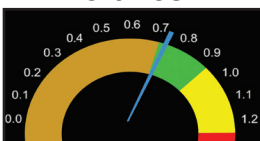




**Pine Bluff
Arsenal
24/7 SHARP
Hotline
870-209-4093**

PBA Safety Glance



**Safety Element for
fiscal year 2025
Lost Day Case Rate: 0.77
Award Goal: 0.95**

*Lost time injuries for fiscal year 2025 are four. There is zero lost time injuries for September 2025.

*Recordable injuries for fiscal year 2025 are 12. Recordable injuries is none for September 2025.

*Pine Bluff Arsenal days without a lost time injury is 69.

*Pine Bluff Arsenal days without a recordable injury is 69.

*Estimated hours worked without a lost time injury: 215,850.



Mason reflects on service, sacrifice at 9/11 event



Flanked by the American and Arkansas flag, Pine Bluff Arsenal Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason speaks during the City of Pine Bluff's 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony Sept. 11. The event was held on the plaza at the city's Civic Center, and was attended by city officials, Arsenal leadership, police and fire department personnel, first responders, students and area citizens. U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY HUGH MORGAN

By Rachel Selby

During his first public speaking engagement as the commander, Pine Bluff Arsenal Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason told the crowd, "Despite the efforts 24 years ago to destroy the American spirit, the country stands strong and unbroken".

This was his message at the City of Pine Bluff's 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony held Sept. 11, on the plaza of the city's Civic Center, surrounded by city and Arsenal leadership, fire and police department personnel, first responders, students, and area citizens.

As she greeted the crowd, Pine Bluff Mayor Vivian L. Flowers paid tribute to Petty Officer Nehamon Lyons, IV, a Pine Bluff native, who died in the 9-11 attacks.

"We paused to pay tribute to one of our own. His courage, service and ultimate sacrifice reflect the best of who we are as a people," she said. "His legacy lives on in the hearts of his family, his friends, and this city, who are so proud to call him ours. May his memory inspire us to serve with compassion, to stand together as one and never forget the cost of freedom."

We must remember the price of democracy, said Flowers. "Our Armed Service men and women are important and critical to not only our safety, our power and to our democracy. Thank you for being here."

The presentation of colors was presented by the Pine Bluff High School JROTC. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by Madilyn Curry from Friendship Aspire Academy, and the national anthem was sung by Jalese Allen with Watson Chapel High School Choir. The invocation was delivered by Amelio Howard, pastor of Temple Grace Church and the Director of

See 9-11 Page 4

West Point parka is next item on PBA textile list

By Rachel Selby

Pine Bluff Arsenal's Directorate of Chemical and Biological Defense Operations, Textiles and Protective Clothing production, has begun work on a new garment: wool parkas for the U.S. Army Military Academy at West Point, located in West Point, N.Y.

This project adds yet another diverse item to PBA's growing portfolio of textile production. Since its inception in 2015, when initial

groundwork and research began to establish industrial textile capabilities at PBA, both capacity and product variety have expanded. Additional personnel have joined the production line, and new equipment has been added, including a Gerber cutter, embroidery machine, heat transfer machine and industrial sewing machines.

The Arsenal received a Center of Industrial and Technical Excellence certification

for textile manufacturing in April 2022.

"West Point has its own sewing facility and called us because their fabric cutter broke. They were behind in making some uniform pants," said Jason Fullen, chief of the Chemical and Biological Division. "They initially contacted Justin Lieber, Director of PBA's Business Operations and Planning, to ask if Pine Bluff could help with some fabric cutting."

Greg Brown, West Point

project manager, visited PBA with sample fabric and project files, Fullen said.

"We demonstrated we could cut the fabric to specifications. During our conversation, he mentioned the enormous workload and backlog at their sewing facility", Fullen said.

"That's when we started discussing the parkas. About two weeks later, they asked

See PARKA Page 4

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

Accountability at Pine Bluff Arsenal

A Shared Responsibility - and a Commitment from Your Commander

Through recent *Arsenal Sentinel's* (July and August), I've highlighted our "Arsenal Ready" campaign, discussed our need for a "change mindset", and outlined our efforts to shape Senior Leader decisions regarding the Organic Industrial Base – specifically, how Pine Bluff Arsenal will evolve from the "Arsenal of Yesterday" to the "Arsenal of Tomorrow."

Continuing this theme, this month's focus is on reinforcing a culture of ownership and accountability. This foundation underscores the critical link between individual actions and overall mission success, demanding commitment from all levels of the workforce.

As Bill Belichick aptly stated, particularly fitting during football season: "Everyone has a role to play. It's not about one player; it's about all of us doing our job."

The capability we deliver to the Warfighter is paramount, and accountability is central to ensuring quality, safety, and mission readiness – all core tenets of being "Arsenal Ready."

Ensuring the quality, safety, and mission readiness of our products and people is not merely a procedural requirement; it is a moral imperative. As we navigate the evolving landscape of the Organic Industrial Base, a renewed focus on accountability is critical. This accountability is reciprocal, flowing from leadership to the Workforce and back again. Every member of the PBA team plays a vital role in upholding the standards we and our Warfighters deserve.

