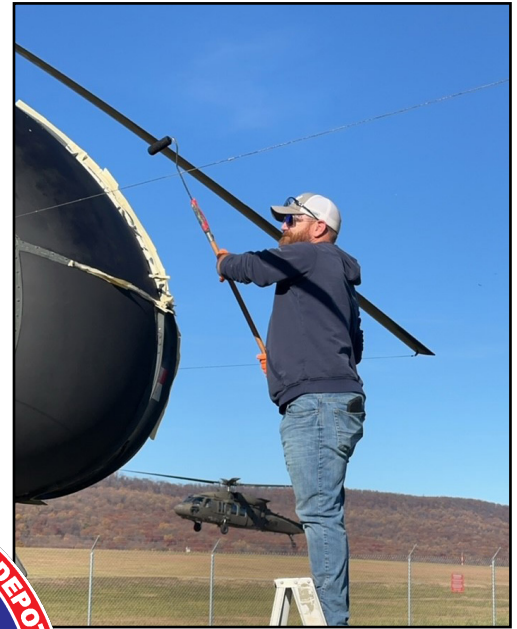


~ Kenny Letter ~

Winter 2024



The Army's Premier Professional Organization in Air Missile and Space Systems

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COMMANDER'S CORNER WITH COL. SANTILLO



Team,

Since publication of the last edition of the Kenny Letter in the Summer of 2024, we have seen a lot of change at Letterkenny Army Depot, the U.S. Army, and the Department of Defense. While some things are still uncertain, what I am certain of is the professionalism and level of work of all our LEAD artisans, support staff, and partners. Letterkenny Army Depot has been resilient for more than 80 years and we will prevail through whatever comes our way.

I am so impressed by how much the Depot has changed over these last 6-8 months. We have seen continued improvement in our modernization efforts to include:

- Progress in buildings 350 & 370
- Continued advancement on the DS&T facility
- Breaking ground on the new LEAD firehouse
- Moving more of our operations behind the fence
- Reorganizing our personnel to better serve the needs of the depot.

Even more exciting is in 2026 we look to continue modernization efforts to include the Phase 1 Air & Missile Facility, the new Access Control Point, and the new Anechoic Chamber.

All these projects should tell you that Letterkenny Army Depot is postering to better support Army readiness and our joint forces for decades to come.

As we take care of our facilities, I need to remind you to take care of yourselves.

First, make sure if you need help with stress, work, or life, know that we have assistance right here with our Employee Assistance Program Coordinator, Alexandra DeCarlo (7-8412), and our own religious council with Chaplain Bai Fornah (7-6047).

Additionally, when it comes to career progression, we need all of you to take this seriously and complete your supervisor certification requirements. Recent reports show that there are a lot of employees who are not on schedule with these requirements.

Failing to complete these courses hurts you and those you supervise as well. If you need help, contact our Skills Development Center representatives, Jennifer Coccagna (7-5108) or Kirstin Raith at (7-5326).

On behalf of the entire command staff, thank you for what you do every day to keep Letterkenny Army Depot as the premier DoD professional organization in Air, Missile, and Space systems.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald C. Santillo".

DONALD C. SANTILLO
COL, LG
Commanding

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



Team Letterkenny,

It has been an honor serving with you in the last four years. I have come to admire a dedicated workforce that is committed to excellence in all we do, and who we do it with. Our unwavering support to the defense of our great country is unmatched. I witnessed a team that remains adaptable to the many challenges we have faced and continue to be innovative in addressing these challenges head-on. We continue to underwrite the readiness of our Air Defense Artillery formations and those of our partner nations. Thank you is not enough for all that you do daily.

Some of the challenges we have faced come from changes in policies, workload and workforce structures, modernization efforts, increased facilities and equipment maintenance requirements, and others but most importantly, the untimely departures of our teammates. These challenges have kept us stronger as we prepare for the next phase of excellent support to our warfighters. Do not falter in accepting the changes that are happening now. We have continued to

hold each other high and shoulder to shoulder as we navigate these challenges. We remain resilient as a team and I know we will continue to remain a beacon of hope, not just for the Depot but the community that supports us.

As I have said in the past, we are a family and we must continue to care for each other on and off the Depot, especially during these challenging times. We can only remain LEAD together, which starts with acknowledging the contributions of each of our teammates. We are a puzzle and the absence of one piece will render us incomplete in what we do. I encourage us to help each other to give her or his best, again, while acknowledging and recognizing the

contributions. I am also encouraging all levels of management to be more patient, present and listen more to the needs of our subordinates. On the other hand, all teammates should trust that their management is looking out for the best interests of their subordinates, and most importantly, the Depot at large. Letterkenny Army Depot will be here for another 82 years as we work together to ensure we remain the premier Air Defense Depot in the Organic Industrial Base.

Again, I am honored to have served with you. Departing the Depot in March of 2025 is bittersweet, but I am confident Team LEAD will remain resilient, awesome, and committed to excellence. I have met great Americans here and will do all within my control to ensure continued partnership with the Depot in my next assignment.

LEAD 7 signing off.

SGM E. C. Amoke
Depot SGM

LEAD EMPLOYEES BRIEF FORWARD CAPABILITY IN GUAM

Story by **Todd Wivell** - LEAD Public Affairs

Letterkenny Army Depot employees, Kate Williams, Strategic Management director, and Ashley Filling, Process Engineering Branch supervisor and cold spray lead integrator, made significant steps in advancing LEAD's forward repair capabilities during a recent visit to Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, July 22-25, 2024.

The team visited the military installation to identify a site for depot operations, beginning with a Pop-Up Cold Spray unit, that will accommodate Air and Missile Defense systems as well as construction and other equipment utilized by the joint services.

"We visited with the intent to deliver sustainment solutions at the point of need starting with a technology that will have the most immediate impact to the joint force," said Williams. "This was an excellent opportunity to inform stakeholders of the pop-up cold spray application and other sustainment support efforts the depot can provide."

Cold spray is a process using compressed gas to accelerate powder material through a supersonic nozzle resulting in consolidation through high velocity particle impact and severe plastic deformation.

