

Successful ALS-MWO project ends

By Rachel Selby

In July 2018, Pine Bluff Arsenal was given a week notice by the Joint Program Office for Chemical and Biological Defense/JPB Guardian on a project involving repair on a prototype of the Analytical Laboratory System-Modified Work Order. In June 2019, the first three completed ALS were fielded in the United States to the National Guard Civil Support Teams. In January 2023, the successful project ended with 58 full units and five shelters completed.

“When we began this project, we didn’t even have a building ready. It was just early discussions,” said Eric Petty, project manager for the Arsenal’s Directorate of



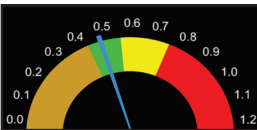
Radford Army Ammunition Plant Commander Lt. Col. Russell A. Jones tours an Analytical Laboratory System-Modified Work Order during an orientation visit to Pine Bluff Arsenal. The ALS-MWO project ended successfully in January. U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY HUGH MORGAN

See ALS Page 3



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

PBA Safety Glance



Safety Element for fiscal year 2023

Lost Day Case Rate: 0.48
Award Goal: 0.57

*Lost time injuries for fiscal year 2023 is one. There is zero lost time injuries for February 2023.

*Recordable injuries for fiscal year 2023 is one. Recordable injuries is zero for February 2023.

*Pine Bluff Arsenal days without a lost time injury is 60.

*Pine Bluff Arsenal days without a recordable injury is 60.

*Estimated hours worked without a lost time injury: 179,836.

Ice storm hits Arsenal



The overpass near Plainview Gate at Pine Bluff Arsenal iced over during a storm in late January. Trees and power lines came down across the installation.

U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY HUGH MORGAN



Power crews from the Arsenal’s Directorate of Public Works repairs electric lines iced over during the January storm.

More photos of the ice storm and repairs are on PAGE 6



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 Representative Column

Team Pine Bluff,

I can't say enough about what our Workforce does every day for our Army and Warfighters. I'm extremely proud of the work we do here at Pine Bluff. I understand all the challenges we face as we continue to navigate workload uncertainty, and the changing mission requirements.

COVID-19 continues to stick around in Jefferson County and Arkansas. Numbers have fluctuated between low and medium concerns. Continue to do your daily self-assessments. Don't come to work if you are sick. The safety and health of our Workforce is our first priority. Come to work healthy and be ready to work and complete our mission safely.

During the month, Jay Carr, the Deputy to the Commander of Joint Munitions Command, visited PBA. Carr participated in a meeting attended by Arsenal leadership, received an overview brief, and toured several areas on the installation.

Modernization site tours were conducted at the Arsenal's Plainview Access Control Point and Bridge and the water treatment plant building. Tours of the M18 smoke gre-



Roch Byrne

nade, White Phosphorus plant, Quality Evaluation Facility, Dismounted Reconnaissance Sets, Kits and Outfits production and M8E1 Chemical and Biological Protective Shelter production were also held.

February was a short month but a cold one with unpredictable storms – both winter and early spring varieties. During the morning and evening commutes, please give yourself extra time and slow down when the weather is bad. Be vigilant when road surfaces are wet from precipitation.

The Arsenal was impacted during late January with an ice storm lasting most of a week. A fair amount of damage was reported on the installation which impacted our ability to operate the production areas. Roads were covered with ice

across the installation, and several trees went down. Power outages were reported, and one of the Arsenal's electrical substations was damaged. Crews from Entergy and the Arsenal's Directorate of Public Works worked together to get it repaired.

Our numbers continue to move towards the green after a recent slip, trip and fall accident. These types of accidents continue to be our most prevalent and expensive safety issue. Safety is for the entire Pine Bluff Arsenal Workforce. Let's continue to strive towards making even more safety improvements by clearing walkways, watching out for each other, and paying closer attention to our everyday routines.

I'm so proud to be a part of this incredible Workforce. I'm proud to be your Commander's Representative. We must continue to remain flexible. The Arsenal's future depends on us continuing to engage and strengthen our customer and community relationships and deliver quality products on schedule and within cost. Thank you for everything you do every day.

In everything we do, Finish Strong, Army Strong.

Hails and Farewells

Hails

Emilio Torres, Jr., Supervisory Logistics Management Specialist, has joined the Directorate of Public Works.

Amber Jo Murry, Financial Program Analyst, has joined the Directorate of Resource Management.

Thomas M. Harper, Security Guard, has joined the Directorate of Emergency Services.

Retirements

Michael Dean, Security Guard, has retired from the Directorate of Emergency Services. Dean retires with eight years of government service.

Deborah L. Miller, Technical Writer, has retired from the Directorate of Engineering and Technology. Miller retires with 15 years of government service.

JoAnn Winston, Industrial Worker, has retired from the Directorate of Ammunition Operations. Winston retires with 16 years of government service.

Farewells

Elijah G. Funderburg, II, Security Guard, has left the Directorate of Emergency Services.

Willie L. Coleman, Industrial Engineer, has left the Directorate of Chemical and Biological Defense Operations.

Michael L. Dickson, Security Guard, has left the Directorate of Emergency Services.

Years of Service

Nathan Jarrett, who works in Pine Bluff Arsenal's Directorate of Chemical and Biological Defense as a work leader, presents a 15-year service award to John Aronowitz. Jarrett and Aronowitz began working together at the Arsenal just a few months apart. They remain best friends. Both employees work with the M8E1-Chemical Biological Protective Shelters.

