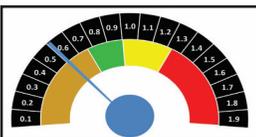




SHARP
SEXUAL HARASSMENT/ASSAULT RESPONSE & PREVENTION
Pine Bluff Arsenal
24/7 SHARP Hotline
870-209-4093

PBA Safety Glance



Safety Element for fiscal year 2026
Lost Day Case Rate: 0.56
Award Goal: 0.95

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

*Recordable injuries for fiscal year 2026 are two. Recordable injuries is none for February 2026

*Pine Bluff Arsenal days without a lost time injury is 125.

*Pine Bluff Arsenal days without a recordable injury is 92.

*Estimated hours worked without a lost time injury: 318,774.

Mason shares Arsenal vision with Chamber

By Rachel Selby

Turning Pine Bluff Arsenal from the “Arsenal of Yesterday” to the “Arsenal of Tomorrow” was the topic of discussion presented by Pine Bluff Arsenal Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason during the February luncheon of the White Hall Chamber of Commerce Feb. 10.

During his second public speaking engagement since taking command, Mason shared his future vision as well as updated the Chamber members on recent visits and developments on the installation.

“Thanks for having me. It has been seven months since I’ve been in command. The recent furlough hindered my ability in getting out and meeting with the community,” said Mason. “I hope that is all behind us now and I am able to get out and meet all of you, as well as participate more in the community events.”

Mason said life has been very busy for the Arsenal lately.

“I have been focusing on the future, and I can tell you it has come fast and furious,” he said. “I’ve been in the Army for 24 years, and I have never seen an organization move as fast as the Arsenal has moved in the last seven months. The amount of attention and support we have received from senior leadership has been phenomenal.”

When Mason found out he was coming here, he started researching and found out about all the great work happening here. “The Arsenal has



Col. Matthew C. Mason, Commander of Pine Bluff Arsenal, speaks to members and guests during the White Hall Chamber of Commerce luncheon Feb. 11 at the White Hall Community Center. Mason spoke about the recent mission events at the installation, as well as his vision for the future. U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY HUGH MORGAN

tremendous capabilities that have been here for 85 years,” he said. “This year is our 85th anniversary, and I hope we continue for another 85 years. I think we will. The team is tremendous and has taken good care of me.”

He explained seven months ago there was an order from the Department of War exploring the different Organic Industrial Base sites. Specifically, it named Pine Bluff Arsenal as one possibly on a closure list. Red River Army Depot (Texas) and Blue Grass Army Depot (Ky.) were also on the list.

“This was one month before I came into command. This drove me to turn the

narrative around,” said Mason. “My job was to get here, figure out what we do, how we are doing it and do it better. We started doing this.”

A lot of senior leadership didn’t understand what the Arsenal even did, said Mason. “We have had to educate them on our capabilities and what we do for the Warfighter. We immediately came up with the slogan “Arsenal Ready”. We must be ready for whatever happens – whether that is closure or growth opportunities,” he said. “We needed to mentor our leadership and teach them about what we do. PBA can do a lot more than what you want us to do and we are open to change.”

The Arsenal has had numer-

ous visitors during the past several months, including a visit from the U.S. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Randy George; Arkansas Senators John Boozman and Tom Cotton’s staffs; and several general officer equivalent individuals/U.S. Army Under Secretaries/Senior Executive Service members, who have been briefed on the Arsenal’s vision and future growth opportunities.

“This is the first time the Army Chief of Staff had been to PBA. He was amazed at what we do and heard our vision,” he said. “Closure is no longer part

See CHAMBER 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

Team, This month, we continue our focus on the future and our strategic alignment with the U.S. Army's highest priorities. Our journey of transformation continues, and I want to share our recent progress, delve into the "Readiness" component of our ARSENAL READY framework, and most importantly, reinforce our shared vision for the "Arsenal of Tomorrow" and the vital, lasting role each of you play in its creation.

