



# TRACKS

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Volume 28, Number 20124

Anniston, Alabama

October 9, 2014

## Testing tanks

by Jennifer Bacchus

ANAD PAO

Every combat vehicle and artillery system overhauled or repaired at Anniston Army Depot is rigorously tested before being released to the customers.

Testing, which ensures all components in the vehicle or weapons system work the first time and every time, begins in the Final Turret Test cost center.

“Our main mission is the testing of turrets for the M1 tank, but we do a lot more than just turrets,” said Kenneth Johnson, the shop’s supervisor. “We are involved, a little bit, in all the vehicle’s systems.”

In Final Turret Test, each combat vehicle’s systems - the hydraulics, electronics, communications and sights - are checked to ensure the systems work together.

“It’s known as integrated systems,” said Johnson. “We make sure they all work as one.”

The communications systems for each vehicle are installed at final testing and all vehicles and artillery are bore-sighted, aligning the barrel and sights or other optics for proper firing.

Howitzers, including the Paladin self-propelled howitzers, are then taken to the firing range and test-fired.

Following the first round of tests, vehicles are taken to Test Track for their next inspections.

Each type of vehicle - Stryker, M113, M88 and M1 -

has specifications to meet during the road test. The top speed and milage of each run differs between the types of vehicles, as does the other checks vehicles are subjected to.

The suspensions of some vehicles, such as the M1 tank, must pass the bump course, an appropriately named series of metal obstacles, and their brakes have to pass a slope test.

The slope test involves a 60-degree climb, during which the tank must remain still without rolling back, then proceed up and over the hill.

Certain vehicles even have a requirement for their power packs to be tested apart from the vehicle.

“On Marine Corps tanks and Army Assault Breacher Vehicles, we pull the power pack from the vehicle and run a ground hop test,” said Reggie Henry, the supervisor of final testing at the Test Track.

At the conclusion of all inspections, the vehicles are sent for a final round of cleaning and painting.

Ready for delivery to the customer at that point, the vehicles return to the Test Track to be checked by quality assurance personnel. Certain vehicles may also require an inspection by the Soldiers or Marines who will receive them.

“We perform the testing on each M1 coming through Final Acceptance to ensure craftsmanship and quality is built into each vehicle,” said Henry. “These tests are important because a Soldier’s life may depend on the vehicle.”



Photo by Jennifer Bacchus

Some combat vehicles, such as the M1 Abrams tank, are not only tested on the depot’s 1.1-mile Test Track, but also have to pass a bump test, which checks the vehicle’s suspension.

## OCTOBER IS DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH



Photo by Jennifer Bacchus

Malinda Evans speaks into a microphone to type a document. An injury five years ago made it difficult to type. Voice recognition software takes dictation from her, enabling her to use the computer hands-free.

## Voice recognition software assists with computer use

by Jennifer Bacchus

ANAD PAO

Approximately five years ago, Malinda Evans injured her left hand. The injury seemed minor at first - a little pain and a reduction in her range of motion.

The problem inside was significant, however, and surgery in 2010 exposed the extent of the trouble.

A pinched nerve left Evans with limited use of her left wrist and hand. She has to use a wrist brace on that arm.

Since Evans used a computer each day for her job in the Enterprise Excellence Division, it also meant increased difficulty in performing her duties.

Fortunately, computer software existed which could help Evans.

"I use it for basically everything," Evans said of the voice recognition software which enables her to operate her computer without touching the keyboard.

Evans began her career at Anniston Army Depot as a sandblaster in 2001.

"I was a Lean facilitator in the paint shop when they posted a job in the Lean Office. I applied for it and transferred here in 2009," she said.

Evans earned her Lean Green Belt in 2013 and is looking forward to many years of helping make the depot's processes more efficient.

### Plan to attend the Disability Employment Awareness Month Luncheon

The depot's Disability Employment Awareness Month Luncheon is coming up.