U.S. ARMY PHOTO



Army Civilian Corps Creed

I am an **ARMY CIVILIAN**—a member of the Army team.

I am dedicated to our Army, Soldiers, and Civilians.

I will **ALWAYS** support the mission.

I provide leadership, 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**.

Arsenal Sentinel

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An Analytical Laboratory System-Modified Work Order shelter stands ready for modifications in a work space at Pine Bluff Arsenal. U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY HUGH MORGAN

ALS from Page 1

Chemical and Biological Defense Operations. “We went into full production in 2019.”

Petty said the project brought out quite the collaboration of various directorates on post and even outside agencies coming together including the Directorate of Information Management, Directorate of Public Works-Carpenter Shop, Chemical Biological Application and Risk Reduction (CBARR) and others.

DOIM’s role in the project included redesigned of the information technology sections of the shelter. “The way the original shelter was designed created too many flaws. We removed unnecessary equipment, and changed portions to prevent failures,” said Justin Barbaree, Information Technology Specialist. “Once the project started, we imaged, configured and installed servers, computers, a switch and database for every shelter.”

The ALS is a C-130 air transportable system using both commercial-off-the-shelf and government off the shelf equipment that can analyze chemical warfare agents, toxic industrial material, toxic industrial chemical and biological warfare agents.

The unit is used by National Guard Civil Support Teams or CSTs capable of deploying in short notice. The ALS provides detection/identification capability to the CST to conduct analysis of unknown or potential agents at an incident site and transmit information electronically in support of the first responder incident commander. Units were sent to all 50 states including territories.

Cirilee Moland, Jr., served as a work leader on the project from 2019 to 2023. “My daily responsibilities were to oversee and train the operators on the ALS unit build, as well assist in the planning for the ordering and accountability of the material required for each build,” he said. “Each unit was also quality control tested.”

Moland said the project was a great experience. “It was an awesome project. We all learned so much about what it takes to do business here on the Arsenal,” he said.

Dennis Dickson, who works for Combat Capabilities Development Command, worked on a team with the ALS-MWO project. His team had two components to complete during the assembly of each shelter - the filter systems/glove box and the Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometry system.

“My role along with my coworkers (Darren Hicklin, Jason Shipp and Will Willingham) here at the Arsenal initially consisted of assembly, installation and testing of the GCMS system placed in each shelter. The filter system/glove box testing component was completed by a certifying CCDC employee sent from Edgewood, Md., and assisted by CCDC employees,” said Dickson. “Due to COVID, the trips became complicated. I was sent to Edgewood to be trained as a certified tester of the filter and glove box system. Later, I was able to train CCDC employee’s (John Miller and Aaron Sredin) in this role at PBA.”

Dickson said the project was unique because typically CCDC does not have the opportunity to work close with other government groups. “The amount of care shown by everyone I worked and communicated with during project is clearly shown in the success of the ALS-AWO project,” he said.

When the project started, there was a definite end to it, said Petty. “It was a great project. COVID did shut us down for a time as did some supply chain issues,” he said. “We had a definite number to complete, and we knew we would get there.”

JMC’s DCO visits Arsenal



Stephen Lee, right, with Pine Bluff Arsenal’s Directorate of Chemical and Biological Defense Operations, shows Jay Carr, Joint Munitions Command Executive Director for Ammunition/Deputy to the Commander, one of the Dismounted Reconnaissance Sets, Kits and Outfits project area during a tour Feb. 8, as Roch Byrne, PBA Commander’s Representative looks on.

Nathan Jarrett, a work leader with PBA’s Directorate of Chemical and Biological Defense Operations, tours Jay Carr through a M8E1 Chemical Biological Protective Shelter during his visit.

U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY HUGH MORGAN



Online Conduct

Think.Type.Post

“Army Professionals, by our solemn oath, voluntarily incur an extraordinary moral obligation to uphold the Army Values, which apply to all aspects of our life.

Although our lives are changed by the Internet and social media in general, the standards of our conduct have not.

Online misconduct is misconduct - wherever, whenever, and however it occurs. Whether in the form of online harassment, assault, bullying, hazing, stalking, discrimination, retaliation, improper relationships, or any other type of misconduct, we hold

ourselves and others accountable.

Trustworthy Army Professionals do not tolerate double standards; anything that is unacceptable to say or do in person is also unacceptable to write or post online.

When using electronic communication, members of the Army Team should apply “Think, Type, Post.”

“Think” about what message/information is being communicated and who could potentially view it; “Type” messages or convey information that is consistent with the Army Values; and “Post” if the message/information is responsible and demonstrates dignity and respect for others.

Remember whenever online - “Think, Type, Post.”

PBA's ACS provides help to Soldiers, DoD Civilians

By Rachel Selby

Pine Bluff Arsenal's Army Community Service or ACS programs are not just for Soldiers, military families and retired military. Department of Defense Civilian employees can benefit from the variety of programs ACS has to offer. ACS is part of the Arsenal's Directorate of Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

ACS Director Tiffany Penister said ACS programs are for a wide demographic of individuals, including PBA employees. "We help Civilians with employment readiness, providing classes on interviewing and resume building," she said. "We help prepare them for the workforce."



Penister said the resume building help includes things like building skill sets, work experience, and on completed trainings. "It helps you get to the next level in the workforce," she said.

Other programs ACS provides are in Financial Readiness.

