

ANNISTON ARMY DEPOT

TRACKS

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Depot celebrates
Army Birthday!



U.S. Army Photo by Amanda Walker

Fourteen area students graduated from the Anniston Army Depot's Pathways High School Cooperative Education Program in a ceremony held at the depot May 22.

Pathways students graduate, ready to pursue employment opportunities

Staff reports

Fourteen students graduated from the Anniston Army Depot's Pathways High School Cooperative Education Program, May 22.

A total of 634 students have graduated from the cooperative education program since its inception in 1999 under the former School Student Education Employment Program.

As the school year ended, some graduates had earned certificates in addition to their high school diplomas.

The students who specialized in welding and machining acquired certifications in soldering and welding, while some received welding hire-in certifications.

Twelve students will continue in the Pathways Career Program at Gadsden State Community College, where they will pursue technical certification or degrees based on their trade objectives.

Sean Perry, chief, depot training office, emphasized that this program helps build the foundation for the craftsmen who construct weapon systems for the warfighter.

A key benchmark, the Pathways program here is used as a model for industry and education, helping integrate students into the depot workforce, pursue a college degree or transition from skilled trades into various professional arenas within the Department of the Army or in the corporate environment.

According to Thad J. Miller, Sr., Pathways program specialist, "everyone applies through USAJOBS."

"It is the same process everyone goes through to secure a job on the depot," he said.

In August, the program anticipates enrolling 20 new students who will pursue welding and machinist trades.

For more information about the program or the application process, please contact the Pathways Program office at (520) 691-7569.



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Juneteenth commemorates end of slavery

By Jimmy Moore | EEO Specialist

Juneteenth commemorates an effective end of slavery in the United States, marking the day when federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas in 1865 to ensure that all slaves are set free.

The troops arrival came 2.5 years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation by Pres. Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863.

It was more than two years later, on June 19, 1865, that Lincoln sent Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger, and 2,000 troops to the coastal city.

Once Granger arrived, he read the General Order No 3 which stated: "The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free."

As word spread, the proclamation signaled freedom for Texas' more than 250,000 enslaved Black people.

Opal Lee, affectionately known as the "Grandmother of Juneteenth," was born in Marshall, Texas.

On June 19, 1939, as a child, she saw her home destroyed by 500 white rioters.

In her later years, Lee dedicated her life to activism, tirelessly educating people about the significance of Juneteenth.

She campaigned for decades to make Juneteenth a holiday. She promoted the idea by leading 2.5 mile walk each year, representing the 2.5 years it took for the Emancipation Proclamation to reach Texas, bringing an end to slavery.

In September 2016, at the age of 89, Lee conducted a symbolic walk from Fort Worth, Texas to Washington D.C. when she arrived in January 2017.

In June 2021, at the age of 94, her efforts succeeded when Juneteenth Bill was passed by Congress and signed into law by Pres. Joe Biden during a White House ceremony in which she was an honored guest.

In May 2024, Opal Lee, at the age of 98, was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor.

On Juneteenth, we renew our commitment to promoting fairness, equal opportunity, and just treatment for all.

Heard around the depot...

TRACKS asks:

"What are you doing for Juneteenth?"



"We cook out and teach the children the lessons of the past and enjoy the official day of freedom."

MALCOLM LINDSEY

Supervisor, Heavy Mobile Mechanic
Directorate of Production



"My husband and I like to visit Chattanooga, Tennessee. We enjoy Rock City and Coolidge Park."

JACQUELINE MARTIN

Supervisor, Heavy Mobile Equipment
Directorate of Production



"We like to spend the day with friends and family, barbeque and fellowship."

DARRESHIA COLE

Material Coordinator
Directorate of Production

What Juneteenth means to me?



Lashevia Gaddis

“

For many, Juneteenth is a profound symbol of freedom and resilience. It marks June 19, 1865, when enslaved African Americans in Galveston, Texas, were informed of their liberation, more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation.

To me, Juneteenth represents the enduring struggle for equality and justice.

It's a time to reflect on the progress made and the work still needed to achieve true racial equality.

It's also a celebration of African American culture, heritage, and contributions, fostering a sense of community and remembrance.”



