

ANNISTON ARMY DEPOT

TRACKS

Depot launches
pilot program to
enhance efficiency

Photo by Amanda Walker

Depot launches pilot to reduce machine downtime

By Ed Wedge | Staff writer

Anniston Army Depot has recently launched a new pilot program aimed at industrial shop equipment. The new program has the lofty goal to reduce downtime of affected machines by 50%.

Still in its infancy, the pilot is only a little over one month old. The first milestone will be at 90 days, where data will be collected and evaluated.

"Total Productive Maintenance is a holistic approach to equipment maintenance that strives to achieve perfect production," said Mark Johnson, director of production engineering.

"This new program boasts of no breakdowns, no small stops or slow running,

no defects.

"In addition," he said, "it values a safe working environment, which means no accidents."

Johnson explained that the test case for the new program is the three, double rotary blast tables in building 409.

These sand-blasting cabinets were first inspected then overhauled and brought to near-new condition to establish a baseline. The machines were then brought back online to full operating status and evaluated daily.

The data is being manually updated in a spreadsheet.

Ultimately, it will be collected automatically via sensors over the intranet.

So far this has been a great success, Johnson added. None of this would have been

possible without the hard work and dedication of the team working on this project.

The commander recognized the hard work accomplished to launch this program, handing out 28 coins during a recent Target Zero event, the engineering director remarked.

That team worked tirelessly and enthusiastically, he said. "The millwrights, mechanics, welders, and others worked overtime, totally invested in the program.

"Our future hope is to have machines all over the depot connected to a network that will monitor several data points, including downtime," Johnson added.

"Moving forward we are developing a plan for FY25," he said. "Our goal is to have a new event each month moving forward."

Leadership spotlight

JEFF THOMPSON - tool supervisor, Directorate of Public Works

By Ed Wedge | Staff writer

How long have you been working at the depot?

I have been working on Anniston Army Depot for the past 23 years.

Why did you choose to join the depot's workforce?

It was a great opportunity. Anniston Army Depot is the #1 employer in the area.

Where and how did your career journey begin?

I came in through the CO-OP program straight from high school.

What do you enjoy most about working here?

I really enjoy the people I work with. They are a great group of guys.

What can you say about your coworkers that others may not know?

My co-workers care about each other, not only each other but each other's families. It's like a big support group or family!

What do you do when you're off, hobbies, etc.?

I like to spend my free time camping and fishing at Lake Guntersville. I also enjoy hunting.



A veteran tool supervisor, Jeff Thompson demonstrates his skill at producing a solid, metal part using a 3D printer.



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Machine guarding ensures safe, efficient workplace

By Michaela Haynes | Safety Office

Machine guarding is critical for workplace safety and aims to protect workers from injuries associated with the use of industrial machinery.

Injuries can range from cuts, amputations, crushing, or even fatalities from moving parts, sharp edges, or hot surfaces.

Guarding prevents direct contact with dangerous moving parts, reducing the likelihood of injury overall. Guarding not only protects workers but shields equipment from accidental contact that could result in damage.

Damaged machines can lead to costly repairs and downtime, affecting productivity. Effective machine guarding reduces this risk, leading to fewer incidents and consequently, lowers costs.

Guarding must protect the operator from potential hazards such as those created by point of operation, ingoing nip points, rotating parts, flying chips, and sparks.

Machine guarding involves the use of barriers, shields, or devices that prevent contact between a worker and the mechanical motion of equipment. Types of guards are fixed guards, interlocked guards, adjustable guards, and self-adjusting guards.

Fixed guards are permanent parts of a machine that provide a barrier. Interlocked guards are connected to the

machine's control system and will not allow the machine to operate until the guard is properly positioned.

Adjustable guards can be adjusted to accommodate different sizes of material. The most effective guard will prevent the entry of hands, fingers, or other body parts into the point of operation. Machine guarding is only as effective as the operator and only works if used correctly.

If machine guarding is removed or bypassed, the chance of mishaps occurring is greater as fatigue increases and attention decreases.

Machine guarding is not only important to prevent injuries, but it is mandated by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, or OSHA, for employers to provide adequate guarding on machinery to protect employees from potential hazards.

