

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

# KENNY LETTER

*Summer 2024*



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# COMMANDER'S CORNER WITH COL. SANTILLO

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**Team,**

Since I took command of Letterkenny Army Depot over one year ago, I have been amazed and proud of all the work you continue to do. Our workforce remains tactile and versatile in the pursuit of equipping our warfighters with the necessary materiel to execute the Army's mission. I applaud you all for your hard work—this issue of the Kenny Letter highlights only a fraction of what you have accomplished.

The Army's biggest strength is people – the Soldiers who fight our battles, the families who support their loved ones in uniform, the Army civilians who work to aid the warfighter, and the community members to whom we serve.

Our ongoing relationships with community members are critical to our mission. Although we may all come from different backgrounds, we remain invested in the future and the safety of our local communities. That is why I have been a vocal proponent of community outreach throughout my tenure at the depot.


We have made strides in that effort.

On March 19, we invited regional stakeholders to the installation for the release of the northern bobwhite quail, a once-extirpated bird species, to Pennsylvania.

On May 18, we hosted our first Armed Forces Day event since 2014. Over 400 community members came to the James Finley House, the historic commander's quarters, to engage with our workforce, the Army Reserve and local WWII reenactors to celebrate and honor our service members.

And now, as most of you are already aware, we will be hosting our first Oktoberfest event, scheduled for Sept. 28. I am excited to invite the community once again to our garrison for a day filled with various festivities and entertainment.

**Thank you for what you do every day. Your dedication and diligence continue to drive the Army's mission.**



DONALD C. SANTILLO  
COL, LG  
Commanding





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

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## **Team Letterkenny,**

Thank you for your tireless support of our Soldiers. I cannot overstate the importance of your work. You continue to provide our warfighters with the necessary tools to defend our nation and our freedoms. I applaud you for your dedication and commitment to our Army mission.

So far this summer, we have experienced abnormally high temperatures. Heat illness—a condition in which the body is unable to dissipate excess heat quickly—can happen to anyone. Please be aware of symptoms ranging from rash to muscle cramps to nausea as you work in warm environments. If unattended, these signs can lead to a medical emergency.

To ensure your safety during long stretches of extreme heat, follow the Installation Operations Center's guidance and updates. Use the provided Wet Bulb Globe Temperature readings to determine safe and optimal work/rest cycles. Make sure to hydrate often with plenty of water and electrolytes to avoid dehydration. Most importantly, watch out for each other's safety. If you see a team member struggling, say something.

Your health and safety are paramount. Please make sure you follow every recommendation and guideline related to battling extreme heat. I hope you enjoy and stay safe throughout the remainder of the summer despite the warm temperatures.

**Again, thank you for your support and commitment to our Soldiers. Your exemplary work and performance continue to make a difference.**



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. C. Amoke".

SGM E. C. Amoke  
Depot SGM

# LETTERKENNY ARMY DEPOT HOSTS ARMED FORCES DAY

Story by **Todd Wivell**  
LEAD Public Affairs

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**F**or the first time since 2014, Letterkenny Army Depot leadership opened the installation to the public for an Armed Forces Day event May 18.

More than 400 community members attended the event, which included self-guided tours of the James Finley House, the Historic Letterkenny Chapel and Franklin County Veterans and 9/11 Memorial Park. Additionally, community members had an opportunity to take a bus tour of the depot to learn more about the Letterkenny mission.

The event started with a small ceremony hosted by Todd Black, deputy to the commander, LEAD. After a playing of the National Anthem, Lt. Col. Kimberly Deaton, commander, Letterkenny Munitions Center, provided remarks about the importance of Armed Forces Day. The ceremony concluded with the playing of the Army song, which community members joined in singing.

“Today is a day to say ‘thank you’ to those who support the service members of the Armed Forces,” Deaton said. “What we ask of our men and women in uniform is challenging on the best days, and it is the military families, extended families and communities, like ours, who support those in uniform and allow them to keep serving.”

Andrew Newman, Letterkenny historian and records manager, oversaw the tours at the James Finley House and coordinated support from the World War II American Experience Museum and Education Center, located in Gettysburg. Members from the center brought WWII-era vehicles, including jeeps, troop transports and weapons carrier trucks.

“This event is important in that we get to engage with the local community supporting our mission,” Newman said. “Not only do we get to showcase what LEAD employees do every day to support the U.S. Armed Forces and our allies, but this event allows us to spotlight our demonstrated excellence since 1942.”



Retired Army Spc. Ronnie Robinson, a 23-year military veteran attendee from Mercersburg, Pennsylvania, gathers with his family during an Armed Forces Day event hosted by Letterkenny Army Depot leadership May 18.

(U.S. Army photo by Joshua Shinn)

According to Newman, some of the current employees are fourth-generation employees, and this event allows past employees and family members to see how LEAD has evolved throughout the years.

“I’m glad that Letterkenny decided to host an Armed Forces Day event again,” said retired Army Spc. Ronnie Robinson, a 23-year military veteran attendee from Mercersburg. “I think people need to come out and see what is here. They need to get a better understanding of what you are doing because it supports the defense of our country. If we didn’t have installations like Letterkenny Army Depot, our nation would be lost.”



Soldiers assigned to the 337th Theater Sustainment Command, Detachment 4, Letterkenny Army Depot, engage with event participants during an Armed Forces Day event hosted by Letterkenny Army Depot leadership May 18.

(U.S. Army photo by Joshua Shinn)

LEAD leadership hosted the first-ever Armed Forces Day event May 20, 1950. For generations, depot commanders continued hosting these events through multiple wars, 9/11 and other significant historical events until 2015.

“I’m so glad we hosted this public event again as it allows us to show the pride our employees take working here at the second-largest employer in Franklin County, Pennsylvania,” Newman said. “We hope to continue this annual Armed Forces Day event for years to come.”

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# HOW DOES PROJECT ACCEPTANCE WORK?

