



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

PBA Safety Glance



**Safety Element
for Fiscal Year 2026
Lost Day Case Rate:
0.50
Award Goal: 0.95**

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

***Recordable injuries for fiscal year 2026 are seven. Recordable injuries is one for July 2026**

***Pine Bluff Arsenal days without a lost time injury is 71.**

***Pine Bluff Arsenal days without a recordable injury is one.**

***Estimated hours worked without a lost time injury: 195,535.**



PBA Producing Parkas Again

By Rachel Selby

Pine Bluff Arsenal's Directorate of Chemical and Biological Defense Operations, Textiles and Protective Clothing production, has been called again to produce wool parkas for the U.S. Army Military Academy at West Point, located in West Point, New York.

"This new batch of parkas came to us very quick – end of June is when we found out," said Kawana Taylor, textile project manager. Fabric arrived for this production run of parkas approximately the first week of July.

"West Point has its own sewing facility," said Jason Fullen, chief of the Chemical and Biological Division. "Last September, we demonstrated we could cut the fabric to specifications. Recently, Greg Brown, West Point project manager, mentioned the enormous workload and backlog at

their sewing facility."

During the initial production run last year, more than 800-plus parkas were scheduled to be produced. At that time, the fabric cutter had broken down at the West Point facility, leading officials to ask PBA for assistance in getting additional parkas produced.

"For this production run, West Point is backlogged. I was told they had approximately 500 parkas left in stock," said Molly Moore, a PBA fabric worker. "We are set to produce approximately 1,320 parkas this time."

The deadline for this production run is by middle of September.

"We have talked with West Point about sending them in batches once they are complete," Taylor said.

Moore said the production line started producing parkas the week of July 20.



Brandy Aaron, a fabric worker on Pine Bluff Arsenal's textile production line, works on a parka zipper. PBA is set to produce approximately 1,320 West Point parkas. U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY RACHEL SELBY

"Before production started, we received part of the fabric and began the two and a half day cutting process," she said. "Because we don't have a pocket machine, West Point sends the pockets pre-made, and PBA handles the topstitching."

Moore added that West Point sends everything PBA needs.

Tammera Delph, who works with PBA's Directorate of Chemical and Biological Defense Operations, irons wool material, that eventually will be made into parkas.

"We are still waiting on the embroidery part for the front of the parka," Moore said. "These will be for the classes in the 2030s."

PBA was contacted on July 21 by West Point Division Chief Rob Sestan to gauge interest in producing an additional 6,750 pairs of heavy gray trousers. West Point is also providing additional equipment to enhance PBA's production efficiency and capacity.

Pine Bluff Arsenal has

See **PARKAS** Page 4

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

The Next Chapter –

Launching the Era of New Execution

Team, I'll be direct: my column is a bit longer than usual this month, and that is by deliberate design. Last month, we hit our one-year mark and celebrated our past successes. This month is different. This column is our strategic launchpad to new execution. It is about where we are going, how we are going to get there, and what I need from you to make it happen. I ask that you read this in full, not as a standard update, but as a point of self-reflection for how we move forward together.

For the past year, we have talked extensively about building our Strategic Outlook and securing our future. We drafted the blueprints for the "Arsenal of Tomorrow." Looking back at this past month, I can confidently say the time for drafting is over. We have officially crossed the threshold from planning our strategy to executing it. The momentum across this installation is tangible, and it is entirely because of your hard work.

Every corner of Pine Bluff Arsenal is currently in motion. In our textile directorate, we just received our materials and officially kicked off production for 1,320 West Point Parkas. We also received our initial materials for the Military District of Washington (MDW) uniform mission, giving us exactly what we need to orient ourselves to this new workload and execute our plan.

On the equipment front, we have initiated the procurement of production material and equipment for the Eagle Fang protective system, while simultaneously researching the equipment needed to upgrade and enhance our existing large filter production lines. We are not just talking about modernization; we are buying it, building it, and putting it into action.

We are also aggressively preparing our physical and strategic battle space for the future. Right now, Ammunition Operations, Material Management, Engineering and



Col. Matthew C. Mason

Technology, and the Directorate of Public Works are executing a massive, coordinated relocation operation. They are rapidly vacating the northern portion of Area 34 to allow us to repurpose this space for Advanced Manufacturing—a critical capability I will highlight later in this article.

Complementing this internal effort, we recently hosted the AMC Advanced Manufacturing Team to conduct mission analysis and secure the exact buildings and spaces we will use to stand up this new capability at PBA. We literally oriented our physical footprint to meet the Army's future demands.

Our momentum isn't limited to the production floor and physical footprints; it is accelerating at the negotiating table. Our Business Development Section has officially finalized negotiations and submitted a contract for final approval to establish our very first Public-Private Partnership with Hanwha Defense USA (HDUSA). This agreement is a gamechanger. It allows HDUSA to immediately establish their initial headquarters and operations division, streamlining their efforts for the upcoming construction phase.

Simultaneously, it provides thousands of dollars in direct, service-in-kind upgrades to the PBA Headquarters. In conjunction

with this milestone, our Public Affairs Office (PAO) is actively collaborating with HDUSA and the HQDA PAO Team to prepare for a major, high-profile announcement scheduled to take place right here at PBA in late September.

Business Development is keeping their foot on the gas, currently negotiating another P3 with an Advanced Manufacturing company. This upcoming partnership is projected to bring millions of dollars in service-in-kind investments and potential direct labor hours directly into our ammunition operations area—serving as a massive accelerator for our Advanced Manufacturing initiatives.