Regular inspections should be performed and equipment without proper guarding or damaged guards should immediately be reported to the supervisor.

Machine guarding is an essential part of workplace safety, preventing injuries, and ensuring regulatory compliance. By implementing proper machine guarding, Anniston Army Depot is protecting its most valuable asset - the employees.

Guarding also contributes to the overall efficiency, safety and production of the workplace by promoting a culture of safety and well-being.



Photo by Ed Wedge

Machine guarding involves using barriers, shields, or devices that prevent contact between a worker and the mechanical motion of equipment.

Proper tool maintenance essential for productivity, safety

By Michaela Haynes | Safety Office

Using tools is a routine part of many jobs within the Nichols Industrial Complex, from disassembly to assembly and everything in between; however, the importance of inspecting tools before their use and never using damaged tools cannot be overstated.

Proper inspection and maintenance of tools are vital for ensuring safety, preventing accidents, and maintaining productivity.

Regular inspection of tools helps identify any signs of wear, damage, or malfunction before they become a hazard.

Tools that are cracked, chipped, worn, or otherwise compromised can fail unexpectedly during use, potentially causing severe injuries to the user or those nearby.

By checking tools before use, you can ensure they are in good working condition and fit for purpose.

When inspecting tools, look for cracks or chips, loose parts, wear or tear, corrosion or rust. Cracks in handles, heads, or bodies of tools can lead to breakage. Even small chips can compromise a tool's structural integrity.

Handles, screws, bolts, or any other fasteners should be secure.

Loose parts can cause tools to

malfunction or break. Excess wear on cutting edges, grips, or surfaces can render a tool ineffective or dangerous.

Rust can weaken metal tools, making them more susceptible to breaking or malfunctioning.

Never underestimate the importance of inspecting tools before each use and never use a damaged tool. This simple habit can prevent accidents, protect your health, and help maintain a safe working environment.

Remember, safety always comes first, and it begins with you and the tools you use. By taking the proper precautions, you help to ensure a safer workplace for yourself and your team.



Photo by Ed Wedge

The depot's annual Holiday Cheer program has begun. Employees wishing to participate can pick up a wish list through their directorate or office point of contact and make a child's Christmas a little brighter.

Depot kicks off Holiday Cheer 2024

By Ed Wedge | Staff writer

An estimated 250 children are slated to receive gifts they would otherwise not receive but for the generosity of Anniston Army Depot employees.

Working in cooperation with the Alabama Department of Human Services, the depot pioneered this program to benefit children in protective custody.

Depot employees have been giving to this program since 1983. The program began to assist families by providing canned goods and services to 58 children that year. This goodwill effort has since grown to more than five times.

"I was involved last year, and it was an awesome event," said Col. Craig Daniel, commander, Anniston Army Depot. "We met our goal to support 177 children, then we went above and beyond. This is a

great program; I look forward to this year's event."

Lindia Hayes, chairperson for this year's Holiday Cheer event, explained how the program works.

Children fill out a wish list of items they want and provide their age and clothing size. Once we have that list, here at the depot, each directorate or office is encouraged to adopt one or two children by taking these wish lists back to their shop and sharing them with their coworkers.

Employees then shop and return the gifts for that respective child to collection points within their shops.

Each gift should be boxed, and gift wrapped, unless the item is too large, like a bicycle or scooter. All items should be clearly marked with the number associated with the child's wish list.

These gifts will be collected and delivered

to DHR on Dec. 11 at 9:30 a.m.

Working on behalf of Santa Claus, DHS employees will then ensure that the gifts are delivered to the child's home before Christmas. The children are told that the gifts come from Santa.

Depot employees wishing to participate can drop off their gifts from 9 a.m. until noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Building 221. Additional days may be scheduled upon request.

Gift cards, gaming systems, or monetary gifts exceeding \$200 will not be accepted, Hayes said.

For more information, please contact your designated directorate or staff office point of contact.

"This program is a great success," Hayes said, "and has generated from a little over \$1,700 in gifts in 1983 to the projected \$50,000 this year."

October is Energy Awareness Month

By Brian Freeman | Safety Office

Each October, the Army recognizes Energy Awareness Month to highlight the critical role energy plays in its operations and to encourage smart energy use and management.

