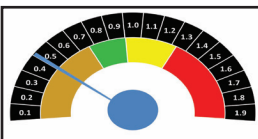




SHARP
SEXUAL HARASSMENT/ASSAULT RESPONSE & PREVENTION
Pine Bluff Arsenal
24/7 SHARP Hotline
870-209-4093

PBA Safety Glance



Safety Element for Fiscal Year 2026
Lost Day Case Rate: 0.46
Award Goal: 0.95

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

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

***Pine Bluff Arsenal days without a lost time injury is 152.**

***Pine Bluff Arsenal days without a recordable injury is 119.**

***Estimated hours worked without a lost time injury: 398,784.**



Secretary of Army visits PBA

By Rachel Selby

The 26th U.S. Secretary of the Army Daniel P. Driscoll visited Pine Bluff Arsenal March 12. This was his first visit to the installation.

Lt. Gen. Gavin A. Lawrence, Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Army Materiel Command, Brig. Gen. Daniel J. Duncan, Commanding General, U.S. Army Joint Munitions Command, Brig. Gen. George Walter, Commander, Southwest Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Arkansas Gov. Sarah Sanders, Arkansas Secretary of Commerce Hugh McDonald, White Hall Mayor Noel Foster, staffers from Arkansas Sen. Tom Cotton and Sen. John Boozman's office were also in attendance, plus others from the Arkansas Economic Development Commission and Hanwha USA Defense.

Opening remarks by Brig. Gen. Daniel J. Duncan, Commanding General of Joint Munitions Command, kicked off this high-level meeting.

"Welcome to Pine Bluff Arsenal – a gem within the Organic Industrial Base. We are super excited to have the Secretary here," he said. "We are here to talk about modernization as it relates to the strategic visions for our Army. We are glad to have everyone here."

Driscoll said he was excited to be here. "There is nothing more important than spending our time fixing places like Pine Bluff and investing in the American Workforce. This will allow us to scale at a mo-



Top photo, Secretary of the Army Daniel P. Driscoll signs a 155MM ammunition round during his first visit to Pine Bluff Arsenal March 12. Bottom photo, from left, White Hall Mayor Noel Foster, Arkansas Secretary of Commerce Hugh McDonald, Arkansas Governor Sarah Sanders, Arsenal Chief of Staff Justin Lieber, Secretary of the Army Driscoll, Lt. Gen. Gavin A. Lawrence, Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Army Materiel Command, U.S. Army Joint Munitions Command Commanding General Brig. Gen. Daniel J. Duncan, and JMC Command Sgt. Maj. Paul J. Ellis. U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY HUGH MORGAN

ment's notice with all the tools of war we need," he said. "My impression of the Organic Industrial Base this past year is the passion in which people talk about it. It is an honor to be here with you."

He emphasized his need to hear about where "we are broken" and "where we are not delivering". "There is a lot of support and momentum for this," said Driscoll. "We are highly optimistic private industry will

be coming forward with a lot of ideas so we can start building those things we need. This is the perfect window of opportunity."

White Hall Mayor Noel
See DRISCOLL 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

From Vision to Action: A Month of Strategic Engagement

Our 'Arsenal of Tomorrow' vision is being recognized and validated at the highest levels. This isn't just planning; this is execution. Here's a look at our recent progress:

• **Hosting Army and State Leadership:** We had the distinct honor of hosting the Secretary of the Army (let me say that again, the Secretary of the Army). Again, the first time the SECARMY has ever been to PBA. We were also proud to host the Arkansas Governor and the White Hall Mayor, among other Army senior leaders on this visit. The professionalism and excellence our team displayed during this high-profile engagement were exceptional. Your dedication is noticed at the highest echelons, and it is paying dividends for PBA's reputation and future.

• **Building the Next Generation:** Our team attended the STEM Fair in Fayetteville, actively recruiting the next generation of innovators and problem-solvers who will carry the torch of the Arsenal of Tomorrow.

• **Securing Our Place in the Lethality Business:** I attended the Munitions Executive Summit in New Jersey, where I met with key leaders from DEVCOM, Joint Services, and Program Managers for Close Combat Support and Combat Ammunitions Systems.

The summit's key takeaway was clear: the partnership between government and the private sector has never been stronger, and PBA was highlighted multiple times as a leader in proving how it can be done. In addition, PBA sent a representative to the AUSA Global Force Symposium, the Army's premier event for advancing its modernization strategy. This is vital for learning where the Army is headed and showcasing PBA's potential.