"Everyone can benefit from this program because the focus is just not on money management but managing credit, household bills and budgets," said Penister. "We have classes for all of our programs. However, if a class isn't scheduled or someone can't come to a class, I have re-

sources for those individuals, and they can come to the ACS office directly for assistance."

ACS even offers assistance with information about the Thrift Savings Plan or TSP. "We have classes for this too. This is something everyone should be contributing to," said Penister. "I have connections with webinars where you can take classes on TSP. This can totally set you up for the future."

Penister said even though the Arsenal is a small installation, she has connections to outside resources offering assistance. "This is the information and referral part of ACS where I can provide outreach to on-post and off-post resources for a variety of needs," she said. "This also includes resources for exceptional family member programs such as special needs assistance. I have provided connections through the Little Rock Air Force Base and Fort Sill in Oklahoma for these services."

Military One Source is another resource used, said Penister.

Another program offered by ACS is the Family Advocacy Program or FRP which provides services dedicate to family violence prevention, victim advocacy, prompt reporting, investigation, intervention, and treatment in the event of child abuse and/or domestic violence. "FAP presets a variety of classes to enhance relationship skills and improve quality of life," according to a PBA ACS information sheet.

One of the big programs ACS provides to the military community is Army Emergency Relief or AER. "This

branches off the ACS Financial Readiness Program," said Laura Brown, who manages the AER program for ACS. Brown also manages the Command Access Card program for MWR.

AER offers emergency financial assistance to all active duty and retired military, family members including food, rent, utilities, travel, minor home repairs, medical bills, funeral expenses, basic living expenses and more.

Every year a campaign to raise funds for AER is held Army-wide. The Arsenal's AER Campaign kickoff is March 6 at 1 p.m. in the Headquarters Building lobby. The event will be commemorated with a cake cutting by Commander's Representative Roch Byrne.

Brown said there will be brochures and promotional items available about AER. The 2023 AER Campaign goes from March 1 to May 15.

AER is an 80-year-old non-profit organization anyone can donate to, said Brown. "All donations culminate the amount of loans and combination of loans and grants given out every year," said Brown. "It is easy to donate. Just go to armyemergencyrelief.org and click the donate tab. It is a step-by-step process. There are a variety of ways to donate - one-time or a recurring donation."

Veterans are a big part of AER, said Brown. "If a veteran is retired due to longevity (they served 20 years) or medically retired, they can

benefit from AER," she said. "We have seen an increase in surviving spouses, which are eligible for grants. If there are questions about eligibility, anyone can contact me if they have questions."

PBA's AER Campaign goal last year was approximately \$18,000. "We exceeded our goal and received \$30,000. We are hoping to exceed the goal this year by five percent," said Brown.

The ACS office is located outside Plainview Gate in the Creasy Complex. They are in Building 17-130, and are open from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Penister can be reached by calling 870-540-3588, and Brown can be reached by calling 870-540-3030.

ARMY EMERGENCY RELIEF
SOLDIERS HELPING SOLDIERS SINCE 1942

YOUR DONATION HELPS SOLDIERS AND ARMY FAMILIES IN NEED
AER Annual Campaign March 1 - May 15, 2023

PRACTICE
OPSEC
 Your Trash...
 Could be an Adversary's
 Treasure!!

EAP Corner

Eating right isn't complicated

Courtesy of Pine Bluff Arsenal Employee Assistance Program

National Nutrition Month is a nutrition education and information campaign sponsored annually by the American Dietetic Association. The March campaign is designed to focus attention on making informed food choices and developing sound eating and exercise habits.

The health guidelines for National Nutrition Month help the public make better choices, which could help reduce the risk for some chronic diseases, including cancer.

Eating right doesn't have to be complicated, you just need to be discipline. Start building a healthy plate by choosing fruits and vegetables, whole grains, lean protein and low-fat dairy foods that are packed with the nutrients you need without too many added sugars, sodium and solid fats.

Focus on variety

- Choose a variety of foods from all the food groups to get the nutrients your body needs. Fruits and vegetables can be fresh, frozen, or canned.
- Eat more dark green vegetables such as leafy greens and broccoli and orange vegetables including carrots and sweet potatoes.
- Vary your protein choices with more fish, beans, and lentils.
- Aim for at least three ounces of whole-grain cereals, breads, crackers, rice or pasta every day.

Know your fats

- Look for foods low in saturated fat and trans-fat to help reduce your risk of heart disease.
- Make most of the fats you eat monounsaturated and polyunsaturated oils.
- Check the nutrition facts label food packaging. Eat fewer foods high in solid fats
- Opt for lean ground beef, turkey, chicken, fish, beans, lentils, and tofu. Cut back on processed meats such as hot dogs, salami, and bacon.
- Grill, broil, bake or steam foods instead of frying.
- Cook with healthy oils such as olive, canola, and sunflower oils in place of partially hydrogenated oils or butter.
- Select low-fat or fat-free milk, yogurt, and cheese.

Choose foods and drinks with little or no added sugars

- Drink mostly water and opt for low-fat or fat-free milk or 100 percent fruit juice in moderate amounts.
- Add lemons, limes, or cucumbers to water or drink unsweetened carbonated water.
- Eat fresh fruit for dessert more often than cakes, cookies, or pastries.
- Buy foods with little-to-no added sugars, including unsweetened applesauce or unsweetened whole-grain cereals.

