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# TRACKS

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## Working smarter: safety, efficiency focuses of Vehicle Systems Branch

by Jennifer Bacchus

ANAD PAO

In 2007, the Paladin/FAASV line in the depot's Combat Vehicle Repair Facility was reworked and streamlined, making it more efficient for the assembly processes required for those vehicles. At the time, the changes earned a Shingo award – one of the most prized honors for an industrial center. As time has passed, however, the streamlined work areas have become much more valuable for their ability to transform when needed.

One such transformation is taking place now as Paladin and Field Artillery Ammunition Support Vehicle overhauls share the space with M113 foreign military sales repair operations. At any given time on the line, there may be up to 20 vehicles from a combination of seven vehicle platforms.

That can make for a lot of variables to control and the employees of the depot's Vehicle Systems Branch do it by falling back to what worked in 2007 – organizing the parts and tools at each work station based on the job to be performed.

"The employees manage their own work stations," said Lavon Stephens, the branch supervisor. "Going back and forth between different variants or vehicle platforms is not the easiest thing to do, but these employees stepped up to the challenge."

According to Mark Magouyrk, a mechanic in the Vehicle Systems Branch, when each bay is set up correctly, anywhere from two to four people can work in it, each performing their own piece of the process before the vehicle moves to the next step in the next bay.

"Our assembly process can be broken down to work on any vehicle," said Magouyrk. "It's just a matter of getting the bays and the processes set up."

Last week, the branch completed a value stream analysis to streamline everything required to assemble the large number of vehicles and variants. Mechanic Kevin Colburn was part of the VSA, assisting with information needed on the M113 line.

"We have a great plan, but it's going to take a lot of corrective actions to get it to function," said Colburn.

The employees of the Vehicle Systems Branch are accustomed to making those changes and corrections, as is evidenced by safety modifications throughout the area.