Story by **Scott Hart**  
Strategic Analytics Office

Project acceptance is a vital depot process that includes interacting with new and existing customers to obtain executable workload and funding. Before, this preproduction action was handled by numerous teams across every directorate, coordinating together to create and strategize plans while keeping current production running. The Project Acceptance Cell, also known as the PAC, owns the new process, but it still requires a team effort to start a new project.

The new procedure follows the project acceptance guidelines

outlined in the U.S. Army Materiel Command Pamphlet 750-55, simplifying the approved steps into an easy-to-follow, step-by-step process. The PAC uses a locally created tool to plan new and existing work while complying with regulatory requirements.

When a customer asks Letterkenny Army Depot personnel to give them an estimate on a new project, they will contact a representative in the Future Systems Integration Office who will fill out the initial questionnaire and gather any important technical documents. These forms contain



preliminary information depot personnel will need to move forward with capability assessments and estimates.

The Production Engineering Division performs capability checks using the information contained in the initial questionnaire to verify if depot artisans can achieve the work with available resources, skills and technologies. If deemed accomplishable, the FSIO representative will forward project details to cost estimators.

During this phase, estimators will start their assessments using the aforementioned information. At the same time, the PAC will reach out to the customer to make introductions and set expectations for the next phase. Afterward, the team will set up a scope meeting with the necessary personnel to start preproduction planning and draft a statement of work document.

Once they complete their assessment, the estimators will provide it to the PAC for dissemination to the customer. The PAC will facilitate a meeting with depot personnel to plan a production schedule. Once planned, they will send the project to the program management team for production and delivery.

There are many moving parts to obtaining, funding and planning workload before delivery to the shop floor. The Strategic Analytics Office and all the aforementioned teams work diligently every day to ensure that everything leading up to production is complete, correct and compliant.

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# PROTECT YOUR HOME NETWORK

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

A home wireless network, also known as Wi-Fi, provides internet access for Internet of Things devices in most homes. If the home Wi-Fi network is left unsecured, it has the potential to become the cybercriminal gateway to every household internet-connected device, including computers, smartphones, security cameras, appliances, smartwatches, and even baby monitors.

Usually, the device producing the household Wi-Fi signal has a default username and password that are often generic and easily obtainable, which can create a potential opening a cybercriminal needs as the gateway to the household Wi-Fi network.

Following the guidelines below for network security can reduce the risk of becoming a victim.

## Tips for Home Network Security

- Use Wi-Fi Protected Access 3, also known as WPA3, encryption on the home router to increase wireless security. If WPA3 is unavailable, use WPA2. If the home router does not have either, consider upgrading it.
- Change the router's default password. Router manufacturers often set the default password to "admin" or "password."

- Use a different password for the router's admin account and the Wi-Fi access.
- Log out of the admin account on the router when not actively using it.
- Change the default service set identifier, or SSID, the Wi-Fi network name. Using a unique name and not something linked to your identity or location is recommended.
- Disable remote access so that any changes made to a router must be done in the router's physical location.
- Set up a guest Wi-Fi network to limit the number of devices on the primary network.
- Enable automatic operating system and software updates. These updates often patch vulnerabilities.
- Turn on the home network router's built-in firewall as an extra layer of protection from outside access.
- Ensure the home network router firmware is up-to-date.
- Install antivirus software on devices and keep the software up-to-date.
- If possible, turn the Wi-Fi network off when not in use. (Some home security systems need Wi-Fi to stay connected.)
- Routinely monitor the router for unknown devices or devices that are attempting to access the network.

*(Tips courtesy of the Cyber Field Office and U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Division)*

# LETTERKENNY LEADERS CELEBRATE THE ARMY'S 249TH BIRTHDAY

Story by **Taylor Mayberry**  
LEAD Public Affairs

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**L**etterkenny Army Depot leaders and staff came together to celebrate the Army's 249th birthday two days early at the depot headquarters June 12.

Col. Donald Santillo, commander, LEAD, conveyed remembrance of Soldiers and civilians who are committed to defending our country by "Honoring the Past, Defending the Future."

"Since 1775, our brave men and women have served across the United States, its territories and overseas to protect our freedoms, standing steadfast against those who wish to harm us," Santillo said. "Today, as we remember the Army Soldiers, civilians and family members who have served the past 249 years, we look toward a bright future, one in which every service member can maximize their fullest potential

and exemplify the Army's call to action, 'Be All You Can Be.'"

The ceremony featured the viewing of Letterkenny's Army birthday video, the singing of the Army song and a ceremonial cake cutting performed by the oldest and youngest Letterkenny Soldiers.

Santillo (oldest Soldier), Sgt. Maj. Ekondua Amoke, depot sergeant major, and Sgt. Noah Payton (youngest Soldier), military police, cut the birthday cake to signify the ongoing tradition from one generation of Soldiers to the next.

"As we look ahead to the future, we are embracing emerging technologies, constructing new facilities and gaining advanced skillsets to support the needs of the Army of 2030," remarked Santillo.



From left, Santillo, Sgt. Noah Payton, military police, and Sgt. Maj. Ekondua Amoke, depot sergeant major, cut the birthday cake to signify the ongoing tradition from one generation of Soldiers to the next.

(U.S. Army photo by Pam Goodhart)

# LEAD ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION POSTURES INSTALLATION FOR NORTHERN BOBWHITE QUAIL REINTRODUCTION

Story by **Joshua Shinn**  
LEAD Public Affairs

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On March 19, 2024, employees from Letterkenny Army Depot's Environmental Management Division, alongside the Pennsylvania Game Commission, released 50 northern bobwhite quail in an unpopulated region of the installation, totaling 76 in the past few weeks.

Northern bobwhite quail are an indigenous upland bird species that became locally extinct in Pennsylvania. Participants across the depot, the Pennsylvania Game Commission, academia and other non-governmental organizations traveled to the release site to witness and document the event.

"There are many organizations that are interested in the conservation and restoration of the native bird species," said Craig Kindlin, EMD chief, LEAD. "They want to see active management, the improvement of habitat and the reintroduction of a species that was essentially winked out."