Accountability at Pine Bluff Arsenal means each of us – from production floor personnel to leadership – taking ownership of our respective roles and responsibilities.

Production teams are accountable for the quality and safety of their work, supervisors for guiding and supporting their teams, and management for ensuring resources and processes enable success.



Col. Matthew C. Mason

My Commitment to You – and to Accountability

As your Commander, I take full and unwavering accountability for the performance of our current and future mission sets, as well as the well-being of Pine Bluff Arsenal and all its people. I believe effective leadership is not only about direction from the top, but about actively listening, learning, and aligning our vision with the Workforce.

To that end, I prioritized gathering your feedback through the recent pulse survey, and I personally reviewed every comment submitted. I am currently drafting thoughtful responses to your concerns and questions, which will be shared during small group discussions – in a town hall/listening session format – throughout October and November.

You may wonder why these discussions are scheduled for October and November, rather than immediately. As your new Commander, I am completing a 90-day assessment of Pine Bluff Arsenal, informed by the current environment, opportunities for the future environment, changes within the organic industrial base, guidance from Headquarters, Department of the Army, and – most importantly – my own observations here at PBA. My 90-day assessment concludes on October 10.

I want to ensure my

assessment is complete and reviewed by my leadership before presenting it to you. Scheduling our discussions in October and November will allow me to fully engage with you, share my findings, and hopefully incorporate feedback from AMC's own OIB assessment which should be wrapped up soon. Building trust requires transparency, and sharing information is fundamental to that process.

Furthermore, the Department of Defense Organizational Cli-

insights are critical to ensuring I set a vision, establish priorities, and make decisions that reflect the realities and needs of the entire team.

As we look ahead to October, I also want to share a personal note. My wife and I are avid Halloween enthusiasts, and decorating is one of our favorite hobbies.

We are incredibly excited about the upcoming Pine Bluff Arsenal Fall Fest and the decorating contest! Consider this a friendly challenge – we look

forward to seeing your creativity and attempting to outdo our decorations on Oct. 30, 2025, at the Plainview Soccer Field. Here is a taste of what you're up against! ([See photo below!](#))

Bring on the spooky spirit!

Let us continue to work together to build a stronger, more resilient, and more accountable Pine Bluff Arsenal – one that consistently delivers the critical capabilities our Warfighters need to succeed.



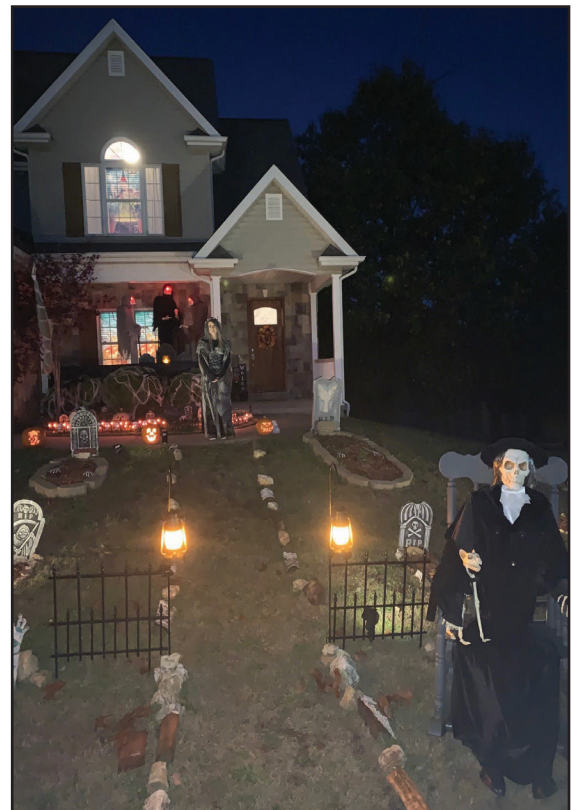
surveysdrc.com/DEOCS

mate Survey (DEOCS) is now open. I strongly encourage your participation. Your honest and candid feedback – positive, negative, or neutral – is absolutely vital. You can take the survey from your personnel devices through a QR code, and it should take no longer than 20 minutes to complete.

I've also been intentionally engaging with many of you directly through one-on-one conversations and small group interactions (and I will continue to reach out to those I haven't yet connected with).

Delivering birthday cards and connecting with the Workforce is a particularly rewarding experience, reinforcing my deep respect for your dedication. In fact, those days are the most enjoyable of my command, and I truly value each of your conversations and time.

I cannot fully execute my role as your Commander – and build a truly accountable organization – without your input. Your



Paylor steps into chief position

By Rachel Selby

Debbie Paylor has been named the Compliance Division Chief for Pine Bluff Arsenal's Directorate of Information Management. She continues to perform her duties as the Information Systems Security Manager (ISSM) for the installation.

"Once the hiring freeze is lifted, I am hoping we can get someone hired as the ISSM," she said. "We are currently doing some cross-training in several areas of our directorate. Supervisory functions like processing time and attendance, DPMAP, ensuring compliance with Operations/Task Orders/ IAVA's to maintain a strong cyber security posture, oversight of projects, Central Region convergence, as well as taking a holistic approach to personnel development, building morale, and managing my 10-person team, are new. As the Information Systems Security Manager, I manage all the installation's cybersecurity and information security. I have been pulled in on various management functions over the years for my expertise in certain areas."