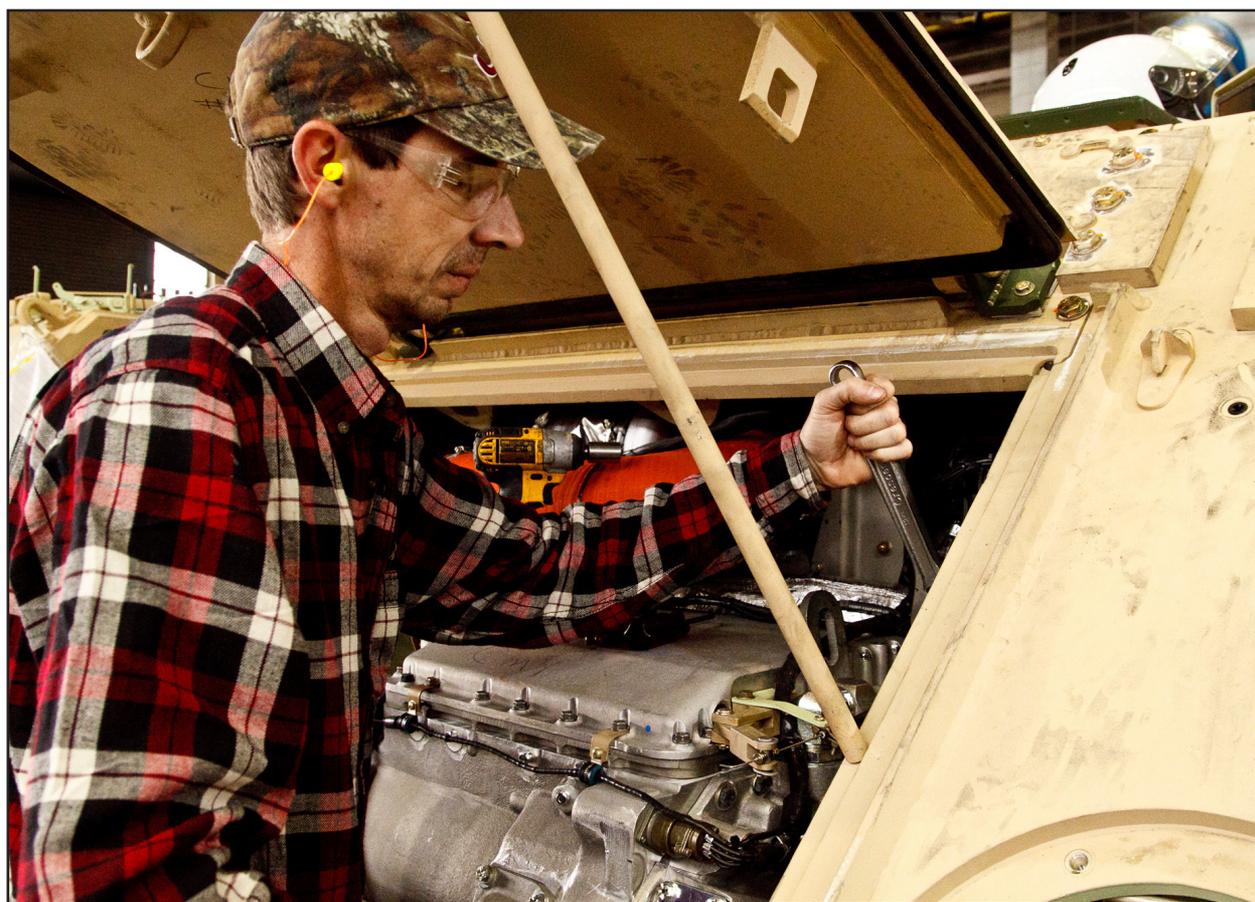


Photo by Mark Cleghorn

**Jerry Johnson Jr. installs a M113 power pack in the depot's Combat Vehicle Repair Facility.**

"Safety is something you always have look at," said Scott Prestridge, the branch's safety monitor. "We just try to keep everything up to specifications – from our work to fire prevention and safety."

Walking through the area, it's easy to see some of the changes. Wires and hoses extend from the walls or columns to hooks temporarily affixed to each vehicle, keeping tripping hazards to a minimum, and lockout/tagout instructions are in sight on each large piece of equipment.

Prestridge said the safety culture runs deep among

these employees. During the morning meetings, employees are encouraged to bring up safety topics and talk through solutions to safety concerns.

While most topics center around the work environment, such as a recent one on the proper disposal of aerosol cans, employees are encouraged to talk about safety at home as well.

"One topic last week was about the fire hazard posed by Christmas lights," said Prestridge. "We want to make sure we're safe while we're here, but we also want to make sure we are safe in our home lives."

# 2 Basic computer troubleshooting saves time

by Randy Heflin

ANAD DOIM

Time. It seems we have less and less of it these days.

According to a New York Times article earlier this year, Americans spend an average of 37 billion hours waiting in lines each year. That's an average of 115 hours each year for every man, woman and child in America. Just waiting in line. Wait times for Help Desk support has also increased.

As technology improves, the need for trained information technology support increases.

Statistics show workload for the depot's Directorate of Information Management has increased 140 percent since 2001.

Obviously, in 2001 we had very few hand-held scanners where today we have hundreds. We have more computers, servers, printers, routers and switches, digital senders, databases, software, cell phones, blackberries and requests for shop floor automation. Basically, if it is IT related, we have more of it.

With the recent force right-sizing, we now have 25 percent less IT support within DOIM.

This will inevitably cause more Help Desk wait times.

So, what can you, as a computer user, do to help alleviate this?

There are things you can do to help yourself prior to calling the Help Desk.

The first thing you will likely be asked when you call the Help Desk is, "Did you try rebooting?"

Sometimes, this is all it takes. Restarting your computer can fix many problems.

If you can't find that drive you are mapped to - re-

boot. Is your computer screen frozen - reboot.

As a general rule of thumb, always try this before calling.

If your system is locked up and the mouse won't move or do anything, simply hold the power switch in for 10 seconds and power the system off. Then, wait for the hard drive to spin down - usually about 60 seconds, and power it back up. (Please note that you will lose all unsaved work)

## • What if your system will not power up?

Did you try plugging into another outlet? Did you try the power switch on the back?

I once received a call from a user who had accidentally bumped their surge protector power button with their foot under their desk. It took me a few hours to get to her office and once there I hit the machine power switch. Nothing. I knelt under her desk and traced the power chord to her surge protector and flipped on the switch. Imagine the time she could have saved.

## Is your mouse not working? Have you checked whether it is plugged in properly?

• Try plugging it in again, then reboot.

• A quick double check is to press your "num lock" key. Does the indicator light turn on and off when pressing and depressing?

• If not, your system is probably locked and no hardware will work. Try a reboot. If this doesn't work, try using your neighbor's mouse. You could have a bad one.