Momentum Builds: Recent Progress

The momentum across the Arsenal is tangible as our teams diligently advance key initiatives that directly support the Army's Organic Industrial Base transformation. Here are some of the highlights from the past month:

• PBA Selected as a TWI

Installation: We are proud to announce Pine Bluff Arsenal has been selected as a host installation for the Army's prestigious Training with Industry (TWI) program. This elite program embeds competitively selected officers and NCOs within corporate America to learn best-in-class industrial procedures.

As a host, PBA will welcome these top-performing Soldiers, integrating them into our teams. This partnership provides them with invaluable hands-on experience in our unique industrial environment, which they will take back to the wider Army. For us, it is a significant honor reinforcing our status as a premier installation and allows us to benefit from the leadership and expertise these Soldiers bring.

• **Realizing the 'Arsenal of Tomorrow' with Hanwha:** In a monumental step for our future, the U.S. Army has awarded Hanwha Defense USA an enhanced use lease (EUL). Hanwha will invest significantly to construct a new, modern facility at PBA for producing energetic materials, directly addressing critical shortfalls in the U.S. munitions supply chain. This partnership is a direct result of our strategic vision and will be instrumental in modernizing America's munitions industrial base.

• Strategic Partnership De-



Col. Matthew C. Mason

velopment: We continue to engage with other potential commercial defense partners who see the value in co-locating at PBA.

Recent visits have included Phoenix Tailings and Deterrence, all exploring opportunities to strengthen the nation's defense industrial base from right here. In three weeks, I will visit Picatinny Arsenal where AMC will host an OIB wide industry day where I will continue to engage with potential partners.

• **Master Planning Coordination:** A major focus has been the coordination of the PBA Master Plan, which is our detailed blueprint for transforming PBA. Our recent workshop with Army Materiel Command detailed our strategic priorities and roadmap, which are deeply rooted in the Army's long-term OIB modernization goals.

We will continue building our detailed plan in April when we execute an Area Development Plan (ADP). The ADP will be the Arsenal's blueprint (Playbook) for how and when we execute key modernization and transformation projects over the next five to 20 years. These programs are the driving force behind setting conditions to ensure PBA meets our full potential of our strategic vision.

• **Validating Our CBRNE Role:** Our strategic importance was further validated through our continuous partnership with the 20th CBRNE Command, the Army's premier formation for combating chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive threats. This cooperative relationship between

producer (PBA) and user (20th CBRNE) is a powerful illustration of our critical role in national security and the importance of our modernization efforts.

ARSENAL READY Deep Dive: 'R' for Readiness

This month, we delve into the cornerstone of this framework: *Readiness*. For us, "Readiness" is a holistic state of being, built on three essential pillars and demonstrated through our daily actions.

• Operational Readiness:

This is our ability to execute our core mission with excellence, delivering critical materials to the Warfighter on time, every time. We see this readiness in our diverse munitions production, our status as a CBRNE Center of Excellence, and our ability to meet specialized needs.

• Strategic Readiness:

This is our ability to anticipate and adapt to the future. It involves the long-term planning and modernization efforts that define our 'Arsenal of Tomorrow' vision. Strategic readiness ensures our infrastructure, technology, and workforce skills evolve to support the next generation of Warfighter capabilities. The Hanwha partnership, and more to come, are tangible examples of building this strategic resilience.

• Homefront Readiness:

Our greatest asset is our people. This pillar focuses on the well-being of our workforce and their families. A team that feels supported is a team that is ready for any mission. Our workforce embodies this readiness through

commitment, adaptability, teamwork, and individual responsibility.

Leading Change: Kotter's Playbook in Action at PBA

Achieving our vision requires us to master the process of change. We continue our series on John Kotter's Eight-Step Change Model by examining steps three and four, which are central to our current transformation.

Step Three: Form a Strategic Vision:

The core principle of this step is to create a clear, compelling, and imaginable picture of the future.

Our "Arsenal of Tomorrow" vision is the embodiment of this step, and it succeeds by being Imaginable, Desirable, Feasible, Focused, Flexible, and Communicable. The Army's Modernization Plan provides a strategic foundation, while the monumental investment from Hanwha and high-level engagements and visits from high-end commercial defense companies lend immense credibility, making the "Arsenal of Tomorrow" a realistic future.

