



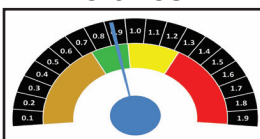
Vol. 6, Issue 12

December 30, 2025



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

PBA Safety Glance



Safety Element for fiscal year 2026

**Lost Day Case Rate:
 0.88**

Award Goal: 0.95

***Lost time injuries for fiscal year 2026 are one. There is zero lost time injuries for December 2025.**

***Recordable injuries for fiscal year 2026 are 2. Recordable injuries are none for December 2025.**

***Pine Bluff Arsenal days without a lost time injury is 75.**

***Pine Bluff Arsenal days without a recordable injury is 42.**

***Estimated hours worked without a lost time injury: 187,579.**



Meeting, tour with AMC's Miranda part of two-day event **PB Arsenal hosts Industry Day**

By Rachel Selby

Pine Bluff Arsenal hosted an Industry Day Nov. 20, welcoming several senior military leaders, including two presidential appointees and two potential industry partners.

"Welcome to Pine Bluff Arsenal," said Brig. Gen. Daniel J. Duncan, Commanding General of Joint Munitions Command, as he kicked off the event. "Pine Bluff is one of the crown jewels of Joint Munitions Command and the ammunition Organic Industrial Base. We are so glad to have everyone here – our senior leadership as well as our industry partners."

PBA Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason also welcomed the group.

"I took command in July this year and it has been fast and furious," Mason said. "I love it. This is a great time to be a commander in the OIB with all the changes and opportunities. This is the first Industry Day here in a long time. We hope we achieve the intent, and you see what you need to see."

Mason said it was a pleasure to host such a distinguished list of guests. "It is great to be able to come together and see the synergy and coordination between the Army and industry," he said, as he discussed the agenda.

Other Army senior leadership present included the Hon. W. Jordan Gillis, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy, and



Photo above, Liz Miranda, Executive Deputy to the Commanding General, U.S. Army Materiel Command, observes production rounds at the Arsenal's white phosphorus facility. This tour was part of PBA's modernization and ammunition operations areas.

Photo right, Brig. Gen. Daniel J. Duncan, Commanding General of Joint Munitions Command, kicks off the Industry Day events at Pine Bluff Arsenal.

U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY HUGH MORGAN

Environment, the Hon. Brent G. Ingraham, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisitions, Logistics, and Technology; Liz Miranda, Executive Deputy to the Commanding General, U.S. Army Materiel Command, Maj. Gen. Douglas Lowery, Commanding General of Army Contracting Command, Lynda Armer, Executive Director, ACC-Rock Island, Corey Hotle, Joint Munitions Command Deputy to the Commander; and PBA Acting Deputy to the Commander

See **INDUSTRY** Page 3



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

PBA Team,

As I reflect on the last six months, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude. When we began this journey, the Army's Transformation Initiative felt like a potential threat to the future of Pine Bluff Arsenal.

Today, because of your incredible hard work, resilience, and commitment, we have reshaped that narrative. We have turned the threat into one of the greatest opportunities our organization has seen in decades.

On a personal note, I want to thank you for your patience with me as I've grown in this role. You have coached me, you have challenged me, and you have consistently set the conditions for me to lead this truly amazing organization. I am humbled to be your commander.

Together, we have made tremendous progress. Your dedication has enabled us to re-educate Senior Leaders across the Army, ensuring they understand the unique and vital capabilities that only this workforce and this Arsenal provide to the Warfighter. And this isn't just a vision; it's already happening.

In early 2026, we will welcome a new partner to the PBA team. We'll begin our formal partnership by providing General Dynamics storage capability and then quickly look to expand our collaboration into shared workload of specific types of munitions, fully realizing our goal of adding critical lethal munitions to our portfolio.

As early as January, we expect a decision on an Enhanced Use Lease (EUL) with an industry partner to manufacture energetics on our grounds. In February, we'll meet with the entire PAE Layered Protection & CBRN Team to grow our Chemical and Biological Defense mission, and lastly, we will continue to seek opportunities to expand our Textile mission.

In fact, we are in conversations now with HQDA G4 and HQDA Force Protection Development Team on possible new portfolios for Textiles – more to follow.