The northern bobwhite, known for its distinctive call that had attributed to its name, once flourished in the local area and is often remembered and endeared by previous generations of rural agricultural communities, local ornithologists and bird-watching enthusiasts. However, as data records suggest, the population of the bird species regressed to local extinction, or extirpation, in the late 1990s across the state of Pennsylvania due to habitat loss.

Early successional stages of vegetation, consisting of tall native grasses, meadows and brush, are prime habitable conditions for the bobwhite. However, advances in agricultural production, including the use of herbicides, stripped the landscape of necessary vegetation for quail to survive.



The northern bobwhite quail, known for its distinctive call that had attributed to its name, is an indigenous upland bird species that became locally extinct in Pennsylvania.

(U.S. Army photo by Trenten Shields)

"The onset of herbicides was used to control weeds, which can be defined as any plant that is not where it is supposed to be," Kindlin stated. "However, a lot of the time, those weeds were productive plants that quail, songbirds and other species used to feed on and thrive."

In 2012, LEAD's EMD, the Pennsylvania Game Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service revised the installation's Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan, which outlines goals needed to execute



the conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources and wildlife as directed by the Sikes Act. This federal law enables the Department of Defense installations to utilize natural resources for military operations if specific measures are in place to ensure the sustainability and conservation of raw materials, fauna and flora.

During the revisions, Kindlin, then the natural resources manager at LEAD, identified the reintroduction of the bobwhite, which had been extirpated for over 15 years, as a possible management goal after initial land assessments with Pennsylvania Game Commission.

“As one of the management goals, I listed the bobwhite quail for potential reintroduction as an objective, not knowing that four to five years from then, we would be talking about the restoration of that species,” Kindlin said.

In 2016, the Pennsylvania Game Commission assessed possible sites for the quail reintroduction across Pennsylvania. LEAD’s Natural Resources Office, a branch of the Environmental Division, hosted the Game Commission later that year to present potential sites across the Letterkenny installation for the bobwhite’s reintroduction.

Matt Miller, natural resources manager, LEAD, explained, “They (the Pennsylvania Game Commission) made a model for the entire state looking at open grassland habitat that was available. Franklin and Cumberland counties – or south-central (Pennsylvania) – had the best spot.”

LEAD’s natural resources office and the Pennsylvania Game Commission agreed that the Letterkenny installation served the most suitable location for the quail population, and in 2017, they signed a 10-year memorandum of agreement, or MOA, certifying their partnership to move forward with the bobwhite reintroduction.

Following the signing of the MOA in 2017, the Natural Resources Office began various measures to alter the landscape, making it more conducive for the bobwhite. This seven-year-long process began with timber harvesting, tractor disking and forestry mulching, which would provide sufficient land and fuel for future prescribed fire operations.

Prescribed fire, or controlled burns, is a common forestry practice to maintain the health of a local ecosystem. In the case of the quail reintroduction, the Natural Resources Office burned thousands of acres to reset the focus area to an early successional stage to enable the growth of particular flora, such as common ragweed, required by the bird species to survive.

After years of preparation, the Natural Resources Office started to plan the official release of the bobwhite.



Matt Miller, natural resources manager, Letterkenny Army Depot, briefs a delegation from the Pennsylvania Game Commission on the Bobwhite Quail Focus Area located within the Letterkenny installation July 18, 2023.

(U.S. Army photo by Pam Goodhart)

“It’s been in the works for at least the past couple of years,” Miller said. “During our discussions, we wanted to do an official event as we were introducing a native species back to its original habitat.”

The Pennsylvania Game Commission acquired wild bobwhite from various locations leading up to the release. Tall Timbers, an environmental research program in Florida, provided approximately half of nearly 100 birds. Army environmental personnel, the Pennsylvania Game Commission and other state wildlife agencies relocated the remaining quail, including 26 released weeks before the official event, from Fort Barfoot and Fort Knox, located in Virginia and Kentucky, respectively.

By procuring the wild quail from different states, the Natural Resources Office and the Pennsylvania Game Commission hope to increase the genetic diversity of the reintroduced bobwhite population and gather more data.

Kindlin explained, “They (the Pennsylvania Game Commission) will be taking genetic samples (in the form of blood and feathers) from the released birds’ offspring this fall to see how they are doing. Are they intermixing? What are the different characteristics of the birds that are surviving and breeding? Can birds from Virginia survive in the habitat better than the birds from Florida or Kentucky, or does the location we procured them from not make a difference at all?”



Craig Kindlin, chief, Environmental Management Division, Letterkenny Army Depot, welcomes a delegation from the Pennsylvania Game Commission at the installation's hunting lodge before they assess the Bobwhite Quail Focus Area July 18, 2023.

(U.S. Army photo by Pam Goodhart)

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The Natural Resources Office and the Pennsylvania Game Commission will continue to monitor and preserve the reintroduced bobwhite population by geo-tracking their location and ensuring the habitat remains conducive to the quails' survival.

“Having these quail marked and knowing what they are utilizing – we are going to key on that and see what areas are being burned on a two-year rotation versus a three- or four-year rotation and change our habitat management plan based on that,” Miller said.

With the long-awaited release of the northern bobwhite now ending, the environmental management team is excited for the next stage of the species' preservation.

“We have been working at it for seven years, and I am very excited to transition to the next phase of hopefully seeing these birds thrive and continuing with the efforts of ensuring that,” Kindlin said. “This not only shows the community that Letterkenny is committed to natural resources conservation, but also natural resources stewardship.”



Members of Letterkenny Army Depot and the Pennsylvania Game Commission release a dozen of the 50 quail in the Bobwhite Quail Focus Area during the official release event March 19, 2024, at Letterkenny Army Depot.

(U.S. Army photo by Joshua Shinn)

# A PATHWAY TO PRODUCTION:

## DMAR'S INTRODUCTION OF NEW MISSILE REPAIR OPERATIONS FOR HELLFIRE MISSILES AND JOINT SERVE CAPABILITY

Story by **Brandin Trippeda** and **Gary Kwaak**  
 Directorate of Missile and Aerospace Readiness

**S**ince the opening of the missile facility in 2010, the Directorate of Missile and Aerospace Readiness has had a reputation for setting precedence for delivering quality munitions. So, when the team received the opportunity to diversify their portfolio in fiscal 2020, they began to utilize their available resources and initiate a new program.