Step Four: Enlist the Workforce: Simply communicating a vision is not enough for a change of this magnitude. Step four is about moving beyond passive reception to active engagement, creating a critical mass of people who are committed and empowered to act.

This engaged Workforce is the engine that will drive our transformation for decades to come. The distinction is crucial: at PBA, we are enlisting our Workforce by making the

vision a tangible reality. The Hanwha partnership is a clear message that the "Arsenal of Tomorrow" is happening now.

Every tour, Senior Leader engagement and visit from a potential partner reinforces our vision as credible and attractive, inspiring our Workforce to become active champions of this future.

Building the Future: Our Vision for the "Arsenal of Tomorrow"

The "Arsenal of Tomorrow" is more than a slogan; it is our strategic and moral imperative. This is a pivotal moment in our history - an opportunity that may not come again. We must be victorious in this effort. PBAs future depends on it.

You have the chance to be known as "The Keystone Generation", the cohort that held the arch of history for Pine Bluff Arsenal and catapulted it into the future.

Creating this future is a monumental undertaking. Like the builders of a great cathedral, many of us laying the groundwork today may not be here to see its final, glorious form. So why must we build the blueprint? Because if we don't, in 10 or 20 years, a new generation of leaders and a new workforce will continue to be hindered by the "Arsenal of Yesterday".

Our work today ensures their success tomorrow. It is our duty to be the visionaries who secure a thriving future for the workforce that will follow us.

To achieve this, we will:

See **COMMANDER** Page 4

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"

20th CBRNE Command visits PBA

By Rachel Selby

Pine Bluff Arsenal played host Feb. 11 to a visit by the 20th Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosives (CBRNE) Command. The visit discussions were led by 20th CBRNE Commander Brig Gen. W. Bochat.

Others in attendance included Headquarter Department of the Army-G-8 (Deputy Chief of Staff); U.S. Army Western Hemisphere Command; TACOM; 8th Army; U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command (DEVCOM CBC); and other CBRNE Brigade teams.

The visit focused on M12A1 funding and sustainment with discussions about the Arsenal's work on the M12/M26 systems. A presentation about the M12 and PBA's work was given by Stephen Lee, M12 Program Manager, Directorate of Chemical and Biological Defense Operations.

"We have completed four systems to date specifically for the 20th," said Lee. "There is consistent demand, and PBA has the expertise to fix these systems. The issue is rebuilding and reengineering of items because parts are not in the supply system due to obsolescence of equipment."

Key points in the discussion surrounding the M12 decon units across all those present were the decline of CBRNE readiness due to low funding, weak demand, parts sourcing, component obsolescence and end-user inattention.

Other discussions centered around M48 filters, which currently impact vehicle fleet readiness; TACOM sustainment regarding low priority in budgets towards CBRNE equipment; TACOM support towards PBA being a CBRNE sustainment hub; and a look at next generation obscuration technologies presented by DEVCOM CBC.

Bochat said she welcomed introspection, recommendations and solutions to the various issues brought forward during the discussions. "Use your lens to help us solve problems," she said.

A working lunch was held where PBA Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason talked about the Arsenal's strategic vision for the future including lethality, layered protection and industry partnership including current movement with Public Private Partnerships (P3s) and Enhanced Use Leases (EULs).

After lunch, tours were conducted of the M12/Dismounted Reconnaissance Sets, Kits and Outfits; Quality Evaluation Facility; large filter and textile facilities.

Photo, top right, Pine Bluff Arsenal hosted a CBRNE Enterprise Engagement with Brig. Gen. W. Bochat, Commanding General, 20th CBRNE Command Feb. 11. Bochat, pictured far right, spearheaded the event. Others in attendance were pictured from left, Brig. Gen. Peter Gilbert, Army Chief of Staff-G4, U.S. Army Western Hemisphere Command (USAWHC), Dr. James Watson (SES), Director, Engineering Directorate, U.S. Army DEVCOM CBC and PBA Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason.

Photo, middle right, Eric Petty, shows the engine and other components of the M12 during a CBRNE Enterprise Engagement meeting in February. A major focus of the meeting was the readiness and sustainment of the M12 decontamination apparatus.

