

BG Anderson homing in on long-term strategic efforts

COMMANDER'S PRIORITIES

- SAFETY PROGRAM/PROCESS SAFETY MANAGEMENT
- BUNKER IMPROVEMENT STRATEGY
- COUNTER UAS IMPLEMENTATION
- CONTRACT SECURITY GUARD MITIGATION
- LOCOMOTIVE PROGRAM STRATEGY



Since Brig. Gen. Ronnie Anderson Jr. took command of JMC in June 2023, he has hosted five town halls. During the most recent one on Feb. 12, he shared with the command's workforce the five long-term strategic initiatives that he intends to focus on before his departure from JMC.

These include enhancing JMC's safety program/process safety management, a bunker improvement strategy, counter unmanned aircraft system implementation, contract security guard mitigation, and a locomotive program strategy.

JMC is implementing a strategy to invest in over 10,700 bunkers and storage magazines to extend their lifespan. Anderson highlighted the significant cost of replacing them and emphasized the need for a long-term investment strategy. He also mentioned the need to secure funding for infrastructure improvements and address UAS (drone) threats.

JMC faces unique challenges with contract security forces, and securing the Organic Industrial Base is critical. Regarding the locomotive program, Anderson noted the risks of not modernizing and expressed hope for additional resources to aid progress.

LEADERSHIP NOTE

Dear JMC Alumni,

We had a big year last year! JMC successfully managed a safe and reliable ammunition stockpile valued at \$67 billion, produced 700 million rounds of ammunition, issued and received more than 370,000 short tons of ammunition, and demilitarized more than 33,000 short tons of ammunition.

We are focused on bringing our facilities, utilities, and operations into the 21st century, while we improve our safety, environmental compliance, and production efficiency.

We've made big strides this year by breaking ground on the new Next Generation Squad Weapon 6.8 mm production facility at Lake City, breaking ground on a new Missile Maintenance facility at LEMC, and we've established a missile maintenance facility at Fallbrook Naval Station near San Diego to better support our Air Force and Navy partners and reduce shipping costs. We are completing our chemical missions at PCD and BGCA, and we established the new Redstone Chemical Activity. We will also case the colors of Milan Army Ammunition Plant in 2025 as we transition much of the property to the Tennessee National Guard and maintain three employees to oversee property transition and remediation.

Budgets continue to impact ammunition purchases and service readiness. If you are still involved with the Organic Industrial Base, I'd ask for your support in making all elements of Army and DOD leadership, as well as the local and federal elected leaders, understand the criticality of the OIB.

Warm regards,

Ronnie Anderson, Jr.
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding



RETIREE SPOTLIGHT

Mike Styvaert

Styvaert spent 33 years working at the Rock Island Arsenal, and he retired from JMC in 2020, as the director of safety and rad waste.

“The command had several different names in my time, but I was with JMC since it stood up,” Styvaert said.

Styvaert, who is originally from Bettendorf, Iowa, and now resides in Davenport, Iowa, enjoyed several aspects of working for JMC.

“I always say there are three reasons why you go to work,” Styvaert said. “One, you get paid, two, hopefully you enjoy the company of your co-workers, and three, I think the most important thing is that you feel you’re part of an important and compelling mission.”

Styvaert has two children who are Civilian employees, and he has given them wisdom that applies to any member of JMC’s workforce.

“Find something that you enjoy doing and are motivated to do and always try to find a way to say ‘yes’ to customers, supervisors, and coworkers,” Styvaert said. “Research alternatives and provide substitute paths if given an unrealistic challenge.”

Styvaert hasn’t been sitting idle during his retirement.

“I have a dozen rental properties that I own and manage,” he said. “I have my real estate license and sell a little real estate, and if that doesn’t keep me busy enough, I have a business partner, and we flip three to four houses a year.

“I used to run every day but now my knees let me do it about every four days, and I go to the gym to work out as well.”



Social Security Fairness Act info



The Social Security Fairness Act was signed into law in January 2025. This legislation eliminated two policies that had reduced Social Security benefits for many retirees: the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset.

WEP previously reduced Social Security benefits for individuals who had worked in jobs not covered by Social Security and later qualified for Social Security benefits. GPO cut spousal or survivor Social Security benefits for government employees who had received a pension.

The Social Security Fairness Act became effective retroactively starting January 2024, applying the changes to benefits payable from that date. As a result, payments were distributed, with some beneficiaries receiving increases of over \$1,000 per month.

If your Social Security payments have not increased as expected, you should contact the SSA.

Here are a few ways to reach out:

1. Call the National 800 Number: You can call 1-800-772-1213 between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. CT, Monday through Friday. Automated telephone services are available 24 hours a day.
2. Visit the SSA website: www.ssa.gov
3. Contact your local SSA office.

CHAPLAIN’S CORNER *Chaplain (Capt.) Simon Jackson*

Honoring the legacy, embracing the future

The strength of the Joint Munitions Command lies not only in its present workforce but also in those who have come before us. The dedication of past employees laid the foundation upon which today’s mission stands. Their innovation, resilience, and commitment continue to shape the way forward.

JMC alumni remain an integral part of our story. Their contributions endure in the lessons they passed down, the processes they refined, the infrastructure they built, and the culture of excellence they fostered. Their impact is not confined to history but extends into the daily operations of those who carry the mission forward.

