



ARL continues to receive strong support from our sponsors and several current programs have major procurements in process. We want your feedback and invite you to email SupplierRelations@arl.psu.edu with any questions, suggested topics, or areas of interest.

We appreciate your partnership as you play a vital role in helping ARL and our sponsors achieve our collective mission.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: GARFIELD THOMAS WATER TUNNEL RENOVATION

Few facilities embody ARL’s storied history as well as the Garfield Thomas Water Tunnel (GTWT) building. Completed in 1949, the GTWT is named in honor of Lt. j.g. W. Garfield Thomas Jr., a 1938 Penn State alumnus who died in battle during WWII and was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross and the Purple Heart. He was Penn State’s first reported hero of the war.

A Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmark designated by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the tunnel began operation in March, 1950. When completed, the GTWT was the largest such facility in the country and is now 2nd largest. Measuring 48 inches in diameter, the tunnel test section holds more than 100,000 gallons of water and is powered by a 2,000 HP motor.

The GTWT has provided crucial support in the areas of marine propulsion, biomedical research, hydrodynamic and acoustic research, and renewable energy. To facilitate the next level of cutting edge research, a multi-year renovation project will conclude in April 2024 and positions the GTWT to continue its legacy of service and success. Credit: 2023 ARL Annual Report



DoD TIK TOK BAN

On December 30, 2022, President Biden signed a bill restricting downloading or accessing Chinese-owned social networking app TikTok on government devices. This new ruling also implements statute (FAR 52.204-27) into contract solicitations from June 2, 2023 onward. This ban includes devices that connect with government systems—including systems owned by outside contractors. The Pentagon has urged personnel against downloading and accessing TikTok on all devices due to concerns about cybersecurity and spying. Congress has warned that user data captured via the app could be used in ways that threaten national security. The new DoD rule applies to any devices, including phones, used for official business, regardless of whether they are owned by the government, contractor, or contractors employees. Although this ban does not apply to ARL suppliers, experts warn that sensitive information could be exposed via Tik Tok.



WHAT IS THE DPAS RATING ON MY PURCHASE ORDER?

The Defense Priority Allocation System (DPAS) implements priorities and allocations under the Defense Production Act (DPA). There are 2 levels of priority Ratings:

- DX** – Highest National Defense Urgency
- DO** – Critical to National Defense Orders

DPAS rating comply with 15 CFR 700 (<http://www.ecfr.gov>). If no DPAS rating is given, the order is ‘Unrated’. Rated orders must be given preferential treatment over unrated orders, and must be scheduled to ensure delivery by the required delivery date. Figure 1 is a sample of a DPAS rating you may find on an ARL Purchase Order. Please note that DO indicates Critical to National Defense. A7 indicates Electronic and Communications Equipment.

For more information, visit: DPAS (<https://www.dcmil.com/DPAS/>).

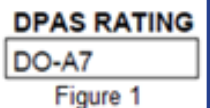


Figure 1

If your company has questions about the Cybersecurity requirements or SPRS, the Blue Cyber Program is a free resource available to small business contractors.

<https://www.safcn.af.mil/CISO/Small-Business-Cybersecurity-Information/>