Letterkenny trained technicians can apply this non-structural repair on ground equipment for both aluminum and steel. The process reduces the cost and time associated with replacements and provides a capability to stop frame corrosion that improves asset availability and warfighter's safety. Repairs made to steel adds additional corrosion protection.

To establish the Forward Repair Activity in Guam, LEAD intends to purchase a "pop-up" service package. This includes equipment, a materials lab and engineering services. LEAD intends to station a cold spray technician in Guam and is also preparing follow on support packages to provide sustainment capabilities forward as either temporary or permanent support.

According to Filling, providing portable cold spray in Guam would allow the warfighters and assets to stay mission ready, saves over the ocean transport, arrests corrosive decay caused by environment, saves money and time, simplifies end user logistics, and provides logistics flexibility and warfighter training.

"The warfighters and civilians executing their missions in Guam have demonstrated great commitment, competency and ingenuity," said Williams. "They execute with a clear purpose and know that they are on the operating edge of the free world."

"To support them - it is why we say we exist. Guam is growing and currently the joint forces are operating in a constrained environment that is largely without any of the capabilities our depot could provide."

"This is an opportunity to test our skills, our deployable processes and ourselves and to serve out our mission in a directly meaningful way to our warfighters. In Guam, if we execute correctly, we can make a huge difference in a short amount of time."



Letterkenny Army Depot employees, Kate Williams, Strategic Management director, and Ashley Filling, Process Engineering Branch supervisor and cold spray lead integrator, made significant steps in advancing LEAD's forward repair capabilities during a recent visit to Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, July 22-25, 2024.

(U.S. Air Force photo by Maj. Robert Smith)

LEAD FIREFIGHTERS COMPLETE JOINT ROPE RESCUE TRAINING

Story by **Todd Wivell** - LEAD Public Affairs

On Sept. 26 and 27, 2024, approximately 20 Letterkenny Army Depot firefighters joined several Chambersburg Fire Department firefighters to complete a rope rescue training course in downtown Chambersburg.

Designed for the experienced rescuer, the Bucks County Community College (BCCC) course offers participants with a strong working knowledge of technical rescue in accordance with National Fire Protection Association 1006 and 1670. The emergency responders covered rope rescue systems, application theories, and high-angle challenges to accurately and safely execute the skill sets required for professional certification.

According to Dave McGlynn, LEAD fire chief, this is not the first time LEAD firefighters completed this course. In 2021, BCCC presented this training and currently the firefighters train quarterly, if not monthly, on technical rescue scenarios which involves using ropes for rescue, confined space, and rappelling.

“The mission at the depot has a lot of unique potential risks for a confined space or technical rescue emergency,” said McGlynn. “Therefore, we incorporate that specific skill into our regular training requirements.

“From this course our firefighters will gain additional knowledge of rescue systems, rigging, practical capabilities, but mostly confidence within themselves. Technical rescue can be tedious, overwhelming, and scary. The firefighters can build a confidence in how to properly execute those needed skills through training and repetition in that training.”

According to McGlynn, in April 2024, LEAD firefighters assisted local firefighters on a call of a worker who was stuck in a grain bin in Greencastle, Pennsylvania. The technical rescue involved high-angle rope rescue, confined space operations, and the use of a specialized rescue kit for grain bins.

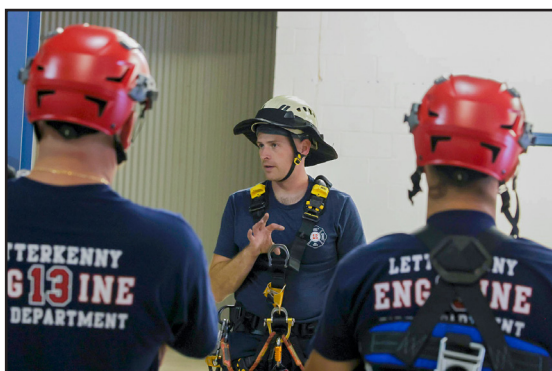
“Rope and technical rescue are specialized skills, and we were able to use our training, skills and equipment to assist in the successful outcome of the worker’s removal from the grain bin,” stated McGlynn.

Lt. Joe Shapiro, Lancaster City Bureau of Fire and BCCC instructor, taught the two-day course and has been teaching rope rescue for more than five years.

“Firefighters may encounter a variety of situations requiring rope for access and rescue of personnel stranded above grade, below grade, hanging from a fall protection system, etc.,” said Shapiro.

“The purpose of this course is to provide these firefighters with the skills needed for successful rope rescue operations.”

Speaking to this specific course and the firefighters involved, Shapiro stated, “All of the firefighters in the class were engaged in the learning process, embraced alternative methodologies and most importantly – had fun while they learned.”



Lt. Joe Shapiro, Lancaster City Bureau of Fire and Bucks County Community College instructor, instructs Letterkenny Army Depot and Chambersburg firefighters on rope rescue techniques, Sept. 26, in downtown Chambersburg.

Designed for the experienced rescuer, the course offers participants with a strong working knowledge of technical rescue in accordance with National Fire Protection Association 1006 and 1670.

(U.S Army photo by Pam Goodhart)



LEAD POLICE PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING

Story by **Todd Wivell - LEAD Public Affairs**

On Oct. 3, 2024, Letterkenny Army Depot Directorate of Emergency Services Law Enforcement, Security Division personnel successfully completed their annual active shooter force-on-force training.

“We have never had to respond to an active shooter on the depot and we hope we never have to,” said Lt. Ronald Boughton, DES Law Enforcement, Security Division training officer. “This force-on-force training is to keep our officers prepared in the event of an active shooter.”

The training started in the classroom, moved to the range, and ended with scenarios at the depot’s training house.

“The scenario-based training provided physical and physiological stress as the officers perform a systematic, methodical search of a building, while emphasizing teamwork with effective communication,” said Boughton. “The teams responded to simulated calls of possible gun fire or barricaded suspects.”

The teams progressed through three different scenarios known as crawl, walk, and run. All officers, including instructors and safety officers, wore personal protective equipment. The teams used dummy rounds (paint ball) to provide a realistic as possible scenario.

The Crawl phase consisted of reporting and completing a systematic room-to-room search of the building and finding the building secured.