A native of Dermott, Ark., Paylor has been at the Arsenal for 36 years. She graduated as Dermott High School's valedictorian in 1981, and attended college at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway, Ark.

"I have a bachelor's degree in computer science. Most of



Debbie Paylor

the things they taught back then – the various machine languages – are obsolete now," she said.

DOIM Director Amelio Howard said Paylor is a "proven leader" in a recent email announcing the change.

"She has many years of information management experience at the Arsenal, and brings a recognized track record of knowledge, experience, leadership and interpersonal skills to the chief position," he said. "I look forward to working with Ms. Paylor in her new leadership role."

Paylor worked at Simmons Bank following college before coming to the Arsenal.

"I couldn't get a foothold anywhere else with my degree at the time," she said. "A friend called me and told me about a computer position out here. She encouraged me to take the Civil Service exam and apply. I was hired in August 1989."

Paylor also received a Certified Information Security Manager (CISM) certification in 2010.

"Information technology certifications carry a lot more weight these days. I try to encourage the younger people working today to get the IT certifications, even if they have a degree or don't have a degree," she said.



Don't get caught dead smoking in a non-permitted area. U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY CALEB WALKER, SAFETY DIVISION

NEW

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*All cases based on need
**Applicants will no longer have to contact Red Cross

Hails and Farewells

Michael D. Creggett, Sr., Security Guard, has joined the Directorate of Emergency Services.

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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ARSENAL READY:
Adaptive, Resilient, and Strategic
"Empowering the Military to Dominate Tomorrow's Battles"

A - Accountability: Upholding responsibility for **QUALITY, SAFETY, and MISSION READINESS**

R - Readiness: Ensuring preparedness to deliver critical materials and support on time.

S - Sustainment: Maintaining excellence in production, storage, testing & delivery of critical resources.

E - Efficiency: Streamlining operations and adopting innovative technologies to maximize output.

N - Networks: Strengthening collaborations across the OIB, industry, military units, and Senior Leaders.

A - Adaptability: Embracing change and evolving processes to meet future combat needs.

L - Leadership: Driving modernization efforts and setting the standard for excellence in defense logistics.

R - 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"

9-11 from Page 1

Information Management at Pine Bluff Arsenal.

"It is my honor to introduce Col. Matthew C. Mason," said Flowers. "The Arsenal plays a critical role in supporting America's Joint Warfighter. Since his commissioning, Mason has built an exceptional career with various assignments spanning from Fort Bragg, N.C., to deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan, and senior leadership roles in Korea and at Army Futures Command in Texas. He is an accomplished scholar and has many awards and decorations. Please join me in welcoming a proven leader, scholar, and warrior."

Mason thanked the mayor for her introduction.

"I never liked being talked about, but I appreciate it. The bar has been set high," he said. "I don't know if I can top everything that has happened so far this morning. It is a distinct honor being here today, and I want to extend my gratitude to Mayor Flowers and the City of Pine Bluff for this gracious invitation on this solemn and meaningful occasion."

"We gather in unity today on Patriot Day – our National Day of Remembrance," Mason said. "This day serves as a powerful reminder of the strength, resilience and unwavering spirit that binds us together as a nation," he said. "We not only remember and honor the ones who perished on that fateful day 24-years ago but also remember the first responders who rushed towards danger and those that continue to carry the weight of that loss. We pay solemn tribute to all who have given since that time – both military and Civilian."

The Arsenal commander said our world has been forever changed.

"As we mark this anniversary, we reaffirm our character as a nation, our faith in one another and our legacy as a country strengthened by service and selflessness. Among the thousands of lives lost, we remember one of Pine Bluff's own – Operations Specialist Second Class Nehamon Lyons IV, United States Navy. He was among the 184 souls who died at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. He was just 30 years old," said Mason.

"His loss was deeply felt here in Pine Bluff and serves as a stark reminder this community was touched by this national tragedy. He stands with the brave men and women - Civilians, first responders and service members - who gave their lives that day, and in the years to follow. Today, we honor Nehamon and all those who answered the call – in uniform and in quiet acts of heroism."

In the wake of 9-11, a new generation answered the call to serve, said Mason.

"A generation of volunteers dedicated to protecting the freedoms so brutally attacked," he said. "I remember the time vividly; I was a senior in college and just weeks from graduation and commissioning as a second lieutenant. The attacks fundamentally altered my perspective and ultimately the course of my life."

He said witnessing the unity of the Nation in the days and weeks following the attacks, inspired him to dedicate his career to serving.

"It was a defining moment solidifying my commitment to a life of service," said Mason. "On the evening of 9-11, a candlelight vigil was organized outside the Arsenal's gates. Families, city officials, Veterans and school-age children gathered holding candles like beacons of hope. Volunteers brought food, hand-written notes, and drawings of encouragement for the Arsenal staff. Flags were gently waved reminding us patriotism is not just a word – it's an action. It is a promise to stand by one another in times of crisis."

Through it all, there is one constant – the Army and the Nation are about its people, said the Arsenal commander.