Col. Matthew C. Mason

To ensure we not only seize these opportunities but aggressively shape our future, I am turning discussions into action. We are formally establishing a new Strategic Integration Section at Pine Bluff Arsenal. This team will be our dedicated strategic engine, working hand-in-glove with our partners at JMC (soon to be ASC) to anticipate the Army's needs and keep our pipeline full. We are chartering this section in the next 45 days to institutionalize our forward-looking, "Arsenal Ready" mindset.

To keep you informed on this journey and all these initiatives, our monthly *Arsenal Sentinel* will evolve with our mission. Starting in January, we will begin a deep dive into our "Arsenal Ready" framework. We will also move beyond simply talking about change.

We are going to peel back the curtain and learn how successful change happens, exploring the proven mechanics of transformation together.

To commemorate this pivotal moment in our history, I am pleased to announce that in early 2026, Pine Bluff Arsenal will roll out a new Coin, designed to represent our storied history while also telling the story of the "Arsenal of Tomorrow".

My most important message is this: take this Holiday Break to unplug, be with your family and friends, and truly recharge. You have earned it. We will come back in the new year even more prepared, because momentum is our friend, and we must stay engaged to keep it.

Thank you for everything. I wish you and your families a happy, safe, and well-deserved holiday season. Let's get ready to hit 2026 running.

**"Right Today –
Better Tomorrow"
"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
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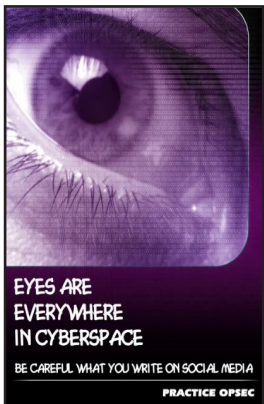
ARSENAL READY:

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"



Army Sustainment's Smith visits Arsenal

By Rachel Selby

Pine Bluff Arsenal welcomed Dr. Theresa A. Smith, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Sustainment (DASA(S) for a visit on Dec. 16. Other visitors included Lt. Col. Neal Miller, DASA(S) Executive Officer; a team from McKinsey USG and Corey Hotel, Acting Deputy to the Commander for Joint Munitions Command.

The visit kicked off with an overview brief including information about the Arsenal's business sectors, focus and manufacturing capabilities.

"It's a great time to be a part of the Organic Industrial Base," said Col. Matthew C. Mason, PBA Commander, in his opening remarks. "It is not often you get to make real changes and create such exciting momentum."

Mason said he looked forward to working with Smith and her team moving forward. "We are going to tell you about our piece of the pie," he said. "We are going to tell you about what we do, what we can do and how it resonates across the enterprise."

Smith said it was great to be back at PBA.

"I wanted to come here. Today is day two. Red River was day one. This just shows how important the OIB is to me," she said. "The McKinsey team is here to help me gather information from each of the sites on an individual basis. I want to better understand the complexities, intricacies and missions important to the entire industrial defense base but to Pine Bluff. Everyone is unique and has something to give back. Thank you for honoring this visit. I am looking at the future and I am excited."

The Arsenal's strategic outlook is a bit brighter today than when Mason came into the command position in July.

"Pine Bluff was on a list of three specific sites being looked at. We saw the Army Transformation Initiative at the time as a threat," he said. "The PBA Team rallied. It is no longer a threat today but an opportunity to turn PBA into the Arsenal of Tomorrow. We started educating everyone about the Arsenal and launched our Arsenal Ready campaign."

Other discussions during the briefing included information about the Arsenal's space utilization, highlighting facility investments. This included repair of existing facilities as well as construction of new facilities.

SkyFoundry was a topic of interest. The discussion touched on PBA's support for AMC's sUAS manufacturing within the OIB, including the consideration of potential work sites. Current workload and the Arsenal's capacity for future growth in this area were also discussed.

Closing out the day, tours were conducted of the 120mm automated line; the White Phosphorus facility; Dismounted Reconnaissance Sets, Kits and Outfits, Textile production and large filter.



