

Vol. 6. Issue 7

July 31, 2025

U.S. ARMY BE ALL YOU CAN BE.

SHARP Pine Bluff Arsenal

24/7 SHARP Hotline 870-209-4093

PBA Safety Glance



Safety Element for fiscal year 2025 Lost Day Case Rate: 0.93 Award Goal: 0.95

- *Lost time injuries for fiscal year 2025 are four. There are one lost time injuries for July 2025.
- *Recordable injuries for fiscal year 2025 are 12. Recordable injuries is one for July 2025.
- *Pine Bluff Arsenal days without a lost time injury is 13.
- *Pine Bluff Arsenal days without a recordable injury is 13.
- *Estimated hours worked without a lost time injury: 43,387.

Mason takes command of PBA

By Rachel Selby

Col. Matthew C. Mason took command of Pine Bluff Arsenal July 10, during a morning ceremony at the Armed Forces Reserve Center outside the installation's main gate.

During a formal Change of Command ceremony, Mason assumed leadership from Col. Collin K. Keenan, who honorably served in command since April 13, 2023. Keenan is retiring from the Army after 36 years of service.

The Star-Spangled Banner was sung by Kylie Byrne, daughter of Roch and Diana Byrne. Roch Byrne is PBA's Deputy to the Commander. The invocation was offered by Billy Ray Ashcraft, director of PBA Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

During the ceremony, flags were passed from Joint Munitions Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher J. Reaves to Col. Keenan, then to JMC Commanding General Brig. Gen. Daniel J. Duncan and then to Col. Mason.

The passing of the flags signifies both the symbolic and official transition, and the change of responsibilities to the new commander. Duncan officiated the ceremony. Duncan was the presiding officer over the ceremony.

"What a wonderful day to be here at Pine Bluff – "America's Arsenal - for this ceremony as we honor the leadership of Col. Keenan and welcome Col. Mason," said Duncan, as he thanked and recognized

See MASON Page 4



Incoming commander Col. Matthew C. Mason takes the Pine Bluff Arsenal flag from U.S. Army Joint Munitions Command Commanding General Brig. Gen. Daniel J. Duncan during the change of command ceremony July 10 at the Armed Forces Reserve Center at Pine Bluff Arsenal. More photos from the ceremony and Col. Collin K. Keenan's farewell starting on Page 4. U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY LINNIE WEAR



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 Column

Leading the Charge

Embracing "Arsenal Ready" for the Future

I am truly honored to be joining you as your 42nd Commander. The energy and dedication I've already felt from this amazing Arsenal team are inspiring, especially as we navigate this pivotal moment in Army Transformation and Modernization. After 24 years in the Army, 10 moves and 12 different organizations, I can honestly say the people and community here are exceptional. Your kindness and professionalism have been incredibly welcoming, and they fuel my commitment to being the best possible leader for this organization and our community.

The exceptional people and enduring legacy I've already experienced here at PBA are a testament to your unwavering commitment to our Warfighters. For decades, "America's Arsenal" has consistently delivered critical capabilities - from essential munitions to cutting-edge defense systems - across every theater of operation. The evolving character of warfare requires us to continually refine our approach and anticipate future needs. To ensure PBA continues to serve as a vital asset, we must embrace a mindset of adaptability, resilience, and strategic preparedness - a mindset of being "Arsenal Ready."

As we move forward, change is the only constant. I have absolute confidence

READY



Col. Matthew C. Mason

in PBA's ability to adapt and overcome challenges. We have a proven track record of innovation and foresight, and I know we can deliver solutions that will shape the future of this Arsenal. This isn't change for change's sake; it's about ensuring PBA remains strategically resilient and aligned to support our nation's defense.

Throughout our remarkable history - from our vital role in WWII to the Cold War, the War on Terror, and now, preparing for large-scale combat operations - "America's Arsenal" has consistently risen to meet every challenge. We've evolved from chemical weapons destruction to sustaining the readiness of our Joint Warfighter, and today, we stand as one of only three arsenals in the Organic Industrial Base - a testament to your unparalleled expertise in munitions, chemical/biological defense, testing, evaluation,

and advanced textiles.