## If you are having network connection problems

• Check to ensure your network cable is plugged in properly. This cable looks like a larger version of a telephone connector - known to us IT folks as an RJ45 connector. (A telephone connector is known as an RJ11).

• If it is plugged in correctly and you have a solid green light lit up (located near the plug in port on the back of the computer), it is functioning properly.

• If the card does not have lights or has orange or red lights, the card may be bad or may not be connected properly, or the card is not receiving a signal from the network. If your system is functioning okay, but you can't log in, this could be the problem.

• If your neighbor's computer is doing the same thing, the problem is most likely systemic. I recommend you call the Help Desk.

## For printer problems, there are many things you can check.

• Is the printer powered up?

• Is there a paper jam? After fixing a paper jam you still may be required to reboot.

DOIM has put a new training video out on how to install printers in your area. It is located on the depot's Intranet at <https://intra.anad.army.mil/Lists/ANAD%20News/DispForm.aspx?ID=9&Source=https%3A%2F%2Fintra%2Eanad%2Earmy%2Emil%2Fdefault%2Easpx>.

## Having trouble with sound?

• Move your mouse over the speaker icon, which is typically located in the lower right of your screen. Is the speaker muted? Is the volume turned up? Once again, if you answered yes to any of these, try a reboot.

There are basic things to remember if your computer is acting strange. First, save your data. Save it to your harddrive, a networked drive or a CD. Once you

do this, shutdown the computer. Afterward, ensure all connections are properly plugged in and reboot.

If you must call a problem in, please have your bar code ready. It also helps to note any error messages you may have received. It helps us troubleshoot.

Remember, if you notice anything suspicious - like viruses or hacker attempts - on your computer, call the Information Awareness Office at Ext. 7741 right away.

## Please note:

Effective immediately: Per Operation Order #0111-300, NIPRNET Encrypted Files System and Bitlocker Enterprise-Wide Implementation, 9th Signal Command, restarting or rebooting computers every night is no longer necessary.

Log off of your computer at the end of your shift, but do not restart. Every time an update is installed on your computer, a reboot will automatically occur, thus eliminating the need to reboot every night.

Simple tips to know:

- "Log off" logs you off of the computer.
- Pulling your common access card only locks the computer - it does not log you off.
- "Restart" reboots the computer.
- "Shutdown" shuts off the computer.

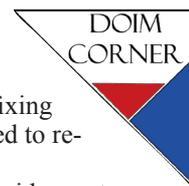


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# Depot tenant Leans into standardization

by Jennifer Bacchus

ANAD PAO

Lt. Col. Robert Rouse's first months in command have been filled with a variety of process improvements.

The commander of DLA Distribution Anniston, Ala., took command in June and said he is finally settled in and adjusted to his new job.

"I've got a great team here and we're making a lot of headway in performance and standardization," he said.

A tenant on Anniston Army Depot, Distribution Anniston provides receipt and storage of equipment, parts, weapons and vehicles in support of the depot's mission, its ten-

ants and the warfighters.

The ultimate goal of the organization's process improvements is ensuring their customer receives their product when they need it. That customer may be a mechanic working in ANAD's Nichols Industrial Complex or a Soldier preparing to deploy.

To meet their goal, the organization is holding a series of Lean events with two objectives in mind - standardization and quality.

Distribution Anniston has begun to map its various value streams - organizing processes from start to finish. As they go through each area, they look at ways to build inventory verification into the process.

"We are working to install quality checks at key points in the op-

eration," said Rouse.

Under his leadership, Distribution Anniston has begun a comprehensive floor-to-file program, ensuring storage operations are performed to Department of Defense regulations and that parts are in the right place, in the right packaging.

"This program will support a healthy inventory, which reduces denials," said Rouse.

He has challenged his workforce to have an accuracy rate of 98 percent, which he calls a "world class" rate.

"We are leading the way across DLA Distribution Command in standardization, as was highlighted by Brig. Gen. Susan A. Davidson during her visit earlier this year," said Rouse.



Photo by Jennifer Bacchus

Will Smith discusses a value stream analysis with DLA Distribution Anniston Commander Lt. Col. Robert Rouse and coworkers John Denson, left, and Jennifer Watson.

# New DLA safety program keys in on accident prevention

by Jennifer Bacchus

ANAD PAO

DLA Distribution Anniston, Ala., has new safety personnel. Though Bea Holman and Barry Adderhold may be new to DLA, having transferred a few months ago, they are not new to safety.