• **Advancing the Hanwha Partnership:** This week, we are hosting more than 20 members of the Hanwha team to continue the detailed planning needed to establish their presence here at PBA. You may have even seen timber clearing taking place. Things are mov-



Col. Matthew C. Mason

ing quick – just like the CSA and SECARMY have told us and the private sector to do!

Breaking News: Past Risks Deliver Future Rewards

Our past work, even when it challenged us, has put us on the map. A few months ago, PBA took a calculated risk to support West Point with their parkas. That effort got us a seat at the table with the HQDA G4. Being in the room where decisions are made has paid off in a huge way.

Last Thursday, I was informed by HQDA G4 that PBA has been selected to be the primary OIB site for the Military District of Washington (MDW) ceremonial uniforms. This is a monumental win.

The strategy is to build and fund an immediate, mid-term, and long-term plan with the intent for PBA to become a comprehensive, "one-stop-shop" for these iconic uniforms, managing all aspects of production, alternations, ordering, storage, and shipping. This is a direct result of our willingness to take on tough challenges and deliver.

More Breaking News: Expanding Our Footprint: Reclaiming Land for Tomorrow

To support the Arsenal of Tomorrow, we must have the space to grow. In 2001, approximately 1,448 acres of PBA land were transferred to the Economic Development Alliance of Jefferson County. Given the strategic need to partner with commercial industry and have

developable land for future projects, I formally requested that HQDA reclaim this land. I am thrilled to announce that on March 10, the Army officially reclaimed the rights to the land, giving PBA an additional 1,448 acres to secure our future.

Seat At the Table – What Does That Mean:

At events like AUSA and the Munitions Summit, I can confidently state "PBA is at the table." But that seat is not given, nor is it guaranteed. It is earned. It is earned exclusively through your continued motivation, buy-in, and dedication.

It is earned when you provide feedback to make us better, and it is earned through your willingness to change and take calculated risks to transform our Arsenal.

This is precisely why we have been pushing everyone to get comfortable with being uncomfortable. The risk we took on the West Point parkas led directly to the MDW uniform mission and our push to expand and transform led directly to the reclaiming of land.

That is the tangible reward for leaning into discomfort. It is this mindset that allows us to sustain our momentum and take the actions necessary to secure our future.

ARSENAL READY Deep Dive: 'S' for Sustainment

The ARSENAL READY framework is our guide to excellence. This month, we focus on the "S": Sustainment. Sustain-

ment is the enduring power of our Arsenal. It is the ability to maintain our momentum, preserve our capabilities, and ensure our long-term viability for the Warfighter and the nation. For us, Sustainment is built on three pillars:

• **Sustainment of the Mission:** This is our commitment to ensuring the long-term health of our core missions. It means we are not just producing for today but are actively securing work for tomorrow. By pursuing opportunities like the MDW ceremonial uniforms and a larger role in the Army's lethality business, we are ensuring our production lines remain critical to national defense for decades to come.

• **Sustainment of the Force:** An Arsenal is only as strong as its people. We sustain our force by investing in them. This includes everything from our apprenticeship programs to our recruitment efforts at events like the Fayetteville STEM Fair. We are building a continuous pipeline of talent to ensure the unique skills required at PBA are passed from one generation to the next.

• **Sustainment of the Installation:** This is about ensuring our physical foundation is ready for the future. The reclamation of the 1,448 acres is a perfect example of sustaining the installation—providing the ground for future growth.

Every partnership we build, like the one with Hanwha, brings investment and modernization that sustains

and revitalizes our infrastructure, ensuring PBA remains a state-of-the-art facility.

Let me be perfectly clear: our **ARSENAL READY** Framework is not just a bumper sticker we display. It is our operational blueprint. It is the very DNA of our strategy, ensuring that every action we take—from securing new missions to modernizing our facilities—is calculated, planned, resourced, and executed with deliberate intent to drive our strategic outlook and build the Arsenal of Tomorrow.

Leading Change: Kotter's Playbook in Action at PBA

Mastering change is essential to our success. We continue our series on John Kotter's Eight-Step Change Model by examining steps five and six and how we are living them at PBA.

Step 5: Empower Broad-Based Action

This step is about removing the barriers that stand in the way of the vision. It means changing systems and structures that undermine our goals and encourage our Workforce to take smart risks. We are empowering action in several keyways:

• **Removing Barriers:** By reclaiming the 1,448 acres, we have removed a significant physical barrier to our expansion and partnership goals.

