

Interns gain valuable experience, insight at Arsenal

by Rachel Newton

Every spring and summer, the Pine Bluff Arsenal gets some temporary help across the installation thanks to an internship program designed to offer students a unique opportunity.

In June, PBA welcomed two interns for 10 weeks with the Minority College Relations Program - Lequita Barfield and Shantea Ryans. Barfield was assigned to the public affairs office and Ryans was assigned to the Directorate of Military Personnel and Community Activities.

A recent speech communications graduate of Mississippi Valley State, Barfield had been through the intern program previously.

"During my senior year, I got in touch with the university's career department. An email was sent out from the Minority College Program looking for students," she said. "I applied for the internship and was chosen to work at Rock Island Arsenal (Ill.). After I completed that in-



Lequita Barfield

ternship, I reapplied and was chosen to come to Pine Bluff."

Barfield's assignment while at Pine Bluff included work with the public affairs office's historical records.

"I tried to find a software program that would enhance the historical archives. We were trying to find a way to save documents

and other media files to make them searchable," she said. Her previous assignment at Rock Island did give her some expertise in this area because she worked in the installation's historical records office.

A native Mississippian from Rolling Fork (which is close to Vicksburg, Miss.) Barfield said that her future plans include working for the federal government. "I have applied for several positions, including some in public affairs," she said. "I am just waiting to hear

about those and if all else fails, I am considering joining the military."

The Minority College Relations Program is a collaborative effort between the U.S. Army Joint Munitions Command and U.S. Army Sustainment Command, both headquartered at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill.

The MCRP serves students of historically black colleges and universities, tribal institutions, Hispanic serving institutions and other minority serving institutions. Since 1996, the program has offered internship opportunities, giving students a chance to work at the federal level - at places like the Arsenal.

Ryans said she found out about the internship program when she was doing some job searching at her college - North Carolina A&T University in Greensboro, N.C.

"There is a job link at the school that helps students find jobs and I found that this internship was open so I applied for it," she said. "When I applied the first time, I was chosen for the winter internship so I had to decline due to school work load. So, I applied again and was chosen for the summer internship."

Ryans, who is majoring in computer engineering, said that her project during her time here at Pine Bluff was to work on the



Shantea Ryans

website for MWR. "Since the site was already created, we started off editing it quite a bit," she said. "Then we learned we had to do it all over from scratch using Microsoft Expression and Dreamweaver. I had used some of the software before so it was a bit of a learning curve."

When she returns to school

this fall, Ryans will be a senior. "My future plans include federal employment and/or graduate school," she said. "I have an idea about what I want to do. I have been looking at North Carolina-Chapel Hill because I want to pursue a masters in business administration."

A native of Augusta, Ga., Ryans said her experience has been good working at the Arsenal. "I never really thought about a government job before," she said. "When you think about government jobs, you think about working in Washington, D.C. with the FBI or Homeland Security. Working here with the Army brought out a whole new aspect of the job market to me."

Both interns gave presentations of their experiences to the MCRP organizers during a video teleconference at the end of the internships.

Hails and Farewells

Hails

William Holiman, carpenter, has joined the Directorate of Public Works.

Donna Mitchell, program support assistant, has joined the Directorate of Chemical and Biological Defense Operations.

Donald Cannon, toxic materials handler, has joined the Pine Bluff Chemical Activity.

Jodie Liles, accountant, has joined the Directorate of Business Management.

Home McKee, accountant (Internal Review Evaluation), has

joined the Internal Review and Audit Compliance office.

Eskerege Triplett, toxic materials handler, has joined the Pine Bluff Chemical Activity.

Roy D. Phillips, utility systems operator, has joined the Directorate of Public Works.

James C. Kearney, toxic materials handler, has joined the Pine Bluff Chemical Activity.

Orlando Cherry, industrial worker, has joined the Directorate of Chemical and Biological Defense Operations.

Ashley Tallent, industrial worker, has joined the Directorate

of Ammunition Operations.

Farewells

Virgie Boling, chemical equipment inspector, has left the Pine Bluff Chemical Activity.

Transfer/Promotions

Barry Royal, industrial engineer, has transferred from the Directorate of Chemical and Biological Defense Operations to Fort Bragg, N.C.

Resignations

Maribel Morales, supply technician (OA), has resigned from the Directorate of Material Management.

BXP award



Bonnie J. Adams receives a Beyond Expectation Peer (BXP) Award from Col. Franz Amann and Phillip Vick. Adams was recognized by a group of co-workers for outstanding achievement as a member of the Directorate of Chemical and Biological Defense Operations. "Ms. Adams' outstanding skill, self-reliant enterprise, and cheerful cooperative attitude have earned her the respect and admiration of her superiors and subordinates alike," read her certificate. "Her broad knowledge of ICEMP, professional competence, initiative and sound mature judgment enabled her to accomplish duties assigned in a superior manner." Adams received a \$250 cash award along with a framed certificate and commander's coins.

Award recognizes co-workers for exceptional performance

The Beyond Expectations Peer (BXP) Award is a peer-to-peer incentive award which allows employees to recognize a co-worker for exceptional performance. Recipients are noted for their take-charge attitudes, willingness to go above and beyond the scope of their job descriptions and to make identifiable contributions to the team. Employees may be recognized for the following justification criteria:

1. Significant improvements to job performance and mission requirements.
2. Positive attitude toward external and internal customers.
3. Volunteering for additional tasks or helping others with heavy workloads.
4. Identifying cost savings mechanisms or a leaner way of doing business.

Nominations will be submitted directly to the Incentive Awards Program Manager. Judy Crider is the current manager. Pine Bluff Arsenal employees will be competing with employees at Holston Army Ammunition Plant and Radford Army Plant.

There will be no more than five BXP winners each quarter. If there are more than five nominees, the winners will be selected by a panel (individuals who do not work in the same directorate as the nominee) based upon review of the justification statements completed by the nominating personnel.

The commander will present the winners with a framed certificate and commander's coins. In addition, they will receive a \$250 on-the-spot cash award, which will be funded by nominee's directorate.

Award nominations will be submitted quarterly to the Incentive Awards Program Manager. Nominations will be submitted quarterly by the 24th day of the following month (First quarter-October - November due Jan. 24, Second quarter- January- March due April 24, Third quarter- April - June due July 24, Fourth quarter- July - September due Oct. 24).

The BXP award recipient will become eligible for the annual Peer Superior Choice Award sponsored by U.S. Army Joint Munitions Command.

The annual Peer Superior Choice Award is a single award presented to an employee who received a quarterly BXP Award. The top four BXP Award recipients will be considered for the Peer Superior Choice Award. Top four is comprised of the highest scored recipient for each of the four award quarters. The award recipient will receive their choice of a \$1000 cash award or a two-day time-off award. (HQ JMC will assume the expense of the cash award)

For information about the BXP Award, contact Crider at 540-3741 or Linda Demery at 540-3228.

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