Both bring with them years of safety experience and they are eager to share knowledge with their new coworkers.

The first order of business for the duo has been to fully train every employee on standards set by the Occupational Safety and Health Association.

From the top down, every member of the Distribution Anniston workforce is being given at least 10 hours of OSHA training. For most employees, the training covers the basics - personal protective equipment and how OSHA plays a part in the safety of each individual.

Distribution Anniston leadership, supervisors and safety monitors have completed 30 hours of training - giving them an overview of their safety responsibilities.

"This training has made the supervisors and the employees more aware of the hazards in their work areas," said Holman.

That awareness has increased calls to the Distribution Anniston safety office, something Holman and Adderhold hope continues.

"Our philosophy is that if an issue is very important to an employee, then it is important to us," said Adderhold.

"We use the phone calls as a teaching moment," added Holman. "When we look at the problem, we will tell them if it is a safety prob-

lem and why or if it is not a safety problem and why not."

Each step of the teaching process is also a piece of a culture change, which is important to achieving the Voluntary Protection Program Star.

Anniston Army Depot has set a goal of achieving the VPP Star and, as a tenant organization, Distribution Anniston is part of the process, since VPP is a fence-line-to-fence-line program.

In Distribution Anniston, the VPP culture change begins with the leadership. Lt. Col. Robert Rouse, Distribution Anniston's commander, and Paul McMillan, the deputy commander, have each taken the 30-hour OSHA training and both make sure they have on their proper protective equipment, down to the steel-toed boots, every time they step into a work area.

Recently, Distribution Anniston implemented mandatory tie-down for all DLA trucks transporting parts and equipment on the depot.

"That is a big thing for us," said McMillan. "It's taking the time to do things right. It's changing the culture."

Other safety changes implemented by Distribution Anniston include:

- A safety committee consisting of at least one employee from each division
- Job safety analyses of every process, which are done by the employee and their supervisor
- Material handling equipment certification for all forklift operators in DLA
- Crane certification
- Safety incentive program with incremental time-off awards
- Accident review boards
- Internal safety-grams



Photo by Jennifer Bacchus

Marcus Reed, a driver for DLA Distribution Anniston, checks the straps holding pallets of parts and equipment to a truck.

# 4 Army National Cemeteries staff visits Anniston

by Clester Burdell

ANAD PAO



Photo by Clester Burdell

Kathryn Condon discusses the new Army cemetery procedures with Depot Commander Col. Brent Bolander and Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Marcon.

Executive Director of the Army National Cemeteries Program Kathryn Condon and members of her staff visited Anniston Nov. 30 to tour cemeteries that are maintained by Anniston Army Depot.

Since August, the group has visited 25 cemeteries in an effort to make certain that all military cemeteries receive the same accountability, operational and organizational standards that are in place at Arlington National Cemetery. Two years ago, Condon was selected to her post there and has since totally revamped the past procedures.

“We want to ensure we know what right looks like,” she said while meeting with Depot Commander Col. Brent Bolander, Chief of Staff Phillip Trued, and Real Property Accountable Officer Martha Corby.

Condon’s office developed a digital repository using geospatial technology which allows an individual to immediately locate – via a wireless application - where one is buried in a cemetery under the Army’s oversight.

“The goal is to set up a training program at Arlington so that you’ll learn the same process and have the same accounting,” she continued.

“Being able to digitize will make a huge dif-

ference,” said Lt. Col. Stephanie Ahern, strategic planner at ANC. When a name is input, the user will be able to see when the deceased was buried, the date of birth, date of death and images of the headstone.

Anniston Army Depot maintains six cemeteries, comprised of ground and fence maintenance and ensuring the tombstones are upright. Three of them are located on depot property, one is located on Pelham Range and two are located on the former Fort McClellan property. Condon’s stop led to two cemeteries – the McClellan Post Cemetery and the McClellan German-Italian POW Cemetery.

“We owe it to the families to preserve the gravesites,” said Bolander, as they walked amongst the 355 headstones located at the Post Cemetery. “It’s part of our nation’s history and the continued upkeep builds community relations.” Established in 1917, the Post Cemetery closed in 1975, but is open to additional internments. Several observances are held there each year, to include 4<sup>th</sup> of July events, Veterans Day ceremonies and Wreaths Across America.