But our success isn't just about what we do, it's about how we do it. We must proactively evolve our capabilities to deliver the critical advantages our Warfighters need - today and tomorrow - to win our nation's wars. I know the expertise to achieve this resides within each of you.

The Organic Industrial Base is evolving rapidly, and PBA must be prepared to adapt to these changes. We will work to identify opportunities to shape the future, while remaining responsive to evolving priorities.

That's why I'm introducing the "Arsenal Ready" framework - a commitment to proactive preparation and delivering for our Warfighters. This isn't just a message campaign; it's a shared understanding of how we deliver, focused on the attributes that will empower us to improve and challenge the status quo. As Dwight D. Eisenhower observed, "Plans are useless, but planning is essential." Being "Arsenal Ready" means we anticipate, we adapt, and we overcome - recognizing that while circumstances will inevitably change, a commitment to continuous preparation is our greatest strength.

I challenge each of you from day to day, with your peers, your supervisors, and with me to ask yourselves: "Are we Arsenal Ready?" If the answer is anything less than a resounding "Yes!", let's work together to identify the obstacles and chart a course for change. Being prepared extends beyond these gates, relying on the unwavering support of our local community and leaders - partners who recognize the immense potential of this Arsenal.

The success of Pine Bluff Arsenal rests on the dedication and expertise of each one of you. That's why, as your Commander, my priority is to build a strong partnership - with you, valued community partners, and our Military leaders - to achieve remarkable results. I will be actively engaging with our customers, military leaders, and local officials in the coming weeks. But even more importantly, I will be making regular visits to your workplaces, not just to observe, but to listen, learn, and understand the challenges and triumphs you experience daily. You are the driving force behind our mission, and I am committed to supporting your success. I understand that there is uncertainty about the future, and I am committed to keeping you informed as we navigate these challenges to-

Let's seize this moment, embrace the challenge, and together, continue the proud legacy of "America's Arsenal!"

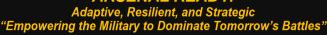
> "Right Today, Better Tomorrow"

"America's Arsenal, Arsenal Ready"

Army Regulation 360-1

AR 360-1 is the regulation that governs the release of public information. This includes what to release and how to release it to the public, non-releaseable subjects, and items that need to be clearned through public affairs channels prior to release. The Public Affairs Program is the overall responsibility of the Arsenal commander. Only the commander and his designated representatives are authorized to speak for the Pine Bluff Arsenal. The PAO acts as the liaison between the media and the installation. However, employees are encouraged to speak to civilian professional groups on matter in which the individual has personal knowledge and expertise. This should be coordinated with PAO. They shouldn't comment on military matters that are beyond their knowledge. Classified information won't be discussed.

ARSENAL READY:





- Accountability: Upholding responsibility for QUALITY, SAFETY, and MISSION READINESS.
 Readiness: Ensuring preparedness to deliver critical materials and support on time.
 Sustainment. Maintaining excellence in production, storage, testing & delivery of critical resources.
 Efficiency: Streamlining operations and adopting innovative technologies to maximize output.

- Participates: Streamining operations and adopting mirrovarive technologies to maximize output.
 Networks: Strengthening collaborations across the OIB, industry, military units, and Senior Leaders.
 Adaptability: Embracing change and evolving processes to meet future combat needs.
 Leadership: Driving modernization efforts and setting the standard for excellence in defense logistics
- Resilience: Building robust systems and infrastructure to sustain operations under any conditions.

- E Excellence: Striving for superior quality and innovation in every task.

 A Agility: Quickly adapting to shifting demands and operational requirements.

 D Dedication: Committing to the mission and exceeding expectations to support modernization goals.

 Y Yield: Delivering measurable results that enhance readiness and operational effectiveness.

