



TRACKS

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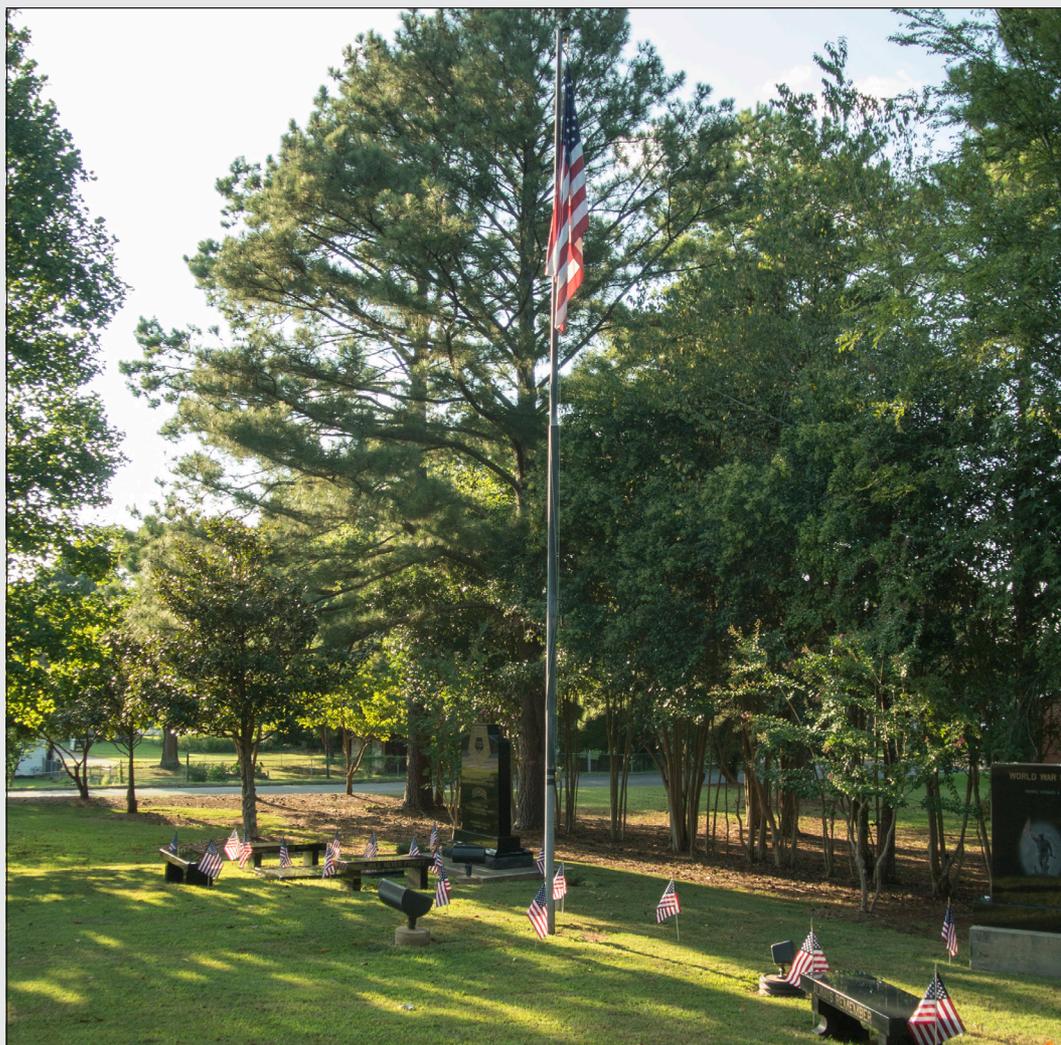


Photo by Jennifer Bacchus

DLA Distribution commander to speak at memorial ceremony in Jacksonville

Lt. Col. Hattie Richardson, commander of DLA Distribution Anniston, will speak today at the Sept. 11 Memorial Service at Jacksonville's City Cemetery.

The service remembers those who died as a result of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon. Maj. Dwayne Williams, a Jacksonville, Ala., native who died in the attack on the Pentagon, is a focus of the event, which is attended annually by surviving family members.

Richardson knew Williams during her time in service at the Pentagon.

Depot, GDLS celebrate Stryker production restart

by Pete Keating

General Dynamics Land Systems

Anniston Army Depot was in the spotlight once again, Aug. 28, when it celebrated the restart of the Army's Stryker double-V hull exchange vehicle production, with Congressman Mike Rogers, the depot leadership team, Program Manager Stryker Brigade Combat Team, General Dynamics Land Systems employees, local dignitaries and news media.