The Walk phase consisted of force-on-target scenarios, as the teams searched each room for initial engagement or encounter with hostile targets. They do this while adhering to the plus-one rule, always look for additional threats and weapons. They use this phase with the understanding that threats still exist even after the first suspect goes down.

The Run phase was the final force-on-force training where the teams began their search of the building until they hear gun shots and then they proceed directly to the threat. Once the teams eliminate the threat, they back clear all rooms that they bypassed to go directly to the threat.

“Officer Sean Stark, DES Law Enforcement, Security Division firearms and active shooter instructor, conducted the training and provided the experience and knowledge to ensure that our officers focused on eliminating the threat,” said Boughton. “His dedication to the training program significantly contributes to the enhancement of DES’s readiness and mission accomplishments.

“All teams received training on dynamic and deliberate entrances, moving quickly through the fatal funnels (doorways), staying off walls, and always providing rear security,” said Boughton. “We are extremely proud of the officers for successfully completing this training as they stand ready to respond to any situation here on the depot.”



Office Anthony Nickas, LEAD Department of the Army security guard, checks for weapons on a simulated suspect during active shooter training, Oct. 3, on Letterkenny Army Depot.

(U.S. Army photo by Pam Goodhart)

LEAD SHOWCASES NEW ENGINE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

Story by **Todd Wivell - LEAD Public Affairs**

On Nov. 6, 2024, Letterkenny Army Depot leadership welcomed members of the Mobile Electric Power Systems Team to a capability demonstration of the new LEAD Engine Center of Excellence.

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Melissa Elledge, MEPS product manager assigned to the Program Executive Office Combat Support and Combat Service Support; Robert Maline, MEPS chief engineer; and Eric Partin, Advanced Medium Mobile Power Sources logistician visited the depot from Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

“To say establishing this capability for the Engine Center of Excellence has been a long journey would be an understatement,” said Kate Williams, LEAD Directorate of Strategic Management director. “Since this requirement was presented to us, we have had to overcome many barriers to get to the point where we are today.”

The purpose of the Engine Center of Excellence is to rebuild engines, ranging from 2k to 200k, for all types of power generation. Additionally, the center can support all other types of engines currently being used across the military.

“We have the ability to rebuild obsolescence engines as well as any current engine and save approximately 60% in the cost of a new engine,” said Mark Culbertson, LEAD Engine Center of Excellence program manager.

Throughout the capability demonstration the team from MEPS visited with LEAD artisans who explained their roles at the center. The team also walked the stages of receiving an engine and then what it would take to rebuild it and make it ready for deployment to the field.

“I am excited about the capabilities the Engine Center of Excellence offers to the Department of Defense,” said Elledge. “I believe we should all look for more opportunities to be good stewards of our tax dollars and the environment.

“The Center offers pathways to good stewardship through refurbishment, and reuse of equipment that

still has viability. The work the Center does provides new life and purpose for equipment that would otherwise be underutilized.”

Elledge went on to explain the Center’s capabilities can help bridge critical needs gaps by extending the life of equipment until more efficient and technologically advanced variants can be fielded.

After the capability’s demonstration, the MEPS team received a tour of the depot.

“Understanding the full breadth of what our Army depots have to offer fosters thought provoking conversations that help solve problems,” said Elledge. “We all have to be creative for various reasons, particularly in regard to fiscal elements and understanding each other’s challenges gives us opportunity to work together to solve those problems.”

“We know this Engine Center of Excellence will add to overall operational readiness,” said Williams.

“Letterkenny artisans have a rich history of contributing to our nation’s defense and this center is another way of supporting that mission.”



U.S. Army Lt. Col. Melissa Elledge (left), Mobile Electric Power Systems product manager assigned to the Program Executive Office Combat Support and Combat Service Support, listen in as Mark Culbertson, LEAD Engine Center of Excellence program manager, gives a brief during a tour of the new Center on Nov. 6.

(U.S. Army photo by Taylor Mayberry)

USING EXTEND REALITY FOR WEAPON SYSTEMS PAINT MASKING

Story by **Todd Wivell** - LEAD Public Affairs

For the first time on Letterkenny Army Depot, artisans within the paint shop will soon use extended reality to mask and demask High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems in a highly-effective and efficient manner.

Extended reality is a combination of virtual and real environments using computer technology. It combines augmented reality, virtual reality, and mixed reality.

On Sept. 25, 2024, representatives from Grid Raster Inc., visited the depot to continue their progression on the extended reality in the hopes of having this technology functioning by the end of January 2025.

“Grid Raster Inc. is a software development company that specializes in spatial artificial intelligence, digital twin modeling and various other spatial computing applications,” said Dominick Lignelli, Grid Raster program manager. “For this project we are working to incorporate an extended and mixed reality aspect to the modernization of the painting process at Letterkenny.”

Lignelli went on to state that the focus is to provide a program that streamlines the workflow for the entire team without requiring a significant challenge to adapt.

“This technology will allow the artisans to load a program into the HoloLens virtual goggles, see the physical HIMARS sitting in the room with a virtual HIMARS layered over top,” said Anthony Bard, Directorate of Strategic Management electronics technician.

“As the painter/prepper walks around the HIMARS, the HoloLens will show them where to mask by highlighting that area in red. Once the area has masking, the HoloLens will see the masking and turn the red area to green. Basically, anything the operator views in red will need masked and anything they see as green is complete.”

In July 2024, Grid Raster visited LEAD and took scans of HIMARS with their software through the HoloLens.

Then LEAD sent them a precision computer-aided design model taken with the depot’s blue-light 3D scanner.

The visit on Sept. 25 consisted of the company combing their scan with LEAD’s model and getting the augmented image in the HoloLens to align and overlay on the physical HIMARS correctly.

To keep this process moving Grid Raster plans to return to the depot in November with even more details in their extended reality image. The goal is for there to be layers or filters that the artisan can change the opacity of the overlayed HIMARS image. Changing the opacity will allow the artisan to either see the masked “Go/No Go” sections with the virtual HIMARS body showing, not showing at all, or anything else in between.

“We are excited to work with Letterkenny to develop the relevant products they need that will allow them to provide assets to the warfighter in an expedited manner,” said Lignelli. “Being able to play a pivotal role in the modernization efforts of the Department of Defense is a huge responsibility and we are always looking to transition these developments to sustainment programs that work with end users for years to come.”



