

THE ARMY'S PREMIER PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION IN AIR, MISSILE AND SPACE SYSTEMS

KENNY LETTER

Spring 2023



**LETTERKENNY ARMY DEPOT
PUBLICATION**

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COMMANDER'S CORNER WITH COL. ALLBRITTON

Team,

First and foremost, thank you all for what you do every day at Letterkenny Army Depot! Your tireless commitment and unrivaled dedication have taken LEAD to the next level and posture us for continued success.

As we march into spring, I ask that we remain focused on the safety and well-being of our teammates.

As I reflect on the last few weeks, the most impactful moment that comes to mind is when I recognized some of our outstanding employees for their efforts and contributions to the mission.


I asked each award recipient a few questions, such as how long they had worked at the depot, what was their most memorable day, and what changes they would implement if they were the commander. Some of the recommendations I received included improving the flow of communication, increasing workload, improving our facilities, fostering teamwork and reducing the time spent on administrative procedures for our direct employees.

I am sharing these suggestions to highlight the importance of employee-driven innovation and mission ownership. As the commander of Letterkenny Army Depot, I am personally involved in all of these efforts. Our greatest strength is our people, and we are committed to building high-performing and cohesive teams in an inclusive environment to accomplish our mission.

I'm incredibly proud of our workforce and honored to lead this exceptional team.

Thank you for what you do!




RICKY L. ALLBRITTON
COL, LG
Commanding

FROM THE DESK OF THE SERGEANT MAJOR WITH SGT. MAJ. AMOKE

Team Letterkenny,

After almost two years of standing side-by-side with the Letterkenny team, I am still in awe of what we do every day, supporting the defense of our freedom and way of life. We have excelled in everything we do, not because of good leadership but because of a strong spirit of teamwork among all employees.

Significantly worth commending is that we have continued to keep each other and our equipment safe while underwriting the highest readiness of our warfighters and allies. We have answered the call in the homeland and around the world because we believe in what we do each day. It's an honor to be part of Team Letterkenny Army Depot, the best depot in the Organic Industrial Base.

Being safe on the depot requires us to be safe outside of the depot. Of note, drinking and driving or operating machinery is against the law. It is a risk not worth taking. When you see an unsafe act, stop it. Correct it on the spot so that we do not become part of the problem. Safety remains the number one priority on the depot, and we are all safety sensors. Thank you to those that have given their time and expertise to keep LEAD safe.

Security is also a key component of depot safety. We should keep an ear and eye out for anything unusual around us. When you see or hear something, report it. Report any suspected surveillance activities on or off the depot to law enforcement.

Thank you for what you do each day. Let us continue to care for and treat one another with dignity and respect.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amoke", with a stylized flourish at the end.

SGM E. C. Amoke
Depot SGM



U.S. Army photo by
Dorie E. Heyer,
LEAD Public Affairs

PATRIOT AMG/TRUCK PMT ACHIEVES UNPARALLELED P2P

Story by **Meghan E. Sharpe**
LEAD Public Affairs

Col. Ricky L. Allbritton, commander, Letterkenny Army Depot, recently recognized the Patriot AMG/Truck team for meeting 100% performance to promise for over 18 continuous months!

This team demonstrates dedication to duty and selfless service by continually striving to meet customer demands. In addition, they overcame challenges, such as COVID restrictions, over those 18 months to continue to reach outstanding P2P.

The team members pictured above include:

Tyler Yohe, heavy mobile equipment mechanic;
Brook Weller, heavy mobile equipment mechanic;

Scott Guyer, heavy mobile equipment mechanic; Matt Purnell, ordnance equipment mechanic leader; Jon Roberts, heavy mobile equipment mechanic leader; Donna Walls, heavy mobile equipment mechanic; Kirk Domer, commodity manager; Dan Snyder, heavy mobile equipment mechanic supervisor

Those pictured are a small part of a team of more than 60 members of the PMT. Col. Allbritton and Sgt. Maj. Amoke awarded other members with coins at previous visits to the shop floor.

DEI&A: WHAT'S THE MEANING OF DIVERSITY?

