.

- **Carbon Monoxide Risk:** Using grills in enclosed areas or covered porches produces toxic, deadly fumes.

- **Dehydration and Alcohol:** Hot, sunny weather triggers fluid loss through sweat, while alcohol increases urination, leading to rapid dehydration and heat stress.

- **Food Safety Risks:** Improper food handling leads to undercooked meat can cause food borne illness.

- **Never drink and grill:** Keep alcohol consumption to a minimum while operating a grill.

- **Use the Grill Safely:** Place grills away from flammable surfaces, never use them indoors or in garages, and check propane tanks for leaks.

- **Maintain Supervision:** Never leave a hot grill unattended and maintain a 3-foot "kid-free zone".

- **Stay Hydrated:** Drink plenty of water and stay hydrated to counteract the heat and alcohol consumption.

### 1. Physical Injuries & Accidents

Alcohol intoxication is a major contributor to grilling accidents, with drunken grillers being four times more likely to suffer injuries than sober ones.

- **Burn Hazards:** Impaired motor skills increase the risk of accidental contact with hot surfaces or open flames.

- **Flare-ups:** Mistaking alcohol (like high-proof spirits) directly onto a grill or using it in marinades can cause explosive flare-ups that can burn the user's face or body.

- **Fires:** Mishandling lighter fluid or propane tanks while intoxicated can lead to residential fires; cooking equipment is a leading cause of such fires.

### 2. Heightened Summer Health Risks

The physiological effects of alcohol are exacerbated by summer weather conditions.

- **Accelerated Dehydration:** Alcohol is a diuretic that in-

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

**The Combination of Summer, Barbeque, and Alcohol**

J	W	A	L	J	Y	X	P	P	U	W	V	X	C	H	U	E	F	N	U
L	K	L	N	M	K	Q	C	C	T	T	Q	W	V	H	R	U	K	W	H
U	U	O	U	Q	F	S	E	O	U	T	Q	W	I	R	C	U	O	Z	P
K	M	R	G	S	R	N	Y	H	D	N	V	P	E	D	E	O	X	T	C
A	V	J	B	R	W	O	L	G	J	A	H	O	C	Z	H	X	M	K	Z
Q	F	I	R	E	B	I	Q	R	L	N	Q	E	P	M	G	W	K	T	F
Q	S	Q	G	L	U	T	Q	Q	R	X	A	W	G	F	B	B	T	K	C
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Y	B	Y	S	Y	D	D	F	V	H	E	U	Q	E	B	R	A	B	E	Z
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X	R	A	L	C	O	H	O	L	I	Z	R	G	S	J	Z	H	E	N	Y
Y	R	T	X	I	N	J	U	R	Y	I	J	Q	T	V	O	Z	B	F	U
T	J	E	S	D	R	A	Z	A	H	L	S	W	L	N	G	J	C	C	B
U	T	D	J	K	P	D	A	Q	P	U	K	F	G	E	W	C	T	P	B

BARBEQUE HYDRATED SUMMER DEHYDRATION CARCINOGENS	ALCOHOL INJURY GRILLERS FIRE	HAZARDS RISK CHARRING HEAT
--------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------	-------------------------------------

creases fluid loss through urination, while hot weather causes loss through sweat. This dual impact raises the risk of heat exhaustion

- **Increased Intoxication:** Dehydration can make you feel the effects of alcohol more quickly than usual, further compromising your ability to monitor a hot grill safely.

- **Sun and Heat Stroke:** Combining booze with prolonged sun exposure (especially between 2 PM and 4 PM) can mask early symptoms of heat stroke.

### 3. Long-term Health and Carcinogens

The "grilling" aspect itself carries chemical risks that are often overlooked during festive gatherings.

- **Carcinogen Formation:** High-temperature grilling of muscle meats (beef, pork, fish, poultry) creates Heterocyclic Amines (HCAs) and Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs), which are linked to cancer.

- **Red and Processed Meats:** Frequent consumption of barbecue staples like hot dogs and sausages is linked to increased colorectal cancer risks.