"We stand behind our Soldiers and their Families, beside our Wounded Warriors as they heal and beside the Families who grieve the loss of those who served this Nation. We have faced profound challenges since 9-11 and will face more in years to come. Today, we honor those we have lost but their spirit lives on in us," he said. "Today, let us reaffirm our confidence in the values that define us as Americans. We must never lose sight of the liberties that make us a beacon of hope, the diversity that strengthens us and the unity and commitment to one another. We remember, we honor and endure."



Brandy Aaron, a textile production worker, adjusts and measures the pockets on a West Point parka.

Pine Bluff Arsenal's Directorate of Chemical and Biological Defense Operations, Production Division - specifically textiles production - is currently working on producing 600+ parkas for the military academy, located in New York.

U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY RACHEL SELBY

Wonder what that "29" on the United States Military Academy - West Point parka stands for? That is the class year the cadet will graduate. The heavy wool parkas are currently being produced on the Arsenal's textile production line.



A rack of completed West Point Military Academy parkas hang ready for quality inspections and final approvals.

PARKA from Page 1

for help with the parkas. This all came together at the end of July/beginning of August, so it has been a quick turnaround."

West Point, founded in 1802, is the nation's first and oldest military academy. The academy trains cadets to become officers in the U.S. Army through a rigorous four-year program focused on developing leaders of character.

There have been some challenges said Fullen.

"There was a delay in receiving the fabric, and some damage occurred during shipping. It's also a different material for our production workers to handle because it is a thick wool," he said.

"In addition to the parkas,

"We're working six-days a week. We've brought in additional sewers, including staff from administrative and other roles, to help complete the project on time."

there has been discussions about possibly producing some matching trousers. But first, we need to get through this project."

Approximately 600-plus parkas are scheduled for production.

"We're working six-days a week. We've brought in additional sewers, including staff from administrative and other roles, to help complete the project on time," Fullen said. "The people we've brought in have really enjoyed it. It's something different from their everyday work."

John Burkhead, director of Chemical and Biological Defense, said the project stemmed from earlier conversations with Army Materiel Command.

"Justin and I met with Army Sustainment Command earlier this year to discuss textile projects with West Point. We even planned a trip to visit their facility in New York," said Burkhead.

"The trip didn't happen, but West Point reached out when their cutter went down. This is a great opportunity for PBA and the textile line."

EAP Corner

Life Is A Puzzle, Solve It Drug Free

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

"Life is a Puzzle, Solve it Drug Free" is the powerful message this year for Red Ribbon Week. It is about making positive choices contributing to a healthier, drug-free community.

This theme symbolizes how every choice we make fits into the bigger picture just like a puzzle coming together. Living drug-free helps build a stronger, brighter future, one piece at a time. This year, Red Ribbon Week is Oct. 23-31.

Red Ribbon Week started in 1988 in response to the murder of Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Special Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena. In 1985, Kiki Camarena was on assignment in Guadalajara, Mexico when he was kidnapped and killed by drug traffickers. Enrique "Kiki" Camarena was a U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration Agent working in Guadalajara, Mexico in the 1980s.

On Feb. 7, 1985, Camarena, a former Marine on the trail of a multimillion-dollar drug trafficking operation, was abducted by five armed men who forced him into a car as he left his office to meet his wife for lunch.

It was later determined that Camarena, 37, was killed by his kidnappers. DEA agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena was abducted by armed men on Feb. 7, 1985, and later killed, inspiring the campaign now known as Red Ribbon Week.

Shocked and heartbroken, friends and neighbors mourned the violent slaying by wearing red satin badges, and "Camarena Clubs" popped up at schools in Kiki's hometown of Calexico. Meanwhile, parents formed coalitions to stand against drug and alcohol abuse, and some of them adopted the red ribbon as a symbol of the DEA agent's sacrifice and a pledge to pursue drug-free lives.

The movement gained national attention when club members presented the "Camarena Club Proclamation" to first lady Nancy Reagan.

Communities in California, Illinois and Virginia started encouraging students to wear red ribbons in late October, and by 1988 the National Family Partnership had organized the first national Red Ribbon Week. The eight-day event was formally chaired by President Ronald Reagan and the first lady.

Henry Lozano, Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of USA Freedom Corps from 2007-2008, helped to launch Red Ribbon Week in 1985. In 1985, Lozano, along with the Californians for Drug-Free Youth Board of Directors, created the first Statewide Red Ribbon Campaign in memory of Camarena, his high school friend.

In 1988, NFP sponsored the first National Red Ribbon Celebration. Today, the Red Ribbon serves as a catalyst to mobilize communities to educate youth and encourage participation in drug prevention activities. Since that time, the campaign has reached millions of U.S. children and families.

Red Ribbon Week is the largest program of its kind in the nation, encouraging students to pursue healthy, drug-free lives. It was established in 1988, but a new theme is unveiled every year, prompting schools to organize youth forums, health lessons, Spirit Day events, role-playing skits, art projects and other activities.

Always remember, the ASAP/EAP staff are here to support and help you on your journey. We are in Building 13-040 and can be reached at 870-540-3094. The Careline number is 870-550-2653.