• **Encouraging Initiative:**

See MASON Page 5

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"

DRISCOLL from Page 1

Foster offered some passionate remarks about PBA and the city he grew up in.

"I've been here all my life. I was born and raised here. Our city exists because of this Arsenal," he said. "I retired as the Chief of Police and have been the mayor for 16 years. This is the largest leadership I can remember being here and it is because of the people in this room. For the last eight decades, this community has supported the Arsenal, and we will do it for the next eight decades. Thank you all for being here."

Arkansas Gov. Sarah Sanders said Pine Bluff Arsenal is a great anchor for the entire area.

"We think there is opportunity for partnerships with everyone here in this room. This will be a great thing for the state of Arkansas," she said. "I look forward to the discussions."

"I've been here all my life. I was born and raised here. Our city exists because of this Arsenal... This is the largest leadership I can remember being here and it is because of the people in this room. For the last eight decades, this community has supported the Arsenal, and we will do it for the next eight decades."

-White Hall Mayor Noel Foster

Hanwha Defense USA was selected by the U.S. Army in late January to construct and manage a new \$1.3 billion munitions manufacturing plant at PBA. This enhanced use lease agreement is a strategic move to modernize the U.S. military's supply chain by producing key components for explosives and propellants domestically.

Pine Bluff Arsenal has a rich and proud history of supporting our nation's Warfighters dating back to 1941, said Lt. Gen. Gavin A. Lawrence, Deputy Commanding General for Army Materiel Command. "I want to thank all the leadership and our industry partners for being here. We are absolutely at an inflection point of the future here," he said.

During PBA's strategic brief to the Secretary, Justin Lieber, Arsenal Chief of Staff, presented a high-level overview of the installation's outlook and vision for the future including the re-appropriation of land called the Bioplex, which was originally leased to the Jefferson County Economic Alliance but never developed, as well as the realignment of the PBA Workforce to meet the Army's urgent demands for high-explosive munitions and UAS/UAB (drone) lethality and deterrence.

"The PBA team is working closely with Hanwha to keep moving forward on the agreement," said Lieber. "We are moving at speed. There are a lot of stakeholders involved in this venture."

A pyrotechnic demonstration featuring the Arsenal's signature M18/M83 colored smoke grenades, M106 grenade and M14 thermate grenade was presented prior to lunch. A briefing by Carolyn Farmer with Army Materiel Command G3 about advanced manufacturing efforts was presented during a working lunch.

During the meeting, Driscoll presented coins (photo top left) to Willie Johnson, Explosive Operator, Directorate of Ammunition Operations; Edmund Nickolson, Fabric Worker, Directorate of Chemical and Biological Defense Operations; Hugh Morgan, Photographer/Videographer, Office of the Chief of Staff; Bradford Berry, Security Guard, Directorate of Emergency Services; Anthony Gray, Inventory Management Specialist, Directorate of Material Management Operations; and Julia Flowers, Financial Program Analyst, Directorate of Resource Management.

Coins were also presented (photo middle left) by AMC's Lt. Gen. Lawrence to Donna Ford, Directorate of Business Operations and Planning - S1 Office; Joyce (Penny) White, Equal Employment Opportunity Officer; Caleb Walker with the Directorate of Risk Management and Regulatory Affairs (Safety Office); Melissa Keen (not present), Directorate of Business Operations and Planning-Training Office and Tristian Cherry with the Directorate of Information Management.



Top photo, coins were presented by the Secretary of the Army Daniel P. Driscoll to Willie Johnson, Eddie Nickolson, Hugh Morgan, Bradford Berry, Anthony Gray and Julia Flowers. U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY RACHEL SELBY

Middle photo, coins were presented by AMC's Lt. Gen. Gavin A. Lawrence to Donna Ford, Joyce (Penny) White, Caleb Walker and Tristian Cherry. Melissa Keen was not present at the ceremony but also received a coin.

Bottom photo, JMC's Commanding General Daniel J. Duncan commended the efforts of PBA's Chief of Staff Justin Lieber during the Secretary of the Army visit March 12. Lieber was instrumental in presenting the Arsenal's story during the visit.

U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY HUGH MORGAN

Safe workplace is committee's goal

Courtesy of Pine Bluff Arsenal's ASOHMS Employee Safety Committee

A safe workforce and workplace is not optional. Fewer injuries mean fewer stoppages, less absenteeism and a more engaged, adaptable workforce.