### 4. Food Safety Hazards

Alcohol can lead to a "relaxed" attitude toward critical food safety protocols.

- **Cross Contamination:** Forgetting to use separate utensils for raw and cooked meat can lead to food poisoning.

- **Under-cooking:** Approximately two in three grillers do not use a meat thermometer, relying on eyesight alone, which frequently results in foodborne illness.

- **Temperature Abuse:** In weather above, perishable food should not sit out for more than one hour.

### Safety Best Practices

- **Designated Griller:** Ensure the person operating the grill remains sober until all cooking is complete.

- **Hydrate Often:** Drink

one glass of water for every alcoholic beverage consumed.

- **Equipment Checks:** Before lighting, inspect gas hoses for leaks using a soapy water solution.

- **Safe Marinades:** Use acidic marinades (vinegar or lemon juice) to reduce HCA formation by up to 90 percent (*National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism 2019, NIAA*).

If you are planning to spend some time outdoors barbecuing make sure to stay hydrated, wear plenty of sunscreen, and beat the heat.

PBA's Army Substance Abuse Program/Employee Assistance Program staff are here to help.

We offer you a safe and confidential place to discuss concerns, challenges, and strategies for managing difficulties in your life.

We are in Building 13-040 and can be reached at 870-540-3094. The Care line number is (870) 550-2653. Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

# HR Tips

## Requesting retirement tutorial

Courtesy of Pine Bluff Arsenal S1 Office-Human Resources

Are you ready to retire? Start on the GRB Platform on the Army Benefits Center – Civilians (ABC-C) website.

1. Go to <https://abc.chra.army.mil/abc/> and login.
2. Click on the overlapping speech bubbles. If you hover over them, it will say Requests.
3. Click New Request. Then choose Online Retirement Application Request (ORA).
4. Monitor your personal email for an invitation from DoNotReply@retire.opm.gov. You will need to have a Login.gov (not with CAC, but with username and password) to sign into the site.

5. Log into Online Retirement Application Request (ORA) and review and complete all information. Make sure that you fill out all required information and upload any required documents. If you need to make changes, submit the application for HR review so that ABC-C can update your service history.

*NOTE: You have 30 days from when the invitation is sent to complete your information.*

### FERS HEALTHY RETIREMENT APPLICATION

- Start with ORA access request in GRB
- Once in ORA, you'll complete the required fields under application and based on your selected options under insurance elections an SF2818 (Continuation of Life Insurance Coverage) will be generated.
- All ORA sections should have a checkmark.
- Upload completed form W-4P (federal tax withholding designation)

**Upload in your ORA if applicable**

- Marriage certificate/Divorce decree
- Paid in Full letters & DD 214s
- Notarized SF-3107-2 (Spouse's Consent to Survivor Election)

HAVE A QUESTION? CONTACT US @ ABC.CHRA.ARMY.MIL/ABC

6. You must "certify" your information once you determine it is correct or once ABC-C has finished making your requested changes. If you don't certify, your application will not be processed through the Payroll system. NOTE: If there were changes to be made by ABC-C, you have 30 days to certify your package.

Keep watch for OPM to

assign you a Retirement Claim (CSA) Number. You will be able to track when your first interim payment will arrive with this number using the Online Retirement Application Request (ORA) dashboard.

If you do not have computer access, you can go to Building 13-040 or call to schedule an appointment with Kevin Bradley at 870-540-3078.



Tyrona L. Hudson was presented a Certificate of Achievement in Safety by Pine Bluff Arsenal Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason. Hudson was nominated by two colleagues for fiscal year 2026 Safety Employee of the first quarter. They described her as a dedicated, safety-conscious presence in the workplace. The certificate read, "Each morning, she quietly works to protect those around her through selfless, proactive actions. She is the one who unplugs the ironing, removes the trip hazards and takes unsafe items out of use. Her consistent care is a powerful reminder of the positive, safety-first attitude that helps create a secure workplace for all. U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY RACHEL SELBY

## Mammovan visit

Kevin Bradley with Pine Bluff Arsenal's Army Substance Abuse/Employee Assistance Program Office poses for a photo with nurses and techs who manned the UAMS Mammovan.

