

# *~ Kenny Letter ~*

*Summer 2025*



*The Army's Premier Professional Organization in Air, Missile, and Precision Fires Systems*

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# COMMANDER'S CORNER WITH COL. LEWIS

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**Team,**

It's great to be the newest member of Team Letterkenny! My family and I are so excited to be back in South-Central Pennsylvania, and we look very much forward to the journey of building new and meaningful personal and professional relationships throughout our time here.

To all our mission teammates, our 18 tenant units, our many public-private partners, the city of Chambersburg, Franklin County, and the greater Cumberland Valley,

please accept my sincerest thanks for your enduring commitment to Letterkenny's people and mission. It is both an honor and privilege to be a leader within this depot as it continues to innovate and seek novel approaches to how we as an Army acquire, fabricate, deliver, and sustain materiel solutions to current and emerging strategic challenges.

I look forward to serving with and for you in support of Team Letterkenny and our surrounding communities.



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# FROM THE DESK OF THE SERGEANT MAJOR WITH SGT. MAJ. GEARHART



## A Hometown Return: My Journey to Depot Sergeant Major

On March 28th of this year, I had the honor of assuming duties as the Depot Sergeant Major for Letterkenny Army Depot—a moment that still feels surreal. To serve in this capacity right next door to the place where I was born and raised, Fayetteville, Pennsylvania, is not just a professional milestone but a deeply personal one.

My Army journey began on July 18th, 1990, shortly after graduating from Chambersburg Area Senior High School. I completed basic training and Advanced Individual Training (AIT) at Fort Dix, New Jersey, starting off as a 63B Light-Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic. Like many Soldiers, my path would evolve over time. In 1995, I reclassified to 31B, Military Police, setting the

stage for the next chapter of my long, fulfilling career.

Over my nearly 35 years of service, I've served more than 12 years on active duty, with assignments and deployments that have taken me to Camp Humphreys, Korea, as an 18-year-old PV2; Fort Riley, Kansas; Joint Task Force-Bravo in Honduras which included a short stint in Panama; Camp Arifjan, Kuwait; and the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. One of the most formative experiences of my career was serving here at Letterkenny from 2009 to 2012 as an MSG doing plans, operations, and exercises, which makes my return now even more meaningful. Most recently, I served as the operations sergeant major with U.S. Army Japan at Camp Zama from 2020 to 2025.

Along the way, I continued my education, earning an associate's degree in Forest Technology from Penn State in 1995 and later a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Post University, CT. Because I have spent most of my military time as a Reserve Soldier, I simultaneously maintained a 28-year career with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) as a Forest Ranger in the Michaux State Forest, a role I just recently retired from at the beginning of May this year. But my greatest source of strength and pride has always been my family. I've been married to my wife and best friend for nearly 21 years, and together we've raised four

incredible children, all now adults making their own way in the world.

As I stepped into this new role, I did, and will continue to do so, with a sense of humility, pride, and responsibility. It's an incredible honor to serve the dedicated workforce of Letterkenny, support our community, and continue our mission of sustaining the Warfighter. I'm still in shock at times, but more than anything, I'm profoundly grateful—for this opportunity, for this community, and for the path that led me back home.



# A FINAL FAREWELL FROM COL. DON SANTILLO

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Team,

I cannot believe two years have flown by and that this is my last Kenny Letter article.

I want to start by thanking all of you for what you do every day here at the depot to support our warfighters.

Every nut you turn, every vehicle you paint, every engine you fix, every tire you change, everyone who operates in a support role, and everything all of you do directly supports our warfighters who are defending our freedoms at home and overseas.

It has been a very successful two years, and I want to share some of our successes with you. We have:

- Averaged a 96% Performance-to-Promise in the last year alone.
- Supported six System Integration and Check out efforts; four PAC-II missile field repairs; and two Avenger fielding missions.
- Passed the Safety ISO 45001 recertification audit and because of your commitment to safety our workforce is 3.25 times safer than the rest of the sectors measured against LEAD.
- Reinvigorated the intern, co-op, and mentorship programs, bringing the co-op program back to the depot for the first time in 10 years.

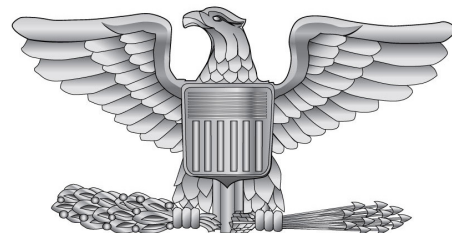
- Broke ground on the new Shipping and Receiving facility and fire station, and will break ground soon on the new access control point.
- Prospered in the Hellfire, IBCS, LTAMDS, and UAS programs.
- Hosted nearly 820 visits to the depot, including more than 40 command visits.

These bullets only capture just a FEW of the many accomplishments we achieved in the last two years; there are so many more that I could mention.

For more than 80 years, Letterkenny has been a premier depot in providing support to our Army, our sister services, our Nation, and our Allies. This premier status only happens because of the generations of artisans who have skillfully and professionally worked to provide high-quality assets to the Joint Force.

Thank you for all you have done to support me as your commander. I look forward to following you as I continue in my new role as Deputy Commandant for the U.S. Army War College right up the road in Carlisle.

I leave you with one final task, and that is that you support COL Lewis as much as you have supported me. It takes a team of teams, and I truly appreciate the entire Letterkenny Team.