Here at Anniston Army Depot, we are working to achieve the following Army and federal guidance:

- **Reduce building energy intensity by 2.5% annually through the end of FY25 relative to the FY15 baseline**
- **At least 25% of total energy from clean energy sources**
- **At least 30% of electric energy from renewable energy sources**
- **Increase energy resilience as outlined in Army Directive 2020-03**

To support compliance with the directive, the Army allocated the depot with funding from the Energy Resilience and Conservation Investment Program to build a 7.5-megawatt electrical generation facility, engineered to support a large portion of the industrial area when needed.

Earlier this year, ERCIP funds increased the depot's energy resilience stance with a second or Phase II microgrid system.

The new system will include four 2.5 MW generators and is designed to work in conjunction with the existing 7.5 MW system near the Nichols substation. Both systems will include solar fields at the Buffalo Pen and the Demil Solar fields.

Currently, the depot leadership is working with the

Corps of Engineers to develop a system to support its water resilience.

This project will expand the depot's ability to operate independently if necessary. Supporting resilience projects are in the planning stages and will support the depot's move toward energy security and resilience in the future.

Though customers may

experience an increase in their electric bill, there are ways to reduce energy consumption.

Over 40% of a home utility bill goes to heating and cooling. With the proper maintenance and equipment upgrades, including appropriate insulation, air sealing leaks around windows and doors, and thermostat settings, you may be able to cut your energy cost.

One "no-cost" energy saver

would be to reduce the amount of time roll-up doors are left open during the heating and cooling periods of the year. If the air conditioning system is running, please pay attention to how long the doors are left open in the building.

Remember, energy reduction goals may seem difficult to achieve and do require attention, time, and money to accomplish.

ENERGY ACTION MONTH 2024
POWERING THE MISSION

From installations to the battlefield, the U.S. Army is **#PoweringTheMission**

RESILIENT
700+ MW
Of renewable energy generation capacity, reducing fossil fuel related supply disruption risks to installations and increasing available energy for local communities.

TRANSFORMATIVE
45%
Fuel savings increases operational reach and lethality through efficient power systems by leveraging AMMPS generators and microgrids.

INNOVATIVE
31
Operational microgrids implemented on U.S. Army installations using all available acquisition authorities.

#PoweringTheMission

Depot issues time off guidance for federal elections

Federal elections will be held Tuesday, Nov. 5, with most polling places open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. throughout Alabama.

Employees must request the amount of leave they may need (OPM 71) to participate in the voting process.

As general guidance, if polls are not open at least three (3) hours before or after an employee's regular hours of work, the supervisor may grant an amount of excused leave which will permit the employee to report for work up to three (3) hours after the polls open or leave work up to three hours before the polls close, whichever requires the least amount of time off.

If, because of special circumstances, the general rule stated above does not permit sufficient time for voting, the supervisor may grant an amount of excused leave which will permit the

employee the additional time to vote, but not more than one workday, as noted in Article 16, Section 3, of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between Anniston Army Depot and AFGE Local 1945 dated June 1, 2024.

Administrative leave may be granted up to three (3) hours for employees to vote in federal elections. If an employee wishes to take administrative leave to vote, they must submit their request at least 14 calendar days ahead of the election and only for the time needed to participate in the voting process. Employees who do not request administrative leave for this purpose may request to take annual leave.

Supervisors are reminded to carefully review the tour of duty and any situations involving special circumstances before approving excused leave for voting. When administrative leave is

requested, supervisors must respond to that request at least seven (7) days prior to the election.

For timekeeping purposes, employees approved for administrative leave will utilize hour code "LN" for voting leave. The Op Code will be 9940.

The SIO will be:

- BASEOPS employees will use their standard leave SIO.
- Mission direct employees will use SIO 48027
- Mission indirect employees will use SIO 48054

For employees who don't request administrative leave, but who choose to take personal leave instead, their time should be recorded using their normal leave codes.

Please contact your supervisor with any additional questions you may have.

Heard around the depot...

TRACKS asks:

What fire prevention devices do you have in your home?



"I have two fire extinguishers and four combination smoke / CO2 detectors. I practice fire drills with my daughter."