The Mammovan, which is designed to bring high-quality breast cancer screening to women across Arkansas, visited PBA June 11. Seven women received their mammograms.

Mammograms were available to women 40 years and older who were due for their annual screening.

U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY HUGH MORGAN



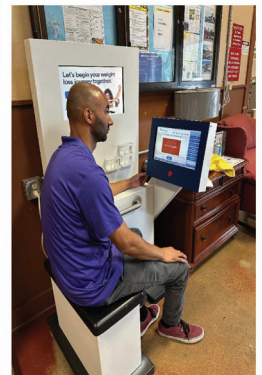
## Heart Check Center at PBA Fitness Center!!



Come check your blood pressure and other statistics on the New Heart Check Center at the PBA Fitness Center! BLDG 16310

Anyone can use it! You don't have to check in or have a membership. Just stop by to check!

You can even have your results and other info emailed to your personal email if you wish!



Keep an eye on your heart health! Come to the Fitness Center and check TODAY!!



# Mason addresses workforce at EAD

By Rachel Selby

At the conclusion of Pine Bluff Arsenal's Employee Appreciation Day event June 17, Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason addressed the workforce at the U.S. Army Reserve Center.

"I really wanted to do this. The last time I addressed most of you was last November during the Town Hall and gave you an update on what was happening," Mason said. "I really wanted to take the time and talk with you about where we have come in the last year and where we are going."

He thanked everyone for participating in the events. "It was great seeing everyone out there coming together as a team," said the commander. "It is an honor to stand before you today. I didn't choose to come to PBA, I was selected. I tried to learn everything I could before I got here and relied heavily on everyone in this room. I still don't know everything and am learning something new every day."

There is phenomenal work happening at the Arsenal, he said. "It is an honor to be your commander and be part of

tainty from the Army and the Organic Industrial Base. "We face it head on and none of you flinched," he said. "You saw the greatest opportunity this Arsenal has seen in decades. You didn't just weather the storm, you harnessed it. We aren't just surviving; we are moving towards thriving."

PBA is proving to the Department of War what "Arsenal Ready" means, said the Arsenal's 42nd Commander.

"It is not just a catchphrase. It is our guarantee we will be Arsenal Ready for whatever the Department of War and Army asks us to do. From passing inspections to flawlessly executing urgent outloads for the Joint Force, your professionalism has put PBA on the map in a big way," Mason said. "The enterprise is paying attention."

He told the Workforce about the recent transition from Joint Munitions Command to Army Sustainment Command.

"JMC cased its colors last week. This is not just an administrative shift but a massive opportunity," said Mason. "Operating under Army Sus-

tainment Command plugs us directly into the Army's core sustainment enterprise, giving us the leverage, visibility and the backing we need to become the Arsenal of Tomorrow. Let us look forward. In our line of work, hope is not a method. A vision without a blueprint is just a dream."

tainment projects we pursue and ensures that every dollar spent, and every hour worked, keeps Pine Bluff Arsenal on a deliberate undeniable path to success."

Mason discussed the Arsenal expanding its workload lines of effort in two areas: lethality and layered protection. He elaborated about the enhanced-use lease partnership with Hanwha; a public private partnership with General Dynamics; a critical minerals manufacturing partnership; infrastructure investment upgrades for work with SkyFoundry; additional partnerships with current and additional companies; drone-kitting operations with a project called Eagle; and surging in the installation's textile mission with several projects including additional sewing of West Point parkas and sole production of ceremonial uniforms.

"We have people wanting to come to us. They want to join us and help us support the Warfighter," Mason said. "We are working through the logistics of all these. People know about PBA's reputation. They know we do good work and will follow through."