**When:** Oct. 23 at 11:30 a.m.

**Where:** Berman-Varner House

**Cost:** \$10

**Speaker:** Tracey Gamble from the Anniston Contracting Office

**Menu:** baked chicken, green beans, mashed potatoes and gravy, salad, banana pudding, tea and water.

Tickets may be purchased through directorate secretaries through Oct. 16.



## Disabled employees should feel empowered to show capabilities

by Brenda Montgomery

ANAD EEO

National Disability Employment Awareness Month is a national campaign that raises awareness about disability employment issues, celebrating the many and varied contributions of workers with disabilities.

This year's theme is "Expect. Empower."

Individuals with disabilities have skills and experiences that employers need. They have a right to be hired based on their qualifications for a job and to be empowered to demonstrate their capabilities on the job.

Federal grants can provide economic sustainability for employers and self-sufficiency for workers.

Congress enacted a law in 1945 declaring the first week of October each year as National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week.

In 1962, the word "physically" was removed to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month and changed the name to National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

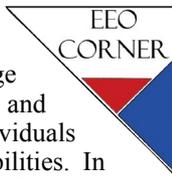
Anniston Army Depot observes National Disability Employment Awareness Month annually.

ANAD has employees with disabilities who comprise a portion of the workforce in various positions. The installation takes pride in its disabled employees and appreciates their support.

It's important to recognize everyone has an important role in the workforce and every person is recognized for his or her ability, instead of their disability.

**Source:**

[www.dol.gov](http://www.dol.gov)



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ment of the Army, or Anniston Army Depot.

TRACKS is published biweekly using desktop publishing on recycled paper and on the Internet by the Commander, Anniston Army Depot.

The editorial office is located in the Abrams Building, Room 358, telephone 256-235-6281 (DSN prefix 571) or FAX 256-235-4695. TRACKS invites

comments and contributions from its readers. Address e-mail to: [usarmy.anad.tacom.list.publicaffairs@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.anad.tacom.list.publicaffairs@mail.mil) and mail to: Editor, TRACKS, TAAN-SCO, 7 Frankford Avenue, Anniston, AL 36201-4199. DEADLINE days are Thursdays preceding date of publication. Circulation: 5,900. Postmaster: Send address changes to TRACKS,

PO Box 2285, Anniston, AL 36202.

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# ANAD's new safety chief worked for Navy, Air Force

by Jennifer Bacchus

ANAD PAO

Drew Ramsey, Anniston Army Depot's new safety chief, first got involved in safety programs when he was in the Air Force.

At the time, it wasn't his first career choice. With a degree in criminal justice, Ramsey wanted to get into the Air Force's Office of Special Investigations. Safety was his second choice.

It became a career and a calling.

He got a degree in safety - one of four degrees he has earned, the others being criminal justice, business and mechanical and electrical technology.

After the Air Force, Ramsey was hired as a safety specialist for the Navy because of his safety expertise. He rose through the ranks from part of the safety team to leading it and then to managing several safety programs spread over numerous commands.

"My last two jobs were more

oversight of other safety offices," he said.

That was when he realized he missed hands-on work in the safety programs.

"In safety, the interesting work is when you are helping employees solve problems," said Ramsey.

When considering applying for the safety officer position at ANAD, Ramsey researched the installation and its location. To him, it seemed like an interesting place to work.

"The depot has some great initiatives out there already," he said, adding he doesn't want to reinvent the safety program, but he would like to see the Safety Office get back to the basics.

"I want to first take a look at the Safety Office, internally, perform an internal audit to see where we can improve," said Ramsey. "My personal goal is to establish the best depot safety program in TACOM."



Photo by Jennifer Bacchus

Drew Ramsey, center, listens as Don Winningham, left, discusses the Ammunition Limited Area with him and Dale Larry.

# CW4 Wills looks to learn maintenance efficiency

by Jennifer Bacchus

ANAD PAO

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Richard Wills II hopes to broaden his understanding of maintenance processes during his tour of duty at Anniston Army Depot.

In short, he would like to learn what makes the installation so efficient.

"This depot is much more efficient than we are in the field," said Wills. "Things seem to flow here."