Story by **Mindy Wright**
Equal Employment Opportunity Office

Promoting diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEI&A) helps to strengthen the federal workforce. Federal agencies work collaboratively to drive innovation and organizational outcomes, draw from the full diversity of the nation, and position the federal government to serve as a model employer that values and promotes equity for all Americans. This article is the first of a 4-part series that will outline each letter in DEI&A.

According to the Executive Order on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility in the Federal Workforce, the term “diversity” means the practice of including the many communities, identities, races, ethnicities, backgrounds, abilities, cultures, and beliefs of the American people, including underserved communities. By fostering a culture of diversity — or a capacity to appreciate and value individual differences — employers benefit from varied perspectives on confronting business challenges and achieving success. The term refers to the infinite range of individuals’ unique attributes and experiences, such as ethnicity, gender, age, and disability. Since disability is a natural part of diversity, businesses can benefit by taking steps to ensure people with disabilities are represented in their workforce.

To quote Cynthia Olmedo, a career development enthusiast at the University of Houston, “Diversity is being invited to the dance. Inclusion is being asked to dance. Equity is allowing you to choose the music.” Here at Letterkenny Army Depot, we should collectively work to drive

innovation, strive for organizational outcomes that focus on DEI&A, and position LEAD to serve as a model AMCOM command that values and promotes diversity for all employees and applicants.

LEAD has developed the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEI&A) Board, composed of employees within the command. Membership on the Board is voluntary and open to all civilian Department of Army employees through elections by their directorate workforce. Additionally, LEAD has the DEI&A Committee, composed of the directors and senior management officials and chaired by the Deputy to the Commander.

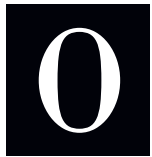
The DEI&A Committee and Board meet quarterly and assist the EEO Office in identifying, analyzing, and providing recommendations to command leadership regarding the importance of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility. It also helps to demonstrate the agency’s commitment to a model EEO workplace. One of the concerns that the committee and board are currently working on to support the “D” in DEI&A is to provide employees with alternate ways to address DEI&A. The EEO office created a DEI&A recommendation form on their intranet page under DEI&A, allowing employees to present additional topics for the DEI&A committee to consider.

Stay tuned to the next issue of Kenny Letter, which will include our next article titled DEI&A: What’s the Meaning of Equity?



ARMY DEPOT ADDITIVE MANUFACTURING ADVANCEMENTS ARISE

Story by **Dorie E. Heyer**
LEAD Public Affairs



Over 20 participants from across the Department of Defense, private industry and academia gathered at Letterkenny Army Depot Feb. 9 for a demonstration of the latest applications of cold spray technology.

LEAD integrated cold spray to mitigate corrosion on Army systems in the past year, and engineers are looking to leverage the technology further.

“Cold spray is an additive manufacturing technology that we’re using to repair parts,” said Ashley Filling, a production engineer at LEAD. “Unlike other additive manufacturing technologies that are used to make parts, cold spray is used to repair many different materials. We’re focusing on several aluminum alloys and a high-hard steel repair.”

The demonstration held Feb. 9 focused on robotic and mobile cold spray applications. These applications will help to expand LEAD’s cold spray capabilities.

“We are getting a robot on capital investment for 2025. Right now, we do all hand spray, but we want to upgrade,” Filling said. “We’re working with Army Research Lab and Penn State to advance more repairs at Letterkenny. We’re working with Penn State on some different alloys. Army Research Lab is working on weldable cold spray repair for us. We are actively seeking a deployable cold spray capability. Lots of our customers ask, ‘how do we get this in the field,’ so we are excited to bring them that capability.”

Although cold spray has existed for over 20 years, new advancements and creative problem-solving offer cost and time savings to the depot. Utilizing cold spray repairs on a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System roof saved LEAD over 12 months in repair time and over \$750,000 in cost savings.



U.S. Army photo by Dorie E. Heyer, LEAD Public Affairs

“Cold spray isn’t a kind of pie-in-the-sky idea. It’s actually something which is being used readily in the DOD,” said Michael Nicholas, Northeast additive manufacturing lead, Army Research Laboratory, U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command. “[Cold spray] started with an idea, and it has grown into a viable solution for the DOD to help us keep our aging weapon systems in the fight longer. It includes industry, academia, national labs, different R&D centers, international partners, and it runs all the way from physics, modeling and simulation all the way through application and development systems. Today we’re going to see those systems which have been developed for applying cold spray at the point of view.”