"America's Arsenal - Arsenal Ready"

Arsenal Sentinel







Col. Matthew C. Mason, Commander Roch Byrne, Deputy to the Commander Cheryl Avery, Public Affairs Officer Rachel Selby, Sentinel Editor/Social Media Hugh Morgan, Photographer Kevin Wilson, Webmaster

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Change of Command 2025



Pine Bluff Arsenal Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason addresses the crowd during the Change of Command ceremony held July 10 at the Armed Forces Reserve Center. Mason is the Arsenal's 42nd commander. He comes to PBA from Camp Humphreys, Korea, where he was the Chief of CWMD Combined Joint Interagency Coordinaton Group, United States Joint Forces Korea and Combined Forces Command.

U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY <u>LINNIE WE</u>AR

PBA welcomes the 42nd Commander





Photo left, Col. Matthew C. Mason accepts the Pine Bluff Arsenal flag from Brig. Gen. Daniel J. Duncan, Joint Munitions Command Commanding General, during the Arsenal's Change of Command ceremony July 10.

Photo above, Pine Bluff Arsenal Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason and Joint Munition Command Commanding General Brig. Gen. Daniel J. Duncan, stand at attention during the traditional ceremony.

U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY HUGH MORGAN

Welcoming COL Mason and his Family to PBA



April Harris, Command Office administrative assistant, presents a bouquet of yellow roses to Jackie Mason, wife of Col. Matthew C. Mason, during the Change of Command ceremony. U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY HUGH MORGAN



Members of PBA Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason's family help him and his wife, Jackie (center), cut the cake during a reception following the change of command ceremony July 10. From left are Melanie Johns, Camryn Miller, Jackie Mason, Col. Matthew Mason, Jodie Holmes, Harper Holmes and Max Mason.



PBA Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason greets PBA leadership during the reception following the change of command cere-



MASON from Page 1

PBA individuals and organizations for making the ceremony happen. "To the outstanding PBA Workforce, thank you for your support of our leaders, the mission and contributions to our Warfighters. We at JMC are very proud of the work you do every day."

Duncan recognized Keenan for his outstanding leadership, skillful navigation of command oversight of Holston Army Ammunition Plant in Tennessee and Radford Army Ammunition Plant in Virginia and fostering of strong relationships locally.

"His engagement resulted in greater visibility for PBA and advanced the mission and role of the installation in supporting national defense," he said. "Collin, the impact you have had here will benefit not only this installation, but the community and the Army. I can't thank you enough for everything you have done. We extend our gratitude for your service and leadership and wish you and your family the best as you begin this new chapter."

Keenan addressed the crowd, saying it is always a beautiful day at Pine Bluff Arsenal

"It is an honor to be here and represent the incredible Workforce of over 550 strong. I am filled with gratitude and pride as I reflect on the journey we have shared together over the past two plus years," he said. "Our story is not just about munitions and missions — it is about people, commitment and unwavering support of the Joint Warfighter. PBA will continue to adapt, inno-

vate and ensure munitions readiness for the future."

The biggest lesson I've learned during my career is the Army is the ultimate team sport, said the outgoing commander. "PBA has some incredible partners across our mission space," he said. "The installation is fortunate to receive such incredible support from every corner of the military readiness enterprise."

Quoting President Theodore Roosevelt, "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are," Keenan said he has witnessed countless example of what true service looks like during the past two years.

"Every accomplishment we celebrate today is a testament to our Workforce's hard work, dedication and commitment to serving the Joint Warfighter," he said. "We have faced challenges - tight deadlines, shifting requirements and global uncertainties - but you met every obstacle with resilience and teamwork. To each and every one of you, thank you for your dedicated service, willingness to go the extra mile, belief in our mission and taking care of each other. The legacy of this command is written in your daily actions and your commitment to something greater than yourselves."

After 36 years of service to the world's greatest Army and the 27 months assigned to PBA, Keenan concluded with "this is Pine Six signing off the net, out."