Three individuals from Pine Bluff Arsenal's Directorate of Chemical and Biological Defense Operations were recognized before the meeting Feb. 11 with coins from 20th CBRNE Commander Brig. Gen. W. Bochat (far left). From left are Will Moore, a chemical equipment repairer, and Kyle Knight, both with the CB Mobile and Powered Systems Division. Both demonstrated exceptional technical expertise and unwavering dedication in advancing the M12 Decontamination System Repair project ahead of schedule.; and Steven Gray, Chief of Testing and Surveillance Division. Gray's exceptional dedication and technical precision have been instrumental in improving the CBRN readiness through maintenance of surety standards and execution of shelf life extension testing at the Quality Evaluation Facility. PBA Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason, pictured far right. U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY HUGH MORGAN





Holston Army Ammunition Plant in Kingsport, Tenn., conducted large scale antiterrorism exercises in April 2025 with outside agencies including the Kingsport Police Department, Kingsport Fire Department, Kingsport Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Kingsport Special Weapons and Tactics, the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency and local emergency management directors. U.S. ARMY PHOTO SUBMITTED

Holston wins Army award

By Matthew Wheaton
Joint Munitions Command,
Public and Congressional
Affairs

KINGSPORT, Tenn. — The Holston Army Ammunition Plant was recognized by the Department of the Army with the Best Small Installation Antiterrorism (AT) Program Award.

HSAAP is a government owned, contractor operated installation whose current operating contractor is BAE Systems. HSAAP, one of 17 subordinates of the Joint Munitions Command, provides high quality explosives to meet the current and future requirements of the U.S. Department of War, allied partners and commercial customers in a modern, safe, secure, economical and environmentally compliant manner.

HSAAP earned consistent praise for its antiterrorism and force protection program during Army Materiel Command's triennial higher headquarters assessments and year round inspections.

The program is recognized for its focus on protecting personnel, facilities and critical infrastructure through multi-platform efforts designed to heighten workforce awareness, preparedness and the ability to respond to acts of terrorism.

"Our team takes protection seriously because our mission demands it," said Lt. Col. J. Mike Paul, HSAAP's commander. "Every Soldier, civilian and contractor on this installation plays a role in keeping Holston safe, and this award reflects that shared commitment."

HSAAP's antiterrorism program was also commended for meticulous planning and close synchronization with its tenants.

HSAAP's approach deters, detects, defends and protects against the evolving threats posed by foreign and domestic terrorist or extremist groups, while emphasizing innovative training to strengthen its defenses in a rapidly changing environment.

During the 2025 AMC Force Protection Assessment of the installation, evaluators described HSAAP's program as robust and synchronized, citing what they called the "best government-contractor relationship seen at any AMC GOCO installation (The GOCO that works)." Members of the AMC Force Protection Team also praised the plant's strong "hard target" security posture.

Several best practices were identified across mission areas:

- **AT:** HSAAP was highlighted in AT for seamless operational communication that enables consistent information sharing, integrated training, real time intelligence support and coordinated engagement among mission partners.

- **InT:** For insider threats, HSAAP was recognized for fully implementing regulatory requirements and demonstrating strong case management, intelligence integration and coordination across contractors, intelligence and DOW lines of operation and execution.

- **OPSEC:** HSAAP was also recognized for the best practice in operations security, as the plant's OPSEC program has combined with that of BAE Systems, in a way that ensures buy in from all stakeholders.

"Our goal is to stay ahead of emerging threats, not react to them," Paul said. "That means integrating intelligence, training and technology so our people have every advantage when it comes to protecting HSAAP."

"This recognition is not the finish line," he added. "It's a reminder that our mission is critical and our people are prepared. We will continue to strengthen our defenses and ensure Holston remains one of the safest installations in the Army."

Hails and Farewells

Hails

Jessiah K. Grigsby, Security Guard, has joined the Directorate of Emergency Services.

Farewell

Linsey T. Umana, Security Guard, has left the Directorate of Emergency Services.

CHAMBER from Page 1

of the plan."

Mason said if the Arsenal is going to tell leadership we can do something we need to be ready. "This is not just us, this is the community around us," he said. "We must have buy in and support. Big ideas can't move slowly. We are proactive. We are telling the Army what we want to do."