The demonstration took place within the depot’s cold spray booth. The mobile technology was utilized through robotics and hand spray application, showcasing the system’s versatility.



U.S. Army photo by Dorie E. Heyer, LEAD Public Affairs

“The mobile system is the result of collaboration between DEVCOM-ARL, VRC Metal Systems, Northeastern University and U.S. Army Natick Soldier Systems Center,” Nicholas stated.

The mobile unit comprises two trailers; one for the generator and the second for gas compression and storage. Additionally, the gas compression trailer contained an easily maneuverable cart, allowing the robotic arm, cold spray machine and spraying equipment to be wheeled in close proximity to the asset for repair. This mobile unit also comes equipped with a dust collector to mitigate localized overspray.

“Being able to provide a deployable capability, to make repairs in the field when the damage first starts as opposed

to waiting until they get back to the depot, will be a huge win,” Filling remarked. “Stopping corrosion and other damage in the field means the assets should return in better shape, require less work and save time and money in the repair process. This will help our Soldiers keep their equipment in the field longer in better working order.”

Cold spray continues to be a reliable means of corrosion mitigation for LEAD. This demonstration not only informed attendees about mobile units but also allowed collaboration and best-practice sharing.

“Why does the DOD care about cold spray?” Nicholas said. “The main reasons are because we have aging weapons platforms that have areas that can be mitigated using this repair solution.”



U.S. Army photo by Dorie E. Heyer, LEAD Public Affairs



As the fog clears...

...members of the Patriot team at Letterkenny Army Depot gather for a group photo at Letterkenny Army Depot Feb. 23, 2023. Since 2021, the Patriot team has reset six battalions, recapitalized three battalions, hosted nine Patriot units for depot visits, applied over 1,600 equipment upgrades, forward deployed over 60 times to support OCONUS and CONUS Patriot units, refurbished over 5,800 secondary assets, and received, processed, preserved and shipped over 900 major end items.

LETTERKENNY ARMY DEPOT SPOTLIGHTS EMPLOYEE ACHIEVEMENTS

Story by **Meghan E. Sharpe**

LEAD Public Affairs

Letterkenny Army Depot recognized several outstanding employees at a town hall held at the depot headquarters Jan. 17.

James Yosler, an engineering technician, received the Department of the Army Meritorious Civilian Service Medal, signed by Maj. Gen. Thomas W. O'Connor, commanding general, U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command. Col. Rick Allbritton, commander, LEAD, presented Yosler with the award in recognition of his dedication, exemplary performance and heroic acts, which saved the life of a co-worker.

Lester Hammond was awarded the Department of the Army Civilian Service Commendation Medal in recognition of being named LEAD's Wage Grade Employee of the Year. Hammond is a material examiner and identifier in the Directorate of Supply and Transportation.

Hammond started at the depot in 2010. He is motivated to support the warfighter and exemplifies Army values in every aspect of his position.

"Mr. Hammond's dedication to the mission is shown daily by his production and professionalism," said David Pollock, director of supply and transportation. "He volunteers to take on others' duties to ensure the mission never fails."

He enjoys his job at LEAD because of the team-oriented workplace.

"I feel like we are all one team here at LEAD," Hammond remarked. "The men and women of our military force motivate me. They are counting on us to provide them with parts, supplies and materials to do their job."



Col. Rick Allbritton, commander, Letterkenny Army Depot, and Will Greenland, chief, Production Engineering Division, present James Yosler, engineering technician, with the Department of the Army Meritorious Civilian Service Medal at LEAD's town hall Jan. 17.

(U.S. Army photo by Josh Shinn)



Col. Rick Allbritton, commander, Letterkenny Army Depot, and Jeremy Crouse, deputy director, Directorate of Supply and Transportation, present Lester Hammond, material examiner and identifier, with the Department of the Army Civilian Service Commendation Medal at LEAD's town hall Jan. 17. Hammond is recognized as LEAD's Wage Grade Employee of the Year for fiscal year 2022.