Condon and her staff were pleased with the order of the gravesites.

“I am positively impressed with the condition of the cemeteries here and the pride that is exhibited in the care of our cemeteries across the nation,” she said.

## Vaccination a good way to prevent seasonal influenza

from CDC.gov

The flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat, and lungs. It can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death. The best way to prevent the flu is by getting a flu vaccine each year.

### Signs and symptoms of flu

People who have the flu often feel some or all of these signs and symptoms:

- Fever or feeling feverish/chills (*It’s important to note that not everyone with flu will have a fever.*)

- Cough
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Muscle or body aches
- Headaches
- Fatigue (very tired)
- Some people may have vomiting and diarrhea, though this is more common in children than adults.

### How flu spreads

Most experts believe that flu viruses spread mainly by droplets made when

people with flu cough, sneeze or talk. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby. Less often, a person might also get flu by touching a surface or object that has flu virus on it and then touching their own mouth, eyes or possibly their nose.

### Preventing seasonal flu

The single best way to prevent the flu is to get a flu vaccine each season. There are two types of flu vaccines:

“Flu shots” — inactivated vaccines (containing killed virus) that are given with a needle. There are three flu shots being produced for the United States market now.

The regular seasonal flu shot is “intramuscular” which means it is injected into muscle (usually in the upper arm). It has been used for decades and is approved for use in people six months of age and older, including healthy people, people with chronic medical conditions and pregnant women. Regular flu shots make up the bulk of the vaccine supply produced for the United States.

A hi-dose vaccine for people 65 and

older which also is intramuscular. This vaccine was first made available during the 2010-2011 season.

An intradermal vaccine for people 18 to 64 years of age which is injected with a needle into the “dermis” or skin. This vaccine is being made available for the first time for the 2011-2012 season.

The nasal-spray flu vaccine — a vaccine made with live, weakened flu viruses that is given as a nasal spray (sometimes called LAIV for “Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine”). The viruses in the nasal spray vaccine do not cause the flu. LAIV is approved for use in healthy\* people two to 49 years of age who are not pregnant.

About two weeks after vaccination, antibodies develop that protect against influenza virus infection. Flu vaccines will not protect against flu-like illnesses caused by non-influenza viruses.

The seasonal flu vaccine protects against the three influenza viruses that research suggests will be most common.

### When to get vaccinated

Yearly flu vaccination should begin

in September, or as soon as vaccine is available, and continue throughout the flu season which can last as late as May. This is because the timing and duration of flu seasons vary. While flu season can begin early as October, most of the time seasonal flu activity peaks in January, February or later.

### How serious is the flu?

Flu is unpredictable and how severe it is can vary widely from one season to the next depending on many things, including:

- What flu viruses are spreading
- How much flu vaccine is available
- When vaccine is available
- How many people get vaccinated
- How well the flu vaccine is matched to flu viruses that are causing illness

Certain people are at greater risk for serious complications if they get the flu. This includes older people, young children, pregnant women and people with certain health conditions (such as asthma, diabetes, or heart disease), and persons who live in facilities like nursing homes.

# Survey results: Your suggestions will help us improve

by Jennifer Bacchus

ANAD PAO

In October, we asked you for feedback – rate how the staff of The Morning Show and TRACKS are doing in our communications with you.

To do this, we distributed more than 4,000 surveys – hand-delivering them to offices throughout the

depot. We received 829 back. This may not sound like much, but that's 20.4 percent of all surveys returned.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that most surveys of this type – a massive mail-out to a large group – typically garner a three to five percent return. So, for those who responded, thank you for taking the time to give us your input. You are invaluable to us.

## The Morning Show

### Do you watch?:

- 704 responders watch
- 125 do not

### Top reasons for not watching:

- Busy (44)
- No television (34)
- Not interested (18)

• 87 percent, were either very satisfied or satisfied with The Morning Show.

### Things you enjoyed most:

- External guests
- On-location filming
- Information about events
- Updates from the commander and depot leadership.

### Things you didn't like:

- Birthday announcements
- Outdated safety films
- Audio problems
- Non-depot related topics

For those who dislike the birthday announcements, unfortunately, you'll have to endure them for the foreseeable future. An overwhelming number of individuals do enjoy calling in their coworkers' special days.

In reference to the safety films, you may have noticed this year that we began to produce some of our own films – forklift safety and machine guarding are two examples. More of this is planned for the coming year. Please, be patient with us as we build our own internal library.