Under the lights of Building 500, approximately 250 community guests, depot and General Dynamics employees gathered in bleachers before two Stryker DVH Infantry carriers, which were on display.

The two Strykers were among the first of 93 converted, under a \$163 million contract, by exchanging their original flat bottom chassis for the double-V hull variant, which offers greater protection against improvised explosive devices at a cost that is 40 percent less than the original vehicle.

Giving the official welcome, Col. Brent Bolander, the depot's commander, said, "Today, Anniston Army Depot is once again, playing a major role as a national strategic capability. We are a key element in our national defense and continue to rise in support of the many challenges associated with making a positive impact as a centerpiece of Army readi-

ness."

"We're producing these Strykers in a partnership that provides the best product to save lives," Bolander said. "We look forward to a continued strong partnership."

Congressman Mike Rogers, the chairman of the House of Representatives' Strategic Forces Subcommittee and a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee attended the event.

"The depot and the Stryker program are both vital components of national defense," Rogers said. "This program saves lives."

Gary Whited, president of General Dynamics Land Systems, thanked Bolander and David Dopp, the project manager for the Stryker Brigade Combat Team, for their leadership and support of the Stryker DVH Exchange program.

Whited praised a number of depot and General Dynamics employees by name for making the program a model public-private partnership.

The majority of the Double-V Hull exchange work is completed at Anniston Army Depot by government and General Dynamics employees.

GDLS hired nearly 100 employees for production restart. Delivery of the first exchange vehicle was made to the U.S.

• See STRYKER, page 3

COMMANDER'S COLUMN

On Patriot Day, remember the fallen, continue support for the war fighters

by Col. Brent Bolander

ANAD Commander

Today marks the 13th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States.

It is a day in America's history none of us will ever forget.

Patriot Day is the annual observance to remember those who were injured or died during the horrific events on Sept. 11.

I would surmise most of us can remember exactly where we were and what we were doing when we heard the tragic news.

I was stationed at Ft. Riley, Kan., and was attending a week-long course in an auditorium-style facility when the events unfolded.

The news flashed on the screen and silence fell within the room.

What seemed like hours was only seconds, whereas it was surreal. My comrades and I left the classroom and began the drills the Army had prepared us for...decision making, securing the installation, providing augmentation, accounting for personnel, etc.

Everyone's life changed that day, not only for Americans but for people throughout the world.

Let us pause to remember those who lost their lives and their family members. Time cannot erase our pain, but we can honor their memory in

many ways.

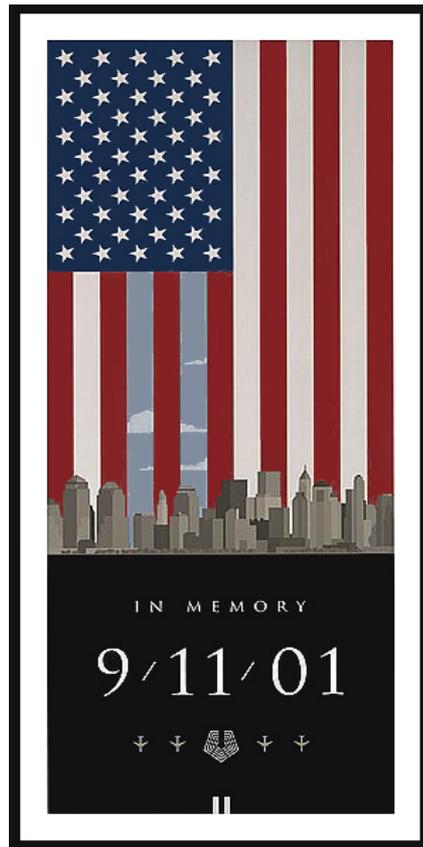
Here at the depot, let us continue working industriously in support of our Armed Forces. These brave men and women deserve the best heavy tracked and wheeled combat vehicles, components, artillery, small caliber weapons and equipment Anniston Army Depot has to offer. And you've not failed them yet. Your stellar legacy speaks volumes.

Without you, the war fighters could not do their jobs.

I thank you for your unwavering support!



BOLANDER



Honoring the U.S. Constitution

from Staff Reports

ANAD Legal Office

Constitution Day and Citizenship Day is an American federal observance recognizing the adoption of the United States Constitution and those who have become U.S. citizens.

It is observed each year on Sept. 17, the day the Constitutional Convention signed the Constitution in 1787 in Philadelphia.

The law establishing this observance requires all publicly funded educational institutions and all federal agencies provide educational programming on the history of the American Constitution.

The U.S. Constitution is one of the most influential legal documents in existence. Since its creation, more than two hundred years ago, over 100 countries around the world have used it as a model for their own.

It is a living document.