Pine Bluff Arsenal Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason speaks to the Arsenal Workforce at the conclusion of Employee Appreciation Day June 17 at the Army Reserve Center. U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY HUGH MORGAN

**"Operating under Army Sustainment Command plugs us directly into the Army's core sustainment enterprise, giving us the leverage, visibility and the backing we need to become the Arsenal of Tomorrow. Let us look forward. In our line of work, hope is not a method. A vision without a blueprint is just a dream."**

what we have gone through in the past year," Mason said. "I see nothing but great things on the horizon. Thank you!"

The commander said you can tell a lot about our Workforce by the way they tackled the competitions during EAD. "Watching all the intensity during the team-building events and the way some of you navigated the lunch line tells me all I need to know," he said. "You bring the exact same drive celebrating as you do to our mission every single day. On this appreciation day, I want to make it clear that you are the heartbeat of this installation."

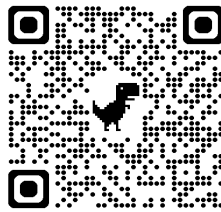
Mason said in the past year, he knew a lot had been asked and tasked of the PBA workforce. "We faced uncer-

tainment Command plugs us directly into the Army's core sustainment enterprise, giving us the leverage, visibility and the backing we need to become the Arsenal of Tomorrow. Let us look forward. In our line of work, hope is not a method. A vision without a blueprint is just a dream."

PBA's Commander said he is incredibly proud of how the Workforce has come together to develop a comprehensive strategic vision backed by a detailed area development plan.

"This isn't just paper in a binder gathering dust. It is our actual road map. Having this plan is critical because it takes the guesswork out of our future," he said. "It directs the decisions we make, prioritizes

You can view all the Arsenal Sentinel issues from July 2025 to now by going to this QR code



**FIREWORKS are a BLAST**

**CELEBRATE SAFELY**

- ✓ Always have adult supervision.
- ✓ Always wear eye protection when lighting fireworks.
- ✓ Make sure the area is safe for the use of fireworks.
- ✓ Alcohol and fireworks do not mix. Have a designated shooter.
- ✓ Follow label instructions and use common sense.
- ✓ Never point or throw fireworks at another person.
- ✓ Have water handy.
- ✓ Never shoot fireworks in metal or glass containers.
- ✓ Light one firework at a time.
- ✓ Never attempt to re-light a firework.
- ✓ Never have any portion of your body over the firework.
- ✓ Don't experiment with homemade fireworks. M-80's are dangerous and ILLEGAL.

# Employee Appreciation Day



Several team building events including breakfasts and games were held around Pine Bluff Arsenal during Employee Appreciation Day June 17. From photo top left clockwise, the Directorate of Emergency Services, Directorate of Public Works, Directorate of Information Management and the Directorate of Resource Management all participated in some kind of activity during the morning. U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY HUGH MORGAN



Photo left, Reggie Brown sings a song during karaoke. Brown won 2nd place during the competition.

Photo above, a 3 on 3 basketball tournament took place at Pine Bluff Arsenal's Fitness Center during Employee Appreciation Day.

# Employee Appreciation Day



Photo top left, Amelio Howard, Director of Pine Bluff Arsenal's Information Management, helps serve barbeque to the Workforce during EAD June 17. Photo top right, members of the health clinic Workforce enjoy lunch under tents near the Arsenal's Fitness Center. Photo left, Pine Bluff Arsenal Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason participates in one of the testing stations during the Health Fair at the Army Reserve Center. Photo above, employees grab themselves something cool to drink during lunch. Drinks were provided by the PBA Civilian Welfare Fund. U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY HUGH MORGAN



Photo above, approximately 27 vendors participated in the Arsenal's Health Fair, which was held at the Army Reserve Center near Plainview Gate. The Army Substance Abuse/Employee Assistance Program Office were the organizers of the fair. Photo right, Crystal Gaddy with PBA's Army Community Service Office greets visitors to her booth during the Health Fair. U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY HUGH MORGAN

# Employee Appreciation Day Competition Awards



Davion James and Joey Milburn were recognized by Pine Bluff Arsenal Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason for winning the Baggo (Corn Hole) tournament during Employee Appreciation Day June 17. U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY HUGH MORGAN



Kadarean Brown, Maurice Hopkins, Tyler Brown and Davion James won the 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament during EAD.