# LETTERKENNY ARTISANS COMPLETE COST SAVINGS STREAMLINING INITIATIVES

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

**L**ooking to streamline processes within multiple facilities of Letterkenny Army Depot, the LEAD mission space planning team recently completed an initiative that will save the government money and reduce production times.

Spearheaded by Jason Pyles, LEAD Ground Equipment and Missile Systems deputy division chief, the depot consolidation included various air missile defense programs into one of LEAD's primary production facilities and organized that facility into more conducive product lines.

“By consolidating our operations from multiple leased buildings into one main production facility, our work areas are more organized and efficient,” said Harold Coder, LEAD Production Engineering division chief. “Additionally, this is part of an overall strategy that will eliminate all leased buildings for parts and production.”

The mission space planning team had four goals when starting the process of putting everything into one primary production facility. Those goals included:

- Consolidate production efforts from leased buildings
- Move the ground mobility vehicle shop
- Move the tire shop
- Put the PATRIOT antenna mast group, launchers, and High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems all into the high bays



High bay access allows for the larger assets to lift certain assemblies during repair or overhaul of production items.

“We saw impacts almost immediately with the more structured layout of the building,” said Pyles. “The consolidation reduced the movement of assets and parts across buildings and the depot; it made managing the shop floor more effective by consolidating programs together instead of being spread out; and it increased the lines of communication by efficiently communicating production requirements, defects and issues.”

Coder explained that with the more conducive production lines that like products are now together.

“This effort saves time and money on movement of the assets themselves, it saves time and money on allocation points for parts, and it also provides less chance for mix-ups of those parts.”

The recent changes also benefit the warfighter.

“The time savings we are seeing in the movement of the parts leads to a shorter repair cycle time, which allows us to get the asset back to the warfighter faster,” said Pyles.

Coder and Pyles spoke to the overall communication and teamwork efforts that made this streamline happen.

“Throughout the entire process, the LEAD Industrial Equipment Maintenance team played a vital role in the removal, movement and installation of various pieces of equipment and depot assets from one area to the next, ensuring there were no shutdowns to production during this time,” said Pyles. “These moves would not have been possible without the collaboration between all stakeholders every step of the way.”

“The moves have been one of the largest, effective, and quickest change initiatives at mission space planning,” said Coder. “Jason and the team made this one of the fastest and most well-communicated change initiatives in mission space planning. Everyone involved deserves a huge thanks for their leadership and teamwork.”



# Ingenuity, Teamwork, and Minimal Costs — LEAD's multi-purpose firefighting training facility

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

Imagine smoke so thick it blinds you, and then you must traverse up and down small, tight spaces, feel your way through an enclosed area, and climb through electrical wiring trying to find a way out while carrying 75-120 pounds of gear. These scenarios are some of the many that firefighters deal with when responding to calls and are scenarios the Letterkenny Army Depot firefighters train on at the LEAD multi-purpose training facility.

The purpose of this training facility is to focus on firefighters' mass confidence, Rapid Intervention Team response, and search and rescue, all driven by real-world needs. LEAD firefighters train monthly at this facility as part of their annual training plan, but it's common to see the first responders out there every week, running drills, tweaking props, or just sharpening skills as a company.

The unique thing about this training facility is the vision and ingenuity of Chief Dave McGlynn, LEAD Fire Department chief, and with very minimal costs, the facility came together using obsolete and unused equipment.

"I joke that I watched a lot of 'Sanford & Son' because sometimes it really did feel like we were rummaging through junk to make something useful," said McGlynn. "Truth is, working for the Army teaches you to be resourceful. Budgets come and go, but the mission can't wait.

McGlynn remarked that directorates from across the depot came together as a team to assist with the construction of the training facility.

"I knew we needed something that would sharpen our firefighters' skills and build serious confidence," said McGlynn. "So, with the team's creativity and dedication, we pulled from what worked at previous installations, coupled with some suggestions from our teams, and tailored the training facility to our needs.

"We're putting our folks in situations that feel tight, stressful, and unpredictable so they learn to control their breathing, call out maydays, use their sense of touch and hearing to figure things out, and ultimately get themselves out safely. It's about making these tough scenarios second nature, and we train like this so that when those moments happen, muscle memory and calm thinking take over."

Along with LEAD firefighters using the training facility, other Army installations and neighboring fire departments also conduct training exercises at the facility.

"They love this training facility," said McGlynn. "They are very impressed by how our team came together and built this multi-purpose training facility, while saving the government money and time."



A Letterkenny Army Depot firefighter, wearing a mask that makes him completely blind, works his way through a tangled web of staged wires during firefighter training at the LEAD multi-purpose training facility on May 29.

The unique thing about this training facility is the vision and ingenuity of Chief Dave McGlynn, LEAD Fire Department chief, and with very minimal costs, the facility came together using obsolete and unused equipment.

(U.S. Army photo/Pam Goodhart)

# LEAD EXPERTS SUCCESSFULLY CONDUCT VIRTUAL REPAIR

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

When the 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, deployed out of Ft. Bliss, Texas, notified Letterkenny Army Depot of a severe leak on a critical Patriot weapons systems component, LEAD artisans came together to successfully repair the leak, without ever having to leave the depot.

Subject matter experts from across LEAD's Directorate of Industrial Operations, Directorate of Strategic Management, and Directorate of Product Assurance conducted a virtual troubleshooting session with the 11th ADA BDE (also known as Top Notch), a U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command Logistics Assistance representative, and maintainers from the U.S. Air Force's 627th Air Base Group from Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington.