Stepping to the podium, Mason said it was an honor to stand before everyone today David Beck, an Alderman with the City of White Hall, greets the new Pine Bluff Arsenal Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason and his wife, Jackie, during a reception following the Arsenal's Change of Command ceremony July 10, as Public Affairs Officer Cheryl Avery looks on. The ceremony was held at the Armed Forces Reserve Center outside Plainview Gate.

U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY HUGH MORGAN

as the next commander, and to become part of the White Hall and Pine Bluff community.

"I want to start by giving a resounding thanks to outgoing commander Col. Collin Keenan for his insightful and invaluable transition plan," he said. "Your dedication to this Arsenal, JMC, AMC, the local community and greater military, has been truly exceptional. We wish him the best in retirement."

Pine Bluff Arsenal has a remarkable history, said Mason, who is the Arsenal's 42nd commander.

"Today, we stand as one of only three arsenals in the Organic Industrial Base. A position earned through your expertise in munitions, chemical/biological defense and advanced textiles," he said. "The OIB is evolving, and PBA must be at the forefront of change."

Over the next six months, the new commander said he would be rolling out an "Arsenal Ready" campaign. "Our message campaign will not just be words, it will be a clear, shared understanding of why we do what we do," said Mason. "Being 'Arsenal Ready' extends beyond these gates."

The Arsenal's success is deeply intertwined with the support of our local community and leaders, said Mason.

"I look forward to building mutual trust and achieving positive results with all of you, the surrounding area, but most importantly for the Army and the Joint Force," he said. "Let's build our legacy and continue to deliver world-class sustainment that is second to none."

PBA says Farewell to COL Keenan





Col. Collin K. Keenan holds up a mini-pallet presented to him during a breakfast farewell hosted by Pine Bluff Arsenal's Directorate of Material Management. U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY RACHEL SELBY

Photo above, outgoing PBA Commander Col. Collin K. Keenan was all smiles during PBA's Change of Command ceremony. He was surrounded by family members, from left, mother-in-law-Martha Joyce Kamagwera, and father-in-law-Mwizerwa Mhayamaguru, daughter-Kylan Keenan, wife-Grace Keenan and Joint Munition Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher J. Reaves.

U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY LINNIE WEAR



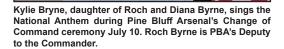


Photo above, outgoing Pine Bluff Arsenal Commander Col. Collin K. Keenan, center, poses for a photo with visiting family members following PBA's Change of Command ceremony July 10. From left are brother-in-law-Moses Mhayamaguru, sister-in-law-Marthe Nyiramaana, wife-Grace Keenan, niece-Olivia Nyiramaana, cousin-in-law-Ildephonse Gasongo, daughter-Kylan Keenan, mother-in-law-Martha Joyce Kamagwera, and father-in-law-Mwizerwa Mhayamaguru. U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY LINNIE WEAR

Photo left, Col. Collin K. Keenan entertains the crowd with a little music (backed by the band, Tragikly White) during PBA's Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation Red, White and Boom event July 9 on the PBA ball fields. The event was a farewell send off to the outgoing commander. It was attended by lots of family members and members of the PBA Workforce. Bouncy houses and food trucks were also available during the event. Fireworks capped off the evening event. U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY RACHEL SELBY

Change of Command 2025





Pine Bluff Arsenal Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason speaks during Pine Bluff Arsenal's Change of Command ceremony July 10. Mason talked about the Arsenal's remarkable history. "I know we have the Workforce, expertise and motivation and drive to do more," he said during his speech. "The Organic Industrial Base is evolving, and PBA must be at the forefront of change." He talked about the "Arsenal Ready" campaign, which is explained further in his Commander's Column on Page 2.

U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY LINNIE WEAR, HUGH MORGAN AND RACHEL SELBY



Photo above, the cake was already being enjoyed at the Change of Command reception for incoming Pine Bluff Arsenal Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason.