Simultaneously, we demonstrated what enterprise-level leadership looks like. We hosted the PBA AMC OIB Operations Cell Team and executed a series of highly coordinated, synchronized engagements with the newly established ASC Executive Ammunition Division, the AMC OIB Operations Cell, and the HQDA OIB Operations Integration Cell. We proved that when we align our efforts and communicate effectively across all echelons, we ensure the absolute best decisions are being made not just for PBA, but for the entire Organic Industrial Base.

Our momentum extends beyond the Arsenal's gates as well.

We are proud to announce we are collaborating with the City of White Hall on a historic, first-ever Joint Installation-Community video. This project is designed to highlight our shared strategic vision, future outlook, and the unbreakable partnership between PBA and our local neighbors.

By leveraging state-of-the-art videography, AI tools, and professional voice-overs seamlessly blended with our operational graphics, we are creating a polished, modern showcase for our installation. The strategic advantages of this project are immense: it is entirely funded through local resources and an Arkansas state grant, and it requires no on-site production crews or social media footprints—meaning zero impact on your daily operations. This initiative sets a powerful historical precedent, solidifying our strategic relationship with the community that supports us.

Because we know true operational readiness begins at home, we successfully hosted an IMCOM Staff Assistant Visit for our Child Youth Service (CYS) operations. Taking care of our Workforce and our families is a foundational accountability we will never compromise on.

Every single one of these milestones is a testament to

what happens when we observe our environment and quickly step up to act. To keep up this pace and manage this rapid change, we must master our mental tempo. That begins with how we orient ourselves to our new reality.

Mastering Our Tempo with the OODA Loop: Orient

As we continue our leadership series on Col. John Boyd's OODA Loop (Observe, Orient, Decide, and Act), we move from our initial observations to the most critical phase of the cycle: Orient.

If "Observe" is gathering the data, "Orient" is making sense of it. Col. Boyd called this phase the *schwerpunkt*—the focal point of the loop. It is where we filter new information through our past experiences, training, and culture to form an accurate mental model of reality.

When we observe the modern battlefield and the strategic needs of the Department of War, we must orient ourselves to a new reality. We have successfully shifted our internal mindset from viewing PBA as a legacy facility to envisioning a dynamic hub of public-private partnerships. But orienting also means recognizing what the Warfighter needs us to build next. By accurately orienting ourselves to the fu-

See MASON Page 4



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

Roger C. Hensley, Security Guard, has joined the Directorate of Emergency Services.

Ashley M. Lewis, Security Guard, has joined the Directorate of Emergency Services.

Brandon S. Robbins, Security Specialist (Anti-Terrorism), has joined the Directorate of Emergency Services.

Brent E. Glover, Utility Systems Operator, has joined the Directorate of Public Works.

Justin L. Rudder, Firefighter, has joined the Directorate of Emergency Services.

Farewells

Joshua Walls-Cole, Security Guard, has left the Directorate of Emergency Services.

Retirements

Welton M. Boyce, Chemical Engineer, has retired from the Directorate of Engineering and Technology. Boyce retires with 42 years of service.

Allen A. DeHaghani, Mechanical Engineer, has retired from the Directorate of Engineering and Technology. DeHaghani retires with 38 years of service.

Donald F. Edwards, Materials Handler Leader, has retired from the Directorate of Material Management. Edwards retires with 32 years of service.

Stanley R. Lee, Foreman, has retired from the Directorate of Chemical and Biological Defense Operations, Mobile and Powered Systems Division. Lee retires with 50 years of service.

Gregory L. Etherly, Production Controller, has retired from the Directorate of Ammunition Operations. Etherly retires with 34 years of service.

Retirement



View the Arsenal Sentinel
anywhere, anytime!
Click on the QR code below:



Welton Boyce with Pine Bluff Arsenal's Directorate of Engineering and Technology, retires with 42 years of civilian service. He started his career at PBA in June 1985, serving as a GS-7 chemical engineer within the Directorate of Material Management and Demilitarization. In October 1989, he moved to E&T's Systems Engineering Division. His technical expertise and dedication has proved vital to operations, and his exceptional skills, deep knowledge and commitment have contributed greatly to the sustained mission success of the Arsenal. PBA Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason presented Boyce with his retirement certificate and a flag flown over PBA's Headquarters Building during his retirement ceremony. U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY HUGH MORGAN

Lights Installed at Gates

By Rachel Selby

As of July 1, Pine Bluff Arsenal workforce members and visitors may have noticed red and blue emergency light bars at each exterior gate.

According to David Hoots, physical security specialist with the Arsenal's Directorate of Emergency Services, the installation was directive from U.S. Army Installation Management Command.

"Approximately nine months to a year ago, we were told to do this," Hoots said. "Due to contract funding, it was delayed a bit. The timeframe was a little long. The installation happened in May and June. We had a few hiccups along the way."

Hoots said the primary reason for installing the lights was safety.

"We wanted to make people aware they were approaching a military installation and to slow traffic down through the gates and serpentine barriers," he said. "It also helps deter in-



The blue light on the light bar is shown at Pine Bluff Arsenal's Plainview Gate. The lights were installed in late June as part of a directive from U.S. Army Installation Management Command. As of July 1, the lights are in service at the Arsenal's gates. The lights are to make people aware they are approaching a military installation and to slow down as they make their way through the gate. U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY HUGH MORGAN

dividuals from approaching the gate on foot, on bicycles and in vehicles, who have no business on the installation."

In April, signage was placed along the installation's boundary with the Arkansas River. In an April Arsenal Sentinel article, Hoots said the signs are 10 feet by 10 feet and mounted on tele-

phone poles at about 30 feet to keep it out of the river flood stage. Lights similar to those at the gates have also been installed on the signs.