Chris Broughton with Pine Bluff Arsenal's Directorate of Chemical Biological Defense Operations shows Dr. Theresa A. Smith, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Sustainment (DASA(S), some of the Dismounted Reconnaissance Sets, Kits and Outfits being assembled in the Mobile and Powered Systems area of the directorate during a tour. U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY HUGH MORGAN



Don Scifres, Pine Bluff Arsenal Director of Ammunition Operations, shows Dr. Theresa A. Smith, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Sustainment (DASA(S), part of the white phosphorus filling facility Dec. 16.

INDUSTRY from Page 1

Justin Lieber.

Gillis said the Industry Day was very important to Army.

"We have a lot of assets across the country that are underutilized. We don't want to use BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure). We want to invest in their use," he said. "This is a great potential for industry partnership. Thank you to everyone here who has supported this visit."

It is critical for the OIB to be able to provide the capabilities to the joint services, said Ingraham. "We are looking closer at our capacities and utilizing the space we have," he said. "We appreciate industry taking the time to be here."

Industry partners present were Hanwha (U.S. and Korea) and REPKON USA. Both companies work within the energetics, chemical processes and ammunition business sectors.

The purpose of the visit was to explain more in depth to the industry partners the contracting rules and expectations as they pertain to an Enhanced Use Lease. This included a bus tour of the proposed site on PBA, estimated at approximately 1,065 acres, as well as explanation of how industry will submit a proposal for evaluation. Brian Raley, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, provided information on the contracting portion.



Brian Raley with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers speaks during the Arsenal's Industry Day Nov. 20. U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY HUGH MORGAN

West Point parka project successful

By Rachel Selby

Pine Bluff Arsenal's Directorate of Chemical and Biological Defense Operations, Textiles and Protective Clothing production, has completed work on wool parkas for the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, located in West Point, New York.

"West Point has its own sewing facility and called us because their fabric cutter wasn't working. We built some of the first prototypes for the parkas and received positive feedback on our work," 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."

John Burkhead, PBA's CB Director, said the parka project was a great example of the PBA team coming together to solve a high-visibility problem.

"The capacity and equipment issues were first brought to PBA by Lt. Gen. Christopher O. Mohan with Army Materiel Command," Burk-

head said. "The West Point Logistics Readiness Center had major equipment issues, and they were having to cut fabric by hand, making the task tedious and causing long delays."

Once West Point gave their okay on the prototype parkas, Fullen said it was full speed ahead.

"We had a six-week window to execute the project and due to several challenges along the way, including delivery of materials, we went approximately 11 to 12 weeks," he said. "We also had some material come in damaged, lost shipments and incomplete materials. The result was West Point received the dress parkas just on time."

Feedback on the project was positive.

"They were pleased with the high quality, and further discussions are happening about other garments for the Academy," said Fullen. "We did approximately 868 parkas total across multiple sizes. This took 13 to 14 production workers average for this project."

PBA's work on the parkas

has resulted in both West Point and Army Sustainment Command headquarters personnel requesting further information on other items, according to Burkhead.

"The PBA team was able to quickly answer the need so the United States Military Academy cadets could attend classes, execute their assigned duties and stay warm doing it. Great job PBA!" he said.

The West Point 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.



Pine Bluff Arsenal's Directorate of Chemical and Biological Defense Operations, Production Division - specifically textiles production - completed production of 800+ parkas for the military academy, located in West Point, New York. Wonder what that "29" on the United States Military Academy - West Point parka stands for? That is the class year the cadet will graduate. U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY RACHEL SELBY

Employee of Year

Colton W. Lechak with Pine Bluff Arsenal's Directorate of Chemical and Biological Defense Operations has been recognized as the 2025 Employee of the Year. He has consistently exceeded expectations, delivering results that directly strengthen the mission of the Testing and Surveillance Division, and the broader Chemical and Biological defense community. His most notable achievement this last quarter was the successful certification of large filter testing at the Quality Evaluation Facility, establishing a critical new capability at the Arsenal that ensures both Lot Acceptance and shelf-life extension testing. This accomplishment provides substantial cost savings for the Department of War while safeguarding Warfighter readiness by keeping vital equipment mission-capable. Lechak demonstrated exceptional initiative by restoring the TDA 110 Particulate Tester and advancing new testing procedures and equipment, further enhancing the division's ability to meeting evolving mission requirements. U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY RACHEL SELBY



Pine Bluff Arsenal's Safety Committee is asking for employee nominations and are available to answer any questions about the Safety Award. The PBA Employee Safety Award Nomination form can be accessed multiple ways, either by completing PBA form 385-17, clicking PBA Employee Safety Award Nomination or by scanning the QR code on your phone.