Wills enlisted in the U.S. Army as an armaments repairer and rose through the ranks until Jan. 2003 when he was promoted to chief warrant officer.

His maintenance experience with combat vehicles and weapons is limited to field repairs.

"We only tear things down to a certain level in repair," he said.

So, Wills is learning a lot by seeing the complete overhaul processes performed here.

His last duty assignment was in Fort Lee, Va., where Wills was an instructor for the Warrant Officer Basic and Advanced courses.

On the depot since Sept. 16, he is currently learning the various repair and overhaul processes.

Once he is familiar with the depot, Wills will be assisting with small arms and artillery operations, which are his particular area of technical expertise.

"I'm here to help and learn," he said.



Photo by Jennifer Bacchus

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Richard Wills II, right, discuss first pass yield statistics with Jeff Simmons, the depot's director of production.

## Volunteers needed

Volunteers don't get paid for their work; not because it's worthless, but because it is priceless!

Anniston Army Depot's Christmas Cheer Program needs volunteers to assist in packaging, wrapping, sorting, stacking and organizing gifts.

The Christmas Cheer Program is a great way to become part of a dynamic volunteer corps. ANAD will sponsor installation families and children who are part of the Department of Human Resources' Preservation of Home Program.

This is a wonderful way to improve and enhance the quality of life of children.

The benefits of volunteering are many. Consider these: volunteers keep busy, remain active, meet new people, work for a cause, stretch their mind, try something new, master new skills, share talents, sharpen old skills, develop competencies, demonstrate caring for others, discover undeveloped abilities, gain valid work experience and contribute to the welfare of the community just to name a few.

There is a certain reward in being part of an effort which makes a difference. Contact Amanda Mullinax at 256-235-7445 or visit the ACS Center, in Bldg. 220, to find out how you can become a part of this volunteer opportunity.

# ANAD, 73 years and still going strong

from Staff Reports, PAO

In 1941, construction began on a plot of land that would become Anniston Army Depot.

Storage igloos, magazines, warehouses and several administration buildings were built.

By 1942, the workforce at the Anniston Ordnance Depot, as it was called at the time, totaled 4,339.

Nearly a decade later, in the 1950s, AOD began to overhaul and repair combat vehicles.

In 1962, the installation was renamed Anniston Army Depot and the maintenance and storage of chemical munitions began.

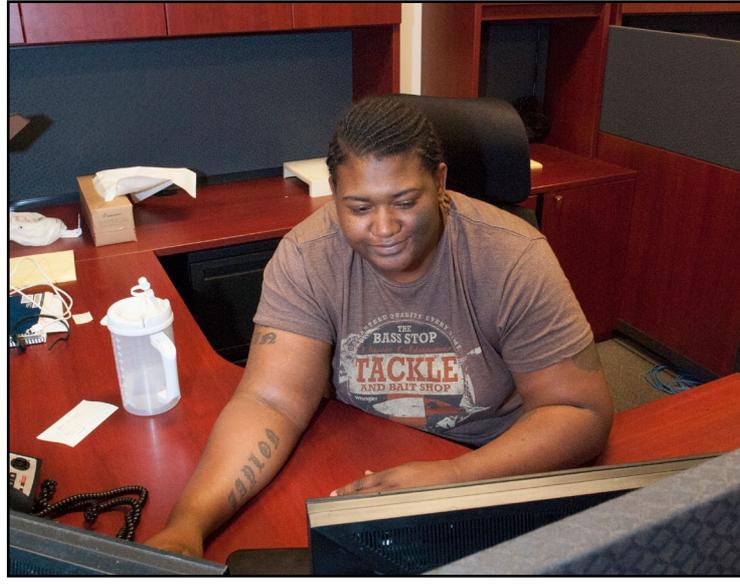
The chemical mission was eventually delegated to the An-

niston Chemical Activity, which ended the chemical storage mission in September 2011 when the final chemical munitions were demilitarized.

The depot's ammunition storage and maintenance missions were given to the Anniston Munitions Center in 1998.