It is one of the world's oldest surviving constitutions and, while the Supreme Court continually interprets the Constitution to reflect a rapidly changing world, its basic tenets have remained virtually unchanged since its inception, and unchallenged as well.

People quarrel over its interpretation, but never do they question the wisdom of its underlying principles.

Imagine creating a document that governs your grandchildren's grandchildren's grandchildren! That's what the men of the 1787 Constitutional Convention did.

As we celebrate Constitution Day and Citizenship Day on Sept. 17, let us as federal employees remember the Oath of Office we took when we became government employees:

"I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God."

To ensure the prosperity of our nation, let us understand our privileges and responsibilities as a citizen as provided by the Constitution; hold ourselves accountable to the Oath of Office we took when hired as a Federal employee; and expect others -- our leadership, civil officials and elected officials -- to conduct themselves in accordance with their oath and the Constitution.

Sources: Library of Congress; ConstitutionFacts.com

Constitutional Facts:

- The U.S. Constitution is the oldest and shortest written Constitution of any major government in the world.

- The Constitution was "penned" by Jacob Shallus, a Pennsylvania general assembly clerk, for \$30.

- Since 1952, the Constitution has been on display in the National Archives Building in Washington, DC.

- James Madison, "the father of the Constitution," was the first to arrive in Philadelphia for the Constitutional Convention. He arrived in February, three months before the convention began, bearing the blueprint for the new Constitution.

- Because of his poor health, Benjamin Franklin, the oldest person to sign the constitution at age 81, needed help to sign the Constitution. As he did so, tears streamed down his face.

- The youngest person to sign the Constitution was Jonathan Dayton of New Jersey. He was 26.

- When the Constitution was signed, the United States' population was 4 million. Philadelphia was the nation's largest city, with 40,000 inhabitants.

- A proclamation by President George Washington and a congressional resolution established the first national Thanksgiving Day on Nov. 26, 1789. The reason for the holiday was to give "thanks" for the new Constitution.

- It took one hundred days to actually "frame" the Constitution.

- George Washington and James Madison were the only presidents who signed the Constitution.

- As evidence of its continued flexibility, the Constitution has only been changed seventeen times since 1791.

Source: ConstitutionFacts.com



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Make yourself a hard target; stay safe

from Staff Reports

ANAD ISMO

September 11, and the anniversary of the attack on the U.S. by terrorists, often turns our thoughts and focus to anti-terrorism and self-defense.

Invariably, the terrorist threats to our nation increase during this time, but we should never lose focus on personal protection at any time during the year.

First, remember prevention is the best self-defense.

Attackers, regardless of their goals, are looking for unsuspecting, vulnerable targets. So, the best way to avoid being viewed as a potential target is to use the same principle we use for anti-terrorism – harden yourself to a would-be attacker.

The following tips are good points to consider as you develop ways to protect not only yourself, but your family, friends and coworkers.

1. Maintain a personal comfort zone. No stranger is allowed to get closer than five feet to you without permission. Period.

2. Wake up. Turn off your electronic devices when out in public. Don't jog with earphones.

3. Look where you're going. Check out the destination *before* you pull up or go in, so you don't become part of a stickup in progress at the ATM, 7-11, bank, etc.

4. Walk wide around building corners. Don't get jumped.

5. React. Practice a response in the event you're surprised by a sound, movement or touch.

6. Trust your danger instincts. Don't ignore the little voice that tells you when something seems "off."

7. No stranger gets in your house. Ever. Even if it's a little girl screaming to use your phone to call her daddy because her mommy's lying in the road bleeding to death. Call 911 *for her*. Otherwise, you open the door and three other people rush in and a horrific home invasion begins.

8. Fight back if you can't escape. Always fight back, never bargain.

9. You're being mugged for your money. Don't fish around in your purse/wallet for bills. Be cooperative. Give them your whole wallet, it's much safer to call and cancel your credit cards than get into a fight over your purse.

10. Never go with the attacker to another location. If all they want is money, fine. But if they want to take you somewhere, **make your stand and fight for your life, right now.** You stand a better chance of surviving. If you go *with* them, statistics say will you not escape or be rescued. You will probably die.

When it comes to your safety, it's important to stay alert. Remember the basic rules; 1. Strength in numbers. 2. Sound is your friend. They may just save your life!

ISMO
CORNER

From STRYKER, page 1



Photo by Mark Cleghorn

Depot Commander Col. Brent Bolander discusses the Stryker Double V Hull Exchange Program during a rollout ceremony Aug. 28.

Army on July 29 and a delivery schedule which continues until March of 2016.

Anniston Army Depot partnered with General Dynamics in 2012 to launch the Stryker DVH-exchange pilot program, validating that Stryker flat-bottom variants can be quickly refurbished and reassembled as the new, more survivable, DVH variant.