As to the audio problems – this is something we are aware of. Some areas have wonderful sound quality, while others don't; with little rhyme or reason. You can help us solve this problem.

If your shop or office experiences sound problems during the show, e-mail a member of our staff or call Ext. 7653 to let us know.

When you contact us, be very specific – where you are located, the exact problems you are noting and let us know if this is something you experience only during The Morning Show or if you occasionally have audio problems with the LAN in general.

Regarding the non-depot related topics – as noted earlier, employees said they enjoy the external guests who relay health, nutritional, financial and safety messages that are relevant to a wide audience.

We believe these messages are useful and some of our most positive post-show feedback comes when we have these guests.

In addition to our external guests, we will continue to have depot leaders on the show, this includes the various directors as well as the installation and tenant commanders.

## TRACKS

### Do you receive TRACKS?:

- 766 survey responders receive the newspaper
- 50 don't
- 13 didn't answer the question

### How do you get the paper?:

- 266 - electronically
- 413 - print version
- 87 - both versions.

### Are you satisfied?:

- 89 percent were either very satisfied or satisfied with the paper.

### Things you enjoyed most:

- MWR Happenings
- Notes from Around the Track
- Production articles
- Retirements
- The commander's column

### Changes recommended:

- More about workload changes – We try to update you as often as we receive new information. The fact that we publish every other week often means it's more efficient to communicate via The Morning Show, but we will continue to print workload changes in TRACKS during this coming year.

- More about individual employees – You have no idea how much I love this idea. Feature stories about individual employees are some of my favorite articles to write. But, someone has to tell me when an employee needs recognition. I know we have exceptional employees, but I need your help to locate them. Call or e-mail me whenever you see someone who deserves to be in the spotlight.

- Menus from the cafeterias – The cafeteria in the industrial area earlier this year decided on a set menu with daily specials. They established a phone line (Ext. 6368) to impart these specials and discontinued the printed menu in TRACKS.

- Employee complaint/suggestion section – Please feel free to send complaints or suggestions to the Public Affairs Office. We can't promise we will print them in TRACKS, but those we are able to answer may appear there.

- More color – Color is a big cost for printing. So, we restrict ourselves to save money. The digital version, however, is completely in color. Remember, the digital version is available online, so you can retrieve it from any Internet-connected computer.

- Puzzles – I will put these in as space permits.

### Some suggestions we can't do because of timing or regulations:

- Classifieds – TRACKS is an Army-funded publication. As such, it cannot include advertising.

- Birthdays – this would violate PII regulations

- Job openings – job opening dates don't often coincide with TRACKS printing dates with enough time for employees to prepare and submit their résumés. The best way to find these openings is to look periodically at USAJobs.

This year, we took TRACKS online. This is a step we had been working toward for many years.

This has meant a lot of cost savings. In fiscal year 2011, TRACKS cost \$39,820 to print and deliver. That cost dropped to less than \$30,000 in FY12.

Our print version is not going away any time soon – there are still many individuals without immediate access to computers on the installation. However, the digital version does give us the ability to deliver TRACKS immediately and without any real delivery costs to a large number of readers and we know that is our ultimate future.

Thank you again for taking the time to answer our survey questions. We do value your input and want to hear from you throughout the year.

**If you have a topic you would like to see on The Morning Show or in TRACKS, don't hesitate to call or e-mail. The Public Affairs Office can be reached at [usarmy.anad.tacom.list.publicaffairs@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.anad.tacom.list.publicaffairs@mail.mil) or Ext. 6281. We hope to hear from you soon.**



Courtesy photo

## Bundrum family welcomes bundle of joy

Weiss Blaze Bundrum was born Oct. 16. He weighed 7 pounds, 8 ounces at birth. Proud parents are Jarrod (DLA) and Michelle Bundrum. Proud grandparents are Scott (DP) and Kathy (CPAC) Bundrum.



Courtesy photo

## Speer named Eagle Scout

Ben Speer recently earned the rank of Eagle Scout. His troop is Troop 29 out of Alexandria, which is chartered by Wright Dairy. Pictured are Ben and his parents from left: Daley (Safety), Ben and Missy Speer.