Cut back on sodium

- Use herbs and spices to season foods instead of salt.
- Hold the salt when you cook pasta, rice, and vegetables.
- Read the nutrition facts label to compare the sodium content of high-sodium foods such as pre-made foods, frozen meals, bread, canned soups, and vegetables.

Think nutrient-rich rather than good or bad foods. Many of your food choices should be packed with vitamins, minerals, fiber, and other nutrients. Making healthy food choices and being physically active can help you feel your best.

Pine Bluff Arsenal's Employee Assistance Office staff are here to help you when you need us. We offer you a safe and confidential place to discuss concerns, challenges, and strategies for managing difficulties in your life. Our office is located in Building 13-040, and our phone number is 870-540-3094.

NAME _____ OFF SYM _____

Eating Right Isn't Complicated

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CALORIES	NUTRITION	SWEETS
SALT	COMPLICATED	EATING
FOCUS	POLYUNSATURATED	MONOUNSATURATED
MODERATE	REDUCE	DISCIPLINE
HABITS		



Commander's Coin presented

Vivian Finney, a management analyst, who works for Pine Bluff Arsenal's Directorate of Business Operations and Planning/S1 Office, was presented a Commander's Coin in February by PBA Commander's Representative Roch Byrne. The coin was presented to her for performing manpower duties in an exemplary manner and providing training to other team members in the directorate.

U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY RACHEL SELBY

DPW Spotlight



Pine Bluff Arsenal Instrument Shop personnel perform routine maintenance on a generator at the white phosphorus production facility. Pictured from left are Drue Owen, Terry Coffman, Jerry Arledge and Mike Hancock. U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY TRACEE MILLS



Robert Morrison, an Engineering Equipment Operator with Pine Bluff Arsenal's Directorate of Public Works, Roads and Grounds crew, moves fallen trees from a PBA road following an ice storm in late January.

Photo right above, power trucks from Entergy line up on the south end of Pine Bluff Arsenal to assist in some electrical repairs caused by an ice storm in late January.

Photo right below, the Entergy trucks entered through Dexter Gate, and were lined up in a convoy along the road in front of the Arsenal's headquarters building as they made their way onto the installation.

U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY HUGH MORGAN

Ice Storm 2023



Several trees on Pine Bluff Arsenal were damaged during the ice storm in late January. Above photo, tree down on a maintenance road. Photo below, tree damaged near the Arsenal's old Community Center/Club.



Walter joins DES as new director

By Rachel Selby

Jim Walter has been named the Director of Emergency Services for Pine Bluff Arsenal. Walters replaces Kevin Charles who retired in August 2022.

"I've been here since about Jan. 15. It has been enjoyable thus far," he said. "After meeting everyone, I think I'm going to be a good fit for the team. You are always a bit apprehensive coming into something new but so far it has been good."

Walter comes to the Arsenal from Fort Carson, Colo. "I was stationed there in 2000 and transitioned to a Civilian police officer position in 2003. I was in the Military Police Corps while in the Army,"

he said. "I joined the military right out of high school and was active for six years."

He said he wasn't ready for college when he got out of high school. "I didn't even think about it until I was in my 30s," said Walter, who has an associate's and a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice.

As a Civilian Police Officer, Walter said he got in on the ground floor when it first started at Fort Carson.

"I spent a lot of time on patrol and in operations. I slowly made my way up the ladder," he said. "It was a lot different there. We had both a police force and a security force. Before coming here, I was the police chief for the past two

years, and handled all the day to day business for the police department. My counterpart was the security access chief and we both reported to the director."

Originally from northeast Ohio, Walter said he grew up in a very small-town northeast of Cleveland. "The closest town to me was about 3,000 people, and I grew up outside of it," he said. "I decided to join the Army so I could see the world."

During his time in the military, Walter said he went to Korea for a year, and deployed to Saudi Arabia and Iraq. "I really enjoyed Korea. You got a lot of benefits if you would extend your tours there. I was ready to sign to extend," he

said. "I decided if I got notification I was headed to Colorado I was going, and if it was anywhere else, I would stay. It was Colorado, so I left."

Moving to Arkansas was a big thing for him, he said. "I don't like to move and when I do I stay there for a while," said Walter, who lives in East End. "I made the decision to move here very deliberately, and don't plan to leave for a while."

The mission here is very different from what I'm used to, said Walter.

"In speaking with my team, I think the biggest thing I would like to do is change the perception of what the Directorate of Emergency Services is about. I would like to show



Jim Walter

the installation the value of DES rather than just a needed asset to the installation and community," he said.

"This takes time, community relations and messaging. I want to ensure the installation is safe, but I also want people to feel it too."

AFGE Local 953 provides benefits to Arsenal personnel

By Rachel Selby

Did you know Pine Bluff Arsenal has a union?

The American Federation of Government Employees or AFGE Local 953 is the union organization here on the installation.

Tonda Burnett, who works for PBA's Directorate of Ammunition Operations, was elected Union President in October 2021. She is the Arsenal's first African American woman to be elected.

Meetings are the second Tuesday of every month, said Burnett. Other Union officers include Jacqueline Rogers, Executive Vice President; Robert Lee, Chief Steward; Vanessa Wiseman, Secretary/Treasurer; and Charles Girley, Sergeant at Arms.

Burnett said anyone can run for the various Union offices if they are a member. "Officers are elected every three years," she said. Currently, there are approximately 108 individuals who are members of AFGE Local 953.

Educating the members on what the Union can do for them is Burnett's main goal. "I want them to know that collectively they can be a strong voice," she said.