Jeff Barnhart, Letterkenny Army Depot's Directorate of Industrial Operations Process Support Division chief, looks through a pair of virtual reality goggles during a visit from Grid Raster Inc., on Sept. 25 at the depot.

(U.S. Army photo by Pam Goodhart)

LEAD PERSONNEL COMPLETE ASBESTOS ABATEMENT TRAINING

Story by **Todd Wivell** - LEAD Public Affairs



Kelly Barnes, Letterkenny Army Depot's Directorate of Public Works deputy director, practice asbestos abatement during Asbestos Abatement Handler and Supervisors training, on Sept. 24.

(U.S. Army photo by Pam Goodhart)

“During the after-action review, we looked at the loss of that area and the cost to correct and came to the conclusion that we could better serve the depot and its employees by being able to do this work ourselves,” said Lowe.

Kelly Barnes is the DPW deputy director and participated in the training.

“This training allows us to apply for asbestos occupation certification through the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry,” said Barnes. “We will be able to respond quickly to concerns of disturbed asbestos and abate it properly and safely.”

For the first time ever, Letterkenny Army Depot's Safety Office and Directorate of Public Works personnel successfully completed Asbestos Abatement Handler and Supervisors training, from Sept. 23-27, 2024.

Those that completed the training include Kelly Barnes and Jared Doyle from DPW, and Vernon Lowe and Sherri Somers from the Safety Office.

“The depot is standing up an abatement team which can be mobilized to perform emergency abatement in response to repairs that involve asbestos or possible asbestos material,” said Vernon Lowe, LEAD safety manager. “This team will be able to respond quickly, reducing the amount of time of potential asbestos exposure to employees.

“Not only does this improve employee safety but also is extremely cost effective compared to using outside agencies.”

According to Lowe, the initial discussion about standing up this team came because of a leak in a steam pipe. When the pipe, wrapped in asbestos insulation, leak occurred it disturbed and blew loose about 6 feet of the insulation from the pipe. This fell to the floor resulting in closing off the area until full abatement.

Barnes shared that in the 1990's, contractors abated or encapsulated asbestos across the depot. She further mentioned that the need to abate asbestos is typically a result of a construction or repair project that would disturb the remaining asbestos.

“When there are major repair projects such as in buildings 350 and 370, we are abating all remaining encapsulated asbestos,” said Barnes. “We also abate other encapsulated asbestos on an as needed basis which can be up to 3 times per year.”

When the team finished the course, they received asbestos abatement and supervisor certifications (29 CFR 1926.1101/40 CFR 763), CPR, first aid, and AED training. Once the team receives their Pennsylvania issued licenses, they can perform the abatement and supervisory work.

Barnes and Lowe stated that asbestos, if left alone and intact, does not pose a threat to Letterkenny employees.

“If you come across disturbed asbestos, do not touch/ disturb it and block off access to the area as quickly as possible,” said Barnes. “Report the situation to Safety and DPW immediately.”

LEAD BREAKS GROUND ON NEW FIREHOUSE

Story by **Todd Wivell** - LEAD Public Affairs

For the second time in 2024, Letterkenny Army Depot leadership commemorated another modernization milestone as Col. Donald Santillo, depot commander, hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for the new LEAD fire station on Nov. 19, 2024.

The new 25,000 square foot facility will accommodate up to 36 firefighters, ensuring sufficient capacity for operational needs and personnel requirements. The firehouse will accommodate two class-A pumper fire engines, a hazmat truck, a tanker truck, a command vehicle, an ambulance, and a special operations/technical rescue unit. Additionally, there are plans to prepare for the inclusion of a ladder truck in the future.

This state-of-the-art facility will feature modern construction techniques and advances in the audio/visual technology used within the training room. These advancements will enable LEAD firefighters to provide up-to-date, mission-critical training, keeping the team aligned with current and best industry practices.

“Letterkenny Army Depot is answering the call to modernize in order to sustain the next generation of emergency responders,” said Santillo. “We understand that modernization is about far more than weapon systems. Today’s groundbreaking is another component of our transformation to modernize the depot’s infrastructure.”

Those that joined Santillo in the groundbreaking ceremony included:

- Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Doss, U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command commander sergeant major
- Lt. Col. Mark Pollak, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Baltimore District deputy commander
- Chief Armando Eversley, Jr., U.S. Army Fire and Emergency Service chief

- Todd Black, LEAD deputy to the commander
- Jesse Tressler, LEAD installation manager
- Chief David McGlynn, LEAD fire chief
- Numerous firefighters from the depot

“Our firefighters have responded on average to more than 300 calls a year, between calls on Letterkenny Army Depot and calls for mutual response,” said McGlynn. “This new facility will allow us to continue our commitment to ensure safety across the depot and in the community we serve.

“Most important, this new location will allow easier access for our firefighters to quickly respond to our most high-risk facilities within the depot.”

“This new fire station will be more than just bricks and metal,” said Eversley. “It will embody a promise to the Letterkenny Army Depot community that when the alarm sounds, firefighters are on their way.

“It will stand as a beacon for the community with Army firefighters ready to respond to emergencies, whether they involve fire, medical, hazardous materials, or natural disasters.”

“Today is a clear demonstration of how we can work together to ensure that the Organic Industrial Base remains adaptable, resilient and safe for our most important asset, our people,” stated Santillo. “I am grateful for the support we received from the LEAD Directorate of Public Works, Directorate of Emergency Services, the LEAD Fire Department, and union leadership to make this groundbreaking successful.”



Top photo - Col. Donald Santillo (front middle), Letterkenny Army Depot commander, Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Doss (front right), U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command commander sergeant major, pose with LEAD firefighters after the new Letterkenny firehouse groundbreaking ceremony on Nov. 19

The new 25,000 square foot facility will accommodate up to 36 firefighters, ensuring sufficient capacity for operational needs and personnel requirements.

(U.S. Army photo by Pam Goodhart)

2nd row left photo - Col. Donald Santillo, Letterkenny Army Depot commander, provides remarks during the Nov. 19 LEAD firehouse groundbreaking ceremony.

2nd row right photo - Letterkenny Army Depot firefighters depart the front stage after handing shovels off to members of the LEAD command team during the Nov. 19 LEAD firehouse groundbreaking ceremony.