Anniston machinists, welders and mechanics partial disassemble a flat bottom Stryker and repair the electronics, hydraulics, wiring harnesses, cables and transfer case.

The refurbished components are sent to the General Dynamics assembly line, where the flat bottom chassis is exchanged for a double-V chassis delivered by General Dynamics' employees in Lima, Ohio, and London, Ontario, Canada.

The reassembled Stryker DVH is then painted and accepted on-site by the Defense Contract Management Agency before being shipped to one of the Army's nine Stryker Brigade Combat Teams.

General Dynamics and Anniston Army Depot successfully completed the double-V hull pilot program in April 2013, delivering 52 Stryker vehicles on time and under budget.

The success of the partnership convinced the Army and Congress that a cost efficient process for exchanging the original Stryker for a more survivable double-V variant could be implemented for the entire fleet of more than 4,500 vehicles.

“This program saves lives.”

Mike Rogers
House of Representatives
Alabama Third District



Photo by Mark Cleghorn

Gary Whited, president of General Dynamics Land Systems, credits the success of the Stryker program to the ANAD/GDLS partnership.



DGRC earns CITE designation

In July, the Defense Non-Tactical Generator and Rail Equipment Center, better known as DGRC, was designated as the Center of Industrial and Technical Excellence for maintenance and overhaul of non-tactical generators, including locomotives and rail equipment, by the U.S. Army.

DGRC, a component of Anniston Army Depot located at Hill Air Force Base in Utah, is the sole Department of Defense facility capable of overhauling locomotives for the DoD.

DGRC typically overhauls three locomotives at a time during a seven-month process. The rest of the year, employees are often deployed to repair or examine locomotives at bases, depots and arsenals throughout the United States.

The staff of DGRC is small - with less than 30 direct labor employees - and each of the mechanics and electricians travels, often 90 days a year, in support of the organization's mission.

"On the road, we do everything from annual service to changing out the trucks, the wheels on a locomotive. We may replace the power packs or overhaul engine parts," said Ernie Ferguson, a heavy mobile equipment mechanic for DGRC.



Joe Keeler connects wiring for a locomotive's electrical panel at DGRC.



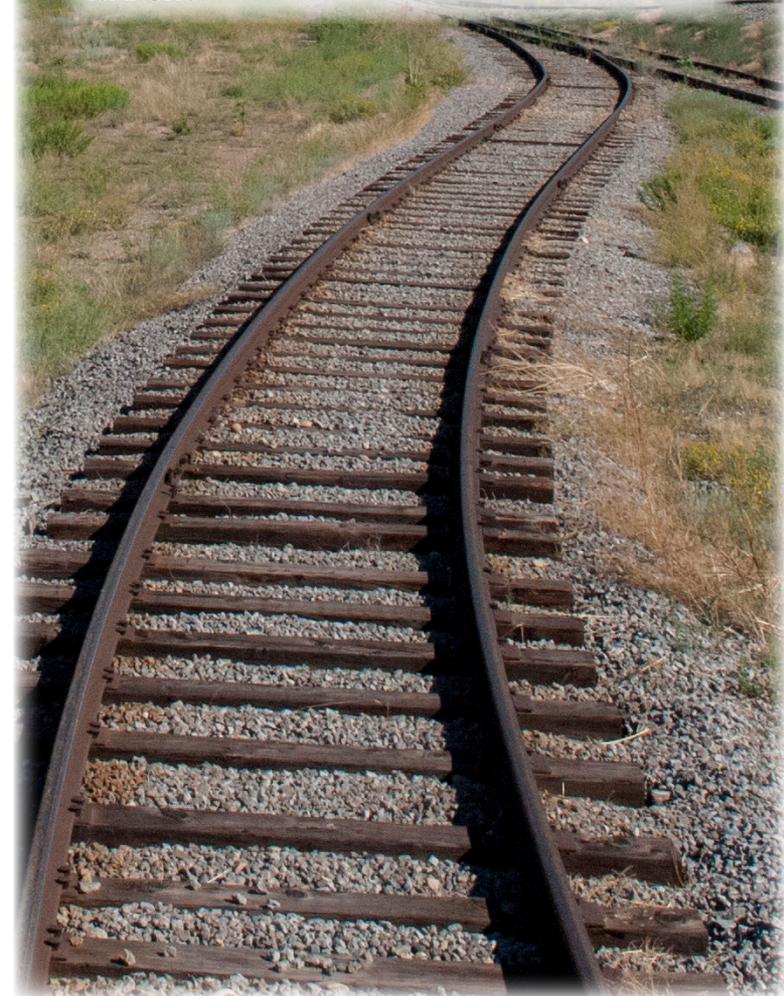
Bret Dunyon installs transistors for the electrical system of a locomotive at DGRC. Dunyon is one of six electricians at the facility.