NAME _____ OFF SYM _____

Life is a Puzzle, Solve it Drug Free

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C	C	V	Y	T	C	W	O	Y	T	T	Q	F	R	P	Z	B	Z	F	P

PUZZLE	PIECES	FREE
DRUG	POSITIVE	LIFE
SOLVE	ALCOHOL	MOVEMENT
ENCOURAGING	CAMPAIGN	COMMUNITIES
RIBBON		

**LIFE IS A
PUZZLE,
SOLVE IT
DRUG
FREE**

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RED RIBBON CAMPAIGN

NATIONAL FAMILY PARTNERSHIP 2025 National Red Ribbon Theme

PBA Occupational Health Clinic gets new doctor

By Rachel Selby

Capt. (Dr.) Anthony P. Gulotta assumed the duties of chief medical officer at Pine Bluff Arsenal's Occupational Health Clinic in late July, from Lt. Col. (Dr.) Nina Rodriguez. Rodriguez was promoted and departed the Arsenal simultaneously during that time.

Originally from Emmaus, Pa., Gulotta comes to PBA following a two-year assignment at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md.

"I usually tell people I am from a city south of Allentown, Pa., because they are more familiar with that city," he said. "I was also at the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences in Bethesda, Md. We get a Master of Public Health degree the first eight months and the next 16-months are spent doing clinical rotations."

Gulotta, who attended civilian medical school at the Philadelphia (Pa.) College of Osteopathic Medicine, said he is currently focused on general occupational medicine.

"Eventually, I would like to pursue a medical toxicology fellowship," he said. "This is something I am interested in. I like learning about chemistry and how it interacts with the body. I took a toxicology course, so that is what sparked my interest."

He said he believes he was one of the youngest to go through the occupational health program.

"It has changed now because you can apply as a medical student. When I applied, you had to do at least an intern year. Most people do a completely different type of residency, or they do what they call a general medical officer tour where they go out with other units for a few years," said Gulotta.

"I was fortunate because I was able to just do my intern (or transitional) year at Brooke



Capt. (Dr.) Anthony Gulotta

Army Medical Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston in Texas and then matched my program at Walter Reed."

PBA's new doctor said the purpose of the transitional year is to give residents a broad range of clinical experiences.

"This helps build a solid foundation in medicine and prepares us for more specific specialties," he said. "During the year, I completed educational rotations in dermatology, family medicine, internal medicine, ophthalmology, pathology, pediatrics, trauma surgery and emergency medicine. After the intern year, I started my formal residency training in occupational and environmental medicine at Walter Reed."

Gulotta, who was commissioned in November 2018, said he initially considered joining the Marine Corp out of college.

"As I got further along in my education, I was always trying to determine how I could fuse my desire to serve in the military and my medical interests," he said. "I found this scholarship called the Health Professional Scholarship Program. I was able to commission as an officer with a pledge to serve as an Army physician when I completed my education."

His civilian education also includes attending the University of Scranton in Scranton,

Pa., where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology with minors in Biochemistry and Philosophy; and Villanova University in Villanova, Pa., where he earned a Master of Science in biology with a focus on molecular genetics.

Gulotta resides on PBA. He said it is a big change coming from the busy Washington, D.C. area.

"I love it so far. It is quiet. I get good sleep," he said. "As far as hobbies are concerned, I like to read and write. I like baseball and physical fitness like hiking and weightlifting. I read a lot of the classics like the Bronte sisters and Charles Dickens. I have started getting into historical books recently and just picked up a book about Teddy Roosevelt."

Coming to PBA right out of residency provides a lot of the "bread and butter" of occupational medicine clinical encounters, Gulotta said.

"This is not only beneficial, but it is interesting," he said. "I assist with pre-employment clinical exams, and I also do the surveillance exams. These help the employees stay safe from year to year. The clinical encounters are more dynamic here — especially with members of the Workforce who work with different chemicals and in different environments."

Gulotta said all the medical leadership he spoke with told him Pine Bluff Arsenal would be a great first billet.

"They said I would get the fundamental occupational medicine encounters but that I would also see some unique medicine," he said.

"It is rewarding to come here because of all the important work done with the items produced here. All the history is fascinating too. I'm happy to be here."



Brig. Gen. Dan Duncan, the commander of U.S. Army Joint Munitions Command, passes the command flag to Command Sgt. Maj. Paul "PJ" Ellis during a change of responsibility ceremony held Sept. 19 at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill. U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY SHAWN ELDRIDGE, JMC

New CSM joins JMC

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL, Ill. — Christopher "Chris" Reaves relinquished his responsibilities as the command sergeant major of the Joint Munitions Command to Paul "PJ" Ellis during a change of responsibility ceremony Sept. 19, inside Heritage Hall at the Rock Island Arsenal.

"Serving as the command sergeant major of JMC has been one of the greatest honors of my career," Reaves said. "This team is the backbone of munitions readiness, and I'm proud of what we've accomplished together. I leave knowing the mission is in capable hands."

Reaves, who is from Greenwood, Miss., assumed responsibility in May 2023, and the event marked the conclusion of his time with JMC and the beginning of Ellis' tenure.

"Command Sgt. Maj. Reaves has been a steadfast pillar of leadership, integrity, and commitment. His tenure here at JMC has been defined by unwavering support for fellow Soldiers and the members of our workforce," said Brig. Gen. Dan Duncan, JMC's commander. "His leadership has left a lasting imprint on this command. He has led with humility, mentored with purpose, and served with honor."