This state-of-the-art facility will feature modern construction techniques and advances in the audio/visual technology used within the training room.

LEADing THE WAY IN STUDENT PROGRAMS

Story by **Todd Wivell** - LEAD Public Affairs

Understanding that the future of the workforce is in our current high school and college students within Franklin County and surrounding areas, the Letterkenny Army Depot Skills Development Office has been working to reinvigorate three vital student programs.

“We have two main goals with our LEAD student programs,” said Jennifer Coccagna, LEAD SDO strategic integrator. “We want to give the students the opportunity to apply the skills they’ve learned in the classroom to real-world projects and problems, which will help them grow personally and professionally.

“Additionally, we want to start to build a pipeline to create LEAD’s future workforce of skilled talent.”

The three programs LEAD offers to students are the internship program, the co-op learning experience program and the job shadowing program.

The internship program provides college students with the opportunity to enhance the skills they’ve learned in the classroom by allowing them to work with a mentor in their field of study for a summer. Students get hands-on experience working in teams, problem-solving, and communicating with coworkers from a variety of different disciplines. LEAD’s interns choose and complete a project tied to the depot’s modernization initiatives during their internship period. At the end of the summer, they present their project at the LEAD forum, which is a science fair style event attended by depot leadership.

Lillian Otstott, a junior at Shippensburg University, is a current intern and works as a LEAD Resource Management financial management clerk. Otstott started in February 2024 and continues to work part time during her school year.

“This is a great place to work if you want to see what you’re learning in the classroom and how it is used in real life,” said Otstott. “I would say everyone at LEAD is super welcoming and very supportive of your success, they want to see you learn and they provide you the tools

to excel.”

The co-op learning experience program allows students (high school and college) in qualified trades programs the opportunity to apply their skills to complex projects and problems at the depot. Co-op students are given a mentor and are fully immersed in the work of their trade for the duration of their co-op period.

Jakob Stropas, a May 2024 graduate of FCCTC’s mechatronics program, is currently in the co-op learning experience program and works as Directorate of Strategic Management electronic measurement equipment mechanic helper. Stropas started in September 2024.

“I like that I am getting to learn a lot of new things in the maintenance career field and outside of that field as well,” said Stropas. “I am also getting to use everything I learned through classroom education to solve difficult and complex problems.

“I would tell anyone considering a co-op position that there is a lot to learn and a lot of training that comes with a government job. However, if you enjoy what you signed up for you will get the full experience and will like working here, just as I do.”

The job shadowing program allows students (high school and college) interested in a variety of professions or trades the opportunity to come to the depot for a day to learn more about what their field of study could look like as a career at the depot. This program was piloted with engineering technology students from Franklin County Career and Technology Center in the fall of 2024 and will be expanded to a variety of professions and trades in the spring of 2025.

“Job shadowing is important to career development by allowing students a firsthand look into specific careers,” said Kathy Estep FCCTC workforce development coordinator. “It also provides an opportunity to learn about career possibilities within organizations while learning about the company’s culture at the same time.

“Students are able to make connections for careers within the community they live through these job shadowing experiences at Letterkenny Army Depot.”

Estep went on to say how excited she is about the LEAD SDO revitalization of these student programs.

“LEAD is a workforce partner of FCCTC which is valuable to the education of Career Tech students and to the future workforce of LEAD,” said Estep.

“Through diligence and teamwork, we are revitalizing the opportunities for students to continue their education in their chosen program of study at LEAD.”

For more information about any of the student programs mentioned, contact the LEAD SDO at usarmy.letterkenny.usamc.list.cmd-depot-training-office@army.mil or by calling 717-267-5108.

What is CWF?

Story by **Matthew Gingrich** - CWF Chair

The CWF (Civilian Welfare Fund) provides events, activities, and services for all federal employees and their families, focusing on morale, welfare, and recreation.

With full support from command, your CWF Council Governing Board members and volunteers are dedicated to accomplishing this endeavor, while representing the interests of all employees.

Funding for the CWF is derived from personnel participation in sponsored events.

The CWF funds activities such as Employee Appreciation Day, an annual Golf Outing, and the Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony, to name a few. In addition, the CWF provides support and involvement in command events such as Armed Forces Day, Oktoberfest, and more.

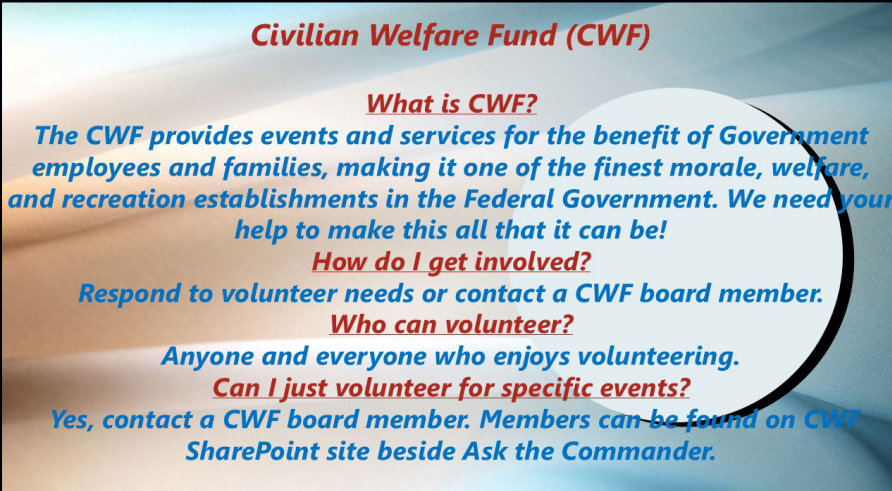
Plans are in place and Committees are being formed to plan, manage, and execute these and additional activities.

We need to hear from you! Regular surveys will be sent to you, your feedback is needed.

Please take the time to complete these surveys, this is what allows CWF to focus its efforts on activities that are popular and supported by employees.

The CWF cannot exist without the participation of the workforce. We are always looking for like-minded individuals who are passionate about our purpose to serve the workforce and wish to volunteer their time to help accomplish that. Please reach out to a CWF council member or me at x-9687, if you are interested. There is also a CWF link on the LEAD portal page for easy access to information.