Information provided by Burnett, said by joining AFGE employees are covered under a union contract covering working conditions, and condition of employment, including workplace issues such as leave policies, employee workload, job duties, position descriptions, workplace safety, career development, fair treatment and other working conditions.

"AFGE is the largest federal employee union representing more than 700,000 federal employees, including the Arsenal," according to the provided information.

"Anyone can join the Union, even management," said Burnett. "I've been doing a little research and have found even though upper management cannot participate in our meetings they can be members and enjoy the benefits."

Benefits include things like an auto buying program; consumer discounts, scholarship programs, entertainment benefits, credit cards, health benefits including insurance and home benefits.

For more information about the local Union, membership and benefits, contact Burnett at 870-540-3793 or President.AFGELocal953@outlook.com and be looking for a monthly column coming soon from AFGE 953.



PBA Energy Corner

This time of year in Arkansas brings fluctuating weather as the transition from winter to spring occurs. In February and March, it is not uncommon to have 20°F to 30°F fluctuations in temperature from one day to the next. This unpredictable weather means that it is important to keep an eye on our thermostats and adjust them appropriately when possible. Small adjustments can go a long way in keeping our energy usage down and ensuring the comfort of our buildings!

Changes in weather can make it difficult to maintain the typical 68°F - 72°F that most people find to be comfortable in occupied spaces. We often need to adjust our thermostats setpoint or switch between heating and cooling modes account for the full range of temperatures/humidities that may occur. Here are some simple things we can do to minimize energy usage:

- Utilize desk and overhead fans to stay a little bit cooler rather than turning the thermostat lower
- Keep out water as much as possible on wet or rainy days – any moisture that makes its way inside increases the humidity of the space, taxing the HVAC system and making it less comfortable
- Turn systems to OFF on really nice days – when the weather is very pleasant, set the HVAC system to OFF for short periods to eliminate all energy usage
 - This can help save hundreds of dollars per year in energy bills for a system!

The best approach we can have to saving energy and keeping our spaces comfortable is to be proactive rather than reactive. We should do our best to check the forecast each day and put the thermostats on an appropriate setting before the peak weather comes in. It takes time for systems to heat or cool a space; by setting the thermostat earlier in expectation of weather, we can prevent the HVAC systems from being overworked in the hottest/coldest parts of the day. This also helps keep others around us happier by preventing the space from ever getting too warm or too cool.

These are just a few ideas that we can all use to do our part in reducing our energy usage and keeping our coworkers happy with a comfortable work environment while dealing with the unpredictable Arkansas weather!

If you have any energy-related questions or additional tips, please contact ext. 2824

JMC preserves history of Pine Bluff Arsenal

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

Under threat of losing its home, the local on-site collection of historical materials previously maintained by Pine Bluff Arsenal received a new residence at the Joint Munitions Command's headquarters at the Rock Island Arsenal at the end of 2022.

Thanks to the efforts of Keri Pleasant, JMC's historian, and Paul Ferguson, the JMC archivist, these valuable historical materials were sorted on site and shipped from a warehouse at PBA, located in Pine Bluff, Ark., to the JMC Research Library and Archives in Rock Island, Ill. There, the materials will be digitized, physically preserved, and made available for online viewing by authorized personnel worldwide.

In June 2019, the Office of Management and Budget and National Archives and Records Administration issued memorandum M-19-21, which required all agencies to adopt electronic recordkeeping by no later than Dec. 31, 2022, after which time NARA would no longer accept analog records for storage.

All future agencies seeking to store analog records would need to pay to do so at commercial records storage facilities. In response, in November 2020, the Army issued its Transition to Electronic Records Management memorandum, which provided a timeline and required procedures for electronic recordkeeping, inventory, and closure requirements for Record Holding Areas.

This timeline required all Army elements to submit the results of a records inventory to the Army Records Officer, Records Management and Declassification Agency by no later than March 31, 2021, with deaccessioned storage facilities slated for closure by Dec. 31, 2022. The taskers raised alarms among historical records administrators throughout the Army. In most cases, agencies and installations possess locally main-

tained collections of analog historical materials. These regularly accessed collections, which vary in size widely, are critical assets with the Army's historical preservation mandate. The prospect of losing access raised concerns.

"Staffers throughout the JMC enterprise access these materials regularly," Pleasant explained. "We use them to trace the evolution of ongoing projects, to help leaders learn how previous policies and plans developed, and to inform both the workforce and the American people about the legacy of their installations and agencies."

While transitioning to analog-only records is valuable and inevitable, digitizing existing records requires a tremendous outlay of manpower and significant budgetary resources.

"JMC's headquarters has one historian and one archivist to oversee historical records

"JMC's headquarters has one historian and one archivist to oversee historical records preservation for the entire enterprise. The people tasked with these duties at the installation level are often also administrative assistants, human resource representatives, and public affairs officers for their locations. There simply isn't the time, workforce, or money to transition all paper into digits under a short suspense."

preservation for the entire enterprise. The people tasked with these duties at the installation level are often also administrative assistants, human resource representatives, and public affairs officers for their locations," Ferguson said. "There simply isn't the time, workforce, or money to transition all paper into digits under a short suspense."

Ferguson and Pleasant took their concerns to the Army Material Command, and personnel there determined the taskers applied to records held in long-term storage, often only until a pre-established hold period had been reached, and that it didn't apply to historical materials still in use by JMC offices and installations.