Steven Gray won the Golf-Long Drive, Par 3 Contest and Chipping Contest during EAD.



Photo above, Steve Kidd won first place and Reggie Brown (Debra Williams also pictured) won second place for Karaoke during Employee Appreciation Day June 17.

Photo left, Devan McClellan and Rachel Greig won the Spades Tournament.

Photo right, Devan McClellan and Javier Holst won the Dominos competition.



# Employee Appreciation Day Civilian Awards



Gregory L. Etherly, Michael E. Murry, Debbie J. Paylor, Rickey Strain and Jeffery L. Vance were recognized during Pine Bluff Arsenal's Employee Appreciation Day with Civilian Service Achievement Medals by Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason and Acting Deputy to the Commander Danielle Graves.

Etherly, with PBA's Directorate of Chemical and Biological Defense, was recognized for his work with large filters; Murry, with PBA's Office of the Chief of Staff, was recognized for his support of recent VIP engagements, while managing daily operational requirements for the Arsenal; Paylor, with PBA's Directorate of Information Management, was recognized for transformation of the S6 Compliance Division into a "highly resilient, mission-focused team" during her brief tenure as chief; Strain, with PBA's Directorate of Ammunition Operations, was recognized for his ability to learn new things, share his knowledge and communicate capabilities enhancing the AO Quality Management Division; and Vance, with PBA's Directorate of Engineering and Technology, was instrumental in operating the M330 pressing line, resolving issues in both the consolidation presses and the reaming process. He also restored the 120mm body load systems from long-term inactivity to full operational status in under two months. U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY HUGH MORGAN

Kenneth G. Daniel, Caitlin B. Thomas and Jimmy E. Hollowell were recognized during Pine Bluff Arsenal's Employee Appreciation Day with Certificates of Achievement by Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason and Acting Deputy to the Commander Danielle Graves.

Daniel, with PBA's Directorate of Material Management, was recognized for ensuring that components for the M18/M83, M106, M330, M929/M930 and M983, met all customer and government specification requirements.

Thomas, with PBA's Directorate of Public Works, was recognized for ensuring audit readiness by developing, maintaining and overseeing the DPW training spreadsheet, and providing accurate and reliable training records for the entire organization. Thomas also handles all of DPW's Durable Property assets and all of DPW's Operations and Maintenance Arms, Ammunitions, and Explosives Reliability Program documentation.

Hollowell, with PBA's Directorate of Public Works, was instrumental in upgrading the white phosphorus Line 2 PLC and converting the antiquated air logic on the north side grenade line to a modern PLC control. Hollowell took the lead in managing the WP line control room, dedicating countless hours beyond the normal work week to keep the production line running.



Kevin L. Bradley, Tammera T. Delph and Joey L. Milburn were recognized during Pine Bluff Arsenal's Employee Appreciation Day with Civilian Service Commendation Medals by Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason and Acting Deputy to the Commander Danielle Graves.

Bradley with Pine Bluff Arsenal's Army Substance Abuse and Employee Assistance Program Office was recognized for his key achievements in the creation and implementation of a comprehensive Drug-Free Workplace Plan, after he identified PBA didn't have a formal plan in place. He has gone above and beyond by becoming a certified Drug Abuse Resistance Education Officer, and also guides employees through the retirement process.

Delph, with PBA's Directorate of Chemical and Biological Defense Operations, successfully completed a corrective action for the Chemically Protected Patient Wrap line by implementing clear labeling on the sewing machine bracket tooling. This initiative provided vital operator guidance, ensured strict compliance with SOP and overall product quality. She also assisted in the prototype development for the Eagle Fang project, and dedicated two months to producing parkas for the West Point Class of 2029.