"Our team, led by Adam Martin, identified the issue and recommended field expedient repair procedures," said Kate Williams, LEAD DSM director. "We validated the repair process and the materials to be used and made recommendations on how to proceed."

According to Williams, if LEAD artisans had to go to the deployed location, it would take at least two artisans with multiple days of travel and then at least two days on the ground. Additionally, if the 11th ADA BDE had to send the part back, the asset would be down for an estimated 90 to 100 days.

"It only took us one hour to complete the virtual troubleshooting," said Williams. "This saved a great amount of time, travel, and costs, and at the end of the call, the asset was ready to go."

A Top Notch senior warrant officer validated the repairs made were successful.

"I want to thank everyone again for the video call and support," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Trey Conyers, 11th ADA BDE Support Operations officer in charge. "We tested the asset at the depot here at our deployed location. Our shop pressurized, refilled, and test bed the asset to confirm it was operational with no leaks. Thanks to your support, we now have one readily available asset."

Williams met Conyers on a recent trip to Kuwait and told him to get in touch with her if he or his team ever needed anything. Conyers reached out with the asset issue and for the first time at LEAD, artisans conducted a virtual troubleshooting and repair session.

"This is a great example of how LEAD uses our expertise to deliver knowledge and contribute to the readiness of Joint Force," said Williams. "Our job is to build on that readiness, and if we can do that by sending knowledge forward, we will."



Letterkenny Army Depot artisans, along with members of the 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, participate in a virtual troubleshooting session on a critical Patriot weapons systems component on May 21.

Subject matter experts from across LEAD's Directorate of Industrial Operations, Directorate of Strategic Management, and Directorate of Product Assurance conducted the session with the 11th ADA BDE (also known as Top Notch), a U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command Logistics Assistance representative, and maintainers from the U.S. Air Force's 627th Air Base Group from Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington.

(Courtesy photo)

# LEWIS TAKES COMMAND OF LETTERKENNY ARMY DEPOT

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

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Col. Caleb Lewis took command of Letterkenny Army Depot from Col. Donald Santillo during an official change of command ceremony on July 10, conducted at the LEAD recreation area.

Maj. Gen. Lori Robinson, U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command commanding general, hosted the transfer of command, which included the time-honored tradition of the passing of the colors.

As the new commander, Lewis will oversee LEAD as the premier professional organization in Air, Missile and Precision Fires systems, dedicated to emerging technologies and best business practices that transform the ability of the Army, Allies and business partners to provide military superiority.

“Like any new employee, I look to bring fresh perspectives and ideas based on experiences gained in past assignments at a NATO headquarters, commanding an Ordnance Training Battalion, and most recently, while serving at the Pentagon as the Army Materiel Command’s liaison,” said Lewis. “I’m heavily invested in team building and have had great opportunity to see this achieved from the tactical to strategic echelons throughout my time in the Army.”

Lewis is a native of Canandaigua, New York, and commissioned from Colorado State University in 2002. He has served in command and staff positions in the United States, Afghanistan, Iraq, and the Netherlands.

“I grew up in a large household four hours north of here in an area very much like Chambersburg and Franklin County,” said Lewis. “My family and I are very grateful to find ourselves back in the great state of Pennsylvania and, more importantly, to call ourselves the newest members of Team Letterkenny.”

“I look forward to working with, and learning from, this organization’s diverse group of artisans and professionals. From my family to each of yours, I thank you for what you do each day in creating and repairing the materiel necessary to equip and sustain our warfighters and in doing so, safeguarding democracy at home and abroad.”

Lewis will direct more than 1,500 personnel who repair and modernize Air and Missile Defense and precision fires systems to enable multi-domain operations for U.S. and Allied Forces.

“Our Organic Industrial Base, as an enterprise, is undergoing now the largest modernization effort since the late 1940s,” said Lewis. “There is significant real-time opportunity not just for this depot, but for our 18 tenant units, to reimagine and create efficiencies regarding how we procure, manufacture, repair, and sustain. From people, to facilities, to weapons systems, Letterkenny will continue to rapidly and responsibly modernize in support of our Army’s Transformation in Contact initiatives. It’s an exciting time to work within the OIB.”

Lewis stated he is in a “learning mode” when it comes to gaining an understanding of the scope and scale of Team Letterkenny’s (LEAD and Letterkenny Munitions Center) strategic missions and responsibilities in support of our Army, Joint Force, and our Partners and Allies.

“I fully intend to continue the focused initiatives that Col. Don Santillo has championed over the last 24 months,” said Lewis.

Santillo transitions to the U.S. Army War College at Carlisle Barracks as the new deputy commandant.





Top/2nd row left photo - Col. Caleb Lewis, incoming commander, Lettekenny Army Depot, presents his remarks during LEAD's change of command ceremony held at the installation's recreation area, July 10.

Lewis succeeded Col. Donald Santillo as LEAD's commander during the ceremony.

2nd row right photo - Col. Caleb Lewis, incoming commander, Letterkenny Army Depot, left, receives the flag from Maj. Gen. Lori Robinson, commanding general, U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command, center, during a change of command ceremony held at the installation's recreation area, assuming command of LEAD, July 10.

Lewis succeeded Col. Donald Santillo, right, as commander during the ceremony.

(U.S. Army photos/Pam Goodhart)

# LEAD EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED FOR LOCAL WILDFIRE SUPPORT

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

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**R**ecognizing 17 employees' efforts in battling a local wildfire, Col. Donald Santillo, Letterkenny Army Depot commander, and Sgt. Maj. Troy Gearhart, LEAD sergeant major, presented awards and coins during a recognition ceremony on May 7.