In 2025, the Pine Bluff Arsenal Army Safety and Occupational Health Management System (ASOHMS) Employee Safety Committee Charter was signed, establishing the team by authority of the Arsenal Commander in accordance with Policy Letter 385-8, Safety Management System.

In alignment with the Command's "Arsenal Ready" mindset, the Employee Safety Committee has been working hard for you - our fellow employees in the PBA Workforce - this year.

- a. Initiated Director's Sunrise Sweep
- b. Re-established a working employee-led safety committee
- c. Established a Safety Awards Program
- d. Conducted the Army Readiness Assessment Program (ARAP), a US Army safety survey
- e. Conducted ASOHMS awareness training during Employee Appreciation Day
- f. Determined a CY25 Safety Strategic Plan and established the Employee Safety Committee's goals
- g. Completed a suggested training matrix for PBA employees
- h. Established a Lock Out Tag Out (LOTO) working group
- i. Updated fire warden assignments across PBA and supported required training efforts



Do you know someone who has done something to help keep people safe? Nominate them for a PBA Employee Safety Award! Go to the QR code to fill out the form.

- j. Helped establish a PBA evacuation drill schedule
- k. Instrumental in on-going effort to place critical machine guarding for Stokes R4 Presses
- l. Supported all Level 3 Radiation Safety Officers in obtaining and completing Level 3 RSO training
- m. Aided in continuing maintenance of electronic Job Safety Analysis (JSA) network files
- n. Suggested additions and updates to PSM PBAR
- o. Submitted six (6) articles to the Arsenal Sentinel highlighting Team programs or employee-focused safety guidance

The PBA Employee Safety Team's plans for 2026 include getting ready for the ASOHMS Stage Two Audit and continuing to work toward full LOTO compliance.

The team would love to hand out some Safety Awards as outlined in the Safety Awards program established this year. Contact any member of the Employee Safety Team to learn more or go to the QR code to nominate someone for their safe work.



Assistant Fire Chief David L. Weiss was presented the Employee of the Quarter for 1st Quarter 2026 for his exceptional performance, unwavering dedication and outstanding service to the Pine Bluff Arsenal Fire Department. Weiss' leadership and commitment have been instrumental to the success of the Arsenal's fire and emergency response operations. His job is to manage the day-to-day operations of the department, as well as the leave calendar and overtime projections - responsibilities vital to the maintenance of operational readiness. U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY HUGH MORGAN



PBA participates in UAPB Career Summit



Pine Bluff Arsenal Director Arey Surratt, Directorate of Engineering and Technology, and Directorate of Business Operations and Planning, S1 Officer Laverne Graham, talk with visitors March 4 at the PBA booth at the Spring Career Summit at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY HUGH MORGAN



Inside The Home

- Test your home's smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.
- Don't use electrical appliances with frayed cords.
- Check for water around electrical appliances.
- Clean debris from your clothes dryer lint trap and exhaust duct.

Outside The Home

- Remove dead leaves and other debris around foundations, decks, porches, and stairs.
- Check grills for rust, worn parts, insects, grease, and other debris before use.
- Grills should only be used when at least 10 feet away from your house or any building.

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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Hails and Farewells

James S. Kimbell, Production Controller (Ammunition), has joined the Directorate of Engineering and Technology.

Abe Phillips, Jr., Motor Vehicle Operator, has joined the Directorate of Material Management.

Parker A. Rotton, Firefighter (Hazardous Materials Operations), has joined the Directorate of Emergency Services.

EAP Corner

Is alcohol use declining?

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

April marks National Alcohol Awareness Month and is sponsored by the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD) to educate the masses about America's number one health problem: alcohol dependence. Claiming the lives of more than 90,000 people every year, this month focuses on raising awareness about alcohol abuse and dependency before it is fatal. Gallup polls have tracked Americans' drinking behavior since 1939 and their views of the health implications of moderate drinking since 2001. The latest results are from Gallup's annual Consumption Habits survey, conducted July 7-21, 2025.

Record-low 54 percent say they consume alcohol

From 1997 to 2023, at least 60 percent of Americans reported drinking alcohol. The figure fell to 62 percent in 2023 and to 58 percent in 2024, before reaching 54 percent today. Prior to the most recent poll, the rate has been under 60 percent fewer than 10 times and including 58 percent in the initial 1939 poll, and a one-time low of 55 percent recorded in 1958. The highs of 68 percent to 71 percent were all recorded between 1974 and 1981.