Courtesy Photo

Lean Six Sigma Black Belt training participants include: (left to right) Andrew Ramsey, Anniston Army Depot; Michael "Chad" Sanders, ANAD; Aaron Parris, instructor, ANAD; Eric North, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Jennifer Howard, oversight, U.S. Tank-automotive and Armaments Command; Jon "Jason" Mitcham, ANAD; Chris Naugher, ANAD; Silfida "Sil" Gomez, instructor, RRAD; Chris Hale, USACE; and, Matthew Fox, JMTC-RIA.

Students excel in Lean Six Sigma Black Belt training

By Aaron L. Parris | Directorate of Strategic Planning

In a remarkable display of dedication and skill, students from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; the Joint Systems Manufacturing Center, Rock Island Arsenal; and, Anniston Army Depot have successfully completed a Lean Six Sigma Black Belt training course, setting new standards in operational excellence and efficiency.

This Lean Six Sigma Black Belt certification course, taught by Aaron Parris, ANAD, and Silfida Gomez, Red River Army Depot, is renowned for its rigorous approach to quality management and process improvement. It was conducted here April 8-18 and covered a wide array of topics from the foundational LSS principles to advanced statistical analysis using Minitab software.

Black belt certification is part of the continuous learning process for continuous process improvement, or CPI practitioners, progressing from basic LSS principles of removing process waste and minimizing variation to the Six Sigma yellow, green, and black belt certifications. The ultimate certification for CPI is the master black belt of which this author is a candidate.

Throughout the course, students learn LSS principles, and define, measure, analyze, improve, control, or DMAIC methodology, statistical analysis and Minitab, process mapping and data collection techniques, rapid improvement events, advanced topics in quality management, and critical thinking and analytical skills.

Participants dove deep into the DMAIC methodology, mastering complex tools and strategies to enhance business operations. The course included hands-on training in statistical techniques, process mapping, and rapid improvement events, empowering students to lead significant quality improvement initiatives in their respective organizations.

Overall, the LSS black belt course equipped students with a robust toolkit for improving organizational processes through waste reduction, quality improvement, and efficient project management. By integrating statistical analysis with practical application exercises, the course prepared participants to tackle complex quality issues and drive significant improvements in their operations.

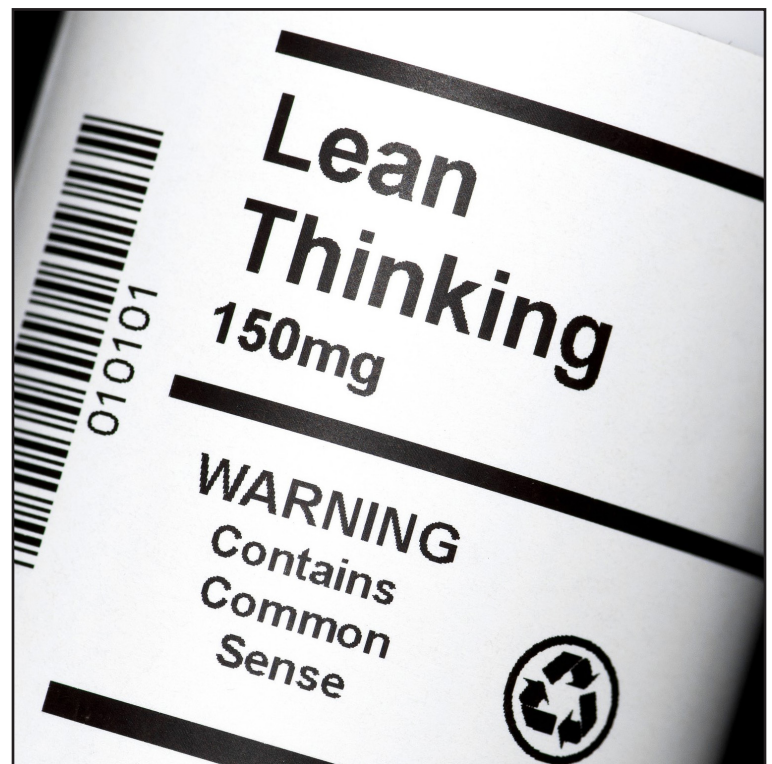
One of the highlights of the training was the students' involvement in a series of practical exercises, including a simulation that applied Design of Experiments that can be used in real-world scenarios such as airline operations management. These exercises not only reinforced their learning but also showcased their ability to apply these concepts practically, yielding impressive results in process optimization and

resource management.

Historically the Army has reaped the benefits of this training, noting remarkable improvements in process efficiency, cost reduction, and overall service quality. The success of these students is not just a personal achievement but a significant boon to the Army processes.