EAP Corner

“Fresh Start Effect” in 2026

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

New Year’s Day is celebrated as the first day of the calendar year and is recognized around the world as a time for fresh starts, reflection, and festivities. This special day marks the end of one year and the beginning of the next, offering everyone a chance to reflect on the past and look forward to the year ahead with hope and positivity.

In 2026, New Year’s Day will be celebrated on Thursday, Jan. 1, marking the beginning of a new year on the Gregorian calendar.

People always look for a fresh start and goal setting for the new year. It’s a time for reflection on the past year, and anticipation for the year ahead, often focusing on making resolutions, whether for personal growth, health, or career aspirations. The month also includes traditions like New Year’s Day celebrations. January is often associated with a fresh start and the opportunity to begin anew.

A fresh start generally refers to an opportunity to begin again, either in a new place, a new job, or a new phase of life, with the hope of it being better than before.

It signifies a clean slate, an opportunity to leave behind past mistakes or difficulties and move forward with renewed optimism. This concept is often associated with positive change and new beginnings.

How Is New Year’s Day celebrated?

New Year’s Day is a global celebration, embraced by cultures all around the world, and each culture has its own traditions. Here are some of the common ways people celebrate the arrival of the New Year:

• **The Times Square Ball Drop:** One of the most iconic New Year’s Eve events takes place in New York City. As the clock nears midnight, a brightly lit ball slowly descends

from the top of a pole in Times Square. The event draws massive crowds and is watched by millions worldwide on television and online.

• **Countdown parties:** People host countdown parties around the world, where the final seconds of the year are counted aloud, building anticipation for the moment the New Year officially begins.

• **Fireworks displays:** Fireworks are synonymous with New Year’s celebrations. Cities around the world organize stunning displays that light up the night sky in a fiery display of color.

• **Family gatherings and dinners:** Some people prefer a quieter celebration, spending time with family, and enjoying meals together.

• **New Year’s resolutions:** A popular tradition involves setting personal goals or resolutions for self-improvement in the coming year. Whether it’s a promise to exercise more, learn something new, or spend more time with family, resolutions are personal.

A “Fresh Start” can entail:

• New location and/or environment:
Moving to a new city, state, or even country to start over, perhaps seeking better opportunities or a change of pace.

• New job/career:
Switching careers, starting a new job, or even becoming self-employed to pursue a different path.

• New relationship and life stage:

Ending a relationship, starting a new one, or simply embarking on a different chapter in life, like parenthood or retirement.

• Recovery and overcoming challenges:

Seeking help for substance abuse, mental health issues, or other challenges to rebuild one’s life.

• Rebuilding finances:
Improving credit, paying off debt, or making better financial decisions to start anew.

• Spiritual renewal:
Re-engaging with faith, finding forgiveness, or seeking

NAME _____ OFF SYM _____

"Fresh Start Effect" in 2026

G D O U H B Y I M H H B P C A V D M T S
K I A Y K F U T U R E B Y R N L K G E W
A B E V I P W T X W V M T D S W I T Z Z
B N B E G I N N I N G I I L D L V V L R
T S T Z S T F L B R I V N N P O R V E U
Q M I I E E V Y H E N Q U V X D Z P P H
S E Y Y C F Z U J S I C T O X D O S A O
T H X L X I F R D O F O R L Z G C G S P
D T Q Z I J P E K L N B O A Y V B Q T A
J G X V W M J A C U S E P H K R H X K O
L X S A U Q A K T T R M P S T D C V X B
Y C I A Z G H F A I J N O E T L O F W T
E N D S I Q W R B O O V U R A C N R Q O
A V W A I E T I C N W N N F X H D Y N A
R P S T C K S C U S O F D P C T Y A D P
A H L W I H W B X W Q L H W R Y C D U Q
B C O O P N E D E B K C S P U Z S Z O O
Y F G A J P V N Q B A Q G Y V O F H K N
K Z S B M P I F K I N B Z B Q M D A A J
N Q B F I G V F P W S U C D W S Y B O G

FRESH
BEGINNING
YEAR
RESOLUTIONS
FUTURE

START
FAMILY
DAY
ANTICIPATION

EFFECT
NEW
OPPORTUNITY
PAST

a deeper connection with a higher power.