Ellis, born in Jamaica and raised in Queens, N.Y., has carved a path defined by resilience, adaptability, and distinction. His journey has taken him from tugboat operations to airborne units, movement control teams, and elite special operations forces. Before joining JMC, Ellis, who enlisted in the Army in August 1999, served as the G-3/5/7 Sergeant Major, Combined Arms Support Command, Fort Lee, Va.

"Command Sgt. Maj. Ellis' leadership philosophy is simple yet powerful: 'Dominate your space,' and 'Be one percent better than you were the previous day,'" Duncan said. "These aren't just slogans. They're a reflection of a mindset that values growth, accountability, and impact."

Ellis, who has earned an Associate of Arts in general studies and a Bachelor of Science in liberal arts from Liberty University, Lynchburg, Va. and a Master of Arts in management and leadership from Webster University, St. Louis, Mo.

"It is an honor and a privilege to be selected as the command sergeant major of the Joint Munitions Command," Ellis said. "I thank God for guiding my steps to this moment. Without his hand, I would not stand before you today."

Ellis had impactful words for the members of JMC's workforce.

"The Joint Munitions Command has always stood ready, reliable, and lethal. From the industrial base that powers our Army to the depots and arsenals that sustain the fight, your work has written history," Ellis said. "Every round produced. Every shipment moved. Every lot inspected. Those actions save lives on the battlefield and give Soldiers confidence that when they pull the trigger, their weapon will not fail them."

"That is why you exist. That is your calling, and that does not change," Ellis added.

BE ALL YOU CAN BE.

Arsenal set to recognize Fire Prevention Week in October

Courtesy of Directorate of Emergency Services, Fire and Emergency Services Division

Pine Bluff Arsenal's Directorate of Emergency Services observes Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 5-11, 2025.

The history of National Fire Prevention Week has its roots in the Great Chicago Fire, which occurred on October 9, 1871. This tragic conflagration killed 300 people, left 100,000 homeless, and destroyed more than 17,000 structures. Ever since its occurrence, the origin of the fire has generated speculation, with fact and fiction becoming blurred over the years.

One popular legend has it that Mrs. Catherine O'Leary was milking her cow when the animal kicked over the lantern, setting the O'Leary's barn on fire, and starting the spectacular blaze. However, the massive fire began; it swiftly took its toll, burning more than 2,000 acres in 27 hours. The city of Chicago quickly rebuilt, however, and within a couple of years, residents began celebrating their successful restoration by memorializing the anniversary of the fire with festivities.

Intending to observe the fire anniversary with a more serious commemoration, the Fire Marshals Association of North America (FMANA), the oldest section of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), decided that the 40th anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire should be observed not with festivities, but in a way that would keep the public informed about the importance of fire prevention. On October 9, 1911, FMANA sponsored the first National Fire Prevention Day.

In 1920, President Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation. Moreover, every year since 1925, the president of the United States has signed the proclamation pronouncing the Sunday-through-Saturday period in which October 9 falls a national observance.

For 70 years, the nonprofit NFPA has officially sponsored and selected the theme for the national commemoration of Fire Prevention Week, honoring the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire and using the events to increase awareness of the dangers of fire.

When President Calvin Coolidge proclaimed the first National Fire Prevention Week, October 4-10, 1925, he noted that in the previous year some 15,000 lives were lost to fire in the United States.

Calling this loss "startling," President Coolidge's proclamation stated, "This waste results from conditions which justify a sense of shame and horror; for the greater part of it could and ought to be prevented...It is highly desirable that every effort be made to reform the conditions which have made possible so vast a destruction of the national wealth."

According to the National Archives and Records Administration's Library Information Center, Fire Prevention Week is the longest running public health and safety observance on record. Fire Prevention Week 2025 is October 5-11th with the theme "Charge into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home."

Safety focus – Lithium-ion batteries

Lithium-ion batteries store a lot of energy in a small place. These batteries can overheat, start a fire, or explode if overcharged or damaged. By learning how to BUY, CHARGE, and RECYCLE these batteries safely, you can help prevent a fire in your home.

Buy only listed products. When buying a product that uses a lithium-ion battery, look for a safety certification mark such as UL, ETL, or CSA. This means it meets important safety standards.

Charge devices safely. Always use the cables that come with the product to charge. Follow the instructions from the manufacturer. Buy new chargers from the manufacturer or one that the manufacturer has approved. When replacing a battery, follow manufacturer's list of batteries on the back of the alarm or manufacturer's instructions. Manufacturer's instructions are specific to the batteries (brand and model) that must be used. The smoke alarm may not work properly if a different kind of battery is used.

Charge your device on a hard surface. Don't overcharge your device. Unplug it or remove the battery when it's fully charged.

STOP using your device right away if the battery smells weird,

gets too hot, makes popping noises, changes in shape or color. If it is safe, move the device away from anything that can catch fire. Call 9-1-1.

Recycle batteries responsibly. Don't throw lithium-ion batteries in the trash or regular recycling bins because they could start a fire.