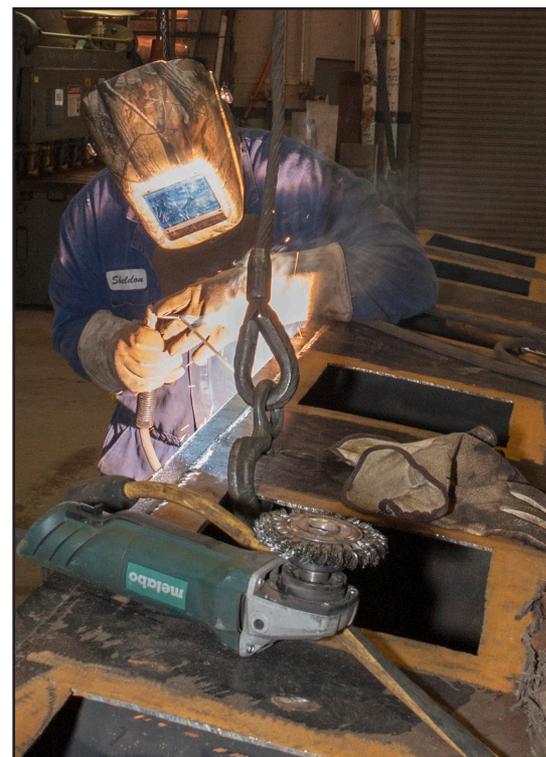
David Gaddis, a machinist for DGRC, examines a part for cracks using a magnetic test. Gaddis began his government career in Alabama as a cooperative education student at Anniston Army Depot.



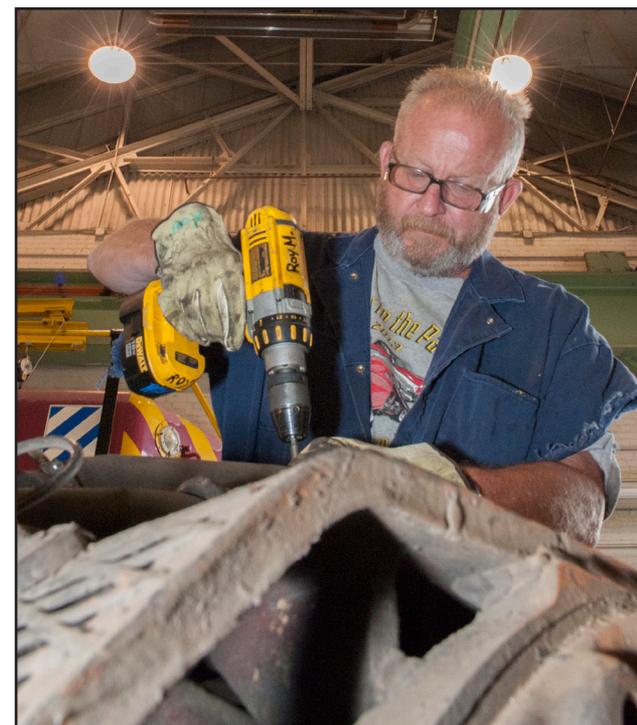
Paul Brown cleans parts in the wash booth at DGRC. Completely cleaning residual oil and grease from locomotive parts is key to properly overhauling and painting them.



ADDITIONAL SCENES FROM THE SHOPS AT DGRC



Sheldon Cherry welds plates onto the fuel tank for a locomotive at DGRC.



LEFT: Sherry Cazier assembles part of a locomotive engine. ABOVE: Roy Moore, an electrician at DGRC, attaches electrical leads to a locomotive engine for testing.

Rail center holds training, Employee Appreciation Day

The Defense Non-Tactical Generator and Rail Equipment Center, held training and Employee Appreciation Day Aug. 28 at the center's facilities on Hill Air Force Base in Utah.

The day capped a week of inspections by Anniston Army Depot's Target Zero team, comprised of individuals from the Safety Office, the Environmental Compliance Division, the Directorate of Public Works, the Directorate of Engineering and Quality and depot leadership.

The focus of inspections was to improve the safety and quality of life in the DGRC facilities.

That theme continued through the morning training sessions, which covered topics such as workplace ethics, equal employment complaints, sexual harassment and assault prevention, the Employee Assistance Program, drug testing and sui-



Photo by Jennifer Bachchus

Tom Uwanawich, an Equal Employment Opportunity specialist at Anniston Army Depot, explains the reasons for an EEO complaint to DGRC employees during training Aug. 28.

cide prevention.

