

ANNISTON ARMY DEPOT

TRACKS



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60 runners
make tracks

D-Day marked end of Nazi Germany, Axis Powers

By Ed Wedge | Staff Writer

“Dooms Day, also called ‘Operation Overlord,’ was one of the most significant days during World War II,” said Ray Barnett, museum curator, Anniston Army Depot.

On June 6, 1944, the Allied forces invaded Normandy, France. The invasion force consisted of over 7,000 ships and landing craft crewed by over 195,000 naval personnel.

In total, almost 133,000 troops, soldiers from countries including the United States, the United Kingdom, and Canada, stormed the beaches of Normandy, France in an

unimaginable assault against Nazi Germany and the Axis powers.

The Allies had planned for an opportune time to invade France and push back the well-trained, well-equipped, and battle-hardened enemy.

D-Day was the day that plan came into action. It was an ambitious undertaking, but crucial to winning the war.

Thousands of soldiers landed on the beaches that day, facing a barrage of heavy artillery and machine gun fire from an enemy dug in on steep cliffs overlooking the long, flat shoreline. By nightfall, about 175,000 brave soldiers had gone ashore

during that initial assault with nearly a million more by summer’s end.

D-Day marked the beginning of the end for Nazi Germany, and eventually led to victory for the Allied forces. It’s remembered as one of the most significant events in history.

Melville Buchanan, U.S. Air Force veteran and painter for the small arms division, here at Anniston Army Depot, expressed his utmost respect for the brave men and women who fought in WW II.

The D-Day invasion was a beach assault—coming in from the sea—and to secure victory, the allies needed an armored assault vehicle that could be launched from an off-shore platform and essentially “swim” to the beach. The answer was the “Duplex Drive.”

According to Barnett, the M4A1 “Duplex Drive” Sherman tank, most likely was built in late 1943 by the Pressed Steel Car Company.

“This system was designed to support infantry forces invading from the direction of an ocean, lake, or river and was ideal for supporting the planned Allied invasion,” he said.

Barnett explained that the term ‘Duplex Drive’ indicated that the tank was modified to use two standard-sized, brass-bladed boat propellers driven by the rear idler wheel of the tank’s track system.

“As the tracks turned in the water, each idler wheel had a power take-off system and gear set to drive the propellers, and thus provide thrust in the water,” he explained. “A large, treated canvas inflatable flotation screen provided the tank with positive buoyancy in the water despite the tank’s weight, which exceeded 34 tons.”

Barnett added that a framework of inflatable air pillars and metal struts supported the flotation skirt that could be quickly collapsed to allow clearance for the tank’s main gun and secondary support weapons when the tank ‘swam’ ashore.

The Normandy invasion was one of great turning points of the 20th century, leading to the defeat of Nazi Germany and the Axis powers – and the end of the war in Europe.



The introduction of the M4A1 “Duplex Drive” Sherman tank, like this one recovered off the Normandy beach, was designed to enable infantry forces to storm the beaches as part of the Allied invasion, unfortunately 27 of the 29 tanks deployed sank before they reached landfall.

TRACKS

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The importance of following workplace rules

Legal Office

(from material compiled by Susan Bennett, retired depot counsel, May 2019)

In the Spring of 2015, the Anniston civilian personnel office contributed an article to TRACKS entitled “*Correcting behavior through progressive discipline.*”

The article emphasized the importance of correcting behavior, stating that “a commitment must be made by both management and employees to exert effort to make Anniston Army Depot successful in its mission to support the warfighter, including correcting inappropriate behavior and/or misconduct.”

That statement is just as important today as it was nine years ago. The purpose of disciplinary action is to correct behavior. The purpose of this article is to point out the areas where we—supervisors and employees—have had difficulties, and so that employees can avoid disciplinary actions by following workplace rules.

Some of the most important workplace rules that must be followed involve attendance. Disciplinary offenses related to attendance include failure to follow letter of leave instructions, failure to follow leave requesting procedures, absent without leave, and unauthorized absence from management-directed overtime. Previous disciplinary actions and the length of the AWOL increase the penalty that is imposed, possibly including removal from the job.