Thank you all for supporting YOUR Civilian Welfare Fund!



Civilian Welfare Fund (CWF)

What is CWF?
The CWF provides events and services for the benefit of Government employees and families, making it one of the finest morale, welfare, and recreation establishments in the Federal Government. We need your help to make this all that it can be!

How do I get involved?
Respond to volunteer needs or contact a CWF board member.

Who can volunteer?
Anyone and everyone who enjoys volunteering.

Can I just volunteer for specific events?
Yes, contact a CWF board member. Members can be found on CWF SharePoint site beside Ask the Commander.

SUPPORTING FORT INDIANTOWN GAP RESTORATION PROJECT

Story by **Todd Wivell** - LEAD Public Affairs

Letterkenny Army Depot recently made history with a new type of workload added to its always-evolving capability list.

The LEAD Directorate of Industrial Operations Process Support Division checked rotary wing aircraft off the list of a multitude of military components that run through the depot's paint shops.

During August 2024, talks commenced on an upcoming community Open House event at the nation's second busiest National Guard Training Center, Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania. Maj. Morgan Gaylor Henry, Fort Indiantown Gap's Mission Training Complex executive officer, contacted Letterkenny to begin discussing a proposal to repaint a helicopter currently on static display at the post.

"A few years ago, Letterkenny's paint shop started a partnership with the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, repainting their static displays, so the paint department was no stranger to this type of request," said Jeff Barnhart, DIO PSD chief. "However, the requirement from Fort Indiantown Gap brought the depot its first aircraft, a rotary wing Vietnam era UH-1 Iroquois 'Huey' helicopter."

Once the helicopter arrived at the depot, Greg Shaver, PSD equipment specialist, and his team members utilized the laser ablation process to begin removing the Huey's existing coatings.

One of the biggest differences of this effort, compared to what the artisans in the LEAD paint shops are used to, was the thin gauge metal used on the aircraft.

"The laser is irreplaceable on this type of work as it saved us a lot of time by irradiating the coating off with no degradation to the thin substrate," said Shaver.

In the next phase, the Huey was ready for paint and additional artisans from the depot made quick work of getting the chemical agent-resistant coating reapplied. The team worked to restore the fixed-wing aircraft into what it looked like when it was produced for the Vietnam War.

Once the artisans finished the paintwork, transportation experts moved the helicopter back to Fort Indiantown Gap.

To provide additional support, PSD members traveled to Fort Indiantown Gap to complete on-site paint repair on two other aircraft, an AH-1 Cobra and an OH-6 Cayuse "Loach," which both performed various missions during the Vietnam War.

"Overall, this was truly an awesome project to be a part of," said Shaver. "Aside from being an aviation enthusiast, knowing the history of this aircraft and that my team and I were able to bring it back to its former glory is something I am very proud to be a part of."

"We have a lot of hard-working employees who take pride in the work they do every single day, supporting the warfighter, and building a reputation of doing exactly that," said Barnhart. "This non-standard workload breaks up the normalcy and shows off the true talent of these men and women. I want to thank the Letterkenny Army Depot and Fort Indiantown Gap leadership teams for this opportunity."



In late 2024, LEAD's Directorate of Industrial Operations Process Support Division checked rotary wing aircraft off the list of a multitude of military components that run through the depot's paint shops.

(U.S. Army photo by Pam Goodhart)

DOIM TIPS - DATA BREACHES

Story by **Jason Furnish** - LEAD Directorate of Info.

National Public Data, a Florida-based consumer data broker that performs background checks, was the target of a massive cyberattack impacting hundreds of millions of Americans.

The hacker, using the moniker “USDoD,” successfully breached NPD’s database in April 2024. Stealing 2.9 billion records, USDoD began posting the stolen data for sale on the dark web for \$3.5 million. The records consisted of names, addresses, phone numbers, and social security numbers of over 272 million people.

Though everyone in the U.S. has not been impacted by the data breach, it is important to monitor for indicators of compromised personal information. It is also recommended to secure all accounts using two-factor or multi-factor authentication and routinely change passwords. As of October 2023, the Federal Trade Commission announced the three main credit bureaus have permanently extended a program entitling everyone to a free credit report every week.

Tips for Individuals Impacted by a Data Breach

- **Change passwords:** Use a combination of upper and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols. Make sure it’s not easily guessable, like “password123.”
- **Use different passwords:** It is recommended that passwords are not reused for any account.

- **Enroll in two-factor or multi-factor authentication:** This adds an extra layer of security by requiring a second form of verification beyond just your password.

- **Authentication requests:** Do not approve authentication requests you do not recognize.

- **New accounts:** When opening a new account, immediately configure the privacy and security settings.

- **Monitor accounts:** Monitor your credit card and bank accounts for suspicious transactions and notify the financial institution if you notice anything suspicious.

- **Monitor credit reports:** Obtain free credit reports, AnnualCreditReport.com, to identify credit changes or suspicious accounts. Consider placing a free credit freeze or fraud alert notification with the three national credit reporting agencies, Experian®, TransUnion®, & Equifax®.

- **Keep software updated:** Software updates fix bugs and resolve security issues.

- **Be suspicious:** Be suspicious of unsolicited phone calls or emails requesting additional information. Do not click on any unknown links or download any unknown files provided in emails.

(Article, information and tips courtesy of the Cyber Field Office and U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Division)



LEAD SUPPORTS WOUNDED WARRIOR & HUNT OF A LIFETIME

Story by **Todd Wivell** - LEAD Public Affairs

On Dec. 5 and 6, 2024, Letterkenny Army Depot employees and community members volunteered and participated in the annual Wounded Warrior and Hunt of a Lifetime deer hunts for 10 participants.

According to Matt Miller, LEAD Natural Resources manager, the program started in 2007 and takes place on depot property.

“This hunt provides a quality hunting experience to individuals that may have issues doing this on their own due to health issues or lack of hunting experience,” said Miller. “Both the Wounded Warrior Soldiers and Hunt of a Lifetime participants also enjoy interacting with each other and our team on these hunts.

“Some of these hunters have a lot of hunting experience, but there were several individuals on this year’s hunt that were able to understand what hunting is about and get to take home approximately 25-35 pounds (per deer) of one the leanest, heart-healthiest meats available.”