Following training, employees enjoyed a time of fellowship with their Anniston counterparts before being dismissed for the day.

Desired changes and results of the Target Zero inspection are being tracked by the team and depot leadership to ensure proper improvements are made to the DGRC facilities.



Photo by Jennifer Bachchus

Following training, DGRC employees enjoyed a time of fellowship and food for Employee Appreciation Day.

SEPTEMBER IS HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Take time to learn about Hispanic culture, contributions to America

by Tom Uwanawich

ANAD EEO

This year's theme for Hispanic Heritage Month, which runs from Sept. 15 through Oct. 15, is "Paving the way for future generations."

The terms Hispanic and Latino refer to a person of Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.

According to the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute, people of Spanish, Hispanic and/or Latino origin could identify themselves as Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano, Puerto Rican, Cuban or "another Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin" for the first time on the 2010 Census.

Each year, during Hispanic Heritage Month, we observe the contributions and changes the Hispanic culture has given to our society. There are too many important individuals and actions to list in this article, but some examples of contributions to American society by Hispanics are:

- Marc Anthony and Jennifer Lopez, whose songs inspire many people
- Multi-million dollar companies, such as Tampico beverages and Bacardi
- Film industry influences, such as actress Penelope Cruz and director Robert Rodriguez

As I sit in my cubicle researching this article, it amazes me how many Hispanic and Latino individuals have shaped our country into what it is today. There are many more Hispanic and Latino influences – too numerous to put in this article. But, you may do an Internet search for the word Hispanic and learn all the things Hispanic culture has contributed to the American way of life, and not just Hispanics, but all types of diverse individuals and organizations.

This month we recognize the Hispanic/Latino people not just because of this month's observance, but because, as Americans, we have benefitted from their culture.

The depot has benefitted as well, employing 19 individuals who have identified themselves as having Hispanic/Latino origins. There are 2 female and 17 male employees.

We should realize one undisputable fact – America is where we live our lives, raise our families, support our religious beliefs and, in some cases, take our last breath. So, while we are here, we should inquire about what the Hispanics have done in support of our great country.

It is always a blessing to be able to be around a diverse group of individuals with a different background than us. Each individual who comprises our society helps us band together to achieve a common goal – unity.

As you go about your daily lives, notice the diverse ways our communities and cities portray Hispanic culture. Discover the food, architecture, themes and entertainment, such as Cuarenta Acres in California, whose name means 40 acres.

Cuarenta Acres is where the United Farm Workers Union took its first steps as a labor organization. You can learn more about it through its National Parks Service website at http://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/american_latino_heritage/The_Forty_Acres.html.

Some well known Hispanic/Latino foods most of us have heard about include salsa, tacos, roasted verlaso salmon, habanero peppers and, of course, jalapeño peppers.

As you learn about Hispanic culture, be mindful of successes in the areas we hold close to our hearts.

Numerous Hispanics voluntarily joined our armed forces to maintain the rights and freedoms we hold dear.

Many Hispanic communities believe dreams come true in America. Hispanics have a say in the way our culture should progress. With the help and understanding of all of us, as a people, we strive to live our lives in peace and contentment.

When out with friends and family, take time to talk with someone who may be of Hispanic descent. I'm sure you will not only make a friend, but also expand your horizons by learning about someone who may be different than you.

For more information about Hispanic culture, visit the Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama online at www.hispanicinterest.org.

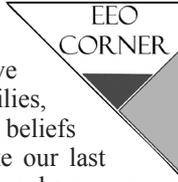


Photo by Jennifer Bacchus

Victor Nunez, a maintenance management specialist for the depot's Directorate of Production, enjoyed a multicultural upbringing as a result of his Hispanic heritage and has passed many aspects of the culture, including language, to his children.

Nunez had multicultural childhood thanks to military, Hispanic parents

by Jennifer Bacchus

ANAD PAO

Victor Nunez' parents both came from backgrounds with ties to the Iberian peninsula, but both were very different.

His father, a second generation American from Portugal, met his mother while he was in the U.S. Army assigned to training in Panama.

"We celebrated every holiday growing up," said Nunez. "I got the best of both worlds."

Being in an Army family, he not only learned the languages of his heritage - Portuguese and Spanish - but German and other languages as well.

His military and Hispanic heritages have guided him often throughout his life.

Nunez followed his father into the Army, continuing a long family tradition from both sides of his family.

On his mother's side, one of his ancestors was a Rough Rider alongside Teddy Roosevelt.

He hopes to pass that history, along with the cultures and languages of his family, to his children, ensuring the stories and traditions carry over to another generation.