(U.S. Army photo by Josh Shinn)



Col. Rick Allbritton, commander, Letterkenny Army Depot, presents Sheena Wileman, electronics technician in the Directorate of Missile and Aerospace Readiness, with the Department of the Army Civilian Service Commendation Medal in recognition of being named LEAD's General Schedule Employee of the Year.

"I am most motivated by two things - the customer's expectation that we will deliver a pristine, quality product and my dedication to the warfighter," Wileman said.

(U.S. Army photo by Dorie E. Heyer, LEAD Public Affairs)

Sheena Wileman was awarded the Department of the Army Civilian Service Commendation Medal in recognition of being named LEAD's General Schedule Employee of the Year. Wileman is an electronics technician in the Directorate of Missile and Aerospace Readiness.

Wileman has worked in DMAR for seven years and demonstrates hard work and dedication to the mission.

"Her technical proficiency, attention to detail and well-versed knowledge of processes shows in the quality of her work," said John Shinn, supervisory equipment specialist.

She enjoys the unique nature of her job at DMAR and being able to use her problem-solving skills to support the Soldiers in the field.

"I am most motivated by two things - the customer's expectation that we will deliver a pristine, quality product and my dedication to the warfighter," Wileman said.

Several additional team members were commended during the awards ceremony.

The following employees received the Department of the Army Civilian Service Commendation Medal:

- Hannah Diehl
- Derrick Myers

The following employee received an SES Letter Award:

- Robert Shipp

The following employee received coins and certificates of achievement:

- Samuel Pelesky
- Raymond Baim
- Johnny Rofrits
- Tammy Jamison
- Chad Hoffmann
- Nicholas Beckley
- Leon Souders

The following employees were recognized for 25 Years of Service:

- Ronald Smith
- Brad Slinkard

RESILIENCY PERSPECTIVE: LOWER ENERGY CONSUMPTION IS ACHIEVABLE

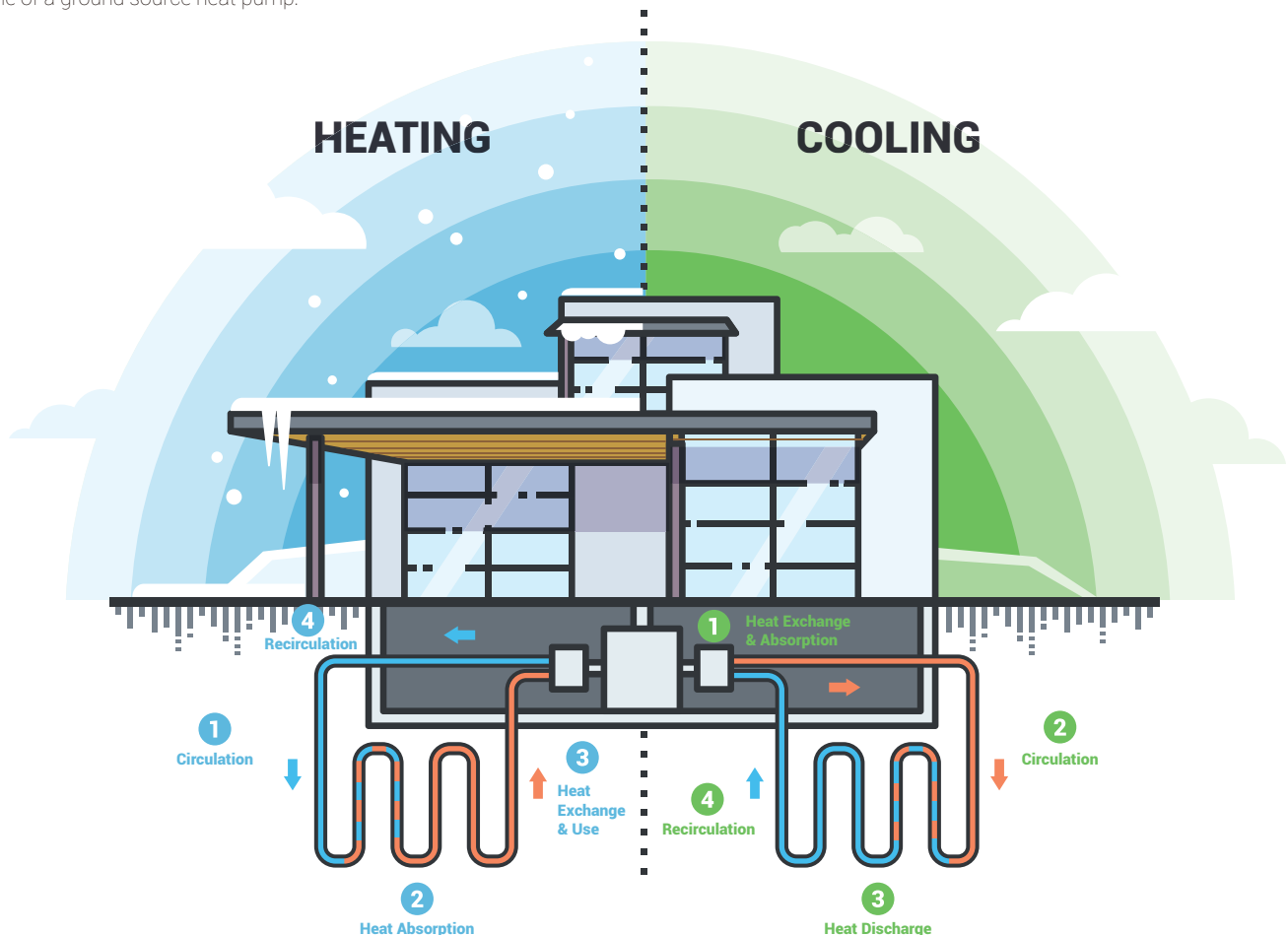
Story by **Osvaldo Alomar**

Energy Manager, Directorate of Public Works

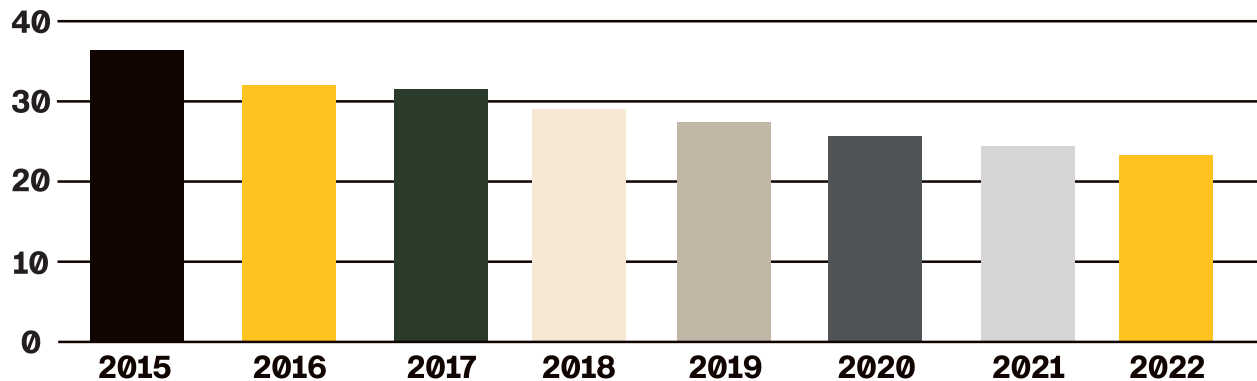
Fossil fuels have been the primary source of energy generation since the 1700s in most countries worldwide. From the engineering controls perspective, there's always been an environmental concern based on energy demand on how to clean, refine, and lower greenhouse emissions from these carbon-based fossil fuels production processes.

Modern-day approaches for energy generation to lower electrical energy consumption include photovoltaic microgrid systems (solar panels), Aeolic energy or wind turbines, hydroelectrical, geothermal generation, and other clean alternatives for heating and cooling systems such as Ground Source Heat Pumps, geothermal cooling, evaporative cooling, etc.

