

**Online News**

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**INCINERATION, IRAQ FOCUS OF PROTEST  
AT ARSENAL**

*By Jack Whitsett/OF THE COMMERCIAL STAFF*

The Pine Bluff Arsenal closed its Plainview gate Tuesday in response to a demonstration by peace and environmental activists.

About 45 demonstrators arrived at the gate around noon in three vehicles, said spokesman James Bradach, a coordinator for the Arkansas Coalition for Peace and Justice, a Sherwood organization that sponsored the event.

The demonstrators left about 2:30 p.m.

White Hall police were called to the Arsenal to help with any traffic problems, but Chief James Bacon said none materialized and no arrests were made.

"The Arsenal called us and the county (sheriff's office) for a little bit of assistance," Bacon said. "We were notified last week that they had a protest scheduled for today."

Arsenal spokeswoman Barbara Slifer confirmed that the demonstration passed peacefully, but said organizers who had contacted the Arsenal about the protest had agreed to stand to the side of the road.

"They placed themselves right smack dab in front of the gate" instead, she said.

The Arkansas Coalition for Peace and Justice hosted the event with Voices in the Wilderness, a Chicago organization formed to protest UN sanctions on Iraq, and Women's Activities For New Direction, a central Arkansas group.

"(Voices in the Wilderness) are on a tour of the U.S. pointing out the weapons of mass destruction we have here at home," Bradach said.

The planned incineration of chemical weapons stored at the Arsenal drew demonstrators' ire as well.

"Incineration is not an appropriate method for destroying (the weapons), Bradach said.

Slifer said the incineration method has the approval of state and federal authorities and has been used successfully and safely before.