The concept of the “fresh start effect” is appealing because it offers the potential for improvement and a sense of control over one’s life. It can be a powerful motivator to make positive changes and pursue goals with renewed energy.

The “fresh start effect” suggests that temporal landmarks, like the start of a new year or a birthday, can trigger this desire for a fresh start and boost motivation.

PBA’s Employee Assistance Program staff is here to help. We offer you a safe and confidential place to discuss concerns, challenges, and strategies for managing difficulties in your life.

We are in Building 13-0460, can be reached at 870-540-3094. The Careline number is 870-550-2653. We are here when you need us.

The ASAP/EAP staff wishes you a Happy New Year and a “Fresh Start” in this coming new year.

Dry January 2026 is the annual challenge from January 1st to 31st, encouraging people to abstain from alcohol to reset drinking habits, experience health benefits (better sleep, mood, physical health), and explore non-alcoholic (NA) alternatives, with resources like the [Try Dry® app](#) and NA drinks available to support participants in reducing alcohol-related risks for better long-term wellness.

How to Participate

1. **Commit:** Decide to go alcohol-free for the month.
3. **Explore NA Drinks:** Discover complex non-alcoholic beverages.
4. **Find Support:** Join communities or share your goals with friends for accountability.
5. **Stay Mindful:** Focus on understanding your relationship with alcohol, not just abstinence, with options like 'Dry(ish) January' available for moderation.



PBA ASAP/EAP
870-540-3094

Retirement



Stephen Redman was recognized by Pine Bluff Arsenal Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason for 20 years of government service. He began his career at PBA in 2005 as the chief of safety in the Directorate of Risk Management and Regulatory Affairs. He most recently served as Garrison Manager and retires as a GS-14 Public Works Director. Redman also retired as a colonel in the Army National Guard after 31 years of service. He contributed greatly to the success of safety and public works for more than 20 years, and his judgement and foresight has been much respected by his colleagues. U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY RACHEL SELBY

Christmas at MM



Pine Bluff Arsenal's Directorate of Material Management celebrated the holiday as a directorate with a meal and gifts in December. U.S. ARMY PHOTOS

BE ALL YOU CAN BE.

Celebrating years of service



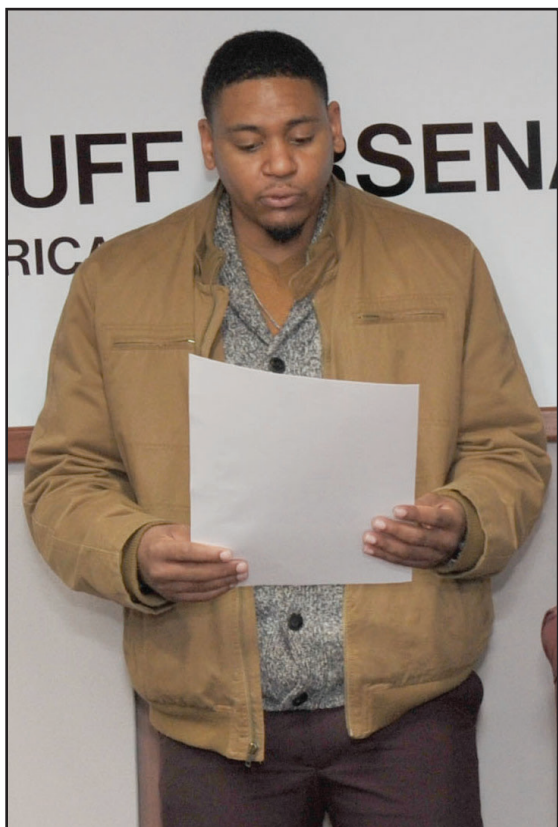
Aaron Pugh, left, and Jacqueline Green were presented 20 year certificates of service by Pine Bluff Arsenal Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason during a recent staff meeting. U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY HUGH MORGAN



Danny Tuggle with Pine Bluff Arsenal's Directorate of Public Works received his 15 years of service certificate at a recent staff meeting from PBA Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason.