In 2021, the signed Depot Source of Repair agreement declared Letterkenny Army Depot as the location for Hellfire missile maintenance as a fully organic repair process. The pivotal moment marked the beginning of a significant chapter for the depot. LEAD personnel undertook multiple temporary duty assignments to bring necessary resources and testing capabilities back to the depot as they meticulously identified various tools, vehicles and parts intended for delivery. Meanwhile, depot team members were preparing an existing facility – once used for an older system – to store all the new equipment intended for Hellfire maintenance.

Once they made the final delivery in Aug. 2022, the team transitioned to the next phase as they itemized and assessed the serviceability of each piece of equipment. Coordinating with the Redstone Test Center they set each item and organized an initial shop floor design to accommodate future workflow. Other activities simultaneously unfolded in 2023. Numerous stakeholders drafted the depot maintenance work requirements, or DMWR, verification – an essential document ensuring the depot's authorization for maintenance work while providing necessary instructions to repair Hellfire missiles. The verification was a collaborative effort conducted by the Tactical Aviation and Ground Maintenance Project Office, Area Calibration Lab, the original equipment manufacturer, or OEM, DMAR and other support staff.

Between the DMWR verification and test set validations, staff members from the OEM visited the depot to provide

hands-on training. The direct interaction with subject matter experts enabled the depot's Hellfire team to collaboratively design, structure and identify procedural techniques relevant to maintenance processes.



In 2023, depot staff and the RTC coordinated and conducted the validation of test sets, verifying the functionality of the Modernized Semi-Active Laser Seeker Test Station and the Modernized Hellfire Universal Test Station at the installation. To ensure the induction of the first Hellfire missile repair at LEAD, DMAR conducted a process validation as a vetting exercise with various stakeholders in March 2024.

As of July 1, DMAR has completed 18 Hellfire missile repairs, with the program scheduled to induct its first missile for the U.S. Air Force later this summer. The work so far is a testament to the team's diligence and integrity, accomplishing the effort swiftly and efficiently to support service members in the field.



# LEAD BREAKS GROUND ON MODERNIZATION MILESTONE

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

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Army Materiel Command, Aviation and Missile Command, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Letterkenny Army Depot leadership broke ground on the depot's new shipping and receiving facility April 9.

The shipping and receiving facility marks the first breaking ground of AMC's major modernization projects supporting the Army's Organic Industrial Base. The event was commemorated by a golden shovel ceremony attended by Marion Whicker, executive deputy to the commanding general, AMC; Maj. Gen. Tom O'Connor, commanding general, AMCOM; Lt. Col. David Myers, deputy commander, Baltimore District, USACE; and hosted by Col. Donald Santillo, commander, LEAD.

"The Army OIB strategy focuses on modernizing our facilities, our workforce, the infrastructure of IT, retooling processes and energy. The Army's 15-year OIB modernization plan is an investment of nearly \$18 billion, and Letterkenny is a huge part of it," Whicker remarked. "Letterkenny has played a vital role in history, and we need to preserve and sustain its capabilities."

The proposed facility is a critical component of LEAD's facility modernization plan and will become a crucial link in the supply chain for future signature modernization efforts.

"I'm grateful for the support of our senior leadership as we commemorate one of Letterkenny's contributions to the Army's Organic Industrial Base Modernization Implementation Plan," Santillo remarked. "This ongoing 15-year effort will more closely align the Organic Industrial Base to industry and elevate depot efficiency while increasing our surge capacity."

The over 50,000-square-foot facility enhances LEAD's capabilities to accommodate the receipt and distribution of guided missile systems and ground support equipment, along with parts and components for these items, being inducted into depot-level maintenance shops for



Marion Whicker, executive deputy to the commanding general, Army Materiel Command, provides remarks at Letterkenny Army Depot's shipping and receiving groundbreaking ceremony April 9.

(U.S. Army photo by Dorie E. Heyer)

recapitalization and reset in support of the U.S. Army and National Guard, as well as over 50 allies and Foreign Military Sales recipients.

"You don't have to look in the newspaper too far to recognize the impact that these weapon systems are having in the hands of not only our Soldiers but also our partners around the world, improving security and enabling democracy to thrive and exist," O'Connor said. "One of the many efforts that are ongoing here at Letterkenny is not only to support our current requirements but also to meet the future requirements because there are some Soldiers on a future battlefield that are dependent on what this organization does on a daily basis."

LEAD's Directorate of Supply and Transportation supports the depot's maintenance operations with logistics, supply



Maj. Gen. Tom O'Connor, commanding general, Aviation and Missile Command, provides remarks at Letterkenny Army Depot's shipping and receiving groundbreaking ceremony April 9.

(U.S. Army photo by Dorie E. Heyer)

and asset management. The new facility will enhance supply management operations and support essential operations to optimize readiness. In the last year, DS&T processed over 2,000 inbound trucks and had a 98% rating for on-time delivery.

“The new facility implements the relocation of receipt, processing and induction operations,” said Jeremy Crouse,

deputy director, DS&T, LEAD. “This facility is essential to the safe and efficient staging, loading and offloading of assets and components that comprise PATRIOT battalions, Avenger and Sentinel batteries and weapon systems throughout the Air and Missile Defense community.”

The facility's purpose is to modernize LEAD's shipping and receiving activities, which are currently spread between five buildings on the installation. The addition of the new facility will consolidate operations, mitigating roadway congestion within the depot's industrial area and centralizing commercial truck and rail traffic. Improvements to depot logistics will have a direct impact on LEAD's production.

“The new facility will serve as a staging area for the materials that support sustainment across the joint force for High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems and Navy Electronic Warfare Systems,” said Kate Williams, director of Strategic Management. “The upgraded facility will feed the production lines charged with improving the readiness of wheeled vehicles and power generation fleets as well as battlefield multipliers such as troop feeding, refrigeration, troop morale areas and chapels.”