Example of a ground source heat pump:



ELECTRICAL ENERGY UTILIZATION INDEX (kWh / ft²•YR)



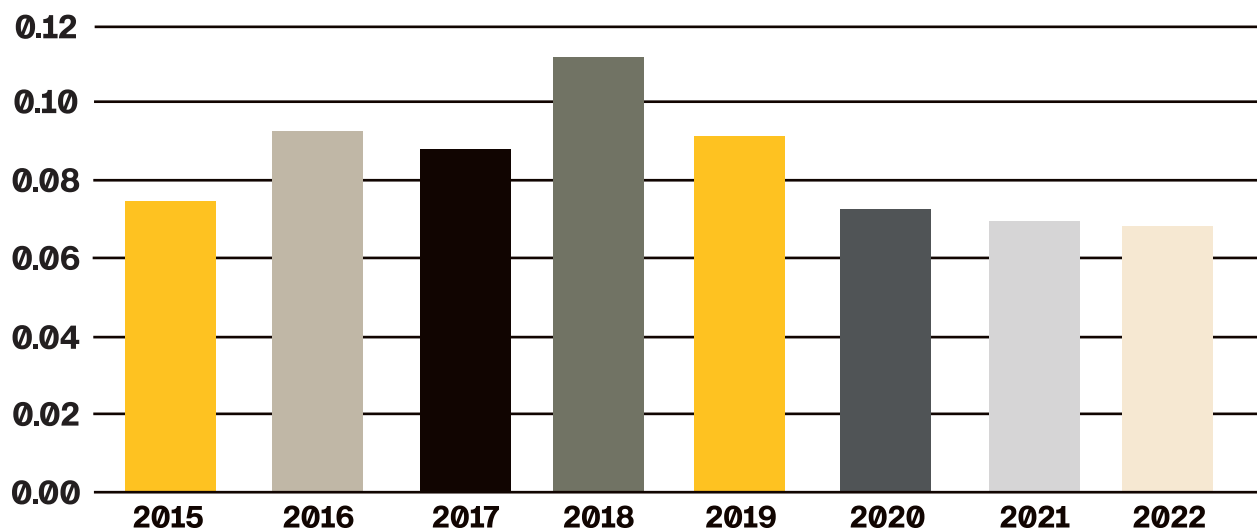
Letterkenny Army Depot complies with the Army Climate Strategy and the different lines of effort to establish energy resiliency initiatives in coordination with U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command, to implement systems like GSHPs, solar microgrids, Electric Vehicle charging stations (solar and grid-tied), Natural Gas Generators, and others.

Since 2015, LEAD has been lowering its Energy Utilization Index (EUI) by about 35% per square foot through different approaches, including the expansion of its Natural Gas footprint, fuel conversions, and LED lighting with movement sensors technology through various buildings.

Additional efforts that you can do to help LEAD in this effort to keep reducing its EUI are:

- Avoid keeping the building overhead and main doors open for long periods. With this effort, we enhance the HVAC energy utilization and thermal efficiency.
- Report any compressed air leak and other energy-related deficiencies. Every two psi of leaked compressed air represents 1% of wasted energy annually.

NATURAL GAS ENERGY UTILIZATION INDEX (MMBtu / ft²•YR)





U.S. Army photo by
Meghan E. Sharpe,
LEAD Public Affairs

TRAINING ENHANCES SECURITY

Story by **Meghan E. Sharpe**
LEAD Public Affairs

Recently, the security management office provided vital training to team members to ensure proper escorting occurs on the depot. As one of the training attendees, I learned of the importance of protecting critical and classified information here at Letterkenny Army Depot.

This training provided an in-depth overview of all regulations and policies employees are responsible for following when visitors come to Letterkenny. As a public affairs specialist who frequently assists with visits, the training equipped me with ways I can help keep the installation mission-ready and secure. Some of these responsibilities include: ensuring visitors are escorted at all times, appropriate security badges are always worn above the waist and visible, classified materials are sanitized before the visit and no classified or controlled unclassified information is released to visitors without prior approval.

Protecting classified information is critical. Keeping information in the hands of only those cleared with need-to-know is essential. The security management team here at LEAD is incredibly willing to share their knowledge and expertise in order to train the workforce to protect information, equipment and materiel regarding national security.