Mason talked about two focus areas – we must integrate with others and combine those ideas, specifically lethality and layered protection. These will be accomplished through two mechanisms: P3 – Private Public Partnership (Command level) and EULs – Enhanced Use Leases (Army negotiating with large commercial industry).

"We are not just talking about supporting the Arsenal of Freedom," said the colonel. "We are building its blueprint. The Arsenal has a lot of land that is under used."

In January, the Army announced Hanwha Defense, based in South Korea, has won a bid to build a large munitions facility on the Arsenal. Negotiations are continuing; however, the company expects to break ground later this summer.

"I hope the process to select more businesses to help with PBA's munitions mission will be completed by the end of this year," said Mason, who outlined his plan and vision to make the Arsenal a strategic hub by building OIB resilience, driving modernization and providing modernized sustainment through upgrades and service life extension programs.

"We need to be ready right now to fulfill this vision because you never know about the momentum," he said. "Right now, we are taking full advantage and moving ahead while we can, as far as we can."

COMMANDER from Page 2

- **Empower Leadership:** Leaders must "walk the talk" by consistently articulating the vision, acting as role models, and delegating authority. This empowerment fosters a sense of ownership and trust, which is critical for our Workforce to thrive.

- **Execute Dynamic Communication:** We must use every channel, especially in-person meetings and open forums, to create honest dialogue. We will continue to use storytelling, sharing success stories and progress updates that bring the vision to life.

- **Generate Tangible Wins:** We must celebrate milestones like the Hanwha deal, new technology integrations, new contracts, and Senior Leader visits. These short-term wins provide tangible proof of progress and keep our team motivated for the long journey ahead.

- **Connect to a Higher Purpose:** We must continually frame this transformation in its contribution to national security and the Army's Modernization Plan. The knowledge that we are building the future of America's defense is a powerful intrinsic motivator for every member of the PBA team.

The builders of today are the architects of tomorrow's victory. Our Workforce, embedded at all levels, will serve as the guardians of this vision, a continuous improvement engine, and a bridge across generations.

This is our responsibility, our privilege, and our legacy.

"Right Today, Better Tomorrow"

--

"America's Arsenal, Arsenal Ready"

EAP Corner

Nourish to Flourish

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

National Nutrition Month is a dedicated campaign focusing on the significance of nutrition and health. It seeks to educate individuals about the importance of making informed food choices, developing consistent eating habits, and undertaking regular physical activity. The path to wellness often begins at our plates. Spearheaded by nutrition professionals and enthusiasts, the month offers a myriad of resources, events, and initiatives to promote a healthier lifestyle for all.

As a beacon of wellness, every March is celebrated as National Nutrition Month, casting a spotlight on dietary habits, food knowledge, and the joys of wholesome eating.

Although many people like to set resolutions and try turning over a new leaf around the new year, March is also a great time for a healthy focus, after the long winter is almost over. At the beginning of springtime, this month is often a time when people feel that the winter is ending, the sun is beginning to shine, and hope is beginning to rise. A time for people to start learning and thinking a bit more carefully about what kinds of foods they put into their bodies.

This annual celebration is not just about highlighting the importance of healthy eating but also about inspiring individuals to make informed food choices and develop sustainable habits that nourish their bodies and minds.

This year's theme, "Nourish to Flourish," encapsulates the essence of what nutrition is all about. It reminds us food is more than just fuel; it's one of the fundamental aspects of our health and vitality. Let's dive into some impactful strategies to optimize your nutrition and cultivate a healthy relationship with food, and healthful insights and culinary adventures.

Eat More Fresh Foods

This is a great month to begin finding fresh fruits, veggies and other foods at a local grocery store. Even better, visit a farmers' market if the weather permits in the area. Don't be afraid to ask the vegetable seller to share ideas for ways that certain foods should be prepared or look up some recipe ideas online.

Avoid Fast Food

One way that many people can make an easy change is by cutting out fast food during National Nutrition Month. If it's a matter of convenience, either take a few minutes to pack a lunch in the morning or choose a quick meal at a place that serves a healthy salad or soup option.