Work on the estimated \$28.2 million facility will be performed at Letterkenny Army Depot in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. The contract was awarded in the fall of 2023, and construction completion is expected in early 2025.



Army Materiel Command, Aviation and Missile Command, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Letterkenny Army Depot leadership break ground on the depot's new shipping and receiving facility April 9.

(U.S. Army photo by Dorie E. Heyer)

# DEPOT LEADERSHIP HONORS AWARD RECIPIENTS DURING TOWN HALL

Story by **Todd Wivell**  
LEAD Public Affairs

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Col. Donald Santillo, commander, Letterkenny Army Depot, honored multiple employees and two Soldiers during a town hall held at the depot's headquarters building May 22.

Christopher Struchen, maintenance mechanic, received recognition as LEAD's Wage Grade employee for the second quarter, fiscal year 2024. Spring Freerksen, information technology specialist, received recognition as LEAD's General Schedule employee for the second quarter, fiscal year 2024. Struchen and Freerksen received Army Civilian Service Achievement medals.

"Being selected as employee of the quarter reaffirms that

my efforts and those of my teammates are steering us in the right direction, positively influencing the depot's operations," Freerksen said. "I attribute much of my growth and accomplishments to the exceptional colleagues and partners I collaborate with across the depot."

Santillo presented Army Civilian Service Commendation medals to Barry Aldridge, antiterrorism officer and operational security manager, and Donald Mills, contracting officer representative.

Capt. Robyn Peterson, command judge advocate, and Chief Warrant Officer 3 Ralph Barcelo, Patriot Air and Missile Defense system technician, received Army Commendation



Col. Donald Santillo, commander, Letterkenny Army Depot, and Darren Holtry, supervisor, General Maintenance, LEAD, presents Christopher Struchen, maintenance mechanic, Directorate of Public Works, LEAD, with the Department of the Army Civilian Service Achievement Medal during a town hall, held at the depot headquarters May 22.

(U.S. Army photo by Pam Goodhart)



Col. Donald Santillo, commander, Letterkenny Army Depot, and Sean Wolford, chief of divisions, LEAD, presents Spring Freerksen, information technology specialist, Directorate of Information Management, LEAD, with the Department of the Army Civilian Service Achievement Medal during a town hall, held at the depot headquarters May 22.

(U.S. Army photo by Pam Goodhart)





Col. Donald Santillo, commander, Letterkenny Army Depot, presents Capt. Robyn Peterson, command judge advocate, LEAD, with the Department of the Army Commendation Medal during a town hall, held at the depot headquarters May 22.

(U.S. Army photo by Pam Goodhart)



Col. Donald Santillo, commander, Letterkenny Army Depot, and John Ardans, program manager, LEAD, present LEAD employees with the Department of the Army Civilian Service Achievement Medals during a town hall, held at the depot headquarters May 22.

Pictured from left to right, front: Sean McClanahan, Douglas Mellott, Michael Ridler, Daniel Stambaugh; back: Matthew Souder, Jaron Gomer, James Thorpe, John Greenawalt, and Melvin Binkley.

(U.S. Army photo by Pam Goodhart)

medals from Santillo during the town hall.

Peterson received her award for outstanding performance assigned as the depot's command judge advocate, from Sept. 2021 to June 2024. Her leadership and legal expertise proved invaluable in the legal office's ability to successfully anticipate and react to issues at every level of the depot.

From Aug. 2023 through May 2024, as an intern with LEAD's Training with Industry program, Barcelo worked with artisans across the depot, learning new competencies to better advise and support missions in the field.

Since 2019, LEAD's Training with Industry program has been bridging the gap between Soldiers and the depot by providing warrant officers from the AMD community an opportunity to gain new skills while working in an industry environment.

In addition to the employees of the quarter and commendation medal

presentations, Santillo awarded other depot employees for outstanding performance.

#### Civilian Service Achievement Medal

- Heath Bucher
- Sean McClanahan
- Matthew Souder
- Jaron Gomer
- James Thorpe
- John Greenawalt
- Melvin Binkley
- Daniel Stambaugh
- Michale Ridler
- Travis Ramer
- Douglas Mellott
- Daulton Rine
- Jodi Ranck
- John Lovastick

#### Length of Service – 35 Years

- Ray Leist

#### Length of Service – 25 Years

- John Mason
- Matthew Umbrell

After the presentations, Santillo spoke about ethical responsibilities, social media usage, professional behavior and the new award policy.

Todd Black, LEAD deputy to the commander, followed with comments about summertime safety, the upcoming 2024 Employee Appreciation Day, and an Employee Appreciation Day survey.

The town hall concluded with presentations from EEO, the depot security manager, and workload updates from across the installation.

# LEAD BRIEFS AMC LEADER ON OIB MODERNIZATION IMPLEMENTATION

Story by **Todd Wivell** and **Dorie E. Heyer**  
LEAD Public Affairs

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**L**etterkenny Army Depot leaders welcomed Army Materiel Command leadership for a visit and capabilities tour highlighting the depot's modernization efforts June 6.

Col. Donald Santillo, commander, LEAD, and Todd Black, deputy to the commander, LEAD, provided Lt. Gen. Chris Mohan, AMC deputy commanding general and AMC acting commander, with an organizational update and depot modernization plan brief. Leadership emphasized the depot's efforts to mitigate supply chain obsolescence, build flexible and adaptable production facilities, and preserve and develop artisan skillsets.

Subject matter experts briefed Mohan on several capabilities throughout the manufacturing and fabrication facility, including robotic welding, cold spray, generators, Antenna Mast Groups, High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems, Patriot radar, Avenger, Sentinel A3, Navy Sponson and cable and harness.

"Our recapitalization program creates more readiness and better buying power for the Army," said Dale McClanahan, chief, Future Systems Integration Office, LEAD. "Specifically with our Patriot radar recapitalization program, we are saving the Army close to 90% of the acquisition cost."