"This deters people coming in right off the river," Hoots said in April. "You can see it from across the river on the opposite bank." The emergency lights at the gates will be illuminated 24/7.

Employee of the Quarter



Jon M. Reed, Freight Rate Specialist for Pine Bluff Arsenal's Directorate of Material Management, was named Employee of the Quarter for the Third Quarter of Fiscal Year 2026. Reed is highly recommended for recognition, operating a minimal supervision, he managed 308 inbound truckloads and maintained a flawless 100 percent on-time metric within the Logistics Modernization Program. His expertise contributed to the Transportation Division achieving a green rating across all eight-functional areas during the FY2026 Command Inspection. He selflessly volunteered personal time to ensure facility safety, and has personally escorted trucks to prevent offloading delays. U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY RACHEL SELBY

Arsenal Sentinel



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Cheryl Avery, Public Affairs Officer
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PARKAS from Page 1

built a growing portfolio of textile products since launching its textile initiative in 2015. Initial research and groundwork began to establish industrial textile capabilities at PBA, and both capacity and product variety have expanded since.

Additional personnel have joined the production line, and new equipment has been added, including a Gerber cutter, an embroidery machine, a heat transfer machine and additional industrial sewing machines.

The installation received a Center of Industrial and Technical Excellence certification for textile manufacturing in April 2022, one of three CITE designations the arsenal has obtained.

Founded in 1802, West Point is the nation's oldest military academy. It trains cadets to become officers in the U.S. Army through a rigorous four-year program focused on developing leaders of character.

A PBA textile worker positions a label on a piece of fabric for the West Point parkas.

The first four parkas hang and are ready for the embroidery labels.

U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY RACHEL SELBY



MASON from Page 2

ture fight, it becomes clear we must pivot our mindset toward a new class of capabilities. This mental shift is the perfect primer for our next major strategic push.

Entering the Redzone: Bringing Lethality through Advanced Manufacturing to PBA

Orienting ourselves to the Army's future needs brings us directly to a core pillar of our Strategic Vision: Lethality. We are currently having discussions at the highest levels of the Army to make new lethality workload a reality here at Pine Bluff Arsenal.

For those who follow football, we have driven the ball down the field and are now officially in the "Redzone." We are within scoring range. We have the partnerships, the vision, and the leadership attention. But as any fan knows, the last 20 yards are always the hardest. We still have a lot of hard work ahead to push this lethality workload across the goal line and make it a permanent reality at PBA.

To achieve this, we are bringing Advanced Manufacturing to the installation. I want to acknowledge this is a significant shift from the types of munitions we have historically produced. Expanding from our focus on smoke, pyrotechnics, and less than lethal munitions into the realm of lethal energetics. I understand with a shift of this magnitude, there can nat-

urally be some apprehension across the team.

Let me reassure you: we are Pine Bluff Arsenal. We have a long, proud history of handling complex, sensitive missions with unmatched precision. We already have the robust SOPs, the rigorous safety standards, and the proven procedures required to operate securely. Most importantly, we have the right Workforce and the right leadership at every level to ensure we do this right, do it safely, and do it at a standard of excellence. We have never compromised on safety and excellence, and we never will.

However, let me also be firm on this point: as your Commander, I am going to continue to aggressively push to bring this capability to PBA. We are moving forward. We are doing this not simply because it is a bullet point in our Strategic Vision, but because the Warfighter absolutely needs this capability to fight and win—and frankly, they needed it yesterday!

With this shift, comprehensive education and training will come. By understanding what is coming, leaning into that training, and trusting in the systems and leaders we have in place, we will be fully prepared. We are in the Redzone Team. Let's execute safely, confidently, and get ready to score.

ARSENAL READY Deep Dive: Leadership

Crossing that goal line and scoring in the redzone will not happen by accident. Flawless execution of this new lethality workload requires a Workforce that is locked-in, responsible, and empowered. This brings us directly to the bookend of our ARSENAL READY framework: Leadership: driving modernization and setting a standard for excellence.

Take a close look at the word ARSENAL. Our framework begins with our first core principle, "A" for Accountability, and it is book ended by "L" for Leadership. This is no accident; these two concepts go together. Accountability is our bedrock foundation—the commitment that we will own our actions and our outcomes. Leadership is the engine that makes those outcomes a reality. You cannot have true leadership without accountability, and accountability means little if no one steps up to lead. Together, they sum up exactly what it takes for the Arsenal of Tomorrow.

This is the perfect month to highlight this pillar because we are entering a critical new phase in our journey. Over the past year, we fought for our future and built our Strategic Outlook. We secured the partnerships and designed the roadmap. But a plan on a whiteboard does not protect the Warfighter, and it does not modernize the Organic Industrial Base. We are now officially transitioning from building

our Strategic Outlook to executing it.

Flawless execution requires empowered leaders at every single echelon. At Pine Bluff Arsenal, leadership is not defined by the rank on my collar or the title on our doors; it is defined by action.

- For the individual worker, it means leading by example, owning your process, and having the courage to speak up when you see a better way to operate.

- For the floor supervisor, leadership means mentoring your team, enforcing safety standards, and optimizing the line for maximum efficiency.

- For managers and directors, it means breaking down silos, securing resources, and clearing obstacles so your teams can succeed.

- For the command team, it means providing clear vision and unwavering support.