Plant a Garden

March is a great time to start thinking forward into the coming year. If it's still cold out, that's okay. Seedlings can be begun inside and then moved outside when the weather gets warmer. Some easy to grow and healthy plants include lettuce, beans, radishes, peas, carrots, cucumbers and kale.

Start during National Nutrition Month and then have a whole summer full of healthy and delicious vegetables to help carry things further on throughout the year. Try planting different vegetables from every color of the rainbow!

Choose Whole Grains

One simple but super healthy substitute that doesn't require much effort is trading out the empty calories of white rice, white bread, and plain pasta for whole-grain versions. Brown rice, whole wheat or oat bread don't spike the blood sugar as much and take longer for the digestive system to break down. A great way to sneak a serving of vegetables into a meal is by serving healthy spaghetti squash instead of pasta which is filled with empty calories.

Learn Fun Facts About Foods

To make eating healthier more interesting, consider learning some fun food facts that will keep things interesting and aid anyone in eating in a more nutritional manner:

- Banana plants are members of the herb family.
- Strawberries contain more Vitamin C than oranges.

NAME _____ OFF SYM _____

NOURISH TO FLOURISH

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

NUTRITION FRESH LUNCH CHOICES LIFESTYLE	FLOURISH FOOD VEGGIES HABITS	GARDEN MEAL GROCERY EATING
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- Coffee beans are the seeds of the fruit of the coffee plant.

- One can of soda contains around 10 teaspoons of sugar.

- A hardboiled egg will spin but a soft-boiled one won't.

- A medium-sized potato is a similar size to a computer mouse.

- Only wash grapes just before you eat them as they keep better unwashed

Enjoy National Nutrition Month every March, eat well and live healthier, and then carry on for the rest of the year!

PBA's Army Substance Abuse Program/Employee Assistance Program, (ASAP/EAP). The Army Substance Abuse (ASAP) staff are 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 13-040, and can be reached at 870-540-3094. The Care line number is (870) 550-2653.

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
Tristian Cherry, Webmaster

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DPW Spotlight



Pine Bluff Arsenal Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason, and acting Deputy to the Commander John Burkhead recognized the Arsenal's Directorate of Public Works crews Feb. 3, for all their hard work during the ice and snow storms in late January. The following individuals were recognized: Mark Brown-O&M Supervisor; Brad Kennedy-O&M; William Ives-O&M; Lucas Dickson-O&M; Clayton Smith-O&M; Stephen Hill-O&M; Jeff Smith-O&M; John Beckwith- Mobile Equipment Supervisor; Joesph Musgrove- Mobile Equipment Leader; Chris Covey- Mobile Equipment; Justin Wilson-Mobile Equipment; Matthew Ryals-O&M; Shawn Eversole-O&M; Gerald Arledge-O&M; Barry Hollinger-O&M; Adam Garrison-O&M; Frank Hoffman-O&M; James Garrett-O&M; Ryan Sanders-O&M; Kevin Snyder-O&M Supervisor; Todd Dobbins-O&M Supervisor; Drue Owen-O&M; Tyler Sneed-O&M; JR Rodriguez-O&M; Donny Pumphrey; Timothy Silvey – O&M Supervisor; Jason Schreiner- O&M Leader; and Shannon Bunting- O&M. U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY RACHEL SELBY



Cale Thomas and Jerrime Heird, both boiler operators, with Pine Bluff Arsenal's Directorate of Public Works, post with gigantic icicles during the winter storm in January.

U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY DPW

PBA Employee Safety Award
Nomination




EYES ARE EVERYWHERE IN CYBERSPACE

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU WRITE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

PRACTICE OPSEC

HR Tips



Designation of beneficiaries

Courtesy of the SI Office

Have you updated your beneficiary forms lately? Completing beneficiary forms is an option available to every civilian employee. However, if you complete beneficiary forms, it becomes your responsibility to ensure the forms are current. A change in marital status or family status does not automatically change a beneficiary form that you previously submitted, nor does it prevent the beneficiary from receiving the death benefits that you designated. The most common mistake is when you name a spouse as beneficiary and later divorce that spouse but forget to change the beneficiary form.