From April 23 through April 27, 15 LEAD firefighters and two LEAD Environmental Division personnel supported the large-scale wildfire suppression efforts in the Michaux State Park and Thompson Hollow areas in Cumberland and Franklin counties, Pennsylvania.

The 15 firefighters supported the containment of the fire from April 23 through April 26 by assisting with fire suppression, containment, and exposure protection.

"Through established mutual aid agreements with Franklin and Cumberland counties, LEAD Fire and Emergency Services deployed crews and apparatus to assist local and state partners battling the wildfire," said Chief David McGlynn, LEAD fire chief.

"Firefighters rotated through long shifts, operating units in challenging terrain, with operations continuing into the early morning hours.

"We remained fully mission-capable at the depot throughout the wildfire response. This is a testament to the professionalism, resilience, and dedication of our firefighters. The successful balance between supporting the community and maintaining installation protection highlights the commitment of LEAD F&ES to both public service and mission readiness."

The two environmental personnel supported the containment of the fire from April 25 through April 27.

According to Matt Miller, LEAD Natural Resources manager, when the crew arrived on April 25, the wildfire was at 0% containment.

"The team worked together to address dead, standing trees that were still burning to ensure the fire did not jump and potentially burn hundreds of more acres with houses and other infrastructure in danger," said Miller. "With a combination of putting water on those burning trees, putting out spot fires on the other side of the road, and a series of helicopter water drops, we were able to hold the fire from jumping."

After taking control of that area, the team received an assignment to back burn from a different road burning out the remaining fuel between the road, fire breaks and approaching fire in the hopes of putting out the fire.

Back burning is a planned and controlled fire deliberately set ahead of an active wildfire to create a barrier of burned-out vegetation.

"The back burning operation was successful and we contained the fire to the road and firebreaks, stopping the fire from spreading any further," said Miller.

On the final day of providing support, the team patrolled fire breaks and put out hot spots within 100 yards of the road using fire rakes and backpack water pumps. Additionally, the team used the Type 7 ATV pump to supply water to hand and sawyer crews putting out burning snags and downed heavy logs.

"The efforts of these 17 LEAD employees prevented further fire spread while safeguarding property, wildlife, and natural resources," said Santillo. "This quick and efficient response highlights the value of regional interagency cooperation between the depot and the communities we live in."

By the time the wildfire was 100% contained, the fire had spread across approximately 2,700 acres.

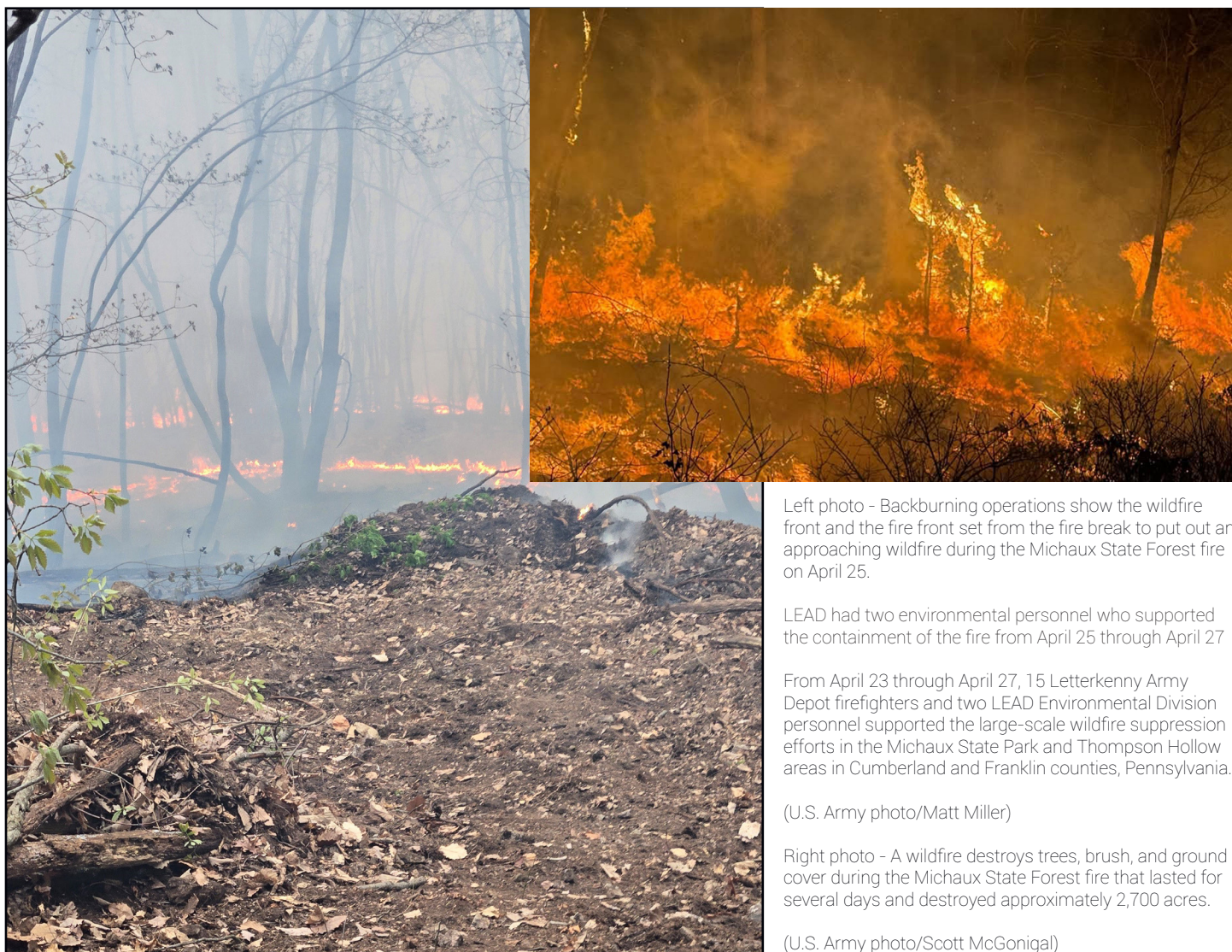




A Letterkenny Army Depot firefighter looks on as a fire consumes part of the Michaux State Park during a wildfire April 23 through April 27.