Major Announcement

Speaking of the command team, providing unwavering support means having the right leaders in the right positions. That is why I am thrilled to formally announce and welcome Ms. Theresa M. Sherman as our new Deputy to the Commander at Pine Bluff Arsenal. Her tenure as deputy director in the Army G-8 gives her unparalleled insight into the Army's modernization and resourcing enterprise. This background will enable seamless integration, communication, and planning with

key enterprise bodies like the ASC EDA, AMC OIB Operations Cell and the HQDA OIB Integration Cell.

Furthermore, she is an expert in Army-wide program management, congressional engagements, and resource management—critical skills as we manage fiscal constraints and evolving mission requirements at the installation level. Her past service as a Chief of Staff proves she has the ability to integrate across directorates, maintain unity of effort, and step in directly when complex issues arise.

Our incoming Deputy brings the essential external perspective and operational acumen required to drive our "Arsenal Ready" framework and help us solidify the "Arsenal of Tomorrow". She is the right leader at the right time to guide our modernization efforts, empower our workforce, and serve as a vital source of continuity for the Arsenal. Please join me in welcoming Ms. Sherman to the PBA family.

In closing, it is going to take leadership at all levels to make our transition to execution successful. You have proven you have the adaptability to endure; now, I am calling on your leadership to help us thrive.

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

EAP Corner

Effects of Alcohol and Sunshine: More Alike Than You Think

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

Mixing alcohol with the severe, humid heat of an Arkansas summer drastically accelerates your risk of dangerous dehydration and potentially fatal heat stroke.

Alcohol impairs your body's ability to regulate its core temperature and acts as a diuretic, doubling your fluid loss and preventing you from recognizing warning signs.

Arkansas summers are notorious for soaring heat indexes and heavy humidity. When you consume alcohol in these conditions, you face severe health and safety risks:

Severe Sunburn: The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) notes that alcohol lowers the amount of sun exposure needed to produce skin burns. Drinking can dull your pain receptors and reduce your likelihood of applying sunscreen properly.

Five risks of drinking alcohol in the summer sun

1. **Heat Stroke:** Alcohol combined with high temperatures means your body may not be able to regulate its own temperature effectively. Heat illness progresses rapidly through heat cramps and heat exhaustion. Because alcohol impairs your judgment and physical responses, you may ignore early signs of heat stroke, such as confusion, cessation of sweating, and body temperatures exceeding 103° F, which requires immediate emergency medical attention. Heat illness can present itself in three phases.

- **Phase 1:** Heat cramps from the loss of essential water and sodium.

- **Phase 2:** Heat exhaustion caused by dehydration.

- **Phase 3:** The most serious, heat stroke, which can lead to shock or organ failure.

2. **Dehydration:** Alcohol and the sun both cause dehydration. Alcohol is a diuretic, and the sun causes you to sweat to stay cool. If you're drinking in the hot sun, you may be losing fluids twice as quickly and be at risk of dehydration.

Make sure to drink water throughout the day and in between alcoholic beverages. Alcohol causes your body to shed fluids much faster than normal. As you sweat in the high heat, your blood volume drops, leading to dizziness, headaches, and dangerously low blood pressure.

3. **Boating accidents:** Nearly a third of all boating fatalities involve alcohol. People lose their ability to accurately judge situations or handle large machinery the more they drink. Accidents and drowning, impaired judgment, poor coordination, and slower reaction times paired with the hot, sunny environment heavily increase the likelihood of accidents.

This is particularly lethal during popular Arkansas summer activities like boating on Lake Ouachita or swimming in the Buffalo National River. Whether the boat is moving or anchored, remember to always wear a life jacket on board and in the water.

4. **Drowning:** Just like you shouldn't drink and drive, don't drink and dive, either. It's easy to misjudge the depth of the water or the strength of the current. Similarly, if you're drinking in or near water, you may lack the coordination and energy to stay afloat or run the risk of passing out in the water.

5. **Car accidents:** With more people on the road over the summer, drinking and driving becomes more problematic. Don't risk it. If you know a friend or family member has been drinking,

NAME _____

OFF SYM _____

The Effects of Alcohol and Sunshine: More Alike Than You Think

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

ALCOHOL
DRINKING
ACCIDENTS
HEAT
WATER

SUNSHINE
SUMMER
BOATING
STROKE
SUNBURN

EFFECTS
DEHYDRATION
DROWNING
SAFELY

give them a ride home or offer a couch for them to crash on to keep them and other drivers safe.

Tips for drinking safely in the sun

If you're still intent on indulging in the summer rays, here's how you can help counteract dehydration:

- Drink eight ounces of

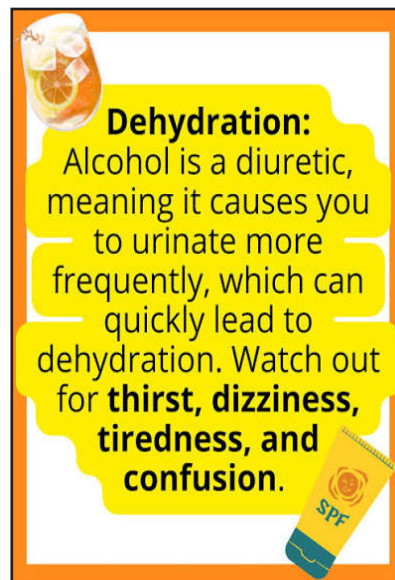
water for every alcoholic drink.

- Dilute your alcohol and consume it at a steady pace.

- Avoid mixing different alcohols or caffeinated drinks with alcohol.

- If you notice symptoms of dehydration, seek a cool place, stop drinking alcohol and try to hydrate with water (*Unity Point Health*).

The Army Substance Abuse/ Employee Assistance Program staff are here to help. We offer you a safe and confidential place to discuss concerns and challenges for managing difficulties in your life. Our office is located at Bldg. 13-040, phone number is 870-540-3094. The Care line number is (870) 550-2653.