For current employees, this legacy is both a privilege and a responsibility. The work done today builds upon the achievements of those before us while paving the way for those who will follow. The nation’s freedom is not a single generation’s task; it is a continuum, strengthened by the knowledge and dedication of all who have served.

To our JMC alumni, we honor your service, your sacrifices, and your commitment to the mission. And to our workforce, let us continue learning from the past while driving innovation for the future.

Together, we will strive to exceed the standards of those who came before us, setting new benchmarks for those who will come after. Let this be our collective commitment: to uphold the legacy, to innovate with purpose, and to serve with unwavering dedication.

Contact Chaplain Jackson at Office: 520-693-0377 or Cell: 309-519-4243

Renew your commitment to movement...

With warmer weather arriving, it's the perfect time to focus on movement and aerobic exercise. Whether you have stayed active through the winter months or have taken a break, now is the time to either diversify your routine or safely ease back into movement. Research consistently shows that regular aerobic activity improves heart health, brain function, sleep, and longevity.

The American Heart Association recommends at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic activity, or 75 minutes of vigorous activity, per week. Research consistently shows that just 30 minutes of walking five times a week can reduce the risk of heart disease by up to 20%. Movement also plays a critical role in maintaining independence, improving balance, coordination, and cognitive function.

For those who have remained active, consider diversifying your regimen. Cycling, swimming, and hiking can improve endurance and reduce the risk of injury. If you are easing back into movement, start slow with low-impact activities like brisk walking or water aerobics, focus on activities that improve balance, gradually increasing intensity over time.

Facts about movement

- 1. Aerobic exercise improves sleep quality. Just 30 minutes of moderate exercise per day can help you fall asleep faster and stay asleep longer.
- 2. Walking just 10 minutes after meals can lower blood sugar levels, reducing the risk of diabetes risk and heart disease.
- 3. Functional movement counts, too: Every minute of brisk walking could add up to eight minutes to life expectancy, so pick up the pace.
- 4. Movement of any intensity releases endorphins, the body's natural mood boosters, improving mental health.

No matter where you are in your fitness journey, the key is to stay consistent. A healthier, more active lifestyle starts with small steps, literally!

Lt. Col. Jeffrey Milch,
Command Surgeon



Jay Carr



Sherry Cook
Robert Jones
Bruce Maddy
James O'Donnell

GOOD TO KNOW

MARCH KEY DATES

- 3 – World Wildlife Day
- 5 – Ash Wednesday
- 9 – Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 20 – First Day of Spring
- 25 – National Medal of Honor Day
- 29 – Vietnam War Veterans Day

Mark your calendars

We will host our second annual JMC ball on April 3 at The Bend Event Center in East Moline, Illinois. The event will begin with a social hour at 5 p.m., followed by dinner at 6 p.m. We are honored to have Ms. Marion Whicker, former EDCG at AMC, as our guest speaker. Please save the date and join us for this special occasion.

For more info check out:
<https://einvitations.afit.edu/inv/anim.cfm?i=1007377&k=0361420E78507A>



Navigating retirement...

Retirement brings new roles and responsibilities, like becoming a grandparent or volunteering. Open communication helps retirees adjust by sharing experiences and advice, fostering community and support.

Health concerns can be challenging during retirement. Discussing health issues with friends and support groups allows retirees to share coping strategies, provide encouragement, and stay informed about treatments, leading to better health outcomes.

Retirement itself is a significant life transition. Effective communication with friends, family, and fellow retirees helps manage this transition by sharing expectations, fears, and plans. This may include financial planning, new hobbies, or adjusting daily routines.

Open communication is crucial for emotional well-being. Retirees benefit from sharing struggles and seeking support from others who understand their experiences, alleviating loneliness and promoting mental health.

By maintaining open and honest communication, retirees can develop strategies to support each other through life's changes. This collaborative approach fosters resilience and ensures everyone's needs are considered and addressed.



Tips, best practices for protecting personal information

By Steven Taylor, Deputy Chief of Staff for Information Management

Given the rise of identity theft and data breaches, protecting your personal information is more important than ever. Identity theft and data breaches can have serious consequences, including financial loss and damage to your reputation. It's a shared responsibility between you and the agencies that handle your data. To safeguard your sensitive information, including Social Security records, OPM records, VA records, and other personal data, follow these steps:

- Be cautious when sharing your Social Security number or other personal information and only provide it when necessary.
- Monitor your credit reports and financial accounts regularly for suspicious activity.
- Use strong passwords and keep them confidential.
- Avoid using public computers or public Wi-Fi to access sensitive information.
- Shred or securely dispose of documents containing your personal information.
- Verify the identity of anyone requesting your personal information and only provide it to authorized individuals or organizations.
- Use secure methods to transmit personal information, such as encrypted email or secure online portals.
- Keep your personal information up-to-date and accurate and report any changes to the relevant authorities.
- Be aware of phishing scams and other cyberattacks that can compromise your personal information.

Additionally, familiarize yourself with laws like the Privacy Act of 1974, which protects your personal information. By following these tips and staying vigilant, you take control of your personal information and stay safe online.