Brandon Harris with Pine Bluff Arsenal's Directorate of Operations and Planning - S1 Office received his 10 years of service certificate at a recent staff meeting from PBA Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason.



DRUNK AND DRUGGED DRIVING (3-D MONTH)

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS:** The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) launched its *If you Feel Different, You Drive Different; Drive High, Get a DUI; and Ride Sober* or *Get Pulled Over* national campaigns to educate Americans about the dangers of driving while impaired by drugs, and to promote safer choices; and
- WHEREAS:** The safety and security of our personnel, families, and community are paramount, and impaired driving—whether due to alcohol or illegal, prescribed, or over-the-counter drugs—represents a preventable and unacceptable threat to public safety and Pine Bluff Arsenal's readiness; and
- WHEREAS:** Drunk and Drugged Driving (DUI/DUID) remains one of the leading causes of preventable deaths and injuries across our nation, creating needless tragedies, severe legal consequences, and irreversible damage to careers and families; and
- WHEREAS:** Prevention is a community-wide effort requiring responsible action, vigilant awareness, and a commitment to planning for sober transportation alternatives, ensuring that no individual or vehicle is operated under the influence of impairing substances; and
- WHEREAS:** A dedicated month of awareness, education, and visibility serves to reinforce the message that every member of our community and workforce has a responsibility to stop impaired driving and protect the lives of others;
- THEREFORE:** Be it resolved that the Pine Bluff Arsenal of Pine Bluff, Arkansas Herby joins the *If you Feel Different, You Drive Different; Drive High Get a DUI; and Ride Sober* or *Get Pulled Over* national campaigns in Proclaiming the month of December to be Drunk and Drugged Driving (3-D) Month across the Pine Bluff Arsenal.

I urge all leaders, supervisors, organizations, and community members to actively engage in prevention efforts, promote responsible decision-making, and uphold the highest standards of safety to eliminate the threat of impaired driving on and off our installation.

Photo left, Kevin Bradley, with Pine Bluff Arsenal's Army Substance Abuse/Employee Assistance Program office, reads the Drunk and Drugged Driving (3-D Month) proclamation during a December staff meeting.

December is a dedicated month of awareness, education and visibility that serves to reinforce the message that every member of our community and Workforce has a responsibility to stop impaired driving and protect the lives of others.

U.S. ARMY PHOTO
BY HUGH MORGAN

DPW Spotlight



Pine Bluff Arsenal's Directorate of Public Works Pipe Shop and Roads & Grounds Shop worked together recently to install a new isolation valve on one of the water towers on the installation.

Photo left, Spencer Silvey cuts the pipe to add in the new valve; also pictured Zachary Harbison and Brad Kennedy.

Photo below, Zachary Harbison swaps out cutting the pipe with Spencer Silvey.

Photo below, right, Brad Kennedy, Zachary Harbison and Spencer Silvey work together to set the valve being lowered by Lucas Dickson (out of picture).



U.S. ARMY PHOTOS
BY CAITLIN THOMAS

WINNERS OF MWR FALL FEST



Pine Bluff Arsenal's Directorate of Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation announced the winners of the table contest during the Arsenal's Fall Fest in October.

First place went to the table from the Directorate of Chemical and Biological Defense Operations (photo above); second place went to the table from the Directorate of Public Works (photo above, right); and third place went to the table from Directorate of Resource Management (photo right). Geraldine "Gigi" Robinson with PBA's MWR presented the awards.

Winners for the chili cook off were People's choice - Chili #1 and PBA Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason's Choice - Chili #2.

Winners for the Fall Fest costume contest were first place - Baby Elvis and second place - Child police officer.

U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY HUGH MORGAN



Christmas Door Decorating Contest Winners



Pine Bluff Arsenal's Directorate of Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation held a door decorating contest during the holiday season.

Winners were: First place went to the Gremlins-themed door (photo far left) in the Directorate of Emergency Services; second place was a tie between the Directorate of Resource Management with a Nutcracker/light theme (not pictured-will be published in January *Arsenal Sentinel*) and the Directorate of Public Works with the Elf on the Shelf theme (middle photo); and third place went to the Directorate of Chemical and Biological Defense Operations-Textiles with the Merry Christmas door (photo far right). Originality and craftsmanship went to the Gremlins-themed door.