As these newly minted black belt candidates return to their roles, they carry with them a transformative approach to problem-solving and quality management. Their future endeavors are awaited with great anticipation, as they are poised to lead the charge in fostering environments of continuous improvement and operational excellence.

Congratulations to all the graduates who have demonstrated true commitment to professional growth and excellence in Lean Six Sigma.



Army birthday celebrates 249 years of service

By Ed Wedge | Staff writer

The Army, marking its 249th birthday this year, is a testament to the spirit and dedication of the American Soldier.

Since its founding on June 14, 1775, the Army has stood as a committed defender of freedom and a symbol of American strength and resolve. This celebration is a tribute to its always-ready, always-leading attitude, and the envy of armies worldwide.

As the depot celebrates the Army's birthday, it honors the countless men and women who have served and defended this nation. Their selfless dedication and sacrifice have safeguarded the liberties and values upon which this country was founded.

On this special occasion, join me in expressing our gratitude to the brave Soldiers, past and present, who have answered the call to serve and protect this great nation during times of war and peace. May their legacy continue to inspire future generations of Americans to uphold this proud tradition of service.

"I want to thank the Army for everything it has done and will continue to do," said John Clark, supervisor, small arms.

Clay Usher, repair technician, small arms, echoes those sentiments and praises the Army for challenging our "young men and women to become a part of something bigger than themselves."



Travelers advised of pending Star ID requirements

By Ed Wedge | Staff Writer

Beginning May 7, 2025, individuals planning to travel by air for work or leisure, must be a STAR-compliant ID card holder.

According to the Transportation Security Administration, individuals will not be allowed to travel beyond that deadline, without it. Government personnel traveling on temporary duty orders and who misplace their common access card, or CAC, while in a travel status might not be able to return to their home station without the STAR designation on their driver's license.

All airline travelers should visit the TSA website for up-to-date information regarding travel requirements at <https://www.dhs.gov/real-id>.

Developed in response to acts of terrorism committed against the United States, Congress passed the REAL-ID Act of 2005, modifying federal laws pertaining to security, authentication and issuance procedure standards for state driver licenses and identification cards to ensure the safety of its citizens, explained Timothy Barber, chief, fielding operations division, Anniston Army Depot.

To comply with these new requirements, Barber said the Alabama Department of Public Safety has developed the STAR ID program that requires air travelers to present a REAL ID-compliant license or other acceptable form of identification for domestic air travel. A Department of Defense ID, or CAC is also acceptable.

"A REAL ID compliant license is one that meets and is issued by a state which complies with the REAL ID Act's security standards," Barber said.

Once the REAL ID Act goes into effect, individuals who do not have a U.S. passport will also require an Alabama STAR ID to board commercial aircraft for domestic flights or to enter certain federal facilities.

To obtain a STAR ID, applicants must verify their identity and date of birth, social security numbers, and their address of principal



residence.

For more information, check out the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency website at <https://www.alea.gov/dps/driver-license/star-id/star-id-document-list>.

Remembering, cherishing our fathers with love, gratitude

Ed Wedge | Staff Writer

Father's Day is a special occasion to honor fathers and celebrate their important role. It's a time for children to express gratitude and appreciation for their dads and father figures.

On Father's Day, families come together to create joyful and memorable moments. The day is about making dads feel the warmth and love of their children, whether it's through shared laughter over a homemade breakfast, an exciting outing, or the exchange of heartfelt sentiments.

Anniston Army Depot employee Craig Eidson, heavy equipment mechanic, recalled some special moments with his father.

"I grew up in my father's shadow, water skiing in tournaments with him. He was a great influence in my life," he said. "I love to spend time with him, fishing, boating, and camping. Quality time spent with my dad is priceless."

It's a moment to deeply appreciate the sacrifices fathers make, and the unwavering love and support they provide to their families. From imparting valuable life lessons to offering guidance and encouragement, they play an important role in shaping their children's lives.

"My dad appreciates it when I simply pick up the phone and say hello," said Ken Brown, material coordinator. "He enjoys the quality time we spend together; I love my dad very much."

So, let's not just observe Father's Day, but instead actively participate in making it a day our dads will cherish. Whether it's through heartfelt words, meaningful actions, or thoughtful gestures, let's make this day a truly memorable celebration of fatherhood for all the amazing dads in the world.