Dehydration:
Alcohol is a diuretic, meaning it causes you to urinate more frequently, which can quickly lead to dehydration. Watch out for **thirst, dizziness, tiredness, and confusion.**



Tips to Stay Safe

- Set a drink limit and alternate alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks.
- Drink plenty of water and electrolyte drinks to stay hydrated.
- Eat throughout the day and avoid drinking on an empty stomach.
- Stay in the shade and reapply sunscreen regularly.

HR Tips

Thrift Savings Plan What is a Thrift Savings Plan (TSP)?

Courtesy of the Pine Bluff Arsenal S1 Office

A Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) is an investment plan for Federal employees and military members as a way of saving for retirement. Employees can choose how much they want to withhold from each paycheck to contribute to the plan as well as where the money in the plan will be invested.

On the GRB Platform of the Army Benefits Center – Civilian (ABC-C) website, go to the TSP icon to choose what percentage of your paycheck you would like to invest in the plan. It is recommended to invest at least five percent, as the agency matches your contributions up to that percentage. Click the orange “Change Enrollment” button to set the percentage.

To manage where your money is being invested (aka “allocated”), go to tsp.gov. Once you create an account, you can choose between various “Funds” to determine what category you would like to invest in. Any funds that begin with L are retirement focused funds that will lower risks and taxes. The G Fund is a government bond fund. The F Fund is a bond fund. The C Fund is a fund for larger companies like McDonalds. The S Fund is a fund for smaller to medium companies like Mom-and-Pop shops and Target. The I Fund is an international company fund.

For more information about TSP, go to tsp.gov or the TSP icon under GRB to view videos and other helpful documents.



Kawana Taylor
Amber Jo Murry
Clayton Copeland
Christian Dancer
Crystal Gaddy
Cameron Girley
Anthony Collins
Walker Brown
Ashley Winkler
Jessie Brust
Kimberly Martin
Tyler Brown
Keith Peterson
Brad Rauls
Kenneth Anderson
Clayton Ferrell
Heather Kimzey
Christopher Phillips
Shannon Bunting
Cory DeJarnette
Shannon O'Connor
Spencer Silvey
William Ives
Curt Blacklock
Charla Colen

Brandi Means
Kindra Bell
Jason Hufford
Timothy Newton
Raef Tadros
John Aronowitz, III
Anthony Gray
Darron Starks
Kimberly Goins
Samuel Jackson
Elmer Brewer
Michael Humphries
Anthony Stokes
Michael Hendricks
Nathaniel Jarrett
Kyle Knight
Joseph Lawson
Zachary Northrup
Margaret Hood
Garrett Matthews
Michael Hills
Andrea Milian
Frantrise Brown-Hill
Melanie Tallent



Pine Bluff Arsenal Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason speaks at the Greater Pine Bluff Regional Chamber of Commerce luncheon July 1 at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff Business Support Incubator in downtown Pine Bluff. Mason gave an update on everything happening on the installation. PHOTO COURTESY OF PINE BLUFF CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Mason Speaks to PB Chamber

By Rachel Selby

Pine Bluff Arsenal's Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason spoke at the Pine Bluff Regional Chamber of Commerce luncheon July 1, held in downtown Pine Bluff at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff's Business Support Incubator.

Chamber Director Jennifer Kline introduced Mason, who provided an update on the Arsenal's activities during the past year.

"Col. Mason assumed command July 10, 2025," she said, reading his biography. "If you look at the commands where he has served, he has been everywhere. He has served in the Middle East, Korea and all over the U.S. We are very excited to have you here today and can't wait to hear about what is going on at Arsenal. The Arsenal is very important to our city and region."

Mason said he really appreciated the chamber invitation.

"Anytime I get a chance to come and speak about the Arsenal, it is a chance for me to get out from behind my desk and meet with senior leaders in our community," he said. "I want to educate you on the Arsenal and where we are going. It is dramatically different than it was even a year ago."

He explained that when he assumed command, there was an order from the Department

of War regarding the potential transformation of the Organic Industrial Base sites. Specifically, Pine Bluff Arsenal was on a closure list along with Red River Army Depot in Texas and Blue Grass Army Depot in Kentucky.

"I was concerned about the gates even being open when I got here. My mindset was I am going to be the commander helping this place close," he said. "I think a lot of it came down to educating our senior leaders about the Arsenal and what we do. This was our chance to advocate for the installation and let them see what we can do and are willing to try."

The Arsenal has maintained the same operations for 85 years, Mason noted.

"How are we transforming? We started brainstorming and throwing out ideas, and trying to figure out a solution," he said. "We didn't want to close and lose all this history. The Arsenal has done a lot for the Army over the years. Closure is no longer on the table."

The mantra is we are the "Arsenal of Tomorrow" going forward, Mason said.

"We have new mission ideas, new goals and new strategies," he said. "What do we want to look like five years from now? Over the past year, we have created a new vision for the Arsenal. We have an

idea of where we want to go and how we will get there. We had to be and must be intentional with everything we are doing."

The installation has hosted numerous visitors, the most in its history over the past year. Guests included the U.S. Army chief of staff, the secretary of the Army, staff members for Arkansas Senators John Boozman and Tom Cotton, and several general officer equivalents, U.S. Army undersecretaries and Senior Executive Service members. All were briefed on PBA's vision and future growth opportunities.

Mason highlighted two major focus areas; integrating with partners and combining ideas. This is being pursued through Public-Private Partnerships (P3) at the command level and Enhanced Use Leases (EULS) negotiated between the Army and commercial industry.