Congratulations to all the winners!! U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY HUGH MORGAN



Gregory I. Etherly, a production controller, with Pine Bluff Arsenal's Directorate of Chemical and Biological Defense Operations, received an Achievement Medal for Civilian Service from PBA Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason in December. His dedication and teamwork greatly enhanced production efficiency, particularly during the inventory clean-up initiative. His analytical skills in preparing and analyzing reports empowered leadership and personnel to act swiftly and effectively. U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY RACHEL SELBY



Frederick J. Young and Christina E. Crosswhite, both budget analysts for Pine Bluff Arsenal's Directorate of Chemical and Biological Defense Operations, received an Achievement Medal for Civilian Service from PBA Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason in December. Both expertly managed 97 programs totaling \$115 million, ensuring 100 percent budget accuracy, compliance and audit-readiness. Their proactive cost-saving measures and efficient forecasting directly supported critical production.



Kawana M. Taylor, a maintenance management specialist, for Pine Bluff Arsenal's Directorate of Chemical and Biological Defense Operations, received an Achievement Medal for Civilian Service from PBA Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason in December. Taylor's commitment to excellence, analytical skills and comprehensive CRP reporting ensured accuracy, timeliness, and critical insights that improved production efforts and empowered leadership.

AMC senior enlisted leader Sellers retires Dec. 4 after 36 years of service

By Sgt. Maj. Alexander Croteau

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. — The U.S. Army bid farewell Dec. 4 to one of its most respected senior enlisted leaders, Command Sgt. Maj. Jimmy Sellers.

"After 36 amazing years of service and having the distinct honor of serving 36 months as part of Army Materiel Command, retirement ceremony day is upon the Sellers family," he said in a recent message. "Without a doubt, it has been the privilege of a lifetime to serve alongside the troopers, civilians and families who make our Army the greatest fighting force in the world."

Sellers has spent his illustrious career strengthening the Noncommissioned Officer Corps, improving quality of life for Soldiers and families, and ensuring the Army's logistics enterprise remains the backbone of readiness.

He enlisted Aug. 1, 1990, from Columbus, Ga., and completed basic and advanced individual training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, beginning his career as a Unit Supply Specialist in the Quar-

termaster Corps. Inspired by his father's service, he remembered the long hours, early mornings, late nights and, most importantly, the joy he got out of training Soldiers and leading formations.

"I spent a lot of time in high school Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps, from the ninth grade all the way through, and then I really knew at that point that's what I wanted to do when I graduated high school," Sellers said.

Sellers remembered being inspired by a commercial to pursue higher levels of leadership.

"Back in the day, where you saw the commercial 'Be All You Can Be,' a lot of what that commercial was about was the 82nd Airborne Division," he said. "As I sat down and saw it, I realized that's exactly what I wanted to do with my life."

Over the decades, he rose through the ranks to become the 18th command sergeant major of Army Materiel Command, serving as principal advisor to the commanding general on all enlisted matters. During his career, he also served as a drill sergeant, a company first sergeant, a brigade S 4 sergeant major, and commandant of the

NCO Academy. He is the first commandant to have a military career in sustainment since the inception of the Sergeants Major Academy in 1973.

"As sustainers we have to focus on getting supplies to the point of need, from the factory to foxhole and the foxhole to the factory by understanding the unit needs and the industrial base," Sellers said.

Sellers' distinguished service has been recognized with induction into the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy Hall of Fame.

He is also a member of the prestigious Sergeant Audie L. Murphy Club and a recipient of the Distinguished Order of Saint Martin, the Order of Saint Sharpe, and the Order of Saint Christopher.

Sellers' retirement marks the end of a distinguished era, but his influence will continue through the soldiers he mentored and the logistics enterprise he helped shape.

When asked what he would do after he retires, Sellers said "I'm going to start fishing again because I haven't been in a very long time, just to kind of get to know myself."



Pine Bluff Arsenal Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason and Jim Walter, director of PBA's Emergency Services directorate, look at a map during the December Hazardous Chemical Incident and Mishap Response Assistance exercise. The exercise focused on a spill at the Arsenal's Quality Evaluation Facility.