Milburn, with PBA's Directorate of Ammunition Operations, works on the M930 and M929 load, assemble and pack lines as the Sensitive Items Operator, which supply the production line with four different components and documenting each item. His actions prevented the shutdown of production and rework of items. He has also stepped in during personnel shortages.



# Celebrating Army's 251st



Pine Bluff Arsenal Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason, along with Weston Kinley (PBA's newest member of the Workforce) and Capt. (Dr.) Anthony Gulotta (photo left) cut the Army 251st Birthday Cake before lunch during Employee Appreciation Day June 17. Photo above, Col. Mason talks to an assembled crowd of employees before cutting the Army's Birthday Cake in front of the Arsenal's Fitness Center. U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY RACHEL SELBY/HUGH MORGAN



Pine Bluff Arsenal Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason was invited to participate in the kick-off Welcome Ceremony May 22 at the Black Pilots of America event at Grider Field Airport in Pine Bluff. Mason, along with other military organizations, commanders and Veterans were recognized during the event. U.S. ARMY PHOTO



Justin Lieber, Pine Bluff Arsenal's Chief of Staff, was recognized by PBA Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason, for his outstanding leadership, technical expertise and unwavering commitment to mission success. His contributions directly improved organizational performance, strengthened stakeholder relationships and advanced the Arsenal's mission in support of the Warfighter. Lieber departed the Arsenal for private industry in June. U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY HUGH MORGAN

**RED, WHITE & TRUE**  
BLOOD DRIVE

SCAN TO PLAY  
the trivia

## Pine Bluff Arsenal

Thursday, July 16  
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

*Look for the Bloodmobile!*

*Walk-ins Welcome!*

STARS, STRIPES, & SUMMER RIDES!

Donate and score our exclusive celebration t-shirt!

SCAN TO SCHEDULE

Plus a ticket to thrills at the theme park of your choice!

Our Blood Institute

877-340-8777 • obi.org  
Photo ID required. While supplies last.

# Congressional visit

Members of Arkansas Senator John Boozman's staff visited Pine Bluff Arsenal May 27. Bradley Plunkett, Connor Henson, Brian Rohauer and Amanda Osborne were presented an overview of the installation including a strategic outlook featuring all the activity involving enhanced use leases and public-private partnerships. The visit concluded with a pyrotechnic demonstration and tour of the Arsenal's M930 load, assemble and pack ammunition production line.

U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY HUGH MORGAN



# Wear Orange Day

In recognition of National Gun Violence Awareness Month in June, Pine Bluff Arsenal's Army Substance Abuse/Employee Assistance Program Office participated in the annual Wear Orange Day event June 5 at the Pine Bluff Convention Center. Kevin Bradley (pictured above, right) handed out information about the ASP/EAP program at the Arsenal and greeted members of the community during the event.

U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY HUGH MORGAN



**ARMY CIVILIAN CORPS CREED**

I am an Army Civilian – a member of the Army Team

I am dedicated to our Army, our Soldiers and Civilians

I will always support the mission

I provide stability and continuity during war and peace

I support and defend the Constitution of the United States and consider it an honor to serve our Nation and our Army

I live the Army values of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage

I am an Army Civilian

# RED & WHITE & BOOM FESTIVAL

— PINE BLUFF ARSENAL —

 **FOOD & PRODUCT VENDORS** |  **MUSIC** |  **GAMES** |  **FIREWORKS**

**JULY 9, 2026**  
NEW EVENT DATE

 **7:00PM – 9:30PM**

## EVENT FREE AND FOR ALL!

**FEEL FREE TO BRING YOUR BLANKETS, CHAIRS, AND BUG REPELLENT.**

- Entrance/Departure will be through PBA DEXTER GATE.
- All vehicles are required to have at least one (1) occupant with a valid DOD access credential.
- All passengers 16 yrs or older in privately owned vehicles must present a valid state issued driver's License/ identification card to PBA security force.

 **FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK FOR OTHER EVENTS!**  
<https://www.facebook.com/AmericasArsenal>

**★ CASH AND ALL FORMS OF MAJOR CARDS ACCEPTED. ★**