Today, as the depot approaches its 73rd birthday on Oct. 14, more than 4,100 employees work on the installation.

The depot's primary missions include overhaul and repair combat vehicles and weapons systems such as the M1 Abrams tank, Stryker, M88, Paladin, towed howitzers and small arms among others.

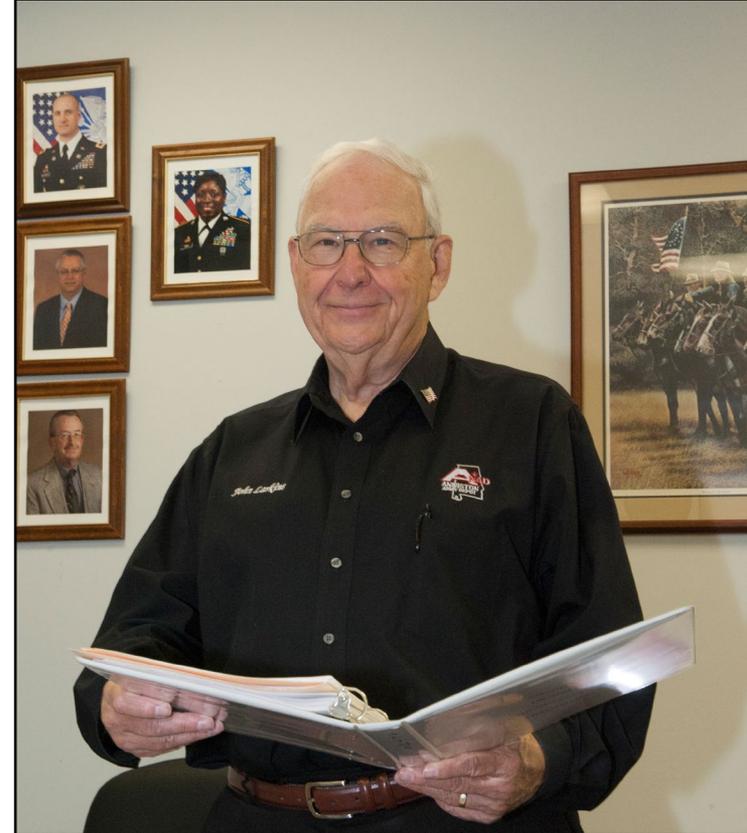


Photos by Jennifer Bacchus

Iris Clark has enjoyed past Employee Appreciation Days, particularly the one in 2012. "There were more activities, more food and more people participated. It seemed like the whole depot family was there."



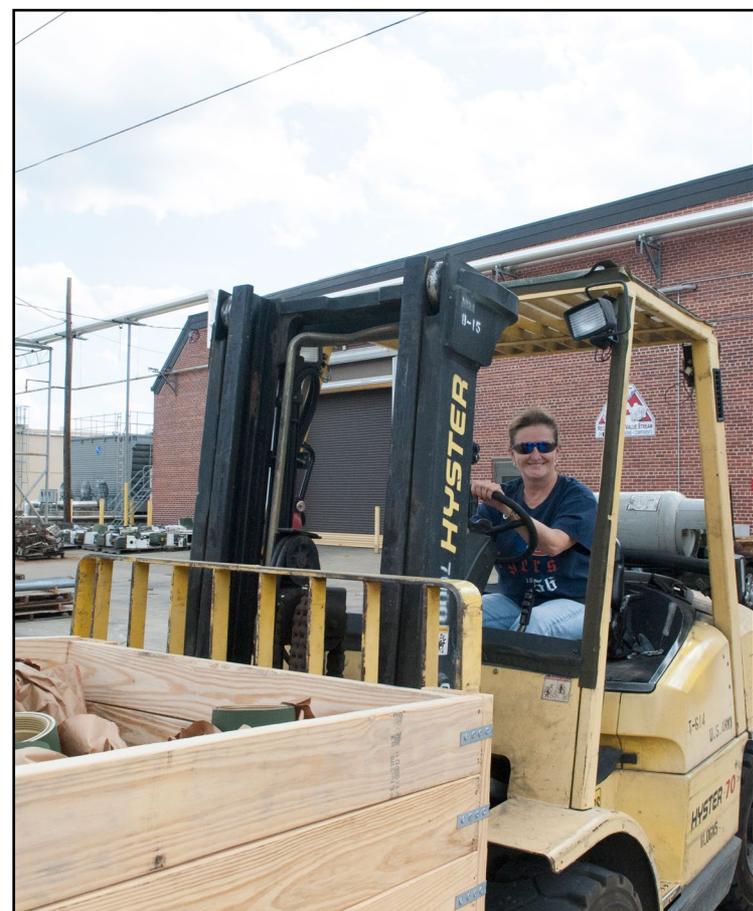
Tara Alman, a depot employee for 12 years, enjoys coming to work each day because of her coworkers. "They keep me laughing," said Alman.