Personnel decontaminate an individual outside Pine Bluff Arsenal's Quality Evaluation Facility during a quarterly Chemical Incident and Mishap Response Assistance exercise. The exercise focused on a spill at the facility. Exercises are held on a regular recurring basis to allow for emergency responders and other personnel to test their knowledge and skills for different types of accidents and incidents.

U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY HUGH MORGAN



From left, Doug Downing, Josh Meadows, David Ross, John Colwell and James Steele were this year's veteran participants in Pine Bluff Arsenal's annual deer hunt honoring local veterans. Three bucks and four does were harvested during the hunt. U.S. ARMY PHOTO

Honoring service: Veterans enjoy successful hunt

Courtesy of Pine Bluff Arsenal Natural Resources

In a cherished annual tradition aimed at honoring the service and sacrifice of local veterans, Pine Bluff Arsenal hosted its yearly hunting event Dec. 5-7. This year marked a particularly successful outing for the five participants, who harvested a combined total of three bucks and four does.

Originally conceived as the "Wounded Warrior Hunt" in 2011 to host service members injured in combat, the event has since expanded to welcome veterans across all generations and conflicts, ranging from the Vietnam War to recent deployments in Afghanistan. The initiative partners closely with the Arkansas Freedom Fund, an organization dedicated to restoring the mental and physical wellness of Arkansas veterans through rehabilitative and recreational activities.

Following a less successful hunt last year where only one deer was harvested, four of the five hunters were invited back for another opportunity. This year's participants were Doug Downing, John Colwell, Josh Meadows, David Ross, and James Steele. Each hunter was permitted to harvest one buck and one doe.

A highlight of the weekend was the visit of Arsenal Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason, who met with the hunters during lunch Saturday to express his appreciation for their service.

The hunt is made possible by the collective effort of numerous staff and volunteers at the Arsenal. The organizers extend their deepest gratitude to all involved, acknowledging their often "behind the scenes" efforts create lasting, positive memories for veterans, assisting in healing traumatic experiences.

"If you had any part in this program I want you to know that you are appreciated and I thank you," said the event organizer. "Your efforts ... have put a good memory in the minds of a veteran that needed it and deserved it."

A special thanks is given to Mark Ronney with the Arsenal's Fire and Emergency Services, for ensuring the smooth coordination of the entire event. Planning is already underway for next year's gathering.



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8 most common
Holiday
SAFETY
HAZARDS

Decorating

- During the last two months of the year, about 200 people a day suffer decoration-related injuries.
- Most injuries are related to falling off ladders, stairs, furniture, rooftops and porches. The results are: fractures, concussions, and muscle pulls.

Electric Shocks

- Thousands of people are treated each holiday season after sustaining an electric shock.
- Electric incidents are mostly caused by carelessness and misuse of the decorations and can be the cause of cardiac arrests and tissue and nerve damage among others.

Fires

- Christmas trees and decorations account for almost 2,000 fires each year.
- Thousands of candle-related fires happen during the holidays, with Christmas and New Year's Day seeing most candle fires.
- The winter season also sees a rise in heating, cooking, and electrical fires.

Car Crashes

- Car crashes cause most injuries and fatalities during the holiday season.
- There are more drivers on the road.
- They are also stressed, rushed, and sometimes driving impaired.
- Fatigue and poor weather conditions can often be a factor.

Food Poisoning

- Foodborne illnesses are most common around the holidays.
- Lack of hygiene while preparing or reheating food ruins numerous winter holidays each year.
- Storing cleaning products and chemicals near food or not using original containers can lead to accidental poisoning.
- Consuming leftovers that were not stored/refrigerated properly can cause illness.

Guest Safety

- Visitors who are unfamiliar with your house layout are likely to trip and fall without proper lighting.
- Curious children may go through cabinets and people's things, often finding medicines and other substances that can be lethal.

Back Injury

- Over 84,000 people were treated for injuries related to carrying luggage in 2015.
- Rushing and the frustration of the holiday season make people forget to use proper lifting techniques.

Cuts and Burns

- Packaging-related injuries resulted in approximately 6,000 emergency-room visits in 2006. Excitement, rushing, complacency and fatigue can be dangerous when combined with sharp utensils.
- Numerous cuts, lacerations and burns are sustained while preparing holiday meals.