The hunt this year consisted of eight Wounded Warriors, with five Purple Heart recipients, and two Hunt of a Lifetime participants.

“This hunting experience is our way of giving back,” said Josh Bell, Hunt of a Lifetime representative and six-year participant. “The program offers outdoor adventures, specifically hunting, for those who are facing or have faced life-threatening illnesses, giving them a chance to experience something they love.

“Each year, two participants are selected for the

Letterkenny hunt. This program not only creates lasting memories but also allows these individuals to continue pursuing a sport they are passionate about despite the challenges they face.”

M. Jordan Pieniazek is a Wounded Warrior Bonfire Program retreat leader and second-year participant of the hunt at LEAD. This year, he participated as a peer mentor and retreat facilitator.

“I believe the main benefit of this program is having five to six combat-wounded veterans get together. They all immediately have a sense of trust with one another and can talk openly about their unique traumas,” said Pieniazek.

“This hunt allows them to get out away from the hustle and bustle of daily life. This experience provides them the ability to possibly start a new life-long hobby that possibly gives them a sense of purpose with providing for their family.”

“It’s important that LEAD participates with these organizations to provide a great public outreach opportunity,” said Miller. “The individuals participating in these hunts typically do not know what LEAD does or its mission. Their participation brings awareness to individuals in our community and others from many other states across the country.”

For more information about this annual hunt on Letterkenny Army Depot, contact Matt Miller at matthew.d.miller160.civ@army.mil or 717-267-5702.



Col. Donald Santillo (back row, fifth from the left), Letterkenny Army Depot commander, stands with LEAD employees, volunteers, and Wounded Warrior and Hunt of a Lifetime participants for a group photo on Dec. 5 at the Letterkenny Recreational Area.

Ten people participated in the hunt, including eight Wounded Warriors, with five Purple Heart recipients, and two Hunt of a Lifetime participants.

(U.S. Army photo by Pam Goodhart)

DOIM TIPS - PROTECTING HOME PCs

Story by **Jason Furnish** - LEAD Directorate of Info.

In today's digital age, ensuring the safety of your home computer is more important than ever. Whether you're using it for work, entertainment, or staying connected with loved ones, your computer holds a wealth of personal information that needs to be protected. Cyber threats are constantly evolving, but with a few simple precautions, you can safeguard your device and data from potential harm.

Here are some essential tips to keep your home computer secure:

1. Install and Update Antivirus Software

Antivirus software acts as your first line of defense against malicious software, such as viruses, ransomware, and spyware. Be sure to install a reputable antivirus program and keep it updated regularly. Many programs offer real-time scanning and protection, which can catch threats before they have a chance to cause damage.

2. Enable a Firewall

A firewall acts like a barrier between your computer and the internet, filtering incoming and outgoing traffic to block harmful data. Most operating systems come with a built-in firewall, so ensure it's enabled. You may also consider installing a third-party firewall for added protection.

3. Use Strong, Unique Passwords

Weak passwords are one of the most common ways cybercriminals gain access to personal accounts and data. Create strong, unique passwords for each of your accounts. A good password should include a mix of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and special characters. Consider using a password manager to securely store and generate passwords, so you don't have to remember them all.

4. Keep Your Operating System and Software Updated

Software updates are not just about new features—they often contain critical security patches that protect your system from vulnerabilities. Regularly check for updates to your operating system, browsers, and applications, and set them to install automatically if possible.

5. Be Cautious with Email and Online Links

Phishing attacks, where cybercriminals impersonate legitimate sources to trick you into revealing sensitive

information, are on the rise. Never click on suspicious links in emails or texts, especially if they ask you to enter personal details. When in doubt, contact the sender directly to verify the authenticity of the message.

6. Back Up Your Data

No one is immune to a cyber attack or hardware failure. Regularly back up your important files to an external drive or cloud storage service. This ensures that even if your computer is compromised, you won't lose valuable data.

7. Use Encryption for Sensitive Information

If you're working with sensitive data—such as personal documents, passwords, or financial information—consider encrypting your files. Encryption scrambles your data so that even if someone gains unauthorized access to your system, they won't be able to read it.

8. Avoid Public Wi-Fi for Sensitive Activities

Public Wi-Fi networks can be convenient but are often unsecured, making it easy for hackers to intercept your data. If you need to perform sensitive activities (like online banking or shopping), use a trusted VPN (Virtual Private Network) to encrypt your internet connection and protect your privacy.

9. Teach Family Members About Safe Internet Practices

If you share your computer with family members, especially children, make sure they understand the importance of online safety. Set up parental controls to limit access to inappropriate content, and encourage safe browsing habits, such as not downloading unfamiliar files or visiting questionable websites.

10. Stay Vigilant and Educated

Cyber threats are constantly evolving, so it's important to stay informed about the latest risks and how to avoid them. Follow reliable security blogs, participate in online safety webinars, or take a basic cybersecurity course to keep your skills up to date.

The digital world offers countless opportunities, but it also presents significant risks. By following these simple yet effective safety practices, you can protect your home computer, personal data, and peace of mind.

**Article compiled from various sources*

MEET LEAD FIREFIGHTER BUDDY NINER & HIS DOG, BEA

Story by **Taylor Mayberry** - LEAD Public Affairs

For the first time in history, the Letterkenny Army Depot's Fire and Emergency Services onboarded a firefighter and service animal team when Buddy Niner and his dog, Bea, joined LEAD on June 17.

Niner enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 2007 and deployed to Afghanistan for over nine months from 2009 to 2010. "I specifically chose the U.S. Marines because my dad was a Marine, and he was someone I always looked up to my entire life," he said.

Determined to continue serving his country, he joined the Air National Guard for a four-year term in 2015, where he served as a firefighter after departing the Marine Corps. Despite having no prior experience, he quickly grew to love the role and said it was one of the best decisions he had ever made.

After 12 years of combined military service, Niner continued his career as a DOD firefighter.

Encouraged to receive a service animal by a therapist, Niner connected with Warrior Canine Connection, a mission program that trains puppies from birth to assist veterans in coping with past experiences.