McClanahan provided Mohan with historical examples of LEAD's contributions to enhancing depot-level sustainment, including reverse engineering, production of approved original equipment manufacturer replacement parts, reducing a Patriot battalion's reset time by over 100 days and Avenger overhaul program. McClanahan emphasized the level of specialized skill required to drive these efficiencies.

"It takes over 36 months for an artisan to become proficient in some areas of Patriot maintenance," McClanahan



Dale McClanahan, chief, Future Systems Integration Office, Letterkenny Army Depot, briefs Lt. Gen. Chris Mohan, Army Materiel Command deputy commanding general and AMC acting commander, on the depot's Buffalo hull repair program during a visit June 6.

(U.S. Army photo by Pam Goodhart)

remarked. "These skilled artisans are a commodity that the Organic Industrial Base needs to preserve. They are what gives Letterkenny the ability to surge."

Subject matter experts at the Directorate of Missile and Aerospace Readiness briefed Mohan on the programs executed at the depot's missile maintenance facility, including Patriot Advanced Capability-2 certified missile round disassembly and assembly, forward deployment capabilities, foreign military sales and the Heliborne Laser Fire and Forget, also known as Hellfire, missile and Joint Air to Ground Missile, JAGM, programs.

Mohan took the time to recognize several outstanding employees at the conclusion of his tour of LEAD.



Lt. Gen. Chris Mohan, Army Materiel Command deputy commanding general and AMC acting commander, recognizes several Letterkenny Army Depot employees during a visit June 6.

Pictured from left are Col. Donald Santillo, commander, LEAD; Kelly Barnes, deputy director, Directorate of Public Works, LEAD; Ryan Hower, director, Directorate of Public Works, LEAD; Jerod Weilacher, chief of staff, LEAD; Brandon Pilgrim, security specialist, LEAD; Lt. Gen. Chris Mohan, AMC deputy commanding general and AMC acting commander; Paden Weaver, engineer, LEAD; Matt Courson, production engineer, LEAD; Matt Taylor, chief, Tactical Equipment Quality Control Branch, LEAD; Ramiro Figueroa, heavy mobile equipment mechanic inspector, LEAD; and Todd Black, deputy to the commander, LEAD.

(U.S. Army photo by Pam Goodhart)

“Patriot has proven to be a dependable missile system, and its continuous performance is due to sustained depot maintenance,” Mohan said. “You have a long history of excellence across a wide variety of systems and are to be commended for your efforts.”

Following the recognition, Mohan and the rest of the AMC leadership team proceeded to the Letterkenny Munitions Center.

Lt. Col. Kimberly Deaton, commander, LEMC, and Brad Gardner, deputy to the commander, LEMC, provided the commanding officer a tour of the Multiple Launch Rocket System Family of Munitions Facility, located within the over 16,000 acres LEMC currently occupies on Letterkenny.

Subject matter experts provided an overview of the one-stop shop for missile maintenance services facility, including modification, repair, electronics, testing, X-ray, missile harness/launcher repair and demilitarization.

Throughout the tour, LEMC subject matter experts discussed the transportation of munitions by air, rail, ground and sea; support to the other branches of service; use of Air National Guard partners in support functions; and data management, artificial intelligence and its use in the workforce, and effectiveness of the OIB.

At the conclusion of the LEMC tour, Mohan recognized seven outstanding employees for their work and contributions.

“What you do to support our men and women downrange is so vitally important,” Mohan said. “I cannot stress enough how critical you are to overall mission success. Thank you, seriously, for everything you do, day in and day out.”



# HOW CAN YOU IMPROVE THE CLIMATE WITHIN LEAD BY TAKING THE DEOCS?

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

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The Defense Organizational Climate Survey, or DEOCS for short, is a confidential, command-requested organizational development tool that provides commanders and other Department of Defense leaders with important feedback about the current climate within their unit or organization. Commanders use the DEOCS to measure critical organizational climate dimensions that can impact the organization's mission. The voluntary survey is designed to assess the "shared perceptions" of respondents about formal or informal policies and practices.

Organizational assessment is a prevention strategy that equal opportunity, or EO, professionals and commanders rely on to detect issues before they arise to a level of more egregious behavior. In addition to preventing negative behavior, organizational assessments can be harnessed to promote positive behaviors. Command climate is an important driver of employee attitudes, behavior, and, ultimately, mission effectiveness. To leverage and maximize the positive influence of command climate, leadership must set and maintain the right climate. The DEOCS is also a tool that provides insight into the positive and negative attributes of the command climate. This knowledge can be used to identify potential areas of concern and organizational strengths.

The DEOCS assesses 10 protective factors and nine risk factors. Protective and risk factors are attitudes, beliefs and behaviors associated with positive or negative outcomes for organizations or units. Higher levels of protective factors are associated with a higher likelihood of positive outcomes and a lower likelihood of negative outcomes, whereas higher levels of risk factors are associated with a higher likelihood of negative outcomes and a lower likelihood of positive outcomes.

The DEOCS is available to all DOD agencies and is registered by a survey administrator on behalf of a unit's or organization's commander or leader. It is intended to produce actionable results that can be used to effect positive change. Once the DEOCS is completed, an analysis of the survey results will be prepared to create an executive summary of the data. The executive summary will include significant findings, organizational strengths, areas of concern and recommended corrective actions.

Results are made available to your leadership and survey administrator shortly after the DEOCS closes. Based on the DEOCS results, leaders will develop a corrective action plan to address any emerging and current problematic issues with the overall goal of improving their command climate. Commanders will plan and formulate corrective actions with help from other offices that are a part of the organization's climate. Commanders will also reference complaint summary reports and previous command climate surveys to identify trends and potential problem areas that may affect organizational effectiveness.

Letterkenny Army Depot administrators and staff will send an email with the DEOCS link later this year to gain insight into the workforce's opinions on the current climate.

# JOIN LETTERKENNY ARMY DEPOT FOR AN OKTOBERFEST CELEBRATION

Story by **Melissa Jo Knepper**  
Protocol Specialist

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Get ready to raise your steins and don your lederhosen as we bring the magic of Bavaria to Letterkenny Army Depot with our upcoming Oktoberfest event.