Declines in alcohol consumption do not appear to be caused by people shifting to other mood-altering substances, in particular, recreational marijuana, which is now legal in about half of U.S. states. Although marijuana use is higher today than a decade ago, it has been fairly steady over the past four years and thus doesn't appear to be a factor in people choosing not to drink alcohol.

Majority now say drinking in moderation is bad for health

For the first time in Gallup's trend, many Americans, 53 percent, say drinking in moderation, or "one or two drinks a day," is bad for one's health. Just six percent say it's good for one's health, while 37 percent believe it makes no difference. Today's belief that moderate alcohol consumption is unhealthy follows increases from 28 percent in 2018 and 39 percent in 2023 to 45 percent a year ago. By contrast, from 2001 through 2011, the percentage with this view hovered near 25 percent, roughly equal to those who considered drinking beneficial.

Beer still most preferred alcohol, but gender gaps persist

U.S. drinkers continue to cite beer as the alcoholic beverage they consume most often, exceeding the 30 percent who name liquor and 29 percent who name wine. This is broadly consistent with the patterns seen over the past six years, when liquor has roughly matched wine as people's drink of choice.

Before 2019, liquor ranked last in popularity, while the proportions preferring wine and beer varied, but with beer usually leading.

Bottom line

Americans' drinking habits are shifting amid the medical world's reappraisal of alcohol's health effects. After decades of relative steadiness in the proportion of U.S. adults who drink, Gallup has documented three consecutive years of decline in the U.S. drinking rate as research supporting the "no amount of alcohol is safe" message mounts. Compounding the challenge for companies that sell alcohol, drinkers now appear to be dialing back how much they drink, as well.

Young adults were initially quicker than older Americans to embrace the idea drinking is detrimental, possibly because they hadn't been as exposed to earlier advice that moderate drinking, particularly wine, is heart healthy. The belief drinking is detrimental is now gaining traction with older adults, according to Gallup.

If you think you have an alcohol dependency, stop by PBA's Army Substance Abuse Program/Employee Assistance Program office. The ASAP/EAP 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 we can be reached at 870-540-3094. The Care line number is (870) 550-2653.

NAME _____ OFF SYM _____

IS ALCOHOL USE DECLINING

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

NUTRITION BEHAVIOR DRINKERS CONSUME BEER	ALCOHOL DECLINING ALCOHOLIC DRINKING	DEPENDENCE HEALTH BEVERAGE EDUCATE
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MASON from Page 2

Sending our team to national events like the AUSA Symposium empowers them to bring back new ideas and build new relationships. When I meet with industry partners, I act on the vision you empower me with every day through your hard work and dedication.

• Aligning Systems: We are actively aligning our strategic planning with the Army's modernization strategy, ensuring that our efforts are not in a silo but are part of a larger, supported movement.

Step 6: Generate Short-Term Wins

Transformation is a long-term game, but we must celebrate clear, tangible victories along the way to keep our momentum. These wins are proof that our strategy is working. Our recent short-term wins are significant and visible:

• The MDW Uniform Mission: This is a direct result of our past performance and a

huge win for our textile mission.

• The Land Reclamation: Getting back nearly 1,500 acres is a massive, unambiguous win for PBA's future.

• High-Profile Recognition: Successfully hosting the Secretary of the Army and being lauded as a leader in public-private partnerships are powerful victories that validate our efforts.

• Securing a Seat at the Table: Being an active and respected participant at major Army forums is a win that demonstrates our relevance and influence.

As I reflect on everything we've accomplished over the last nine months, I am filled with an immense sense of pride.

The professionalism, dedication, and forward-thinking spirit of this team are truly extraordinary. I can tell you with absolute certainty there is nowhere else in the world I would

wish to be right now than right here, with you, at Pine Bluff Arsenal, leading this charge.

The incredible wins we've secured are not the destination - they are the launch pad. We are only just beginning to scratch the surface of what is possible as we transform this installation. I am humbled to be on this journey with you. Let's continue to build the Arsenal of Tomorrow together.