There are several types of beneficiary forms that you can complete to designate your benefits that are payable after death. These forms include:

* SF 1152 - Designation of Beneficiary, Unpaid Compensation of Deceased Civilian Employee - File with your local CPAC or HR representa-

tive.

* SF 2808 - Designation of Beneficiary, Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) - Mail to OPM at the address at the bottom of the first page.

* SF 2823 - Designation of Beneficiary, Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance Program - File with your local CPAC or HR representative.

* SF 3102 - Designation of Beneficiary, Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) - File with your local CPAC or HR representative.

* TSP-3 - Designation of Beneficiary, TSP - Mail to TSP at the address at the bottom of the last page.

You should make copies of your beneficiary forms prior to submitting them to the appropriate offices.

If you do not complete beneficiary forms, your death benefits will be distributed in the order of precedence. The order of precedence is as follows: 1. Court order property settlement (if applicable).

2. To the widow or widower.

3. If no widow or widower, to the child or children in equal shares, with the share of any deceased child distributed among the descendants of that child.

4. If no child or children, to the parents in equal shares or the entire amount to the surviving parent.

5. If none of the above, to the executor or administrator of the estate of the deceased.

6. If no executor or administrator, to the next of kin under the laws of the state in which the decedent was domiciled at date of death.

If you have any questions regarding the completion of beneficiary forms, you may contact the Army Benefits Center-Civilian (ABC-C) at 1-877-276-9287.

You will need to print the forms and have witnesses sign prior to sending them to the CPAC for upload in your eOPF.

Diane E. Campbell, Secretary of the General Staff and Protocol for U.S. Army Joint Munitions Command, assisted Pine Bluff Arsenal at the end of 2025 with preparing for the U.S. Army Chief of Staff visit in January 2026. PBA Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason presented her a certificate of appreciation for visiting PBA and lending her expertise in the visit preparations.

U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY HUGH MORGAN



American Heart Month Prevention Basket giveaway



In celebration of February as American Heart Month, the Pine Bluff Arsenal's Army Substance Abuse/Employee Assistance Program Team gave away three Prevention Baskets full of token goodies Feb. 18. The team made it a fun give away. The email basket was presented to Donna Ford with PBA's Directorate of Business Operations and Planning, pictured above with Paula Smith. She was the seventh email. U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY HUGH MORGAN



Bridget Walker with PBA's Directorate of Chemical and Biological Defense Operations received a prevention basket. She was the seventh walk-in. Walker is pictured with her basket, along with Kevin Bradley and Paula Smith.



The Prevention Basket for the Directorate of Ammunition Operations was given to Zachary Nobles. He called the number closest to 77 without going over. His number was 70. Nobles is pictured with Paula Smith and Kevin Bradley with PBA's ASAP/EAP office.

Chemical stockpile destruction milestone leaves lasting legacy

By Matthew Wheaton
Joint Munitions Command,
Public and Congressional
Affairs

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL, Ill. — The destruction of the U.S. chemical weapons stockpile represents one of the most significant achievements in the history of arms control.

Stored at multiple locations across the country, the U.S. once possessed more than 30,000 tons of chemical warfare agents. The successful elimination of the stockpile marks the first time an entire class of declared weapons of mass destruction has been destroyed under international supervision, reinforcing U.S. commitment to global security and the strength of the Chemical Weapons Convention – an international treaty that bans the development, production, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons.

Beginning in 1990, the Department of War undertook the complex task of destroying its chemical weapons in a manner that protected workers, safeguarded surrounding communities, and met strict environmental standards.

Destruction of the Pueblo Chemical Depot, Colorado, stockpile was completed at Pueblo Chemical Agent Destruction Pilot Plant in June 2023. One month later, the final munition in the stockpile stored by Blue Grass Chemical Activity at Blue Grass Army Depot, Kentucky, was destroyed inside the BGCA Destruction Pilot Plant.

The successful elimination of the stockpile set the conditions for a major transition. On Dec. 10, 2025, the Depart-

ment of the Army approved termination of BGCA's surety status. The termination for the BGCA-Destruction Pilot Plant was approved on Dec. 1, 2025, paving the path for surety experts to support the Army in other ways. Both organizations are located on BGAD.