"The pride of being Hispanic, the culture and the language, I pass all of that on to my kids," said Nunez.

notes from around the TRACKS



Watch The Morning Show

The Morning Show airs live every other Wednesday at 7:05 a.m. on Local Area Network channel 21.

If you have a topic or content you would like to see shared on The Morning Show, contact the Public Affairs Office at Ext. 6281.

If you are unable to catch the live broadcast, there are two ways you can tune in.

Computer users may view the show on IPTV.

It can also be seen on LAN channel 21 during these rebroadcast times:

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

Thursday/Friday: noon and 10 p.m.

Be sure to tune in for these upcoming shows:

Next show: Sept. 17: Randy Bright will introduce the workforce to the labs in the industrial area, which assist the depot in producing quality products. The show will feature a video of the labs.

Oct. 1: It's nearly Fire Prevention Week. Do you know how to prevent fires at work and home? Tune in as a representative from the depot's Fire and Emergency Services Division provides details.

Additionally, the Fire and Emergency Services Division will present a demonstration on the proper use of an automated external defibrillator. This show could save a life.

Group Award Program payout update

Time on the clock, safety keys to achieving maximum payout

from ANAD DRM

Measurement for Anniston Army Depot's Group Award Program payout includes five areas.

For eligible personnel to receive the maximum GAP payout, all five metrics must be met. Everyone must do their part each day to achieve these goals. These goals are attainable and are important in executing ANAD's mission. Current status indicates a payout of \$1,200.

Productive Yield

Direct labor hours. \$150
Maximum payout achieved. Maintain direct yield range from 1,534 to 1,615 productive hours per person.

Indirect labor hours. \$75
For the full payout, the desired indirect hour range is 1,670-1,702 hours per person. Indirect hours are currently 1,657. Limiting excessive annual leave and minimizing sick leave are key factors in this metric.

Performance to promise. \$300
Maximum payout achieved. Maintain compliance to schedules above 96 percent.

Quality Defect Improvement
ISO certification. \$150
Maximum payout achieved.

Quality improvement. \$75
For the full payout, the quality goal

is a 25 percent increase in EMIDAS input above FY13. Currently, this metric is at 15 percent. Employees must record all production inspections that occur, both favorable and unfavorable, to improve the statistics in EMIDAS.

Safety Efficiencies

Recordable injury rate. \$75
For the full payout, the goal is a recordable injury rate at or below 4.2. Currently, the rate is 4.7. Safety awareness and adhering to all safety procedures at all times is key to lowering the injury rate.

Lost time rate. \$150
Maximum payout achieved. Maintain lost time rate at or below 1.0.

Material/Excess Inventory

Inventory turns. \$75
For the full payout, a goal of more than three inventory turns is required. Currently, this metric shows 2.1 turns. Inventory management and timely issuing and movement of goods contribute to meeting this metric.

Excess material. \$150
Maximum payout achieved. Maintain excess material of less than five percent of the average inventory value.

Current total. \$1,200
Maximum payout if all goals are achieved: \$1,500.

Wood Yard Information

The recycling wood yard is open from 6 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 6 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on work Fridays. The yard is also open to the public every other Saturday, on weeks with a work Friday, from 8-11:30 a.m. The next sale date is Sept. 13.

Prices for wood:

- 1-10 pieces of small wood - \$5
- 1-5 pieces of medium-sized wood - \$5
- A few pieces of large wood or up to a truck-load of wood - \$20
- Trailer of wood - \$30

fmwr happenings

Let your voice be heard

The Annual Army Family Action Plan Conference is scheduled for Oct. 24.

AFAP is an Army-wide program allowing members of the Army (Active Duty, Reserve and National Guard components, retired military, Family members, retirees and civilian employees) to identify issues or concerns which impact the well being of the entire Army Family.

If you have an AFAP issue, your suggestions could bring change to better the entire Army Family.

Yellow "ammo" boxes have been placed in most of the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities. Please complete the form located near each box. You may also e-mail the issue form to Amanda Mullinax at amanda.c.mullinax.civ@mail.mil.

If you would like more information on the AFAP process, call Army Community Service at Ext. 7445.

Dining facility information and hours:

Nichols Dining Facility and West Station

Breakfast: 8-9:30 a.m.

Lunch: 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Menu Line: 256-235-6368

Nichols Phone: 256-235-7127

West Station Diner Phone: 256-235-6368

Java Café East

Hours: 7 a.m.-1 p.m.

Phone: 256-240-3526.

DeSoto Pastime Center

Lunch: 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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 midnight.

Big Bingo: Bingo with a \$1,000 progressive jackpot is played each Thursday at 6 p.m.