Recycle your device or battery at a safe battery recycling location. Visit call2recycle.org to find a recycling spot near you.



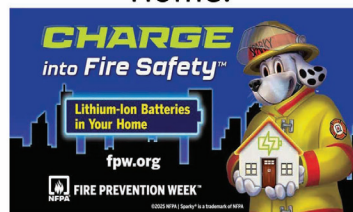
Fire Prevention Week 2025

PBA Civilian Welfare Fund, MWR, and DES

Presents

"Charge into Fire Safety: Lithium-ion Batteries in Your Home."

Time:
15 October
11:00-13:00



Place:
Bldg # 10-050
Fire Station

The Pine Bluff Arsenal Directorate of Emergency Services would like to invite you to join Fire Department in recognizing Fire Prevention Week. Pick-up information and talk with firefighters about how to keep your family safe. Take a look at the emergency vehicles, firefighting and EMS equipment used to protect the Pine Bluff Arsenal community.

For more information contact
Directorate of Emergency Services
(870) 540-3507

**Pulled Pork, Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Coleslaw,
Cake, and Refreshments will be provided**

CYS offers message of cheer



Pine Bluff Arsenal's Child and Youth Services provided cupcakes and other goodies in the breakroom of the Arsenal's Headquarters Building Sept. 17. The children even offered a hand signed note of encouragement to the Workforce in the building. U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY RACHEL SELBY

Autumn

Health & Safety Tips



Test Fire and CO Alarms

Fall is a great time of year to ensure that fire and CO alarms are powered and working properly. Fire deaths are much more common in homes without working alarms. CO is odorless and invisible, so an alarm is essential.



Be Safe When Trick or Treating

Top tips include:

- 1 - Go out in groups or with a parent.
- 2 - Only eat wrapped, store-bought treats.
- 3 - Be alert when crossing streets. Use cross walks and obey walk signals.
- 4 - Look for **Real Pumpkins** if your kids have allergies. These signal houses with treats that are safe for children with common food allergies, such as peanuts.



Don't Fall For Flu Myths

The Truth:

- 1 - Antibiotics cannot cure the flu because it's a viral infection.
- 2 - There is no cure for the flu. The best defense is a good defense - get a flu shot!
- 3 - Good hygiene is also one of the best ways to prevent the flu: wash your hands and cover your mouth when you sneeze or cough.



BEWARE OF ZOMBIES!



Think About Your Indoor Air Quality

- 1 - Consider indoor house plants like Aloe Vera or Bamboo Palm that may naturally improve your home's air.
- 2 - Look for low VOC products when buying cleaning supplies or painting materials. This helps reduce the buildup of harmful compounds in your house.
- 3 - Consider controlled, whole-home air purification and ventilation before you close your house up for the winter.



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For more info visit www.arkansasextremeoutdoors.com

2nd Annual Wild Game Summer Sausage State Championship & Expo

SEPTEMBER 27, 2025
11:00 am - 6:00 pm

Redfield Ball Park
291 Huck Finn Rd
Redfield, AR

EXPO ENTRY
1 CANNED FOOD ITEM
PER PERSON OR DONATION
TO CHURCH FOOD PANTRY

- Hot Dog Eating Contest
- KIDS ZONE
- FOOD TRUCKS
- KIDS FISHING DERBY
- OUTDOOR VENDORS
- LIVE MUSIC & MUCH MORE
- Drawing for FIVE Different Guns!

2ND ANNUAL WILDGAME SUMMER SAUSAGE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE CROWNED THE SAUSAGE CHAMPION OF ARKANSAS?

SEPTEMBER 27, 2025
REDFIELD CITY PARK



TWO BIG PRIZES

\$700 CELEBRITY JUDGES' CHOICE
\$300 PEOPLE'S CHOICE

SHOW OFF YOUR BEST SUMMER SAUSAGE RECIPE AND CLAIM THE BRAGGING RIGHTS (AND THE CASH)

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HOSTED BY ARKANSAS EXTREME OUTDOORS
LET YOUR SAUSAGE DO THE TALKING.



A large group of participants - including Pine Bluff Arsenal employees and members of the Watson Chapel High School JROTC - pose for a photo in the morning sunshine at the start of Pine Bluff Arsenal's Annual Suicide Awareness Walk, Sept. 20, at White Hall City Park. September is National Suicide Awareness Month. U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY HUGH MORGAN



Laverne Graham, Tammy Wood, Kevin Bradley, Alivia Page and Keyvionte Brooks pose for a photo during the walk. Graham is with Pine Bluff Arsenal's Business and Operations - S1 and Bradley is with PBA's EAP/ASAP office. Wood, Page and Brooks work for EASI Ambulance Service, one of the vendors during the event.



From left, Paula Smith with Pine Bluff Arsenal's Army Substance Abuse/Employee Assistance Program Office; Cheryl Avery, Pine Bluff Arsenal Public Affairs; and Laverne Graham, Pine Bluff Arsenal's Business and Operations - S1, smile for the camera during the walk. The ASAP/EAP office had a lot of giveaways for the event.



Jordan Sims and LaTaylor Rembert, with TOPPS, Inc., offer a give away to a walk participant. TOPPS works in Pine Bluff and the surrounding community to uplift and empower vulnerable youth and their families by providing direct and effective programs that support and strengthen individuals and the community.