Photo above, members of Pine Bluff Arsenal's Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation greeted members of the community and Workforce during the Change of Command reception July 10. From left are Brent Webber, Melanie Tallent, Stephen Kelley and Branson Lockhart.

Change of Command 2025







Photo above, members of the White Hall High School JROTC color guard post the colors during Pine Bluff Arsenal's Change of Command ceremony.

Photo left, Billy Ray Ashcraft, director of PBA's Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation directorate, leads a prayer during the ceremony.

U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY HUGH MORGAN

Members of the White Hall High School JROTC color guard receive a certificate of appreciate from Joint Munitions Command Commanding General Brig. Gen. Daniel J. Duncan and Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher J. Reaves, for their posting of flags during Pine Bluff Arsenal's Change of Command Ceremony.





Top photo, from left, Justin Lieber, Pine Bluff Arsenal Director of Business Operations and Planning, Larry Wright, consultant with the City of White Hall and former PBA Deputy to the Commander, White Hall Mayor Noel Foster and White Hall Deputy Mayor Jeff May, pay respects to the flag during the Arsenal's Change of Command Ceremony July 10.

Photo left, outgoing PBA commander Col. Collin K. Keenan addreses the crowd during Pine Bluff Arsenal's Change of Command ceremony at the Armed Forces Reserve Center.

U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY LINNIE WEAR

DPW Spotlight



Brad Dobbins and Lucas Dickson, both with Pine Bluff Arsenal's Directorate of Public Works pull cat tails and other grasses from the waste plant ponds. U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY DPW

Blood Drive

The recent blood drive, held July 17, results in the following:

- * Four double red cells.
- *12 whole blood units.





Photo left, Michael "Wally" Hunt was presented an Achievement Medal for Civilian Service by Pine Bluff Arsenal Commander Col. Collin K. Keenan July 7. Hunt was presented the award for his outstanding technical initative during the Emergency Operations Center reconfiguration, and his efforts to help increase EOC efficiency and functionality. U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY HUGH MORGAN AND RACHEL SELBY





Photo above, Justin Small-wood, Blake Henson, Donny Pumphrey and Mark Throne-berry, with Pine Bluff Arsenal's Directorate of Public Works helps set up for Tragikly White, the band who played at MWR's Red, White and Boom celebration and farewell to Col. Collin K. Keenan.

Photo left, Justin Smallwood and Blake Henson carry speakers to the stage during the band set up on the Arsenal's parade fields July 9, in preparation for MWR's Red, Whie and Boom celebration.

U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY DPW

Certificates presented

Photo right, Marilyn Dirks was selected as the Directorate of Chemical and Biological Defense Operations-Quality Managment Division Employee of the Quarter for Third Quarter. Dirks is dedicated to the mission she serves, while currently providing quality support for projects in the Mobile Powered Division such as the D26 diesel engines and other projects such CIDAS, CPDEPMEDS, smoke generators and small grenade launchers. She is a team player with a keen focus on quality and a positive can do attitude.



EAP Corner

The Bittersweet end of summer

Courtesy of Pine Bluff Arsenal Army Substance Abuse Program/Employee Assistance Program Office

As the days grow shorter and the warmth of summer begins to fade, most people start to feel a pang of sadness.

The high temperatures, beach days, and late sunsets that define the season are slipping away, replaced by the inevitable march towards cooler weather and longer nights.

For many, this transition brings mixed emotions, especially in regions where winter means months of cold, wet, and dreary days. Students and teachers feel the weight of returning to school, marking the end of care free days and the start of structured routines.

The NFL Season: A fan's journey

For an NFL fan, the end of summer is indeed bittersweet, but the sweetness far outweighs the bitterness. We say goodbye to sunny days and outdoor barbecues, but in return we get to embark on a journey filled with touchdowns, nail-biting finishes, and hope this could finally be our team's year.

The escape from reality

As much as we love summer, there's something about the football season that offers a unique escape. The game itself provides a reprieve from the daily grind, a chance to lose ourselves in the strategy, the drama, and the sheer athleticism on display.