Niner decided to contact WCC after learning that a service dog had the same name as his Marine friend who had passed away in his unit. Upon meeting the puppy, he remarked,

"The puppy has big shoes to fill," in tribute to his friend. Niner began volunteering with WCC, meeting several veterans who were receiving service dogs, and eventually had the opportunity to receive his dog, Bea.

WCC names each service dog after a significant figure in military history. Bea's named in honor of U.S. Navy Lt. j.g. Beatrice Bouchard McLogan. McLogan was known for intercepting and decoding Nazi war plans, resulting in saving many members of our military.

Bea, a trained five-year-old black American Labrador retriever, fulfills a range of tasks for Niner. These include waking him from nightmares, operating lights and doors, retrieving objects, and delivering items to others. When she senses his high stress levels, she provides comfort through deep pressure therapy by lying on him. In public, Bea circles around Niner and leans against his leg, serving as a reassuring presence.

"Bea impacts my life daily as a veteran and firefighter because you just have those days where you just don't want to get up or do anything," said Niner. "By having her with me, I always have positive reinforcement since she's always wanting to play and snuggle up next to me.

"Owning a service dog is like having your own personal cheerleader to support you through hard days, which gives me a purpose to get up and try harder every day."

Bea has made a significant impact not only on Buddy but also on the entire fire station.

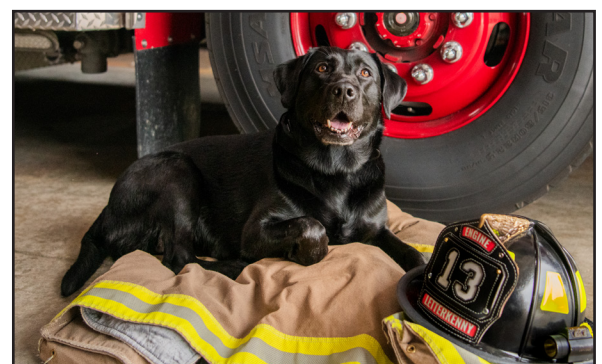
"Bea didn't just impact Buddy. She impacted all of us," exclaimed David McGlynn, LEAD fire chief. "Bea brings positivity out in everybody and knows when someone in the station is having a hard time and will walk over and try to cheer them up.

"When she's not there, you can just tell the difference in the level of positivity. Bea helps Buddy, but we all benefit from having her around because she brings out the best in us."

"Letterkenny welcomed us with open arms and was very supportive as we transitioned into the fire station," said Niner.

He encourages anyone in need of a service dog to consider getting one. "It does improve your life, and people around me have noticed a huge difference since I got Bea. Don't be afraid to get help; it's worth it in the long run."





LEAD HISTORY CORNER

The Letterkenny Orchestra



with **Andrew Newman**, Letterkenny Historian

During World War II, when employees were working around the clock, seven days a week, Letterkennians volunteered their time to boost morale.

In August 1943, employees of varied backgrounds from laborers to office workers teamed up their musical talents to form The Letterkenny Orchestra. Practicing on their own time and led by Shippensburg University music department head James Weaver, their mission as they stated was to “give a little extra speed to victory.” The band would play at lunchtime twice per week at depot dining locations with the hope that their lively tempo would inspire workers.

The Orchestra’s first big show outside the depot came on October 29, 1943 with the first annual Letterkenny Dance which was held at Red Bridge (currently the

skating rink off Philadelphia Ave.). Over 500 couples danced the night away to the big band sound the Letterkenny’s own Orchestra. The evening concluded with the band’s rendition of Bing Crosby’s “When Day is Done.”

The Orchestra’s big break came when they cut a record in 1944 with their single the “Letterkenny Song of Ordinance.”

The group produced a number of 78s with this recording and was played at all Letterkenny functions when the band could not be present.

But for most of the World War II era, the Letterkenny Orchestra was a fixture at all events whether depot only or public.



Letterkenny Orchestra Band Members

Left to right: James C. Weaver, Shippensburg, director; Elwood Frayne, Altoona; Diffenderfer, Chambersburg; Elwood Baer, Chambersburg; Ralph E. Coover, Shippensburg; Eugene Martin, Chambersburg; Bruce R. Garnes, Chambersburg; Carl Yoh, Chambersburg; Johnny Silvers, Chambersburg; (in back); Theodore c. Heefner, Chambersburg; and Preston T. Croft of Chambersburg.



Civilians and Soldiers from Every Part of Depot Make Merry

A smashing success was registered on Friday, October 29th at Red Bridge when our first all Letterkenny Dance was held. The music, the dancing, the attendance, over 500, and the general interest were of the highest caliber.

Music was furnished by Woodie Frayne and the Letterkenny Orchestra.

Throughout the evening the numbers, diverse in variety and scope, were put over in a manner greatly appreciated by the many dancers.

The floor show staged by the Orchestra was also hilariously received. The M. C., Woodie Frayne, introduced Johnny Silvers, who performed in typical Hill-Billy manner his songs, stories, and rope numbers; Johnny Newton, who enlivened the audience with his harmonizing accordion numbers; Sam Handshaw, whose tenor solos delighted everyone; and Harold Noble, who put on a marvelous exhibition of two part playing with his simultaneous performance on the saxophone and clarinet.

The Depot was present in a splendid representation. The officers were there in numbers from General Lawes and Col. McIlwain down. The Signal Corps and M. Ps. were observed on all sides. The Section Heads, the Storekeepers, the Truckdrivers were all represented and the Girls—who really made the dance—were out in force for a big evening.

The committee responsible for the success of the dance included Dorothy Callahan and Terry McGovern, General Supply; Sylvia Eulo and Irene Martin, Personnel; Abbie Goyt and Donald Sheets, Ammunition; Dolores Turner, Depot Services; Dorothy McCullough, Fiscal; Nancy Rotz and Joseph Schmitt, Depot Supply; Helen Welty and Margaret Keith, Maintenance; and Doris Juarez, Beverly Warren and William Fitzgerald, Locators. Fire Chief Manley with five of his firefighters attended as volunteer fire guards to prevent a fire or other untoward incidents.

"When Day Is Done" concluded a truly successful evening with two thoughts predominant—a swell time and when is the next dance?



KENNY LETTER

LETTERKENNY ARMY DEPOT