"This is more than the end of a mission," said Kelso Horne, CMA's director. "It is the culmination of decades of disciplined work by people who never lost sight of the responsibility they carried."

At PCD, the workforce safely stored hundreds of thousands of projectiles, which contained mustard agent, until they were transferred for neutralization followed by biotreatment, an environmentally responsible approach that relied on living organisms to break down chemical byproducts.

"Every person who touched this mission understood the weight," said Col. Rodney McCutcheon, PCD's 40th and final commander. "We knew the nation trusted us, and we honored that trust every single day."

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ical weapons.

The stockpile stored by BGCA included diverse nerve agents and munitions with complex designs that required first of its kind engineering solutions and evolving storage monitoring efforts and careful munition movement. Neutralization and static detonation chambers were used to safely eliminate more than 100,000 rockets and projectiles containing nerve and blister agents.

"The success at BGCA shows what is possible when the Army and the community stand shoulder to shoulder," said Lt. Col. David Dellerman, BGCA's commander. "This mission was bigger than any one organization, and we succeeded because we worked as one team. The global significance of this accomplishment cannot be overstated."

Although BGCA and PCD have completed their chemical destruction missions, CMA's mission is far from over. Support to the treaty continues, as the CMA Recovered Chemical Materiel Directorate provides centralized management and direction to the DOW for the assessment and destruction of items that are not part of the declared, stored U.S. chemical weapons stockpile but still contain chemical warfare materiel and are recovered across the country, primarily on active military installations and Formerly Used Defense Sites.

"Our responsibility extends beyond the elimination of weapons. It includes stewardship, accountability, and the preservation of lessons learned for future generations," Dellerman said.

Paint and Sip 2026

Pine Bluff Arsenal's Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation held a Valentine Paint and Sip Feb. 12 at the Army Reserve Center. This was an after-hours event where attendees could paint, eat and sip on drinks during the evening. Justine Mark, pictured below, with the Degy Company, instructed the class.



Years of Service



From left, Tonya L. Jiner, Johnetta K. Ford and Jerrime B. Heird, were recognized recently by Pine Bluff Arsenal Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason for five years of government service. U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY HUGH MORGAN



Rodney C. Mays was recognized recently for ten years of government service by Pine Bluff Arsenal Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason.



From left, Samantha L. Hankins and Angie L. Campbell were recognized recently for 20 years of government service by Pine Bluff Arsenal Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason.



Daniel G. Heinzelman was recognized recently for 25 years of government service by Pine Bluff Arsenal Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason.



Cassandra E. Cosen was recognized recently for 40 years of government service by Pine Bluff Arsenal Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason.

You can view all the Arsenal Sentinel issues from July 2025 to now by going to this QR code



Don't Forget!!!!

Pine Bluff Arsenal's Army Emergency Relief Campaign kicks off today at 1 p.m. at Creasy Auditorium. Come by and find out what you can do to support this great cause!



Click on the QR Code to easily contribute to the Arsenal's AER campaign!

A vertical poster with a black background and yellow and white text. The top section features the words 'AER CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF' in large, bold, sans-serif fonts. 'AER' is yellow, 'CAMPAIGN' is white, and 'KICK-OFF' is yellow. The text is surrounded by yellow stars and radiating lines. Below this, the text 'JOIN US FOR THE LAUNCH EVENT!' is in white. The date '26 FEBRUARY 2026' is in large yellow letters. The location 'CREASY AUDITORIUM' is in white, and the time 'TIME: 1300' is in yellow. At the bottom, there is a silhouette of a group of people in military uniforms. Below the silhouette, the text 'Honoring the past, securing the future' is in white. At the very bottom, 'Pine Bluff Arsenal' is in white, and 'March 1st - June 14th, 2026' is in a smaller white font.

**AER
CAMPAIGN
KICK-OFF**

JOIN US FOR THE LAUNCH EVENT!

26 FEBRUARY 2026

CREASY AUDITORIUM

TIME: 1300

Honoring the past, securing the future

Pine Bluff Arsenal
March 1st - June 14th, 2026