From April 23 through April 27, 15 Letterkenny Army Depot firefighters and two LEAD Environmental Division personnel supported the large-scale wildfire suppression efforts in the Michaux State Park and Thompson Hollow areas in Cumberland and Franklin counties, Pennsylvania.

(U.S. Army photo/Scott McGonigal)



Left photo - Backburning operations show the wildfire front and the fire front set from the fire break to put out an approaching wildfire during the Michaux State Forest fire on April 25.

LEAD had two environmental personnel who supported the containment of the fire from April 25 through April 27

From April 23 through April 27, 15 Letterkenny Army Depot firefighters and two LEAD Environmental Division personnel supported the large-scale wildfire suppression efforts in the Michaux State Park and Thompson Hollow areas in Cumberland and Franklin counties, Pennsylvania.

(U.S. Army photo/Matt Miller)

Right photo - A wildfire destroys trees, brush, and ground cover during the Michaux State Forest fire that lasted for several days and destroyed approximately 2,700 acres.

(U.S. Army photo/Scott McGonigal)



# LEAD EMPLOYEE'S INITIATIVE BENEFITS LOCAL CHILDREN

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

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"Children are the world's most valuable resource and its best hope for the future," said President John F. Kennedy.

One Letterkenny Army Depot employee, Jeremy Crouse, Directorate of Supply and Transportation deputy director, goes above and beyond to embody the words of the former president.

"In 2012, there were four local children, with ties to the depot, battling cancer and we dubbed them the Fab 4," said Crouse. "By 2014, there were seven children, and we called them the Spectacular 7.

"I knew we wanted to help and so we created CHAMP, which means Creating Hope And Making Progress."

CHAMP is a county-wide dance marathon that benefits kids in need in local Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania, which neighbors the depot. Senior high students enrolled in the six county secondary schools raise money and dance for a cause.

The six county schools include: Mount Union, Juniata Valley, Southern Huntingdon County, and Huntingdon high schools, Huntingdon County Career and Technology Center, and New Day Charter.

Each school has school advisors who oversee the school's team. The schools have student leaders called captains who take the lead, and CHAMP volunteers mentor the captains.

"Each year, we have between 500-600 students/dancers and 100 adult volunteers," said Crouse. "There are two trophies that can be won each year. The CHAMP Cup which is a per capita figured out by how much money the school earns divided by total number of students in ninth-12th grades, and the Spectacular 7 trophy that goes to the highest earner.

"Our goal is to unite our county and help those in need. This past year was our 11th annual event and seeing everything and everyone come together in our county is

nothing short of amazing."

Crouse stated that Penn State's THON is their inspiration.

According to the Thon.org website, "THON is a student-run philanthropy committed to enhancing the lives of children & families impacted by childhood cancer. Our mission is to provide emotional & financial support, spread awareness, & ensure funding for critical research—all in pursuit of a cure."

Crouse said this initiative is a family affair. His wife is a Mount Union Elementary School band and choir teacher and serves as one of the CHAMP advisors at Mount Union High School. His daughter, who is in the fourth grade, is his sidekick every year and he shared that this year she is going to get even more involved.

Mason Farine is a LEAD Directorate of Resource Management budget analyst who attended the CHAMP event in 2018 as a high school student.

"We stayed up all night, dancing and doing activities to raise money for local families dealing with hardships," said Farine. "I was just one of the students taking part and it was nice knowing that I was a part of something much bigger."

Farine spoke to the importance of the CHAMP initiative.

"I think CHAMP is vital because it is all about community and giving back. We are a smaller, close-knit area where most people either know each other or have heard of one another, so whenever we can help people that are close to home, it feels much more personal.

"This event shows that students can get involved in the community and it lets the families in the community know they are not alone. It shows everyone, especially students, how much we can do when the community works together.

“CHAMP was one of those high school experiences that will forever stick with me. I made some great memories with friends and classmates for an awesome cause. It is great to know that it is still helping people today.”

Since it started in 2014, CHAMP has collected over \$850,000 and helped more than 110 local families. For more information on this program, visit the CHAMP Facebook page at <https://facebook.com/champhco> or email [champhco@gmail.com](mailto:champhco@gmail.com).

# Army - Bring Your Own Device

Story by **Kathy Stratton** - Directorate of Information Mgmt.

Do you ever wish you could be connected to your Letterkenny resources from your own mobile device?

Army BYOD is here to help.

Army BYOD is a completely separate, virtual phone on your personal phone – giving you 100% privacy. BYOD with Hypori is open to all “@army.mil” users to include military, civilian and contractor personnel with no cost to the user or the depot.

If you are currently a DMUC

government mobile device user, this simplifies your life by only needing to carry one device to conduct official and personal business. If you don’t currently have a government device but find yourself needing to check emails and messages while on the go, this is the solution for you.