This decision relieved the concerns of the JMC historical staff until receiving a concerned message from records holders at Pine Bluff Arsenal in September 2022.

According to Rachel Selby, a public affairs specialist at PBA, "The warehouse where our historical documents have been housed is closing. Considering how many historical document boxes we had in that warehouse, and the brief period remaining before closure, we turned to Keri and Paul for guidance."

The historical records themselves did not fall under the tasker, but the storage facility they shared did. Ferguson and Pleasant determined that preservation of the historical materials required JMC to collect, and house them in the JMC's archives in Rock Island. To this end, the pair traveled to PBA in early October for the arduous task of sorting through 165 document boxes



Boxes of historical items are pictured on shelves in a Pine Bluff Arsenal warehouse. These boxes were reviewed by Keri Pleasant, Joint Munitions Command historian, and Paul Ferguson, Joint Munitions Command archivist, on site at PBA, and shipped to JMC Headquarters for further review and cataloging. U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY RACHEL SELBY

stored their collection in the highest standards, making our job easier," Pleasant added.

The sorting process resulted in 150 boxes of historical materials being placed on pallets for shipping and 15 boxes of non-essential records were designated for on-site destruction later that week. In mid-October, Ferguson oversaw the delivery of six pallets of boxes to JMC's headquarters. These boxes will remain in a temporary holding area while he processes the materials and inputs their relevant data into the Archivist Tools and Metrics System (ATAMS) database.

"First, I need to sort, organize, document, list, and collect metadata for each item," Ferguson said. "Then I'll put that metadata in ATAMS for easy searchability, label and shelve the materials in our climate-controlled facility, and work on securing the resources to digitize the records."

This on-going project, which will likely take many months to complete, will prove to be of great value to JMC and PBA alike.

"We could not risk anyone losing access to these materials," Pleasant said. "The his-

torical records couldn't remain at Pine Bluff, so it was our duty to preserve them. Once we add item-level PDF files to our database, all relevant parties will be able to locate and read them in minutes, no matter their work location."

In acknowledgement of their aid to the Pine Bluff Arsenal, Col. Tod T. Marchand, PBA's commander, presented Pleasant and Ferguson with certificates of appreciation.

"They provided valuable assistance through their historical expertise and knowledge," Marchand declared. "Especially noteworthy, their attention to detail helped the PBA PAO conclude this task in an expeditious manner, reflecting great credit upon them, Pine Bluff Arsenal, Joint Munitions Command, and the U.S. Army."

"Projects like this reflect the importance of HQ JMC staff to installation staffers, who are often forced to wear many hats at once," said Justine Barati, the chief of Public and Congressional Affairs at JMC. "They need to know that we can come to their aid, and we need to be ready and able to do so, for the benefit of the entire ammunition enterprise."

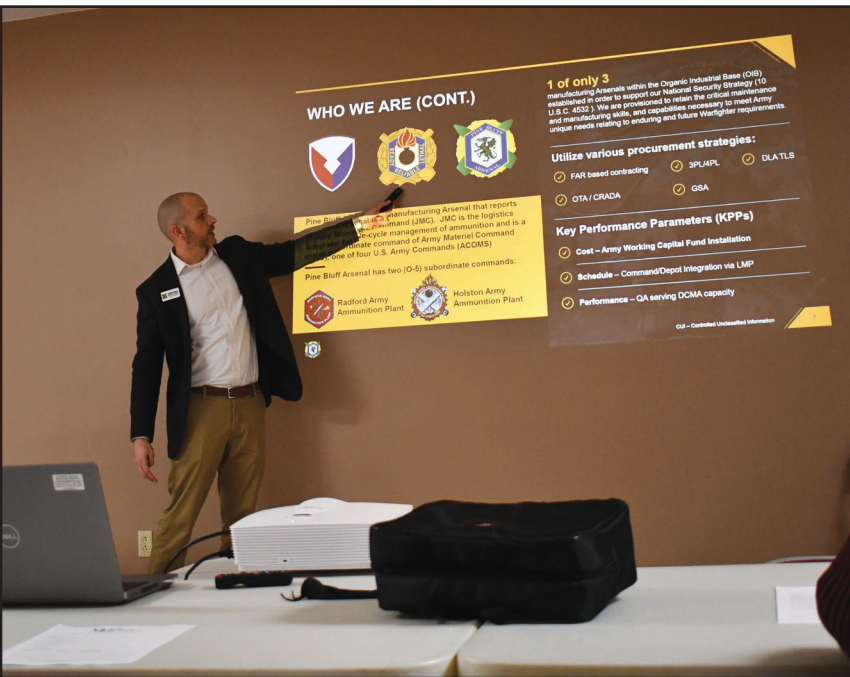


Photo above, Justin Lieber, director of Pine Bluff Arsenal's Directorate of Business Operations and Planning, shows an overview of Pine Bluff Arsenal and its missions, during the February White Hall Chamber of Commerce meeting Feb. 14 at White Hall City Hall. Photo right, PBA's Commander's Representative Roch Byrne speaks with White Hall Mayor Noel Foster during the Chamber meeting. U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY CHERYL AVERY