KAYLA MINTON
Environmental Protection
Specialist
Directorate of Risk Management



"I'm going to go and get a fire extinguisher. I practice fire drills with my three children regularly. I have five smoke alarms in my home."

JOE EVANS
Waste Disposal Technician
Directorate of Risk Management



"I have three fire extinguishers and six combo smoke / CO2 detectors. My family has a fire escape plan."

JEREMY HIGGINBOTHAM
Environmental Protection
Specialist
Directorate of Risk Management



"I just purchased a fire extinguisher and currently have five smoke detectors in my home. I talk with my daughter regularly about home safety. I'm going to start doing fire drills."

SHARICA ENGLISH
Maintenance Parts
Specialist
Directorate of Production
Management

Cafeteria menu

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

October 23

Snack line &
Sandwich line

Plate Special:

Pulled BBQ pork,
cole slaw, french
fries, bun

October 24

Snack line &
Sandwich line

Plate Special:

Fried chicken, pinto
beans, greens,
mashed potatoes &
gravy, cornbread

October 25

Snack line &
Sandwich line

October 28

Snack line &
Sandwich line

Plate Special:

Corndog

October 29

Snack line &
Sandwich line

Plate Special:

Italian sausage
pasta bake, steamed
broccoli, corn on the
cob, garlic bread

October 30

Snack line &
Sandwich line

Plate Special:

Whole fried chicken
wings, mashed
potatoes & gravy,
green beans, yeast
roll

October 31

Snack line &
Sandwich line

Plate Special:

Fried
catfish, baked beans,
coleslaw, hush
puppies

October GAP update

by Michelle Casalini

Directorate of Resource
Management

94%-97% – \$475

90%-93% – \$350

Less than 90% – \$0

Current percentage – 98%

Current payout – \$625

Net Operating Result

NOR loss -\$2.8M or less –
\$625

NOR loss between -\$2.9M
and -\$4.7M – \$450

NOR loss between -\$4.8M
and -\$6.6M – \$300

NOR loss between -\$6.7M
and -\$8.5M – \$150

NOR loss -\$8.6M or greater
– \$0

Current loss – \$17.3M

Current payout – \$0

Continuous Process Improvement

75 – 100 audits passed -
\$625

50 – 74 audits passed - \$500

25 – 49 audits passed - \$350

0 – 24 audits passed - \$0

**Current number of audits
passed – 116**

Current payout – \$625

For eligible personnel to
receive the maximum FY24
GAP payout, all metrics
must be met. Everyone
must do their part each
day to achieve these goals,
which are attainable and
important in executing the
Anniston Army Depot's
mission.

Productive Yield

Direct Productive Yield:

1,570 or Greater – \$312.50

1,549-1,569 – \$225

1,527-1,548 – \$148.50

1,505-1,526 – \$74.25

1,504 or Less – \$0

Current hours – 1,568

Current payout – \$225

Indirect Productive Yield

1,650 or Greater – \$312.50

1,631-1,649 – \$225

1,611-1,630 – \$148.50

1,591-1,610 – \$74.25

1,590 or Less – \$0

Current hours – 1,658

Current payout – \$312.50

Performance to Promise

98%-100% – \$625

**CURRENT TOTAL:
\$1,787.50**

JOIN OUR TEAM!

Scan the QR code
or key in the URL

<http://spr.ly/6017Pxx5f>

Anniston
Army
Depot's
job vacancies
are listed
on USAJOBS.



Employee Spotlight



Photo by Amanda Walker

LAURA WILLIAMS - chemical equipment repairer

How long have been working at Anniston Army Depot?

I've worked at the depot for five and half years

Why did you choose to join the ANAD workforce?

I joined to do my part for our Soldiers in the United States Army.

Where and how did your journey begin, i.e., PATHWAYS, the CO-OP program, military, etc.?

Well, I have always been surrounded by the military because my father served his country and when the opportunity came up I decided to join the team.

What do you enjoy most about working here?

Knowing that I am doing my part for the depot.

What can you say about your coworkers that others may not know?

I work with some amazing group of people, and they love to help each other.

What do you do when you're off, hobbies, etc.?

I have a passion for cooking. I love to make amazing mouth-watering dishes that my family and friends love.