There is 100% privacy with no Army access to personal info on the user’s physical device.

Hypori Halo software works on iOS, Android, and Windows devices, and provides zero-trust protection on a virtual platform. Risk to Army data

is mitigated in case of a lost or stolen device since no information is ever stored on the user’s device. Hypori began as a pilot in July 2022 and has now been approved as an enterprise-wide service.

For more information or to enroll, please visit the Hypori Onboarding Homepage at <https://armyeitaas.sharepoint-mil.us/sites/hypori>.

*\*Information from [https://www.army.mil/article/273423/byod\\_brings\\_personal\\_devices\\_to\\_the\\_army\\_network](https://www.army.mil/article/273423/byod_brings_personal_devices_to_the_army_network)*



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# LETTERKENNY WELCOMES NEW DEPOT SERGEANT MAJOR

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

Letterkenny Army Depot welcomed a new senior enlisted leader during a change of responsibility March 28.

During a ceremony hosted by Col. Donald Santillo, depot commander, Sgt. Maj. Ekondua Amoke relinquished responsibility as the LEAD and installation sergeant major to Sgt. Maj. Troy Gearhart.

The change of responsibility is a traditional event that is rich with symbolism and heritage. The key to the ceremony is the passing of the noncommissioned officer sword between the outgoing and incoming sergeants major.

The custodian of the sword is the depot and installation sergeant major, who is the senior enlisted Soldier at the depot and the principal adviser to the commander.

“Today, we say farewell to SGM Amoke and recognize his accomplishments at LEAD over these last four years,” said Santillo. “And we welcome SGM Gearhart and his family to our Letterkenny

family.”

Amoke assumed his duties as depot sergeant major in March 2021, and during his time, served under three depot commanders.

Some of his accomplishments, while at the depot, include:

- Championing systems and processes that improve safety, repair cycle time, cost, quality, and overall performance.
- Supporting LEAD readiness, resulting in the depot processing over 4,000 major end items including Patriot, Avenger, HIMARS, Patriot Missile, Sentinel, Power Generation, Theater High Altitude Area Defense System, Hellfire, and Multiple Launch Rocket System.
- Leading all Soldier programs, manning, communications, and issues. His management and execution of the Personnel Force Innovation program was a force multiplier for the depot.

Amoke leaves LEAD for the U.S. Army Medical Command at Pinellas Park, Florida, as the Chief Medical noncommissioned officer.

Replacing Amoke is Gearhart from Fayetteville, Pennsylvania.

Gearhart entered the United States Army on July 18, 1990, and served across the globe supporting U.S. Army Soldiers and civilians.

In one of those roles, he served at LEAD from 2009 to 2012 with the 443rd Military Police Company and the 324th Military Police Battalion. Prior to coming to LEAD, he served as the Operations sergeant major with U.S. Army Japan at Camp Zama.

“With his 35 years of military and civilian experience and his local ties to the community, I know SGM Gearhart will keep Letterkenny Army Depot going in the right direction for years to come,” said Santillo.



Sgt. Maj. Troy Gearhart, incoming Letterkenny Army Depot sergeant major, accepts the LEAD sword from Col. Donald Santillo, LEAD commander, during a change of responsibility ceremony, March 28, conducted in the depot's headquarters building.

During the ceremony, Sgt. Maj. Ekondua Amoke, outgoing LEAD sergeant major, relinquished responsibility as the LEAD and Installation sergeant major to Gearhart.

(U.S. Army photo/Pam Goodhart)



# WE ARE RUNNING OUT OF ADDRESSES

Story by **Ricky Cover** - LEAD Directorate of Info. Management

Much like every house on your street needs a unique address, so does every device on the Internet. However, we are running out of addresses to use worldwide.

Back in 1980, when the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) released the formal version of the current addressing scheme, the Internet was in its infancy. In fact, it didn't bear the name of "the Internet" yet. Instead, it was known as the Advanced Research Projects Agency Network (ARPANET). This address scheme gave the world almost 4.3 billion unique addresses to use.

In 2017, IETF officially released a standardized version of a new addressing scheme. This new scheme greatly increased the number of unique addresses the world could use. It allows for 340 undecillion unique addresses. That is 340 followed by 36 zeros.

To put that into perspective, we could theoretically assign an address, using the new scheme, to every grain of sand on Earth, and we would still have over 339 undecillion addresses left.

Following DoD and Army directives, the Directorate of Information

Management is implementing the transition from the old address scheme to the new one. It will be a multi-year process where there will be a long period of time that Letterkenny runs both schemes. This is due to the depot having some old equipment that cannot support the new scheme. As we replace that old equipment, the new equipment will support the new scheme and eventually, Letterkenny will switch over completely.

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# LEAD EMPLOYEE'S ORGAN DONATION DECISION SAVES TWO LIVES

Story by **Taylor Mayberry** - Directorate of Supply & Transportation

In a feat that exemplifies the Army Value of personal courage, Justin Johnson, Letterkenny Army Depot's Directorate of Strategic Management commodity manager, made a decision to donate part of his liver, which saved two lives in late 2024.

After seeing a social media post about his cousin, Jamie Allen, needing a liver transplant, Johnson knew that he wanted to help. "He needs a liver, and the boys need their dad," read the repost.

Driven by his Catholic faith and dedication to his family, Johnson explained, "My patron saint is Saint Joseph, the patron saint of fathers. No matter what job I hold or what I do with my life, being a husband and father comes first. If I could help, I wasn't going to let those two boys lose their father."