John Larkins is approximately two months from retirement. His most precious memory of the installation regards a group of people who don't normally work together, but collaborated to accomplish a goal. During the summer of 2010, just before the Logistics Management Program went live, several employees from various cost centers performed a physical inventory of two buildings. "We used an ad hoc team of volunteers, most of whom didn't normally do inventory. We all worked together in July to get the work done and get a baseline inventory for LMP," said Larkins. "We got to be better friends and accomplished an important mission."



Jerre Ledbetter has been an employee of Anniston Army Depot for seven years. He said his coworkers comprise some of the best memories he has of the installation. "There are a lot of good people here," he said. "Good people and good humor make the day better."



Many of Annie Austin's coworkers have become good friends during her years on the depot. "You can make some good friends here; that's for sure!"



### Employees wish the depot a happy birthday on The Morning Show

Tune in to The Morning Show live at 7:05 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 15, to hear depot employees wish the installation a happy 73rd birthday.



Marilyn Futrell's fondest depot memories involve time working for the Directorate of Community and Family Activities. "I enjoy helping other people and because they have so many different programs under their umbrella, it was something different every day."



Keith Roberts, a depot employee for 31 years, said his coworkers have often been as close as family to him. He recalls the camaraderie among employees in the first shops he worked in and how they would often spend time together away from work. "We were just closer back then," he said. "We were all buddies."



**Need a recycling bin for  
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# 15 graduate in October DLAMP class

*from Staff Reports, PAO*

Anniston Army Depot graduated 15 individuals from its Depot Leadership and Management Program Oct. 2. This was the ninth class in the program's history to complete the course in its entirety while on depot property.

The four-week course trains future depot leaders through classroom instruction and real world experience. The latter is done through a shadowing program as students are paired with current depot leaders.

Depot Chief of Staff Phil Trued congratulated the graduates on their participation in the class, remarking on the various levels represented by the group.

"This class was intentionally comprised of both junior and senior supervisors and leaders, which permitted you to glean information from each other," said Trued. "I am glad to learn some great dialogue surfaced among you."

Following completion of the ANAD DLAMP course, students have one year in which to complete the next phase of their leadership training, a two-week CES residency course in Fort Leavenworth, Kan.



Photo by Mark Cleghorn

The Oct. 2 DLAMP graduates were: Steve Cain, Directorate of Production; Tony Carr, DP; Devin Cowan, Directorate of Material Management; Jeffrey Cromer, Directorate of Engineering and Quality; John Epps, DP; Kenneth Kidd, DP; Ronald Lackey, Directorate of Public Works; Ben McKinney, DMM; Shannon Noel, Directorate of Emergency Services; Paul Padgett, DES; Michael Rogers, DP; Keith Strong, Anniston Munitions Center; Douglas Turner, DP; Jane Wade, Directorate of Information Management; and William Webber, DP.

## Energy reduction a team effort

*by Brian Freeman, DPW*

Anniston Army Depot's 2014 energy consumption is 18 percent below the 2003 baseline and plans are in place to help the installation reach its goal of a 30 percent reduction in energy consumption by FY15.