How does one avoid this?

If you leave the worksite during working hours, you must request permission from your supervisor; and if you are unable to come to work, contact your supervisor to request leave.

Also, employees must follow written rules and regulations. The penalty for not doing so can be heightened if the rule or regulation involves safety to persons or property, including not using required safety equipment or personal protective equipment, or reporting to work while under the influence of alcohol, a drug, or a controlled substance.

The formal penalty for engaging in dishonest behavior ranges from a written reprimand to removal, but the most typical penalty is removal. Dishonesty can take many forms. It can involve lying on official forms; lying to your supervisor or other management officials on material facts; and putting information in your resume that states



you have performed jobs or tasks that you have not performed; that you have used specific tools or instruments that you have not used; or that you possess skills that you do not possess. When you are untrustworthy, you cannot be an effective employee and the taxpayer should not be expected to pay your salary. In other words, the phrase “honesty is the best policy” applies here at the depot.

You can easily see that adverse consequences can be avoided by doing some very simple things: show up to work on time; communicate with your supervisor if you cannot be at work; follow your supervisor’s instructions; follow workplace rules; and be honest in your interactions with your supervisors and other management officials and in your written statements.

Drug testing ensures safe, drug-free working environment

By Mathetta Howard | Army Substance Abuse Program

Did you know that the goal of Army’s Drug-Free Workplace Drug Testing Program is to ensure that Army workplaces are safe, healthful, productive, and drug-free?

To achieve this goal, the Army implements drug testing programs for Department of the Army civilians. Two categories of testing

pertaining to all Army and Department of Transportation employees are reasonable suspicion and post-accident testing.

Army Regulation 600-85 states that civilian employees can be tested when reasonable suspicion exists that he or she uses drugs on or off duty.

Reasonable suspicion is based on physical symptoms of being under the influence of a drug, specific observations concerning the appearance, behavior, speech, or body odor of the employee and observations that may include indications of chronic use or withdrawal effects of controlled substances.

Additionally, employees may be subject to testing when, based on the circumstances of an accident, their actions are reasonably suspected of having caused or contributed to an accident.

Additional categories of drug testing established under the goals of a drug-free workplace include random, applicant, follow-up, and return-to-duty testing.

To learn more about the categories of drug testing or to schedule training, contact the prevention coordinator at the Army Substance Abuse Program office at (520) 669-6801.

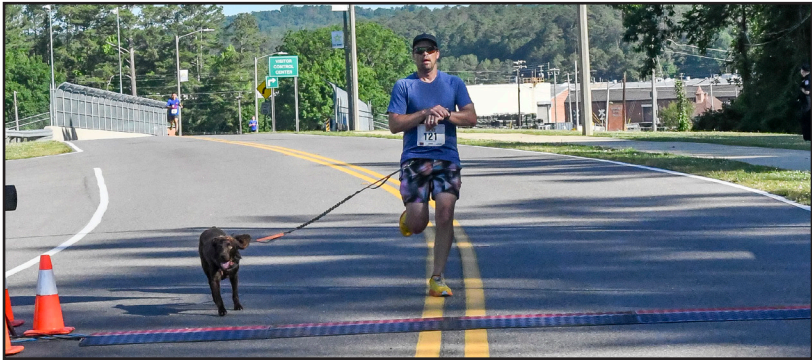


Pounding the pavement at the Making Tracks 5K Race

What a beautiful morning for a run!
The 38th annual Anniston Army Depot's Making Tracks 5k was held May 11, drawing 60 participants, aged 14 to 85 years.

Historically known as a fast course, this year's 3.1 mile race drew a diverse group of runners, including depot employees, active-duty and retired military, as well as runners from the surrounding community.

According to Gerrad Slaton, lead recreation assistant, directorate of family and morale, welfare and recreation, this was the best turnout since 2019, a success he attributed to the host of volunteers, chief of which came from the depot workforce.



U.S. Army Photo by Amanda Walker

The overall winner of the 2024 Making Tracks 5k Run/Walk was B.J. Cranford with a time of 20:03 minutes.