After discussing the situation with his wife, she immediately supported him, asking, "When are you calling the hospital?" With her encouragement and support, Johnson took the steps necessary to become a donor. "I have always been an organ donor; it's on my license. But the idea of being a living donor had never crossed my mind. I knew nothing about it," he said.

Johnson and his wife kept his decision private as he worked on becoming healthy for the donation. His biggest fear is leaving his children unprepared, a fear that his cousin had to live with every day.

A result in blood type revealed that Johnson was not a match for his cousin. However, Johnson's medical staff found a solution through a 'Paired Exchange' at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center hospital in Pittsburgh. Johnson donated to another recipient whose donor then matched with his cousin, saving two lives.

Johnson donated 60% of his liver and lost his gall bladder, which was connected to the liver portion needed. He is now part of a database where doctors can track his recovery and gather research to discover if certain traits affect recovery. "This was the toughest thing I have ever done but the most rewarding," said Johnson. "I learned a lot about my cousin, but more importantly, I learned a lot about myself in ways I couldn't imagine. Jamie and I now consider each other brothers, having helped each other through recovery. I

make sure to send him words of encouragement and tell him how proud I am of his new outlook on life."

Before the surgery, Johnson discovered that the Department of Defense offers 30 days of paid leave for organ donations.

This time was crucial for his recovery, and he was supported by his team covering his work. "Mike Heckman has been the most supportive and understanding boss I could have ever hoped for. He has been in my corner since day one and has never pressured me to accelerate my return during my surgery leave. My team covering my work allowed me to detach myself from the job confidently," remarked Johnson.

During his recovery, Johnson started creating songs about his experience and recovery. The experience made him stronger mentally and physically. He promised to get back into running and take better care of his physical health once he fully recovers.

According to UPMC, Johnson and Jamie's livers are regenerating at a faster rate than average and are back to normal functionality. After a full recovery, Jamie is becoming a recovery advocate and plans to return to school to study the field.



Justin Johnson (left), commodity manger, Letterkenny Army Depot, and his cousin Jamie Allen (right), pose for a picture in a UPMC Pittsburgh hospital room after their surgeries.

In a feat that exemplifies the Army Value of personal courage, Justin Johnson, Letterkenny Army Depot's Directorate of Strategic Management commodity manager, made a decision to donate part of his liver, which saved two lives in late 2024. (Courtesy Photo)

# DOIM TIPS - GOVERNMENT AGENCY TEXT SCAMS

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

Text messaging's convenience and speed make people more likely to check and respond quickly compared to emails or phone calls. Cybercriminals, aware of this, exploit the widespread use of cell phones.

To engage unsuspecting victims, cybercriminals send convincing scam texts, which are highly effective. A single response can earn them hundreds or thousands of dollars with even greater profits from multiple victims.

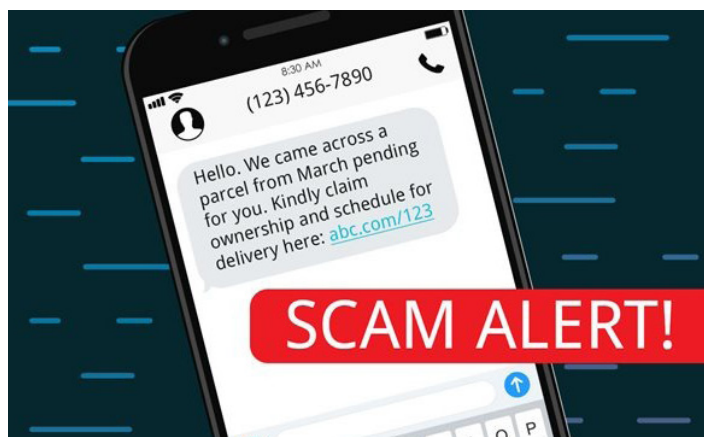
Below are some common "Government Agency" scam themes:

- **IRS Scam** – Often seen during tax season, IRS-themed messages request personal information to process a refund or recalculate tax amounts. Payment might be requested to allow the recipient of the text to avoid prosecution or having their social security number canceled.
- **Social Security Scam** – Frequently targeting older adults, Social Security scams often revolve around overpayment, suspension of benefits, or requests for additional information necessary for a payment increase.
- **U.S. Postal Service** – Using notification of an incoming package, scammers request recipients to click on a provided link which then leads to a website requesting personal or financial information.
- **Speeding and Parking Ticket Scams** – This scam involves a text indicating recipient's vehicle was exceeding the speed limit or parked illegally, and a citation was issued. It then requests payment to avoid a court appearance.
- **Jury Duty Text Scam** – Seemingly sent from a court with a claim the recipient missed jury duty and is required to pay a fine or provide personal information to avoid jail time or fines.
- **Other Government Agency Scams** – Within a month of the establishment of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), scammers began targeting government personnel with DOGE-themed scams.

## Text Scam Protection Tips

- Bear in mind that the IRS does not text taxpayers; the IRS contacts taxpayers through the U.S. Postal Service unless in special circumstances, wherein taxpayers would be contacted by phone.
- Do not click on links received in text messages, or reply to text messages, if the sender is unknown or the message looks questionable.
- If a scam text is received, block the number and delete the message; most smartphones offer a way to block phone numbers.
- Contact the government agency identified in the text through the agency's official contact methods provided on the agency website. Do not use the contact information provided in the text.
- Avoid responding to unrecognized phone numbers.
- Report the scam number to cell phone service providers.
- Do not provide personal or financial information via text.
- Report the scam to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3).