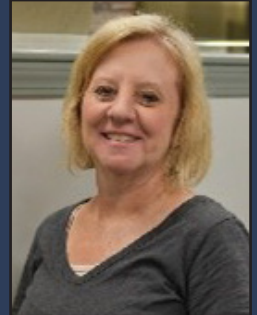
Father's Day thoughts...

TRACKS asks:
"What was your best memory of
Father's Day?"

"Every day with my dad was Father's Day. As a young girl, my daddy made me his number one priority. I would ride on his shoulders until I was too big for that, and then I rode my bike next to him as he walked. For him it was exercise, but for me it was quality time!"

April Smith

Secretary
Directorate of Production



"My granddaddy was my father figure growing up. He was someone I looked up to because he instilled civic pride and selflessness in me. All day Saturday and Sunday we would sort peas and then deliver them to the needy. This really helped shape me as an adult."

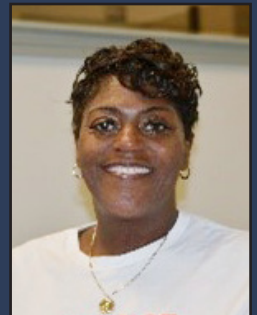
Brodrick Wallace

Supervisor
Directorate of Production

"My dad calls me every holiday, and visits when he can. The best Father's Day is every day I get to spend with him. Just being together is quality time."

Antionietta McKenzie

Welder
Directorate of Production



"Father's Day is all about pawpaw, not dad, but granddad. He taught me all about boating and fishing in Heflin, Alabama. Everything he taught me helped me to win at life. While in high school, I was involved with the fishing club and this past weekend I came in second in a tournament on the lake."

Brody Stewart

Machine Tool Operator
Directorate of Production

notes from around the Track

Agreement signed with Anniston City schools

Igniting a “spark to jumpstart success,” Col. Craig Daniel, commander, Anniston Army Depot, joined Dr. D. Ray Hill, superintendent, Anniston City Schools, in a signing ceremony, May 8, to codify their partnership and to formalize an agreement to pilot the depot’s mentorship program.

This mentorship program is designed to connect area high school students with depot employees who will mentor and advise area them on those skills and knowledge required to succeed at the depot as well as life in general.

The students will be selected by the school administration and will come from a diverse academic, personal, and behavioral background.

The program’s objective is to provide an advice and support structure and professional development opportunity for qualified young men and women, as well as establishing a pipeline for depot employment.

It is hoped that through this “spark,” the Anniston City Schools – Anniston Army Depot Mentorship Pilot Program will serve as the foundation for a mentoring program that will extend to other school districts within the area.



Feeling stressed, overwhelmed, overworked, angry or maybe just a little ‘off’?

Call the employee assistance program at (520) 669-6650. The staff is always ready to help!



Depot recognizes area high school graduates



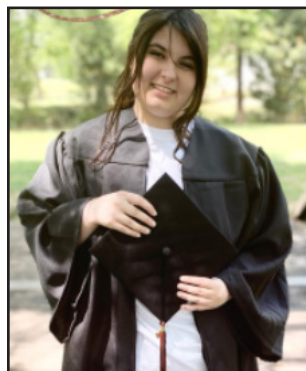
Cameron Almon

Cameron Alexander Almon

Cameron Alexander Almon will graduate from White Plains High School. He is a member of the National Society of High School Scholars and played on the varsity basketball team. In addition, he volunteers as a mentor for the Big Brothers/Big Sister Club.

Cameron plans to attend the University of Alabama as an engineer major.

He is the son of Stefanie Almon, inventory management specialist and ANAD mentorship team member.



Kadie Hoffman

Kadence “Kadie” Hoffman

The daughter of Darlene Mashburn, Kadence “Kadie” Hoffman graduated from Alexandria High School, May 23.

According to her mom, Kadie is an amazing anime artist who enjoyed her art, psychology, and cosmetology classes.

Following graduation, Kadie plans to travel or join the military.

Employee Spotlight



U.S. Army Photo by Mark Cleghorn

RONALD HAYES - MECHANICAL ENGINEER

During a Target Zero presentation, May 16, Abby Quinn, deputy to the commander, presented Ronald Hayes, mechanical engineer, directorate of production engineering, with a commander's coin.

Hayes was recognized for developing a load capacity weight load chart for the building 451 work site, helping the steel yard employees determine what types and weight of materials can be stored safely on the racks.

His efforts consisted of identifying the weights of numerous raw materials and collectively placing them in an all-inclusive document for steel yard employees to reference.