RESULTS: 2024 MAKING TRACKS 5K

Rank	Name	Division	Time
1	B.J. Cranford	M35-39	20:03
2	Carlos Fernandez	M45-49	20:22
3	Eli Mitchell	M15-19	20:43
4	Erius Clark	M20-24	21:11
5	Seth Williams	M15-19	21:20
6	Cayden Bishop	M15-19	21:39
7	Alan Crider	M35-39	22:07
8	Brayden Robinson	M30-34	22:21
9	Ken Bryant	M50-54	22:44
10	Justin Giffard	M40-44	22:55
11	Danny Vazquez	M20-24	23:09
12	Joshua Farris	M30-34	24:08
13	Candice Cranford	F35-39	24:15
14	Dale Brewster, Jr.	M35-39	24:36
15	Lawrence Bennett	M30-34	25:31
16	David Bannister	M55-59	26:15
17	Bryan Mount	M50-54	26:58
18	Donald McGraw	M30-34	27:18
19	Matthew Cline	M35-39	27:29
20	Denise Owen	F40-44	27:42
21	Gilbert Medellin	M65-69	27:47
22	Will Williams	M65-69	27:57
23	Grant Turner	M12-14	28:09
24	Sydney Crider	F30-34	28:15
25	Lewis Calhoun	M20-24	28:25
26	Christel Sanchez	F35-39	28:37
27	Chloe Daugherty	F12-14	30:43
28	Trisha Turner	F 50-54	31:01
29	Amy Villeda	F40-44	31:34
30	Josh McLaughlin	M35-39	32:07

Rank	Name	Division	Time
31	Catrina Cedotal	F 50-54	32:24
32	Tim Mitchell	M45-49	32:50
33	Blessin Bell	F15-19	32:53
34	J. Michael Boling	M65-69	33:25
35	Patti Sparks	F60-64	33:26
36	Craig Daniel	M45-49	33:58
37	Matthew Camp	M50-54	34:07
38	Erik Lesniak	M35-39	34:37
39	Tammy Thornburg	F60-64	34:58
40	David Edwards	M65-69	35:03
41	Bruce Greene	M70-120	35:33
42	Paula Angle	F60-64	35:52
43	Donny Sparks	M65-69	36:04
44	Brian Hartdegen	M60-64	36:50
45	David Emigh	M35-39	37:31
46	Eduardo Villeda	M50-54	37:51
47	Caroline Meek	F 50-54	38:28
48	Kalea Berens	F30-34	38:34
49	Melba White	F70-120	38:36
50	Jada Williams	F45-49	38:39
51	Clifton Tolbert	M65-69	39:50
52	Dewanna Fennell	F30-34	44:45
53	Nancy Grace	F70-120	46:11
54	Delores Walker	F60-64	46:50
55	Michael Mathews	M40-44	47:07
56	Ray Lindsey	M65-69	47:16
57	Ellen Cannon	F70-120	47:49
58	Phillip Trued	M55-59	48:38
59	Kimberly Walker	F35-39	58:18
60	David Despagna	M65-69	1:09:06

Scenes from Making Tracks 5K Run/Walk



U.S. Army Photos by Amanda Walker



Memorial Day - a nation honors, remembers its fallen heroes

By Ed Wedge - Staff Writer

As we gather with our loved ones for barbecues and reunions, let us pause to reflect on Memorial Day's profound significance.

It is a solemn occasion to honor the legacy of our heroes, deeply appreciate the freedoms they fought for, and pledge to never forget their sacrifice.



U.S. Army Photo by Mark Cleghorn

A Soldier plants an American flag before a tombstone at the Fort McClellan Military Cemetery in Anniston, Alabama, on Memorial Day. The flag honors an unidentified servicemember for his service and sacrifice to the nation.

As David Crowe, a sheet metal mechanic, Anniston Army Depot, poignantly reminds us, on this day, we stand united as a grateful nation, "remembering the ones that didn't make it home."

As the nation approaches this Memorial Day, Americans unite to pay homage to the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country.

"They are the reason we enjoy the freedoms we have today," Crowe stated.