In fiscal year 2014, ANAD's energy cost for electricity and natural gas was \$11,046,744. The summer cooling cost in FY14 was less than FY13 and FY12, but the heating cost was higher due to unusual winter load. Overall, the FY14 energy costs and consumption were less than past years.

According to current guidance, each Army Materiel Command installation is responsible for making progress toward energy and water efficiency goals, despite any increases in operational tempo.

ANAD is currently at 18 percent below the 2003 baseline. The goal is to reduce energy consumption at ANAD by 12 percent over the next year in order to meet the 30 percent reduction goal.

The depot has teamed up with Alabama Power Company to develop a Utility Energy Services Contract. The UESC proposed by Alabama Power must reduce energy consumption and result in a 10 year payback. Currently, an Investment Grade Audit is being conducted in support of the UESC and will be completed by late November. The IGA will provide ANAD with a road map toward the 30 percent reduction goal.

ANAD expects to meet the energy reduction goal, as required by Executive Order 13423, by the first part of FY16.

ANAD also has renewable energy goals to meet. Several years ago, ANAD installed two renewable Ground Coupled Heat Pump projects – one at Bldg. 221 and one at the Headquarters Building. The GCHP at Headquarters has resulted in a savings of \$72,000 annually.

To expand the renewable energy portfolio, ANAD installed solar water heaters at three buildings on the installation. Now, with the help of the Energy Initiative

Task Force, ANAD will partner with Alabama Power and the EITF and increase its solar footprint to a 20 megawatt solar array, which will provide enough electricity to support the depot's electrical needs.

ANAD received QUTM funds, energy funding from Congress, over the past couple of years and the money was used to install Light-Emitting Diode street lights and emergency exit lights across the depot. The installation's Directorate of Public Works' engineering continues to expand the use of LED lights, with the largest indoor installation being in the Combat Vehicle Repair Facility.

ANAD's water reduction projects have reduced annual consumption by 100 million gallons since 2007. ANAD must continue to pay attention to water loss and water use during production. The depot consumes 1 million gallons per day.

DPW  
CORNER

The Women's  
Army Corps  
Band invites you  
to their upcoming performance  
at the WAC Chapel, located  
at the Ft. McClellan National  
Guard Training  
Facility.

The event is scheduled for  
Friday, Oct. 24 at 7 p.m. and is  
free and open to  
the public.

**Have an article idea for TRACKS?**

**Call Public Affairs at Ext. 6281!**

# notes from around the TRACK



Courtesy photo

## Heflin named to JSU Elite Honors Program

Bailey Heflin, second from the right on the front row, graduated sixth in her class at Oxford High School. She was selected as one of the Elite Honors recipients at Jacksonville State University, where she is studying computer science. The Elite Honors scholarships are the highest level offered by JSU. These eight scholarships are offered annually based on high school GPA, ACT scores, extracurricular activities and an essay written by the applicant. Proud parents are Randy (DOIM) and Kim Heflin.



Jennifer Bacchus

Depot Commander Col. Brent Bolander presents Steve Henry with a Superior Civilian Service Award.

## Henry retires after 40 years of federal service

Steve Henry began his federal career in 1974 with the Occupational Safety and Health Association.

Three years later, he came to Anniston Army Depot to establish the installation's Industrial Hygiene program.

Henry will retire from civilian service Oct. 31.

"I'm thankful for this place," Henry said of the depot. "It has been a good experience for me."

Maj. Aartif Hayat, M.D., physician for the depot's Dear Occupational Health Clinic, said that even in his brief time at the installation he could see the benefits of Henry's work in the IH program.



## ANAD CFC sets \$250,000 goal

by Jeffery Scott Kay,  
Depot 2014 CFC chairperson

I have served on the Combined Federal Campaign committee and the local Federal Campaign Committee for three years. I have also served as a CFC keyperson for many years.

I enjoy working with CFC because it is another way for me to help people.

You don't realize what a difference you make until you see and talk to the people who run the charitable organizations.

The depot's Combined Federal Campaign kicked off last week. The 2014 goal is \$250,000 and CFC key people are making the rounds of kickoff events to distribute brochures and answer questions about the campaign.