**"Right Today,
Better Tomorrow"**

--
**"America's
Arsenal,
Arsenal Army"**



AER Campaign 2026 kickoff



Pine Bluff Arsenal Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason kicked off the Arsenal's Army Emergency Relief Campaign Feb. 26 at Creasy Auditorium with cake. Army Emergency Relief (AER) is the Army's own emergency financial assistance application organization dedicated to "Helping the Army take care of its own." This is a private nonprofit organization with the sole mission to help Soldiers, retired Soldiers, and Army families by helping alleviate financial stress and promoting economic stability. Last year PBA's total donations were \$20,505. The Pine Bluff Arsenal AER Section would like to meet (and exceed) this year's goal of \$21,000.00. For more information on who can donate, how you can donate, who's eligible for financial assistance, what kind of assistance we can provide and how we can provide it, please give Tiffany Penister a call at 870-540-3588 or send her an email at tiffany.a.penister.civ@army.mil. You can also contact me, Laura Brown, at 870-540-3030 or by email at laura.w.brown5.civ@army.mil. U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY HUGH MORGAN



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

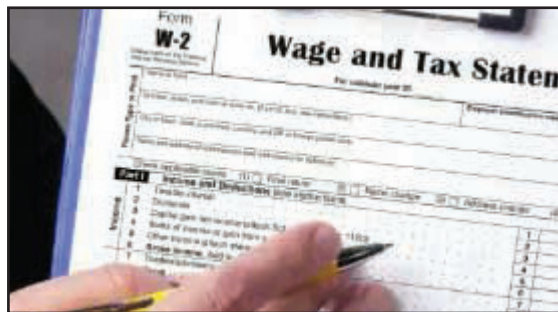
HR Tips

Is your address correct?

Courtesy of Pine Bluff Arsenal's S1 Office

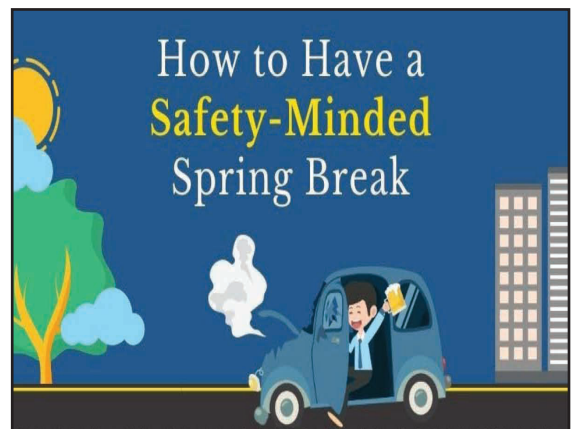
Tax season is upon us! It is very important that employees have the correct correspondence address in the payroll and personnel systems to ensure documents can be delivered to them via regular postal service mail (if you have elected to receive a hard copy). The Defense Finance Accounting Service (DFAS) has thousands of pieces of mail returned each year due to incorrect addresses. Some documents that may be affected include: W-2 forms used for annual tax filing and Leave and Earnings Statements (LES).

To ensure your address is correct, you should log into



MyPay at <https://mypay.dfas.mil/#/>. On the main menu, go to Mailing Address. If your address is incorrect, click the pen icon, make the necessary corrections, and click save. This will ensure your pay documents are sent to the correct address.

If you want to turn off hard copy statements, go to MyPay then click "Turn On/Off Hard Copy Statements" on the main menu. You will get to toggle on/off whichever documents you would like. Note: Toggling on a document means that you will receive a hardcopy.



How to Have a Safety-Minded Spring Break

DRUNK DRIVING



NEVER GET IN THE CAR WITH SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN DRINKING.

IT'S ESTIMATED THAT FATAL ACCIDENTS FROM DRUNK DRIVING INCREASE BY AS MUCH AS 23% DURING SPRING BREAK.



DESIGNATE A SOBER DRIVER OR CALL A RIDESHARE SERVICE IF OUT DRINKING

BUZZED DRIVING IS STILL DRUNK DRIVING, AND YOUNG PEOPLE MAY FEEL THE EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL AT A LOW BAC.



IF ABLE, PLAN TO STAY IN THE SAME LOCATION FOR THE NIGHT.

SLIP & FALLS



ALTHOUGH A WARDROBE STAPLE IN THE SPRING, FLIP FLOPS WITH LIMITED TRACTION CAN BECOME HAZARDOUS WHEN WET.



COMMON VACATION ATTRACTIONS LIKE SPORTS ARENAS, ZOOS, AND PLAYGROUNDS MAY NOT QUICKLY REMEDY SLIP AND FALL HAZARDS.



KIDS AND ADULTS SHOULD WALK WHEN AROUND POOLS OR OTHER BODIES OF WATER. RUNNING CAN INCREASE THE RISK OF AN INCIDENT.