The committee is going all out to create an unforgettable experience filled with food, beverages, music and games.

Mark your calendars, gather your friends and family, and join in a day of fun, laughter and celebration on Sept. 28, 2024, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the James Finley House, the historic commander's quarters at Letterkenny Army Depot. The event kicks off with a volksmarch at 11 a.m. and continues through 5 p.m. The opening ceremony scheduled for 2 p.m. officially marks the opening of the Oktoberfest biergarten, continuing until 8 p.m.

Indulge in a delicious array of food, enjoy refreshing beverages, live music and entertainment, and browse community partner booths in a festive atmosphere under the tent and around the property.

Embrace the spirit of Oktoberfest by dressing in traditional German attire. Whether it's lederhosen for the men or dirndls for the women, your outfit will add to the festive atmosphere, and who knows, it might even win you a prize in our costume contest.

We want everyone to have a fantastic time, but safety is our top priority. Please drink responsibly and nominate a designated driver.

This is an event you won't want to miss. Gather your friends, family and neighbors, and come celebrate Oktoberfest at Letterkenny Army Depot. This event is free and open to all LEAD employees, family members and the public.

We look forward to celebrating with you.

For more information about Oktoberfest, contact the LEAD Protocol Office at 717-267-9741 or the Installation Management Office at 717-267-9800.



# ARMY DEPOT SUPPLIES COMPUTERS TO LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Story by **Joshua Shinn**  
LEAD Public Affairs

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**O**n May 24, personnel from Letterkenny Army Depot gifted computers and other peripheral equipment to support local school districts per the Computers for Learning, or CFL, program.

In total, 110 and 65 desktop computers were donated to the Shippensburg Area School District and the Waynesboro Area School District, respectively, along with various computer mice and keyboards.

The U.S. Army and its installations adhere to a lifecycle management system designed to ensure the efficacy and security of the department's computers, servers and other related equipment. A recent push for software upgrades

coincided with ongoing maintenance, creating an obsolescence of specific computer hardware at LEAD.

Michael Rhodes, director, Directorate of Information Management, explained, "We received surplus computers from another Army depot for free. However, the computers no longer met the requirements to support our systems due to recent software modifications."

Military services send excess equipment past its lifecycle to the Defense Logistics Agency Disposition Services for either sale or disposal. However, the computers LEAD had received were in mint condition. Upon deliberation between staff members, personnel from the Directorate of Supply and Transportation and DOIM sought other options to better utilize the surplus equipment.



Kevin McClain, material handler, Letterkenny Army Depot, transports and unloads a vehicle carrying computers and other related supplies at the Shippensburg Area District Office to support local students and staff May 24.

(U.S. Army photo by Joshua Shinn)





Tina Diaz, chief, Property Accountability Branch, and Matthew Deneau, hand receipt manager, Property Accountability Branch, from Letterkenny Army Depot hand-deliver office supplies, including computer mice and keyboards, to local staff at the Shippensburg Area School District office May 24.

(U.S. Army photo by Joshua Shinn)

The U.S. General Services Administration formed the CFL program to encourage federal agencies to donate computers and other peripheral equipment deemed excess property to schools and educational non-profit entities. The program's mission is to provide students across the country with the necessary resources for their education and learning.

After hearing about the CFL project during a GSA training course, Tina Diaz, chief, Property Accountability Branch, wanted to utilize the program to support school districts.

"Schools need additional computers to support both in-class and online learning due to growing dependence on digital platforms," Diaz stated. "Donations like these help schools already struggling to make ends meet put money toward other essentials, like teachers or extracurricular activities."

In Jan. 2024, Diaz, Rhodes and their teams started executing the reallocation of the excess equipment through the CFL program. Once posted for transfer, local school administrative staff seized the opportunity and began coordinating directly with LEAD personnel.

After months of coordination, Diaz, Rhodes and staff transported and offloaded all the equipment to the district offices in Waynesboro and Shippensburg on May 24 at no expense to the schools.

"The district staff's excitement and gratitude were evident as we transferred the equipment," Diaz remarked. "Seeing the positive impact the donation had on them was heartwarming."

Col. Donald Santillo, commander, LEAD, arrived at the SASD office later that afternoon and met with district representatives to discuss the depot's commitment to the local community.

Diaz echoed Santillo's remarks as she recounted the experience.

"The CFL donation is a reminder of the positive impact we can have on our community and a reinforcement of our commitment to supporting local education," Diaz stated. "This initiative is not just about giving away surplus equipment; it's about investing in the future of our communities."



Letterkenny Army Depot personnel from the Directorate of Supply and Transportation and the Directorate of Information Management complete the offload of computers and other related supplies at the Shippensburg Area School District office to support local students and staff on May 24 per the Computers for Learning program.

(U.S. Army photo by Taylor Mayberry)

# LETTERKENNY HOSTS FIRST-EVER SBIR DEPOT DAY

Story by **Taylor Mayberry**  
LEAD Public Affairs

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As part of the U.S. Army's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program, Letterkenny Army Depot leadership hosted 10 U.S. small businesses for the first-ever Letterkenny SBIR Depot Day on July 9.

According to Kate Williams, LEAD Directorate of Strategic Management director, Letterkenny and the SBIR Team had two goals for the event.

"The first was to connect small businesses with winning ideas with a proven organization that has the talent, equipment and facilities to turn premise into product," said Williams.

"Second, small business innovators could submit proposals for operational technologies as modernization enablers for the LEAD workforce."

Williams explained that winning proposals, funded by the Army's SBIR budget, will not impact the depot's rates. "In

fact, the SBIR Program funds a diverse portfolio of U.S. startups and small businesses, encouraging technological innovation to meet federal research and development needs."

"Small businesses are great at being agile, moving quickly and doing that 'down in the dirt' type digging, so we try to get them through the SBIR program," said Nicole Fox, program analyst and transition broker team lead, Army Applied SBIR program. "We supply them with additional funding so they can work with our Army partners to have something tangible at the end that can be utilized."