Photo above, Rebecca Stevens with Jefferson Regional Specialty Hospital, was one of three vendors at the event. She had water and other goodies for participants.



Photo left, Pine Bluff Arsenal Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason leads the walkers on the path around White Hall City Park.

4TH QUARTER CIMRA EXERCISE



Photo above, Pine Bluff Arsenal Fire Chief Alan Wade talks with Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason outside Plainview Gate during the 4th Quarter Chemical Incident and Mishap Response Assistance exercise Aug. 27.

Photo top right, Arsenal firefighter Joseph Moring assists Capt. Jason Shaw in donning his Level B Hazmat suit during the exercise.

Photo bottom, right, (From left to right) Arsenal Firefighter Judge Parker, Capt. Jeremiah Rice, Firefighter Harold Miller (pulling up boots), Capt. Jason Shaw (in Level B Hazmat suit), Firefighter Joseph Moring and Firefighter Michael Harrington, work for scene during the 4th Quarter CIMRA exercise.

Photo right, Arsenal Firefighter Harold Miller using decon chemicals on the Pine Bluff Arsenal Security Guard, as Capt. Jason Shaw rinses the contaminate from his body, during the CIMRA exercise.



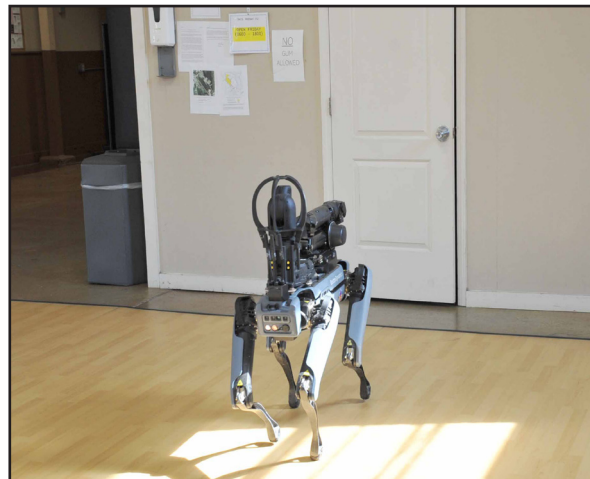
U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY HUGH MORGAN

2025 FORCE PROTECTION EXERCISE



Firefighters Teddy (Ray) Spivey and Jackson Rotton, Pine Bluff Arsenal Rescue Task Force members, along with Arsenal Security Guard Steven Meckfessel, make their way into the Arsenal's Recreation Services Center to rescue and save "victims" during an Active Shooter scenario for the 2024 Force Protection Exercise Sept. 17.

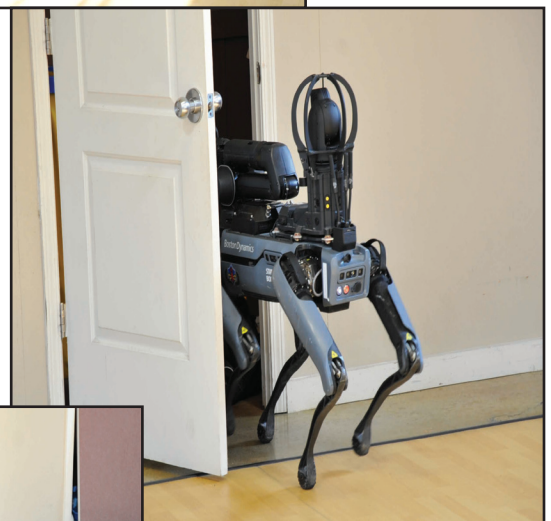
U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY HUGH MORGAN



A bomb-detecting robot was deployed during the Force Protection Exercise to locate a possible Improvised Explosive Device hidden in a closet at Pine Bluff Arsenal's Recreation Services Center. In this photo, the robot, which was from the Arkansas State Police Bomb Squad, detected something in the closet.



The robot entered the closet during the exercise Sept. 17, which featured an Active Shooter scenario at the Arsenal's Rec Services Center with casualties.



The robot discovered a bag in the closet with an IED during the exercise. Other agencies who were present during the exercise were the Federal Bureau and an EOD unit from the Little Rock Air Force Base.

Top photo left, Firefighters Jackson Rotton and Teddy (Ray) Spivey and bottom photo left, Firefighter Samuel Brannen and Capt. Philip Tallent, all part of Pine Bluff Arsenal's Rescue Task Force, help "victims" during an Active Shooter at the Arsenal's Recreation Services Center during the 2025 Force Protection exercise Sept. 17.

FREE ADMISSIONS



Pine Bluff Arsenal Fall Festival 2025

Oct. 30, 2025 | 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Plainview Soccer Field
(Field next to Pass and ID complex)

Registration is open until
Oct 24, 2025 for goodie bags



FOOD, GAMES, ARTS &
CRAFTS, FOOD TRUCKS,
INFLATABLE OBSTACLES,
AND A WHOLE LOT OF FUN

Join us for the Pine Bluff Arsenal
Fall Festival 2025! Come ready for
the best costume contest!

www.facebook.com/PBAMWR