WATER SAFETY

17%

increase in nonfatal, hospital-treated drowning injuries involving kids age 15 and younger in 2021.

WEAR A LIFE JACKET WHEN BOATING OR IN DEEP WATER.



KNOW YOUR LIMITS AND TAKE FREQUENT BREAKS.



ENSURE CHILDREN HAVE SUPERVISION AT ALL TIMES.



ALWAYS SWIM WITH A BUDDY, NO MATTER YOUR AGE.



73%

of reported pool or spa-related fatal drownings involve a child younger than 5 years old.

New director, new direction Kim joins PBA CYS

By Rachel Selby

Susan Kim has joined Pine Bluff Arsenal's Child and Youth Services Center as the facility director. Kim has been here since December 2025. She came to the Arsenal from Fort Gordon, Ga., where she was a supervisory program specialist for five years at a School Age Center. She has worked for CYS for 13 years.

As the facility director, Kim oversees the Child Development Center, School Age Center and the Middle School/Teen Program at CYS. "It's a big job with a lot of inspections," she said.

She is originally from Frederick, Md.

"We are excited to welcome Susan as our new facility director here at CYS," said Brigit Smith, CYS Outreach Services Director. "She brings valuable experience to our program along with strong leadership commitment that will help strengthen and grow our program."

Growth is one of her main goals. "I want to get to know my team. I would like the program to grow, not only with my team, but the facility overall," said Kim. "I would like to see the building next door be used and opened because of that growth."

She encourages members of her team to find ways to move forward in their careers. "I know what it can feel like to be stuck. I encourage them to be trainable and grow with the program," said Kim. "I want them to feel like they have a way to move up."

Kim said some of the



Susan Kim

strengths at CYS is the overall team.

"We have a good team. I do see things we can work on together," she said. "Our team is willing to work with me. I am not one of those people who comes in, takes over and changes things. I want to be very open with them. I want them to share their ideas and be able to come forward with them."

Regarding accreditations, Kim said CYS is working towards its Council on Accreditation, which is directed toward the school age center. All Army SACs must be accredited by a national agency to ensure high standards.

"There are approximately 40 children across all programs currently," said Kim.

One of her main goals is increasing awareness of the program across the Arsenal.

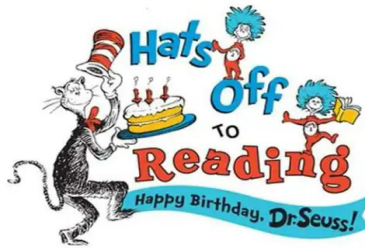
"They need to know we exist," she said. "I looked online before I came here and found nothing. I would like to change that. We passed out flyers recently and a lot of parents didn't know the building was a CYS and offered care from infant up to 14 years old."

Reading time



In honor of Dr. Seuss's birthday, Pine Bluff Arsenal's Child and Youth Services Center celebrated by having Tiffany Penister, photo left, and Geraldine (GiGi) Robinson read to the children at the center. His Seuss's birthday is celebrated in March every year as a nationwide celebration to encourage literacy and reading. Pennister and Robinson both work for PBA MWR.

U.S.ARMY PHOTOS BY
HUGH MORGAN



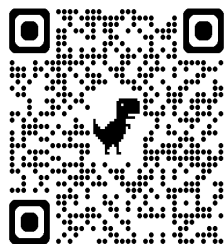
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Pine Bluff Arsenal Blood Drive

Wednesday, April 1
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You can view all the Arsenal Sentinel issues from July 2025 to now by going to QR code



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White Hall High School JROTC hosts 2026 Raider Competition

By Rachel Selby

White Hall High School hosted their JROTC 2026 Raider Competition on Feb. 28 at Pine Bluff Arsenal. This is the fifth year the event has been held on the installation.

Eleven schools participated in the event including Arkadelphia, Catholic, Conway, Jacksonville, Lake Hamilton, North Little Rock, Russellville, Sheridan, Warren, Watson Chapel and White Hall.

The ceremonies kicked off with the WHHH JROTC Color Guard – Capt. Robert Treadwell, Capt. Arianna Wilson, Capt. Logan Reeves and Staff Sgt. Lucinda Kadlubar, presenting the colors.

Arsenal Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason offered a few words of encouragement for the participating cadets and their instructors.

“Good morning Cadets, distinguished guests, instructors and families. On behalf of the entire Workforce and community here, I am thrilled to welcome you to Pine Bluff Arsenal,” said Mason. “It is my absolute honor to open our gates and host you today.”