Originally known as Decoration Day, the holiday, as we know it today, traces its roots back to the Civil War when communities initiated the tradition of commemorating fallen soldiers by adorning their graves with flowers and flags.

"Memorial Day is a National Day of Remembrance in the United States for honoring and mourning the U.S. military personnel who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces," Crowe said. This year, it is observed on Monday, May 27th.

"Memorial Day honors those who have died in military service, while Veterans Day honors all veterans living and dead," said Mike Smith, customer support, information technology. "Please don't say, 'Happy Memorial Day.'"

He adds that individuals should consider saying something like: "Today, we remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for America," "we remember," or "On this day, we honor the brave men and women who gave their lives for our country."

"This Memorial Day, you can honor our fallen heroes by visiting a cemetery and placing flags or flowers on their graves or fly the U.S. flag at half-mast until noon," Smith said.

"You may also honor our heroes by attending the religious services of your choice."

Memorial Day Facts

- The first Memorial Day, called Decoration Day, was observed on May 30, 1868, commemorating the sacrifices of Civil War soldiers and honoring the deceased by decorating their graves.
- President James A. Garfield delivered the speech at the first Memorial Day ceremony.
- Waterloo, New York is considered the birthplace of Memorial Day.
- It was observed every May 30 until the Uniform Monday Holiday Act in 1971 moved it to the last Monday of May.
- In December 2000, Congress established the "National Moment of Remembrance," calling on all Americans to pause at 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day to remember and honor the fallen.
- The flag is flown at half-mast from sunrise until noon on Memorial Day.



notes from around the Track

Save the date!

The Depot Summerfest, formerly Employee Appreciation Day, is scheduled July 11!



Cafeteria menu

Most plate specials include one serving of meat item, choice of two side items and one serving of bread for \$12.

May 23

Snack line &
Sandwich line
Plate Special: Fried
Catfish, Cheese
Grits, Corn on the
Cob, Coleslaw, Hush
Puppies

May 24

Snack line &
Sandwich line

May 27

Memorial Day
Closed

May 28

Snack line &
Sandwich line
Plate Special:
Pulled BBQ Pork,
Baked Beans, Cole
Slaw, Bun

May 29

Snack line &
Sandwich line
Plate Special:
5 Spice Baked
Chicken, Fried
Rice, Stir-Fried
Vegetables, Egg Roll

May 30

Snack line &
Sandwich line
Grill Out!
Hamburgers, Brat,
Drink with Chips \$8
with Fries \$10

Editor's note:

The June menu was
not finalized in time
for publication



Depot salutes area graduate



Courtesy Photo

Ayana "Yana" Carr, the daughter of Shynta Hudson, executive assistant, Office of the Commander, graduated from Oxford High School, May 21, with a diploma in teaching and training.

The eldest of four siblings, Yana is very active in her church and plans to join the U.S. Air Force as a radiology technician.

Since a toddler, Yana has always had a heart to help serve others. She decided the best way to help others is to join the military, travel the world, and spread her gift to every person she encounters.

She hopes that this decision will not only impact her younger siblings to pursue their dreams and aspirations, but to also keep God first and pursue purpose as early as possible.



Anniston Army Depot

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Employee Spotlight



U.S. Army Photo by ED WEDGE

MATTHEW SCOTT - HEAVY MOBILE EQUIPMENT LEAD

By ED WEDGE | Staff writer

Matthew Scott, heavy mobile equipment lead, Directorate of Production.

According to Malcolm Lindsey, heavy mobile equipment supervisor, Scott has taken the position of HME lead to heart and has excelled beyond his contemporaries; he's always available to assist his crew.

"I really like the people that I work with,"

Scott said in response.

A 20-year employee of Anniston Army Depot, he works to ensure that the workforce has what it needs to get the job done for the warfighter.

He is married and has two daughters: one is a nursing student at the University of Alabama-Birmingham. He says that he loves

spending time with his family.

"Scott has taken on the role of leader and never falls short of assigned tasks," Lindsey said. "He takes initiative to provide innovation and modernization to improve the shop, making it more efficient and quality driven."