Courtesy photo

## Curry wins essay contest

Amarie Curry recently won the Knights of Columbus essay contest in the Elementary Division at Sacred Heart School. Her proud mother is Tiffany Curry (DMM) and aunts are Nutosha Curry (DMM) and Kalesia Woods (DLA). Grandparents are James "JC" (DP) and Chinetha Woods.



Courtesy photo

## Listers welcome Makaila

Marshall (DP) and Leanne Lister announce the birth of their first child. Makaila Rita Lister was born Nov. 17. She weighed two pounds, two ounces at birth, having entered this world early at 26 weeks. Makaila has been at UAB since her birth. Proud grandparents are Jeff (DEQ) and Frances (ANCA) Dawson. Parents and Grandparents are praying for a Christmas miracle to bring Makaila home for the holiday.

## Morning Show Rebroadcasts

Watch The Morning Show! It airs live each Wednesday at 7:05 a.m. on Local Area Network channel 21.

If you are unable to catch the live broadcast, there are two ways you can tune in. Computer users can view it on IPTV or it can be seen on LAN channel 21 during these rebroadcast times:

Wednesday: 10:30 a.m., noon, 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 8 p.m., 10 p.m. and midnight (Wed. night/Thurs. morning)

Thursday/Friday/Monday: noon and 11 p.m.

Watch for this upcoming show:

- Dec. 12: Sgt. Don Ridley of the Oxford Police Department will present tips on safe holiday driving.
- Dec. 19: Marchale Burton of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System's Calhoun County office will walk us through portion sizing of a nutritious holiday meal.

## Property damage reminder

Immediately contact your supervisor when a loss or damage to government property is discovered.

Be cautious and aware of your surroundings when operating a government vehicle.

For more information, call the Directorate of Public Works at Ext. 7804.

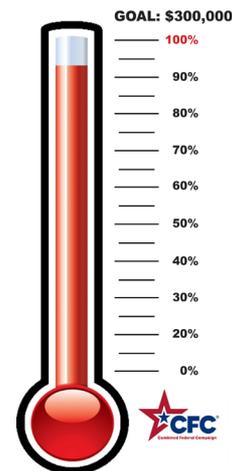
## CFC update

The depot's 2012 Combined Federal Campaign goal is \$300,000 and the installation's CFC committee hopes to achieve the goal by the end of October.

As of press time, employees have pledged \$288,818.

The last day to turn in forms is Dec. 15.

Call Kim Smoot at Ext. 7785 for more information.



## ANAD Leadership and Management Program

The next Depot Leadership and Management Program class is scheduled for Jan. 14-Feb. 7, 2013.

Nomination packages, which include a nomination memo with the employee's service computation date, are due by Dec. 11, 2012, and must be approved by the nominee's director.

Selection process is based upon SCD with the final decision made by the depot commander.

Who is eligible?

- GS-07 through GS-11
- WG-10 and above
- WL-08 and above
- All WS grades

The only course prerequisites are to have a Common Access Card with depot access and the CES Foundation Course, if applicable.



**American Red Cross**

## Employees give 374 units of blood

Anniston Army Depot held its quarterly blood drive Nov. 15 and 16.

Depot and tenant employees gave 374 units of blood, potentially affecting 1,122 lives, since each unit of blood can be used to assist as many as three people.

## Super Saturdays at the CDC

The Anniston Army Depot Child Development Center will be open on the following Saturdays for hourly care (ages 3-12) from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.:

- Dec. 8
- Dec. 15

The cost will be \$20 for the day or \$4 per hour.

Children must be registered with the depot's Child, Youth and School Age Services program.

For more information, call 256-235-7654 or 256-240-3327.

## Child Development Center has vacancies

The Anniston Army Depot Child Development Center has immediate openings for children of all ages. The CDC is a nationally accredited and federally licensed program under the Department of Defense and DoD child care facilities are among the best in the world.

Millions of young children spend about 35 hours a week in child care while their parents work. But, a new study shows 26 states received a failing grade for child care center regulation and oversight.

The National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies gave no one an A grade. Only one entity was given the equivalent of a B grade for its child care programs -- the Department of Defense.

Most states have serious gaps in how they regulate centers, according to NACCRRRA, a nonprofit group that coordinates with 700 local and state child care agencies.

Some states don't require comprehensive background checks for workers, some don't check new hires against child abuse reporting records and many do not require child care teachers to have a high school diploma.

The problems ranged from gaps in licensing to gaps in background checks. One state, South Dakota, does not require operators to obtain a license until 13 kids are being taken care of in a home, according to the report.