Justin Lieber provides White Hall Chamber with PBA overview



Cool Breezes / call 540-3777

<p>Salads</p> <p>Either start with a blend of iceberg or our Spring Mix. Add in some diced tomatoes, shredded cheese, top with carrots, 3 slices of egg, bacon bits, diced cucumbers and two pepperoncini peppers.</p> <p>Garden Salad (No Meat) \$4.50 Chef Salad (Ham or Turkey) \$6.00 Chicken Strip Salad (Crispy or Grilled) \$7.50 Philly Steak Salad (Philly Meat) \$8.50</p> <p>All salads are served with crackers, croutons, and one dressing: Ranch, Thousand Island, Balsamic Vinaigrette, or Lite Italian.</p> <p>Personal 7" Pizza</p> <p>Cheese \$5.50 Additional Toppings (Each) \$0.25 Onions Jalapenos Pineapples Additional Meat Toppings \$0.75 Pepperoni, Ham, Turkey, Bacon pieces</p> <p>Appetizers and More</p> <p>Frito Pie \$3.75 Nachos \$3.50 Fried Pickles or Green Beans \$3.25</p> <p>Extras</p> <p>Bacon (2 slices) \$1.75 Nacho Cheese \$1.00 Chili \$1.00 Slice Cheese \$0.50</p>	<p>Quarter Pound Burgers</p> <p>Hamburger \$4.25 Combo (with fries) \$6.25 Cheeseburger \$4.50 Combo (with fries) \$6.50 Double Cheeseburger \$6.25 Combo (with fries) \$8.25</p> <p><i>Comes with lettuce, tomato, onions, pickles and your choice of American or Swiss Cheese</i></p> <p>Other Items</p> <p>Country Fried Steak Sandwich (with fries) \$5.25 Philly Cheesesteak (with fries) \$7.25 Polish (with fries) \$6.50 Polish (with fries) \$8.50 Polish (with fries) \$3.50 Polish (with fries) \$5.50 Seasoned Potato Wedges (JoJo's) \$2.25 Steak Fries \$2.25 Tater Tots \$2.25 Fried Okra \$2.25 Onion Rings \$2.50</p> <p>*New Items*</p> <p>Hot Ham & Cheese \$4.25 Combo (with fries) \$6.25 Grilled Cheese \$2.50 Combo (with fries) \$4.50 Cold Cut (Ham, Turkey) \$6.50 Combo (with fries) \$8.50 <i>6 slices of meat, lettuce, tomato and cheese</i></p> <p>Don't forget about making any sandwich a wrap. It is the same as the menu price.</p> <p>* Ask about our DAILY specials *</p>	<p>Chicken</p> <p>Chicken Strips (3) \$5.85 Combo (with fries) \$7.85 Crispy Chicken Sandwich \$5.25 Combo (with fries) \$7.25</p> <p><i>Comes with 1 dipping sauce per order, Buffalo, Ranch, Honey Mustard, or BBQ Extra sauce is \$0.50 each</i></p> <p>Treats</p> <p>Ice Cream Bowl \$2.25 Slushies \$1.50 Candy Bars \$1.25 Cookies \$0.85 Chips \$0.75 Breakfast Snacks \$1.25</p> <p>Drinks</p> <p>Sweet/Unsweet Tea \$2.25 Bottle Sodas \$2.00 Poweraid/Lemonade \$1.60 Flavor Water \$1.60 Water \$1.10 Can Sodas \$1.50 Monsters \$3.25</p> <div data-bbox="1101 1696 1461 1900" style="text-align: center;"> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">Actual Bacon Cheeseburger Made By: Stephen</p>
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PBA's Recreation Services can help with fitness goals

By Rachel Selby

It's a brand-new year and being healthier is a goal of many people. Pine Bluff Arsenal's Recreation Services can help with those fitness needs, especially if you need assistance and guidance during your journey.

"We have a great location, equipment and people to help," said Billy Ray Ashcraft, Business and Recreation Chief for the Directorate of Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation. "We are back running like we were before the COVID-19 pandemic happened two years ago with no restrictions."

Hours at the Recreation Services Center have returned to Monday through Friday, 5:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. "One change coming soon is we will be going to a 5-4-9 schedule like the general Workforce," said Ashcraft. "This means on the Friday everyone is off, we will be closed as well."

Another change will be a new pricing schedule going into effect this month. Department of Defense/federal employees (and household members), retired military (and household members) passes will be \$10 per year. Contractors and emergency responders will be \$10 every six months. Off-post individuals will continue to be \$32 per month, and active-duty military members are free.

Ashcraft said they are constantly researching equipment bulk buys and staying in touch with their headquarters, the U.S. Army Installation Management Command. "We always try to see what type of project money is available and update what we have," he said. "Army programming is changing in the areas of fitness, and we want to stay on top of it."

In the past year, PBA has seen the return of annual events such as a Fall Festival and Employee Appreciation Day. "This is such a positive thing. We have brought back the monthly competitions," said Ashcraft. "Our new leadership has helped bring in some new ideas. With certain programs going away, this paves the way to expand other programs."

Cool Breezes, the Arsenal lunch spot, is one of the program areas, under Ashcraft's leadership, that is poised for expansion ideas.

"We have to pool our current resources and do what we can. We need to work to the benefit of our current Workforce and boost the morale," he said. "We don't have nearly the staff we used to have so we are working within limitations. Our concessions are doing awesome!"

Increases in usage have been seen too as restrictions have decreased. "It isn't like it used to be but memberships are on the upward trend," said Ashcraft. "We have a crew which are a loyal 5:30 a.m. group, and our busiest time is the lunch hour. We have a steady clientele all day. It is just taking time for it to come back to pre-COVID levels. We must move forward with the new normal."