U.S. Army photo by Meghan E. Sharpe, LEAD Public Affairs

LEAD CIVILIAN WELFARE FUND

Story by **Scot Richardson**

LEAD MWR Manager

The CWF is a LEAD employee-run program that utilizes non-appropriated funds (NAF) for employee activities.

Letterkenny's Civilian Welfare Fund purpose is to help finance welfare activities for the benefit for all civilians regularly employed on the depot. The CWF is important to LEAD because its existence will allow the depot to continue funding employee activities.

What is the Civilian Welfare Fund?

Civilian Welfare Fund (CWF) funds are generated from money received through the Vending and the Post Restaurant Fund (PRF). The PRF is funded by the fees received from the depot snack bar contractor for operation of the snack bars, food truck, and catering. CWF uses these funds towards special events and activities for the Civilian workforce.

What is the Civilian Welfare Council?

The Civilian Welfare Council (CWC) manages the CWF funds and consists of members that represent Directorates from across LEAD. Members of the CWC are appointed by their respective Directorates or volunteer and serve as the voice of that Directorate, and ultimately represent the interests of all employees served by the CWF Council.

Organization

The CWF program is a unique program governed by the CWF Council, which is made up of Letterkenny employees from across the depot. A CWF Council member plays an important role managing funds and providing morale, welfare and recreation activities. Supporting the CWF Council and the employee activities will help the program grow and prosper. The CWF consists of a Fund Manager appointed by the



U.S. Army photo by Dorie E. Heyer, LEAD Public Affairs

Garrison Commander. Elected board members by the CWF Council consists of a Chairperson, Vice-Chair and Secretary. Advisory positions include a member from the Legal and the Directorate of Resources. The Board can consist of up to 11 voting memberships, the Fund Manager will be a non-vote. Members will meet once every quarter at minimum.

Programs

Current programs funded through the CWF include LEAD gym memberships, Employee Appreciation Day and Letterkenny Munitions Center's picnic. As the CWF continues to grow, additional programs such as golf outings, bowling, softball, yoga, socials, sports tickets, flea markets and clubs may be made available to employees.

LEAD HISTORY CORNER

with **Andrew Newman**, Depot Historian



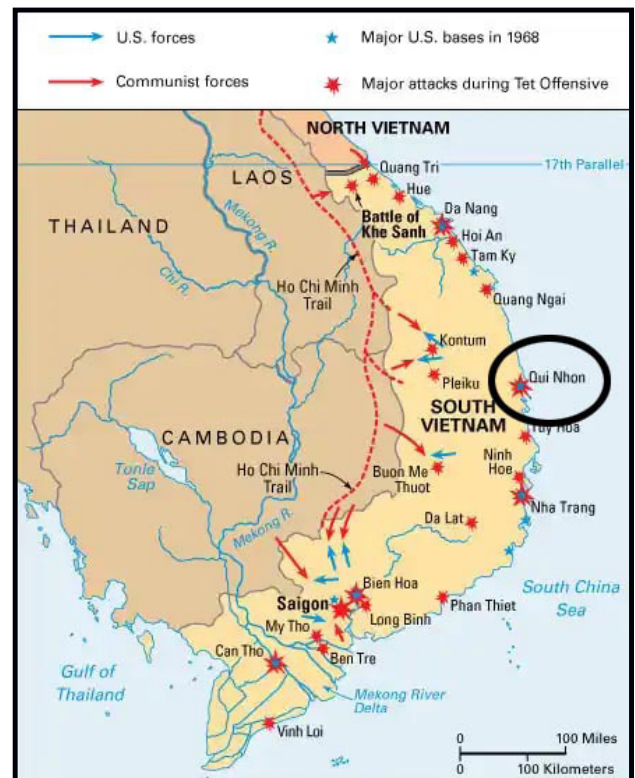
First LEAD Employee to Receive Purple Heart for Service in Vietnam, 1968

In 1966, LEAD began to provide OCONUS support for the Vietnam War. LEAD civilian employees volunteered for assignments in Vietnam, serving close to front-line combat zones. In February 1968, a five-employee team comprised of vehicle mechanics and supply technicians embarked on the mission to South Vietnam for 180 days. Little did they know that the Tet Offensives in 1968 would usher in the war's bloodiest year.