Williams emphasized that LEAD is a critical support system for readiness. "We modernize and extend the lifespan of equipment. We stand ready to respond to the nation's priorities in a time of crisis.

"Partnerships bring in fresh ideas for modernization and innovation, challenging our existing processes, and helping



As part of the U.S. Army's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program, Letterkenny Army Depot leadership hosted 10 U.S. small businesses for the first-ever Letterkenny SBIR Depot Day.

(U.S. Army photo by Pam Goodhart)



Dale McClanahan (right), Future Systems Integration Office chief, briefs small business leaders on depot capabilities during the first-ever depot day event held at Letterkenny Army Depot July 9.

(U.S. Army photo by Pam Goodhart)

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us close technical gaps. Letterkenny aims to collaborate with businesses, not compete.”

LEAD opportunities to the SBIR community include creating mobile sustainment tools, increasing shop floor operational technology and advancing reverse engineering capabilities. The desired outcome is to enhance operations and partner businesses by leveraging available resources.

The depot’s community partners, Kip Feldman, Cumberland Valley Business Park executive director, and David Mackley, Franklin County Area Development Corporation project manager, attended the event and highlighted the benefits of relocating small business headquarters to Franklin County.

“We are one of the fastest growing counties in the commonwealth of Pennsylvania; we made it in the top 10 out of 67 counties to have the most growth,” Mackley

remarked. “Letterkenny Army Depot is the county’s second-largest employer and the number one manufacturer employer.”

Depot Day concluded with an opportunity for small business leaders to showcase inventions aimed to enhance Letterkenny’s operations across the depot. Experts from across the depot got a chance to try the technologies and provide direct feedback to the developers.

“This is something we want to build on every year,” said Williams. “Outcomes for everyone improve when new ideas and expertise are joined.”

If a small business is interested in partnering with Letterkenny Army Depot or has any questions, contact the LEAD Future Systems Integration Office at (717) 267-5210 or email [usarmy.letterkenny.usamc.list.new-business-development@army.mil](mailto:usarmy.letterkenny.usamc.list.new-business-development@army.mil).



# *LEAD HISTORY CORNER* | *THE JAMES FINLEY HOUSE, PART III*

with **Andrew Newman**, Letterkenny Historian

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In the third and final part of the James Finley House story, we will look at some commanders who resided at the property from after World War II to 2019, while shedding light on its future.

After WWII, a Letterkenny commander's tenure could vary from a few months to several years. The longest was Col. R. B. Graeves, who was in command from Aug. 3, 1962, to July 31, 1967. Coinciding with the beginning of Graeves' tenure, Letterkenny Ordnance Depot was renamed to Letterkenny Army Depot as the installation became a subordinate of the U.S. Army Material Command.

From 1942 to 1975, 28 commanders lived at the James Finley House. In Sept. 1976, the residence changed to the "General's Quarters" with the advent of the U.S. Army Depot System Command at Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. Led by major generals, DESCOM remained at Letterkenny until 1995, when it became the Industrial Operations Command, now known as Operations Systems Command, at Rock Island, Illinois.

Retired Col. Thomas Resau was the first commander from Letterkenny Army Depot to reside at the James Finley House since DESCOM's departure. He and his wife returned to their former residence on Armed Forces Day, held May 18, and were amazed by the original fireplace implements – decorated with traditional ordinance bomb imagery.

From 2007 to 2009, retired Maj. Gen. Stephen Shapiro and his family lived at the James Finley House. In 2022, Shapiro returned to the depot to celebrate its 80th anniversary, discussing his stay at the residence with passing visitors. He recollected his experiences as a colonel, particularly a family gathering at the Finley House on Thanksgiving Day in



Retired Col. Thomas Resau, former commander, Letterkenny Army Depot, visits the Finley House with his wife during a recent Armed Forces Day event held May 18.

(U.S. Army photo by Pam Goodhart)

2007. That year, 48 members of the Shapiro family partook in a holiday feast at the quarters. They encased the front porch in weatherproof fabric to isolate themselves from the weather while they placed tables and chairs throughout the kitchen. They enjoyed a deep-fried turkey with fixings before documenting the gathering with a family portrait.



Retired Col. Stephen Ledbetter, former commander, Letterkenny Army Depot, accompanies his wife at the James Finley House.

(Courtesy photo)

In 2019, the James Finley House transitioned from Army housing to a multiuse facility, making retired Col. Stephen Ledbetter, who led from 2017 to 2019, the last commander to reside at the quarters.

“Whether it was one of the New Year’s receptions, ugly sweater Christmas parties or ‘beer, brats and burger’ events on the back deck, I was fortunate to be able to host members of the depot and local community, and leaders from the Army, the Department of Defense and abroad,” Ledbetter stated. “It was a fantastic experience, and I always enjoyed giving a little tour of the house to share some of its history.”

Ledbetter told memories of witnessing the changes in seasons during his time at the depot.

“In the winter, my favorite thing about the house was the wood-burning fireplace,” Ledbetter recollected. “After a day in the office, I could not wait to get home and light it, listening to the wood hiss and pop until bedtime – that thing would almost heat the entire house. Of course, during the summer, I would spend countless hours on the back deck grilling and watching the daily herd of deer graze every evening.”

He also recalled all the times he took reflecting on his experiences at the depot.

“Lastly, during some of my evenings on the deck – which had a great view of the installation – I would often think if previous commanders had done the same after a day of work – just sit there and reflect,” Ledbetter said.

“Especially the first two commanders that had stayed there during WWII – wondering if the Allies would win the war and how LEAD was playing its part by producing ordnance to support the effort.”

Since its classification as a multiuse facility in 2019, the James Finley House has featured historical exhibits of Letterkenny’s history used to accompany commander’s socials, workforce meetings and community events, such as the recent Armed Forces Day commemoration May 18. The former residence will continue to support future events, including the garrison’s first Oktoberfest event, scheduled for Sept. 28.



# KENNY LETTER

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LETTERKENNY ARMY DEPOT