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

Retiree Breakfast: The next retiree breakfast for ANAD and military retirees is scheduled for Sept. 30 at 9 a.m. Speakers will be former depot commander Col. (ret.) Joel Denney and Depot Chief of Staff Phil Trued. Cost is \$8. Phone: 256-235-7160.

Judge Advocate General releases Ice Bucket Challenge guidance

from the ANAD Legal Office

This is guidance the Office of the Judge Advocate General released on the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Challenge, better known as the ALS Challenge, which is popular right now:

The Department of the Army has advised us there have been reports that Army personnel have participated, in their official status, in the ALS "Ice Bucket Challenge."

However well-intentioned, this is an impermissible endorsement of a non-federal entity.

The Standards of Conduct and the Joint Ethics Regulation are clear concerning such activities. An officer or employee may not use his or her government position or title or any authority associated with his or her public office in a manner that could reasonably be construed to imply the government sanctions or endorses the employee's personal activities or those of another. 5 CFR 2635.702(b).

Absent statutory authority to promote products, services or enterprises, an employee is also prohibited from using or permitting the use of his or her government position or title or any authority as-

sociated with his or her public office to endorse any product, service or enterprise. 5 CFR 2635.702(c); JER 3-209.

An employee may only engage in the raising of funds for a nonprofit organization in an official capacity where the employee is authorized to engage in the fundraising activity as part of his or her official duties. 5 CFR 2635.808.

The JER, at paragraph 3-210, makes it clear that (with very limited exceptions) Department of Defense employees shall not officially endorse or appear to endorse membership drives or fundraising for any non-federal entity.

Fundraising done by government employees in their personal capacities should not use official time, resources or personnel in connection with the activity, nor should the individual's official title, authority or command be invoked in connection with the personal fundraising efforts. In addition, employees engaged in personal fundraising may not personally solicit funds from a subordinate or from any other person known to the employee to be a prohibited source. 5 CFR 2635.808(c); JER 3-300.

Please direct all questions about this to the ANAD Legal Office at 256-235-6518.

Fred Fears: an asset to the School Age Program

by Dennis King

ANAD DCFA

Safety and quality childcare are two of the most important goals of Anniston Army Depot's Child, Youth, and School Services.

This summer, the children in the School Age Care class at the Child Development Center created a positive learning environment and had plenty of fun through field trips and activities while learning.

The group visited the Anniston Museum of Natural History, Trussville Play-station, Birmingham Zoo, DeSoto Caverns, Talladega Raceway, McWane Center, took several trips to Washington Pool and made use of the depot's resources by visiting our gym as well as fishing and enjoying cook-outs at Cone Reservoir.

Believe it or not, when surveyed, the students pick Cone Reservoir as their favorite.

Watching over these children, who ranged in age from six to 10 years old, on every trip was Fred Fears.

Fears, along with Mike Knight, Donna Salers and Tonya Smith, gave the students experiences to tell their friends upon returning to school last month.

At six feet tall and 225 pounds, Fears looks like he should play linebacker for one of our state universities.

A former football standout at Jacksonville Christian Academy, "Mr. Fred" dreams of becoming a personal trainer and one day owning his own business.

He has played the drums since the age of nine. Currently, Fred watches over the SAC group at the CDC and each child knows they are watched over in a secure and caring manner.

"Fred has a calming effect with the kids



Courtesy photo

Fred Fears, right, takes a break with School Age Care students Kevali Williams, left; Savannah Clay and George Ellis.

and serves as a mentor. He shows them a 'big strong guy' can also be a caring caretaker of children," said Knight, who assisted with the summer program.

"Each employee brings their unique strengths to the program in what they can teach the kids. The positive adult relationships formed while children are young are so important and shape how children interact with others as they grow," said JoAnne Amundson, the depot's CYSS coordinator. "I appreciate the diversity in our staff members, as every single employee has something im-

portant to bring to the table. You never know, the sports and fitness training which began with Mr. Fred, may end up inspiring one of our kids to be a future Olympian."

Next summer students currently in preschool will move up to the school age program. Most likely they have heard about "Mr. Fred" and the great field trips and experiences they will have.

The CYSS staff is already planning for next summer's experiences. You can inquire about School Age Care enrollment at the Child Development Center.



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Oct. 22

Commander's Town Hall

Questions for Town Hall

On Oct. 22, depot commander Col. Bolander will hold a town hall meeting live at 7:05 a.m.

The meeting will be broadcast from Bldg. 123, the depot's training auditorium.

Employees with questions they want to hear addressed by the commander should send them to the Public Affairs Office via e-mail to usarmy.anad.ta.com.list.publicaffairs@mail.mil, pouch mail to PAO in Bldg. 7 or call Ext. 6281.