The Commander made a humorous note of the parents and instructors in the crowd “clutching their coffee cups like they are the most valuable piece of equipment for today’s mission”.

“Seeing the best and brightest JROTC cadets from across Arkansas assembled here and ready to compete is more energizing than any cup of coffee,” said Mason. “I want to extend a huge thank you to the ‘Bulldog Battalion’ for bringing this event right here to PBA. Your leadership and cadets have put in countless hours, and we are proud to be your partners.”

Mason said hosting this event is one of the most important things the Arsenal does. “The full support of my Team is our commitment to making this a premier event on a premiere installation,” he said.



White Hall High School's JROTC Color Guard - Capt. Robert Treadwell, Capt. Arianna Wilson, Capt. Logan Reeves and Staff Sgt. Lucinda Kadlubar, present the colors during the opening ceremony at the Raider Competition Feb. 28. U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY RACHEL SELBY



The competition officially started and ended with the sounding of a cannon. The closing ceremony was not held this year. White Hall High School's JROTC Color Guard posted the colors during the ceremony, held in front of the Arsenal's headquarters building.

“Today isn't about being the fastest or the strongest. It's about teamwork, critical thinking and pushing past what you think your limits are,” said the Arsenal commander.

“Your mission is to build cohesiveness, competitiveness and comradery. You have trained hard for this day. You are ready. Compete with integrity, lead with courage and leave everything you have out on the course.”

Events, which were held on the Arsenal's ball/parade

Members of Catholic High School's JROTC stand at attention during Pine Bluff Arsenal's Commander Col. Matthew C. Mason's opening comments.

fields during the day included a Team Run, covert mission, crab walk, burpees, deadlift, log sit-ups, ball sit-ups, duck walk, litter carry, manual carry, orienteering, tire flips, jump and pull/drag, a Humvee push,

Jones, Staff Sgt. Kamillyah Drumgoole, 1st Sgt. Reginal Lee, 2nd Lt. Makenlie Camp, Cpl. Gracie Hurst, Capt. Robert Treadwell, and Staff Sgt. Brianna McNeill.

Breakfast foods and bev-

“Today isn't about being the fastest or the strongest. It's about teamwork, critical thinking and pushing past what you think your limits are.”

etc. Team consisted of various teams of both men and women.

Members of the WHHS JROTC who did the setup, planning and coordination were Lt. Col. Niyah Hutchinson, Command Sgt. Maj. Kobe Collins, Maj. Abigail Herren, Capt. Logan Reeves, Staff Sgt. Lucinda Kadlubar, Capt. Ishika Patel, Capt. Arianna Wilson, Sgt. Maj. Jayvion Williams, Sgt. Marli Harris, Capt. Laurn Welch, 1st Sgt. Karson Persons, Master Sgt. Randall Blake, Sgt. 1st Class Joseph

erages and lunch were available to the cadets and visitors at PBA's Cool Breeze Concessions. Additional support during the events were provided by PBA's Directorate of Emergency Service – Fire Department and Security and Public Affairs.

Winners of the competition were announced in early March. The top teams were:

- Sheridan
- Catholic
- North Little Rock
- Lake Hamilton



JROTC teams jump off in front of the Arsenal's headquarters building for the Team Run.



A cadet competes in one of the many events on the Arsenal's ball fields during the White Hall High School 2026 Raider Competition. U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY HUGH MORGAN AND RACHEL SELBY



Photos right, top photo, JROTC cadets participate in the weighted pull ups.

Middle photo, a JROTC team works hard to push over a tire in the tire flip event. The day turned sunny and hot so this was demanding work for all participants.

Bottom photos, JROTC cadets sit and crawl through the mud at the covert mission station during the 2026 Raider Competition. Other events included litter carry, Humvee push, burpees and ball sit-ups.



PBA 2nd Annual



5K

Color Run & Walk

For registration:



Deadline: April 10th

Volunteers needed

**to throw colors, setting up and
breaking down:**



Deadline: April 10th

For more information email:

geraldine.robinson36.naf@army.mil

Saturday

April 25

**Starts at the Pine Bluff Arsenal
Fitness Center**

Finish at the same place.

0800-1000

Address: 16-310 Sibert Rd.

White Hall, AR 71602

**Registration at the PBA Fitness Center
\$15 Per Adult \$5 Per Child under 10
includes Tee shirt, sunglasses, and
bandana registered by April 10**

Route is child stroller friendly