The NACCRRRA found only 10 states require comprehensive background checks, while seven states do not require child care centers to look up potential hires on the child abuse registry.

"The reality is that most state licensing requirements are weak and oversight is weaker," the organization's director, Linda Smith, said in a written statement. "The safety of a child in child care should not depend upon the state in which the child lives."

NACCRRRA praised the Department of Defense for having strict licensing standards, requiring inspections of child care centers at least four times a year and requiring comprehensive training for workers.

The report, though, said states have made progress by increasing inspections, increasing teacher requirements and doing a better job meeting health and safety standards.

The organization recommended that all states require comprehensive background checks, require at least 40 hours of initial training for workers and require inspection results to be posted online. It also recommended that the federal government withhold funding from states that fail to meet minimum standards.

To enroll your child in the Anniston Army Depot Child Development Center, please call 256-235-7654 or 256-240-3327.

## Employee Assistance Program

The Employee Assistance Program allows all Anniston Army Depot and tenant employees to receive assistance with personal issues that may be, or could cause, a work performance issue.

The ANAD Employee Assistance Program is staffed with individuals trained to identify and offer intervention for a variety of issues to include alcohol abuse and drug use, health related problems, marital, family, emotional, behavioral, financial and other issues that may interfere with employee productivity.

To make an appointment with the Employee Assistance Program call Exts. 3182 or 3617. Please be sure to notify your supervisor of the appointment prior to attending.

## Christmas Cheer

The depot's Christmas Cheer keypeople have been making their rounds and gathering support for depot families in need as well as the 177 children in DHR protective custody.

All depot children are currently sponsored. Those wishing to donate to the seven depot families, please contact Jeanette Baxter in Bldg. 94 at Ext. 5246.

## Wounded Warrior Hunt

The depot will host its first Wounded Warrior Hunt Jan. 11-13. Hunting for 10 Purple Heart recipients who will be able to use bows, crossbows or shotguns with slugs only.

If you or someone you know is interested and eligible to participate, please contact MWR Headquarters at 256-235-7170 or the Outdoor Recreation Office at 256-235-6768 for more information.

In addition to the Purple Heart recipients, hunting will be open that weekend to 55 MWR patrons. Hunting for these individuals will be bow only.

## Drunk, drugged driving awareness

Dec. 1 through Jan. 6 is Drunk, Drugged Driving Awareness Month. The depot's substance abuse prevention program reminds everyone to be safe on the roads throughout the holiday season.



Photo by Mark Cleghorn

Cutting the ribbon at Anniston Gifts & are, from left, Keith Colbert, the depot's director of Community and Family Activities; Charlotte Poland, business manager for the gift shop; and Phillip Trued, chief of staff for the depot.

## Ribboncutting held for Anniston Gifts &

The depot's Directorate of Community and Family Activities celebrated the opening of Anniston Gifts &, a combination gift and coffee shop located in the Headquarters Building.

"We are glad to finally get the ribbon cut and we hope this will be a great asset to the depot community," said Keith Colbert, director of community and family activities for the installation.

The facility offers a selection of sandwiches, salads, snacks and a gift selection ranging from clothing and accessories with the ANAD logo to jewelry.

"I appreciate the hard work of everyone who contributed to this gift shop," said Phil Trued, the depot's chief of staff, during the ribboncutting ceremony. "It is a success story and we plan to continue to improve."

## DeSoto Pastime Center

**Lunch:** DeSoto Pastime Kitchen invites you to come out for lunch from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

There is something different for the special each Wednesday. For to-go orders, call 256-235-7160.

**Breakfast:** DPC serves breakfast each morning from 6:30-9:30.

**Food truck:** DPC's food truck serves the West area. Call Ext. 6586 or Ext. 7160.

**Socialize:** Monday and Tuesday evenings from 3:30-8 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday from 3:30-10:30 p.m. and Friday from 3:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

**Karaoke:** Every Friday night from 8-11:30.

**Spaghetti Night:** Join the DPC for Spaghetti Night every off-Friday from 6:30-8.

**Big Bynum Bingo:** Bingo with a \$5,000 progressive jackpot is played every Thursday at 6 p.m.

**Electronic Bingo:** Bingo is played daily starting at 3:30 p.m.

For more information on events please contact the DeSoto Pastime Center at 256-235-7160.