If you haven't received a printed CFC campaign brochure, you may go to the depot's Intranet to download a copy or obtain a copy from your keyperson.

If you do not know which keyperson represents your organization, call me at Ext. 6077 or Kim Smoot at Ext. 7785.



Photo by Ben Williams

## Calhoun County leaders tour installation for defense, security day

Leadership Calhoun County visited Anniston Army Depot Sept. 25 as part of their Defense and Security Day. During the tour, the group visited the Combat Vehicle Repair Facility and Small Arms Repair Facility. Earlier that day, the group toured the Center for Domestic Preparedness. Leadership Calhoun County is a program of the Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce exposing business leaders and individuals to all that Calhoun County offers.

## OCTOBER IS ENERGY AWARENESS MONTH

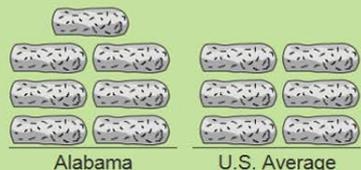
How much **energy** do you use?

SELECT STATE

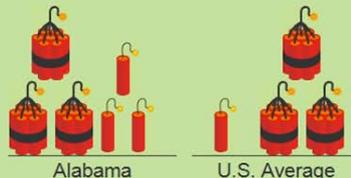
ALABAMA

170,300,000 BTU

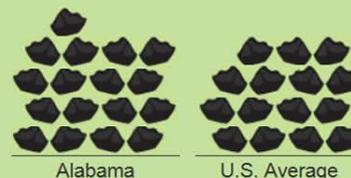
That's like the energy in:



Alabama U.S. Average

**35,786 burritos****4,560 burritos above**  
the U.S. Average.

Alabama U.S. Average

**189,133 sticks of dynamite****24,100 sticks above**  
the U.S. Average.

Alabama U.S. Average

**17,615 lbs. of coal****2,245 lbs. of coal above**  
the U.S. Average.

= 5,000 burritos

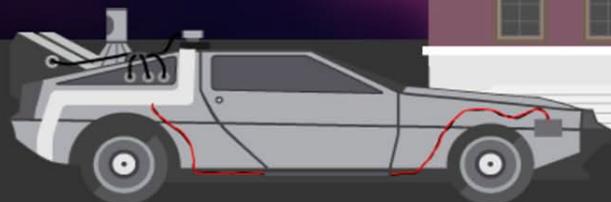


= 50,000 sticks of dynamite



= 1,000 lbs. of coal

That's enough energy to:

**TAKE MARTY BACK TO THE FUTURE 138**  
**TIMES**

From Energy.gov

**Cutting Heating  
and Cooling Costs***from Alabama Power*

Heating and cooling is the largest portion of the average family's energy bill. Consider the following energy-saving tips to curtail your heating and cooling costs:

**Refresh your air filter**

When it comes to improving the energy efficiency of your heating and cooling system, replacing a dirty air filter is probably the simplest, most inexpensive and most often overlooked maintenance job there is.

**Adjust your thermostat**

- Set the thermostat and then forget it. If you change the temperature often during the day, you are more likely to waste energy.

- During the summer, try setting the thermostat at 78° or above. If you have a ceiling fan, you may be able to raise the temperature to 80° or higher.

- In the winter, try setting the thermostat at 68° or below.

**Use efficient heating and cooling equipment**

Even the best insulated home will waste energy unless special attention is given to the efficiency of its mechanical equipment. Have your equipment checked by a qualified dealer each year before the heating or cooling season begins.

**Be a Fan of the Fan**

Fans can also be used in conjunction with air conditioning to help reduce energy costs.

The "wind chill" effect allows the air conditioner thermostat to be set slightly higher while maintaining the same degree of comfort for room occupants. For example, you can adjust the setting on your thermostat from 78° to 80° F and still keep the occupants comfortable.

This increase of 2° F can result in a reduction of up to 10 percent in air conditioning energy use and the cost of running the ceiling fan is minimal.