Earlier this year, the Army announced that South Korean based Hanwha Defense USA won an EUL bid to build a large munitions facility on the installation.

"We are getting the help we need to move forward. We can't do this alone. This is about good relationships with the city, county and beyond," Mason said. "If the Army is thinking big, we must think big. We need to ask for everything we want to do."

76th Anniversary - Korean War Remembrance

Mason Speaks at LR Event

By Rachel Selby

Pine Bluff Arsenal Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason was the keynote speaker June 25 at the MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History during an event commemorating the 76th anniversary of the start of the Korean War.

Speaking to an audience of local veterans, community leaders and Korean American business representatives, Mason reflected on the historical sacrifices of the 461 Arkansans lost in the conflict.

"It is incredibly fitting that we gather here today at the MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History. Gen. Douglas MacArthur, born right here in the historic Arsenal Building, played a defining role in the Korean War," Mason said. "Walking these halls, you feel the weight of history. But today is not just about history. It is about a legacy that continues to shape our world right now."

For many years the Korean War was referred to as the "forgotten war," Mason said.

"Let me be absolutely clear: It is not forgotten here. It is remembered in the names etched into the black granite of the memorial right outside. It is remembered in the legacy of men like Cpl. Charles Gilliland from Yellville," he said. "Charles joined the Army on his 17th birthday. He was just a teenager when he stood on a hill near Tongmang-ni, severely wounded but refusing to retreat. He laid down his life, and although he remains missing in action today, his name is safely anchored in our hearts and on the memorial."

The war is also remembered in the scars carried by the veterans sitting in this room, said the colonel. "It is remembered by every soldier, sailor, airman and Marine who stands watch on the Korean Peninsula today," he added, noting the

two tours he completed in the Republic of Korea.

Mason's first tour was from 2014 to 2017. "I was stationed in Daegu, operating out of Camp Walker and Camp Carroll. During those years, I served as the chief of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense for the 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command," he said. "Later, I served as the brigade and battalion executive officer for the 2nd Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade."

Headlines during that time focused on a period of intense and escalating provocation from North Korea, Mason said. "We saw multiple nuclear tests and a constant barrage of ballistic missile launches. The rhetoric was hostile, the threat palpable," he said. "What the news cameras didn't always capture was what was happening on our side of the demilitarized zone. During those tense years, the alliance did not fracture; it hardened. Every single day, I worked side-by-side with our military counterparts to build a sustainment network capable of fighting and winning."

Years later, from 2023 to 2025, Mason returned to Korea for his second tour. "This time, I served at U.S. Forces Korea headquarters as the chief of countering weapons of mass destruction for the Combined Joint Interagency Group," he said, emphasizing that the mission was not a solitary American effort. "Our South Korean partners are not just allies on paper, but leading experts, brilliant strategists and fierce warfighters. In Korea, we have a phrase - Katchi Kapshida - 'We go together.'"

Mason said we are seeing proof of the enduring partnership with Korea today right here in Arkansas with Hanwha Defense USA.

"This premiere South Korean defense company is partnering with the Department of War and Pine Bluff Arsenal

to build a billion-dollar munitions factory," said Mason. "The nation you saved in 1950 is now an industrial powerhouse, standing shoulder to shoulder with us in our own backyard, producing the very munitions that will defend the free world for the next generation. That is what Katchi Kapshida means."

Following Mason's address, attendees at the ceremony transitioned outdoors to the Arkansas Korean War Veterans Memorial to lay wreaths in honor of the fallen.

Pine Bluff Arsenal Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason speaks during the anniversary ceremony at the MacArthur Museum of Military History in Little Rock June 25.

U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY
HUGH MORGAN



Col. Matthew C. Mason and Deputy Consul General Intaek Choi lay a wreath on the Korean War Memorial at the closure of the ceremony. Also pictured from left are Randy Wood, former Arkansas VFW Commander; Dr. Chris Jones, candidate for Arkansas 2nd Congressional District; and Little Rock Mayor Frank Scott, Jr. The ceremony also included the singing of both the National Anthem and Korean National Anthem. An invocation and benediction were provided by Dr. Samuel Lee, Ret. U.S. Army Chaplain.

Health Clinic Corner

Beating the Arkansas Heat: A PBA Worker's Guide to Staying Safe This Summer

*Courtesy of Capt. (Dr.) Anthony P. Gulotta
Pine Bluff Arsenal Occupational Health Clinic*

The hot, humid, and sticky summer months can be very dangerous for the workforce at PBA. While it is easy to overlook heat as a medical issue, letting your body overheat or neglecting proper hydration can have serious health consequences. Whether you work outside in the sun or inside a warehouse or production building, heat is a major safety risk.

People working outdoors are most likely to get ill, but indoor workers can get sick too. This is a major concern for individuals working near hot machines, or inside buildings with bad airflow and no air conditioning. Workers who are required to wear restrictive PPE like full-face respirators or coveralls are more prone to overheating as well.

When your body gets too hot and loses too much water and salt from sweating, you can develop a condition called heat exhaustion¹. To stop this from happening, you must do three things: drink small amounts of water frequently throughout the day, take regular scheduled breaks to cool down, and spend your break time in the shade or in an air-conditioned room away from your work area. If you ever start to feel lightheaded, weak, or sick during a shift, do not try to keep working.

Tell your supervisor right away and come directly to the Occupational Health Clinic at PBA so our medical team can assess you and help you cool down safely. If you do not feel safe driving yourself to the clinic, please request a lift from a coworker or call the clinic to have our ambulance pick you up. We do not want anyone getting into a motor vehicle accident because they were feeling dizzy or nauseous from the heat.