The desk in the Recreations Service Center has been moved to accommodate future sales, according to Ashcraft. "The room behind the desk now will be used to store things and make it more accessible to the employee working there," he said. "I don't want to give too much away because we are still in the early planning stages. One thing we have talked about is serving specialty coffees."

Walking around the gym area, Ashcraft pointed out some of the new equipment acquired in the recent year. "We have two new Hammer Strength Lifting stations with rubberized weights, two Assault Fitness Air Runner Elite non-motorized treadmills, two Assault Fitness Air Bike Elite fitness bikes and one back extension," he said.

There is still a weight room in the back of the gym, and one racquetball court. "I had a full safety inspection done recently too," said Ashcraft. "This has given me peace of mind. I want it to be safe for everyone."

Other popular areas/machines in the gym include the basketball court, cardio room, arc trainer and Well-Beats system. "The Well-Beats system is still used daily mostly by people using spin bikes and logging into classes," he said.

Ashcraft said moving up to chief has been rewarding. "Working under Carla Easterling and Debbie Johnson gave me such a solid foundation," he said. "We all know someone is going to eventually retire one day. Working your way up is just part of the growth process."



Billy Ray Ashcraft, Business and Recreation Chief for Pine Bluff Arsenal's Directorate of Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation, demonstrates a run on the Assault fitness Air Runner Elite. This piece of equipment is a non-motorized treadmill. Another gym patron uses the Assault Fitness Air Bike Elite fitness bike in the background. U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY RACHEL SELBY

Pine Bluff Arsenal CPAC...



HR Tip of the Month

Making Changes to Your Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) Account...

The automatic enrollment percentage for a new employee is 5%.

How do I change my TSP contribution percentage or amount?

The easiest way to change your TSP contribution is by using the GRB Platform. GRB is accessed through the Army Benefits Center – Civilian (ABC-C) website, <https://abc.army.mil/abc>. Click the GRB icon. Next, accept the security notice and click "Launch". A new user video will pop up. You can watch or close it out. There is an option at the bottom for "Do not show this each time".

Once you have logged into GRB, you will select TSP section. Then click the red "Submit a TSP Transaction+" approximately ¾ of the way down in the middle. Click the drop down button to display your choices. Select the "Start/Stop/Change regular contributions. Select whether you wish to contribute a percentage (1st option) or a dollar amount (2nd option), then enter percentage (no percent sign) or the dollar amount (whole dollars, no dollar sign) and click "Next." The Summary & Signature page will display the effective date of the change and the percent or amount entered. Clicking on the "Submit" button will complete the transaction.

If I change my TSP contribution, when will it be effective?

Changes to your TSP amount or percentage will be effective the 1st day of the next pay period. The effective date will be displayed in the transaction summary.

How do I change my TSP contribution allocations?

From the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) website, [Thrift Savings Plan](https://www.tsp.gov), enter your TSP Account Number in the "My Account" box, or use your TSP User ID. You will be prompted to set up a two-step authentication log in if you have not done so already.

Once you have logged into your TSP account, select "Contribution Allocations" on the left side under "Online Transactions." From the "Contribution Allocations" page, click on the "Request Contribution Allocation" button at the bottom of the page. You will need to enter the percentages in whole numbers and they must total to 100%. Dollar amounts can't be entered. The percentages you choose will be applied to future contributions only, and not your current account balance. Click "Continue" to the Review page, where you enter and verify your email address. Once you have verified the new percentages, click the "Submit" button. The Confirmation page allows the option to print the transaction for your records.

Submit suggestions for future "Tips" to Deanna.m.egan2.civ@army.mil



Anthony Dockett, a Chemical Equipment Repairer for Pine Bluff Arsenal's Directorate of Chemical and Biological Defense Operations, receives his 20-years of service certificate from John Burkhead, director of CBD. U.S. ARMY PHOTOS



Chris Malone, a Chemical Equipment Repairer for Pine Bluff Arsenal's Directorate of Chemical and Biological Defense Operations, receives his 15-years of service certificate from John Burkhead, director of CBD.

FBI visit



Members of the Little Rock District of the Federal Bureau of Investigation visited Pine Bluff Arsenal Feb. 16. The group received an overview of the Arsenal, and went on a tour of one of the Directorate of Emergency Services training facilities, as well as tours of some PBA production facilities. Above, Clay Ferrell leads the group on a tour of the Dismounted Reconnaissance Sets, Kits and Outfits production area. U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY HUGH MORGAN

Important contact numbers

The ABC (Army Benefits Center) will be able to assist you in the requirements for your retirement application:

Army Benefits Center (ABC): 1-877-276-9287.

Thrift Savings Plan (TSP): 1-877-968-3778.

Social Security (3511 Market Street, Pine Bluff): 1-866-563-9693.

Office of Personnel Management (OPM) 1-202-606-1800.

HOW TO LIFT SAFELY

GET READY

- Wear sturdy shoes and work gloves
- Test the load for weight and stability
- Get help with heavy or awkward loads

1 Grasp with both hands. Keep the item stable.

2 Slide or pull the load toward your stomach, tightening the muscles as you get ready to lift.

3 Bend your knees if you must reach or place low-level objects.

4 Lift the load as close to your body as possible.

5 Hold the load between shoulder and knee height, keeping the back straight.

6 Step or pivot while moving with a load. Don't twist or side bend.



JANUARY 2023
United States Government Desk Calendar

	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31



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