For those of us who also follow other sports, the NFL season fills a void that's been there since the NBA and NHL finals wrap ped up in June. Baseball's still in mid-season, but there's nothing quite like the intensity and unpredictability of football.

The sweetness of the season

The end of summer is bittersweet. We will miss the long days and warm nights, but the start of the football season makes it all worthwhile. It's a time when hope springs eternally, where every fan can believe that this year, things will be different.

As we settle into our game day routines, surrounded by friends and family, we're reminded while summer may be over, the best part of the year is just beginning.

For NFL fans, the start of the season is more than just a continuation of the calendar, it's the beginning of a journey that will take us through the highs and lows of competition, all the way to



NAME OFF SYM THE BITTERSWEET END OF SUMMER R M S 0 S R F N П 0 W U G UF C 0 QNKGOMFWF BITTER SWEET SUMMER END FOOTBALL SEASON SADNESS REALITY ESCAPE SWEETNESS SCHOOL TRANSITION **EMOTIONS**

the Super Bowl. That's something worth celebrating even if it means saying goodbye to summer (*Humby, Chris, 2024*).

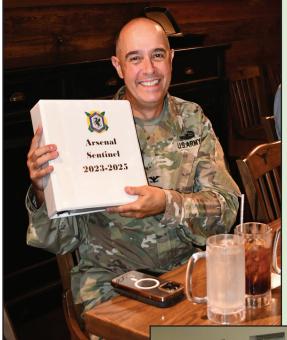
Pine Bluff Arsenal's Army Substance Abuse Program/ Employee Assistance Program, (ASAP/EAP) staff are here to help, if you are feeling sad. We offer you a safe and confidential place to discuss concerns, challenges, and strategies for managing difficulties in your life. We are located in Building 13-040 and can be reached at 870-540-3094. The Care line number is (870) 550-2653.

Brandy Aaron, who works for Pine Bluff Arsenal's Directorate of Chemical and Biological Defense-Textiles Production, shared this photo from the Arsenal's Red, White and Boom event honoring outgoing commander, Col. Collin K. Keenan. This is Aaron's grandson, Jasper, standing against a backdrop of fireworks, during the event held July 9.

U.S. ARMY PHOTO SUBMITTED BY BRANDY AARON



PBA says Farewell to COL Keenan



Col. Collin K. Keenan proudly displays a binder filled with all of the Arsenal Sentinels from his time at Pine Bluff Arsenal. This was presented to him during a farewell dinner at Colton's at White Hall. Participants were employees working in the Headquarters building. The binder was presented to Keenan from the Public Affairs Office.

U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY RACHEL SELBY

Col. Collin K. Keenan gives his thumbs up to the lunch farewell given by the Arsenal's Directorate of Information Management.

U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY HUGH MORGAN





Col. Collin K. Keenan speaks to members of the Directorate of Material Management Workforces during a breakfast they gave in his honor during July.

The Arsenal's Change of Command was held July 10.

U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY RACHEL SELBY



Lt. Col. (Dr.) Nina Rodriguez was promoted June 18 at a ceremony at Pine Bluff Arsenal's Training Center. Above, her husband, helped put her new rank on her uniform. Rodriguez also recently departed the Arsenal's Occupational Health Clinic. She assumed the duties of Chief Medical Officer at the clinic in August 2022. U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY RACHEL SELBY

MWR Strongman Competition



Pine Bluff Arsenal's Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation held a Strongman event in late June. According to Geraldine "Gigi" Robinson (pictured far left), the event was well received and supported. Participants pictured above from left are Ron Rucker, Clay Bewley and Adam Gibson. Gibson was the winner for the 18 to 34 year-old group, lifting a total of 1330 lbs. Rucker was the winner for the 35 to 49 year-old group, lifting a total of 1350 lbs. Bewely lifted 1260 lbs. U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY HUGH MORGAN

BEALL YOU CAN BE.