An important way to stay safe is through 'acclimatization,' the process of allowing the body to slowly get used to working in the heat over a period of a couple of weeks². When you build up your tolerance gradually, your body adapts to protect itself. The body learns to sweat earlier and keep the heart rate lower while working in high temperature environments. This is incredibly important for new workers or anyone returning from a long vacation, as almost half of all serious heat-related illnesses happen on a worker's very first day on the job³.

Without taking the time to build up this tolerance, your body can quickly become overwhelmed by elevated temperatures. When that happens, heat exhaustion can rapidly turn into heat stroke, which is a major medical emergency. During heat stroke, your body completely loses its ability to cool itself down, and your body temperature can jump dangerously high in just a few minutes. Heat stroke can cause confusion, delirium, or slurred speech. And without immediate emergency medical care, it can lead to permanent organ damage or even death³.

To stay safe, it is important to pay attention to both how much you drink and exactly what beverages you are drinking. It is common for workers to consume coffee, energy drinks, iced tea, or soda to get through a long shift.

But watch out! The caffeine and sugar in those drinks act as a 'diuretic,' which is a substance that makes you urinate more. By forcing the kidneys to excrete larger amounts of water and salt, these drinks dehydrate a person over the course of a workday and increase the likelihood of heat-related illness. To truly beat the heat, cut back on sugary and caffeinated drinks and stick to cool water or sports drinks containing electrolytes instead. Water or electrolyte-based drinks give your body exactly what it needs to stay hydrated during a hot, humid workday⁴.

If your job takes you outdoors, protecting your skin from the sun is another critical way to stay safe and cool. Wearing sun-protective clothing, like lightweight, loose-fitting, long-sleeve shirts and pants, creates a barrier that blocks dangerous sun rays from heating up your skin. Dark or tight clothing traps heat against your body, but light-colored, breathable fabrics help air flow so your sweat can evaporate easier. Wearing a wide-brimmed hat is also

HEAT EXHAUSTION VS. HEAT STROKE
KNOW THE DIFFERENCE. IT COULD SAVE A LIFE.

HEAT EXHAUSTION
 Your body is overheating and losing water and electrolytes.

SYMPTOMS

- Heavy sweating
- Weakness or tiredness
- Cool, pale, clammy skin
- Headache
- Nausea or vomiting
- Fast, weak pulse
- Muscle cramps

WHAT TO DO

- Move to a cooler place
- Drink water or sports drinks
- Rest and loosen tight clothing
- Seek medical help if symptoms worsen or last longer than 1 hour

HEAT STROKE
 Your body is overheating and can't cool down. **THIS IS A MEDICAL EMERGENCY.**

SYMPTOMS

- High body temperature (40°C or higher)
- Confusion or slurred speech
- Hot, dry, red skin (no sweating)
- Rapid, strong pulse
- Seizures or loss of consciousness

WHAT TO DO

- CALL 999 IMMEDIATELY
- Move to a cooler place
- Cool the body (cool packs, cold towels, cool shower/bath)
- Do NOT give anything to drink

HELP PREVENT HEAT ILLNESS

- Drink plenty of water
- Wear light, loose clothing
- Avoid peak sun hours (11am - 3pm)
- Stay in shade or in cool environments
- Check on elderly, children and pets

Heat can affect anyone. **PREVENT. STAY COOL. STAY SAFE.**

For more information, visit www.nhs.uk/heatwave

NHS

The graphic contrasts heat exhaustion with heat stroke, offering practical prevention strategies from the **National Health Service**.

HYDRATE FOR YOUR SAFETY

Drinking enough fluids is one of the most important things you can do to prevent heat illness.

- Hydrate before, during, and after work.
- Drink one cup of cool water every 20 minutes - even if you aren't thirsty. For longer jobs, drink an electrolyte containing beverage.
- Avoid energy drinks and alcohol.
- Your work performance may suffer when you are dehydrated, even if you do not notice.

Information provided by: osha.gov/heat

#IamSafety

The graphic illustrates important hydration tips, courtesy of the **Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)**.

highly recommended because it keeps the sun off your face, ears, and neck, which helps keep your body temperature lower⁵.

Do you have additional questions about preventing heat-related illness or dehydration? Feel free to stop by the PBA Occupational Health Clinic. Your safety is important to us, and we're always here to help!

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Tanker Spill Drill



Pine Bluff Arsenal's Directorate of Emergency Services, Directorate of Public Works, Operations and Maintenance Division, and DPW's Environmental Division participated in a spill response drill July 21. The scenario involved a tanker truck struck by a maintenance vehicle (pictured above) during refueling operations at the PBA's Motor Pool gasoline pumps. This caused a release of the tanker's gasoline onto the parking lot. The drill objectives were to test DES ability to provide rapid hazard assessment (pictures on right), isolating the danger zone, mitigating the immediate release and establishing and coordinating the containment in accordance with the Arsenal's Oil Spill Response Plan. Other objectives included the testing of the Arsenal's inter-agency coordination and communication abilities to effectively respond and implement pollution prevention measures. According to Sarah DeVries with the Environmental Division, fuel spills are most likely to occur during fueling and delivery. The drill was held in order to fulfill a federal regulatory requirement, as well as an annual Installation Contingency Plan and Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan training requirement. Jessie Brust, Logistics Management Specialist for DPW's Mobile Equipment Division, said her division was excited to be able to set up the scenario at the Motor Pool area. "We really wanted to give it a realistic feel. We all felt it was a great scenario," she said. "This is something we could face and deal with at any time, and it was a great learning opportunity. There are improvements and lessons learned but still a great exercise." U.S. ARMY PHOTOS PROVIDED BY DES



Blood Drive

Pine Bluff Arsenal held a Red, White and True blood drive July 17. Members of the Arsenal Workforce (pictured) gave blood at the Blood Mobile, provided by Our Blood Institute, located in the Creasy Complex parking lot outside Plainview Gate. Blood donors received an exclusive t-shirt and a ticket to the theme park of their choice.