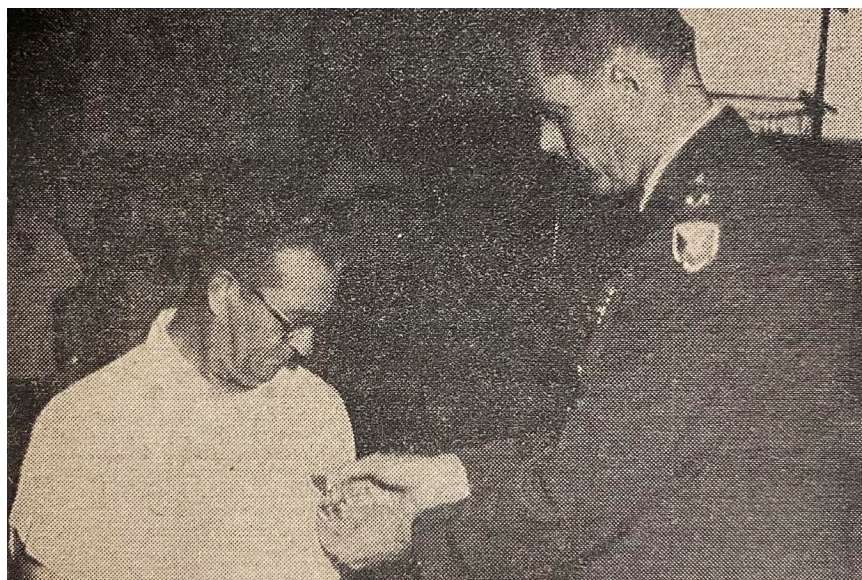
The LEAD team arrived at a U.S. Army Materiel Command base outside Qui Nhon, South Vietnam. On April 10, the team was working on equipment eight miles north of Qui Nhon when they came under attack by Viet Cong machine gun fire and satchel charges explosives. James F. Black, Sr., an automotive mechanic in the Secondary Items Branch, General Shops Division, became involved in the hostile action and was wounded in both arms by shrapnel.

Suffering superficial wounds from the attack, Black required dispensary treatment at the camp hospital. In Vietnam for eight months, Black returned to Letterkenny in August and was presented with a Purple Heart for wounds received as part of hostile action in the Republic of Vietnam on April 10, 1968, by Col. Harold B. Gibson, Jr., commanding officer at Letterkenny Army Depot.

This was the first time a civilian employee was ever presented with a Purple Heart at LEAD.



Map depicting the location of the U.S. Army Materiel Command base near Qui Nhon during the Tet Offensive, 1968.



James F. Black, Sr., automotive mechanic, receiving a Purple Heart by Col. Harold B. Gibson, Jr., LEAD commanding officer, on April 10, 1968.

SAFETY NEVER TAKES A HOLIDAY

Story by **Jason Furnish**
Directorate of Information Management

“Safety never takes a holiday.” – Paul Blart: Mall Cop

In the 2009 movie Paul Blart: Mall Cop (Kevin James), a mild-mannered mall security guard is called to save the day when a gang of organized criminals seizes a shopping mall. Shockingly, Mall Cop did not win an Oscar for Best Picture, but it does have a great quote that rings true, “Safety never takes a holiday.”

At Letterkenny, we are all responsible for security practices and using Government Furnished Equipment (GFE) properly daily. Following security practices and properly handling GFE is essential in sustaining a secure work environment. Below are a few key elements to be aware of:

- Log into a PC and your email at least once a month (preferably more often). Kiosks do not count. This guarantees your account will not be disabled.
- Properly secure all tablets, scanners, laptops, and other devices at your workday’s end. Make sure they are powered on and connected to the network.
- Complete your Annual Cyber Awareness training and the resigning of your Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) before their expiration dates.
- Immediately report all network security violations, spillages, or breaches of PII (Personally Identifiable Information) to Cyber Security. Not sure if it’s a violation, spillage, or breach? Don’t hesitate to get in touch with Cyber Security.

Be diligent. Safety never takes a holiday.



BE ALL
YOU
CAN BE.