According to PBA's Community Service, who organizes the drive, two Double Red Cells and 11 Whole Blood units were donated. A total of 13 units of blood were donated during the day. U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY HUGH MORGAN



DPW Corner



Photo above, Wes Hoffman and Ryan Garrett with Pine Bluff Arsenal's Directorate of Public Works-High Voltage Shop, work to restore the parking lot lights in front of the PBA Headquarters building. The lights were recently damaged due to a recent storm.

Photo above right, David Heird with DPW's Production Maintenance division, works to make sure the conveyor is grounded in the production area.

Photo right, Jerrime Heird and Cale Thomas with DPW's Boiler Shop work to change out the low water reset on an electric boiler.

U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY CAITLIN THOMAS, DPW



Protecting the Natural State During Fire Season

Courtesy of the Pine Bluff Arsenal Fire and Emergency Services

Arkansas summers bring long, beautiful days perfect for exploring our scenic state parks, rivers, and forests. However, the combination of high summer temperatures, low humidity, and drying vegetation also marks the arrival of our major wildfire and burn ban season.

Under these conditions, a single spark can easily ignite dry grass or forest litter and quickly spread out of control. Whether you are camping, grilling in your backyard, or clearing brush, please keep these critical summer fire safety guidelines in mind:

1. Know Before You Burn (Check the Bans)

a. Verify County Burn

Bans: Arkansas does not have a permanent statewide burn permit system; instead, restrictions and burn bans are issued at the county level by local county judges. Before lighting any outdoor fire, check the current status on the Arkansas Forestry Division Wildfire Danger Map.

b. Respect the Rules: If your county is under a burn ban, all outdoor open-air burning is strictly prohibited. This includes campfires, bonfires, burning trash, and clearing brush.

c. Even "Nice" Evenings are Risky: Late summer nights may feel cool and pleasant, but the ground fuels (pine needles, leaves, and grass) remain dangerously dry and primed to ignite.

2. Safe Outdoor Cooking

and Grilling

a. Keep Your Distance: Place your grill at least 10 feet away from your home, deck, siding, or any overhanging branches and dry vegetation.

b. Establish a Safety Zone: Maintain a three-foot "child and pet-free zone" around the grill

c. Never Leave the Grill: Keep a watchful eye on your cooking and never leave an active grill unattended.

d. Cool Charcoal Safely: Never toss charcoal ashes directly into a trash can. Let them cool completely (overnight is best) or douse them thoroughly with water before disposing of them in a metal container.

e. Keep Extinguishers Handy: Always have a garden hose, bucket of water, or a fire extinguisher nearby.

guisher nearby.

3. Campfire Caution (Where Allowed)

a. Clear the Area: Build your fire in a designated pit, cleared of all overhanging branches, dry leaves, and grass.

b. Drown, Stir, and Feel: When extinguishing your campfire, drown it completely with water, stir the ashes, and drown it again. Ensure the coals are cool to the touch before leaving.

4. Vehicle and Equipment Safety

a. Avoid Tall Grass: Never park your vehicle or trailer over tall, dry grass. The hot exhaust system can easily ignite the vegetation underneath.

b. Check Your Chains: Ensure trailer safety chains are secure and not dragging on the

pavement, which can throw sparks into roadside grass.

c. Mow Wisely: Use caution mowing or using bush hogs during the hottest, driest parts of the day. Striking a rock with a metal blade can produce sparks that quickly trigger a grass fire.

During the hot, dry summer months, wildfire risk increases significantly across Arkansas. To protect lives, property, and natural resources, residents and visitors must check local county burn bans before any outdoor burning, exercise extreme caution when grilling or camping, and prevent vehicle/equipment sparks near dry vegetation. Always ensure any allowed fire is completely extinguished—drowned, stirred, and cool to the touch—before leaving it.

Happy 250!



Pine Bluff Arsenal's Directorate of Resource Management decorated their doors for the July 4th/America's 250th birthday celebration. U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY HUGH MORGAN



OFFICE ELECTRICAL SAFETY

Follow these tips to keep your workplace safe from electrical hazards:



Avoid overloading power strips to minimize overheating.



Replace any frayed, cracked or damaged cords immediately.



Unusually warm outlets indicate unsafe wiring that needs inspection.



Never connect plugs that have broken or missing prongs.



Make sure hands are dry before touching any electrical device.



Keep liquid away from electrical sources.



Report any sparks, burning smells, or flickering lights immediately.



Stay Safe — Prevent Electrical Hazards

RED, WHITE AND BOOM!



Jodie Robertson and her son, Ty, try a little game of Giant Jenga during Red White and Boom July 9 on Pine Bluff Arsenal's ball fields.



Various food trucks were made available during the event to celebrate our Nation's 250th Birthday.



Games were available during PBA's Red White and Boom event July 9. These included musical chairs, a balloon toss, hula hoop relay (pictured above). Gigi Robinson (pictured below) with PBA's Morale, Welfare and Recreation led the games.



Fireworks were the highlight of the evening July 9, as members of the PBA Workforce, their families and friends enjoyed Red White and Boom!!!

U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY
HUGH MORGAN AND
RACHEL SELBY