*\*Information from the Department of the Army Criminal Investigation Division*





# LEAD ARTISANS WORK TOGETHER TO COMPLETE NAVY PROJECT

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

When Naval Sea System Command approached Letterkenny Army Depot leadership about fabricating and assembling complete test stand sets, known as a sponson, for the AN/SLQ-32(V)7 Land-Based System, LEAD artisans jumped at the opportunity and successfully delivered four complete test stand sets in February 2025.

The sponson land-based test stands that LEAD fabricated are large, two-story, climate-controlled, steel structures that house integrated electronics and the associated conduit, wiring, hardware, and ancillary equipment needed to support a simulated onboard AN/SLQ-32 (V)7 environment. These test stands will be used for testing real-world Navy electronic components.

“This was a rather detailed group undertaking that included collaboration between six LEAD directorates and the Letterkenny Munitions Center,” said Ethan Kreigline, LEAD general engineer. “All the artisans that worked on this project exhibited and applied their unique skill sets to be able to meet the

unique needs of this product. They really made this program happen from start to finish and this project would not have been a success without their immense effort.”

Including the production of these sponsons, this was the first time LEAD took over developing a full Technical Data Package, which is a digital 3D model and printed package in paper and digital copies.

“This was a huge challenge for engineering because this is not something LEAD has taken on in the past,” said Adam Cundiff, LEAD design engineer. “There is a lot of work that goes into creating a TDP to make sure that all the details are correct and that the package accurately represents what LEAD produced.

“A full TDP includes a digital representation of the assembly, often called a 3D model. We built models of the sponson piece-by-piece and assembled them within our Computer-Aided Design software. Once we completed the 3D model, we began making manufacturing drawings for each part. We would group parts up

into subassembly drawings and provide recommendations for manufacturing steps.

“The result of a successful TDP is a copacetic 3D model of the Navy sponson, accompanied by a drawing package serving as a manufacturing/assembly manual for future production”.

“From start to finish, it took approximately two years to complete this project,” said Kreigline. “Thanks to the commitment and support from multiple directorates and sections, we overcame all obstacles and met the customer’s contract obligations.”

“Naval Surface Warfare Center, Crane Division has received these LEAD-built products that will greatly reduce their operating costs by saving contracting dollars,” said George Coble, LEAD Fabrication Annex Division chief. “With the results of this program, we have established a good relationship with NAVSEA. There has already been follow-on work awarded to LEAD based on the outcome of these test stand sets.”



Complete test stand sets, known as a sponson, for the AN/SLQ-32(V)7 Land-Based System, sit ready for use at Naval Support Activity Crane, Indiana on March 5, 2025.

When Naval Sea System Command approached Letterkenny Army Depot leadership about fabricating and assembling complete test stand sets, LEAD artisans jumped at the opportunity and successfully delivered four complete test stand sets in February 2025.

(Courtesy Photo)

# WHY CHOOSE THE ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCESS

Story by **Mindy Wright** – LEAD Equal Employment Opportunity

**What is ADR?** Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) is a voluntary process in which a third-party neutrally assists the participants in reaching an agreeable resolution using various techniques, providing a mechanism to sort out an employee's dilemma, which could potentially resolve the matter. ADR describes a variety of approaches to rectify conflicts which avoid the cost, delay and unpredictability of the traditional adjudicatory processes, while at the same time improving workplace communication and morale. ADR can be useful or available for all types of disputes including EEO, Union, LMER and Peer-to-Peer.

**Why is ADR beneficial?** There are several reasons why ADR is a beneficial process. It can be more cost-effective as it is less expensive than litigation due to lower legal fees, court costs, and reduced discovery processes. ADR can also significantly shorten the time it takes to resolve a dispute and create flexibility and control, which allows parties to tailor the process to their specific needs, for example, choosing the time and location.

ADR is in a private setting, unlike court proceedings. This protects the party's privacy and allows for more open and honest communication. This can also help to preserve relationships such as those between a supervisor and the employee, reducing stress and the emotional taxing that can come with court proceedings.

Parties participating in ADR often feel more satisfied with the outcome because they have a greater role in shaping the process and resolution. ADR allows the parties to explore a wider range of solutions. This provides a platform for

parties to openly communicate their needs, which helps to facilitate a better understanding of each other's interests and leads to more constructive solutions.

**What is LEAD's ADR Policy?** Policy no. 1-14, paragraph 6 states that mediation, an Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) process, is a voluntary method by which an objective and impartial person (a trained mediator) facilitates communication between the aggrieved person and management. The mediator assists the complainant and management in resolving problems or disputes through facilitated discussion. If mediation is successful, the participants will sign a negotiated settlement agreement. If the mediation is not successful or if some issues remain unresolved after mediation, the complainant will receive a Notice of Right to File a Formal Complaint of Discrimination.

In conclusion, the ADR process can be very effective with resolution if all parties come to the table with an open, cooperative mindset to contribute to a more effective ADR program. It is important that all ADR participants know the process before the first meeting. To reach a resolution more quickly, all parties and the settlement authority should be present and available throughout the ADR process. All parties should also enter ADR in the spirit of cooperating towards a mutually agreeable resolution.

*\*Information from AR 690-600, EEOC, Army ADR Program, LEAD Policy, and personal discussions and experiences.*



# *LEAD HISTORY CORNER*

## *The Letterkenny Pool*



with **Andrew Newman** – Letterkenny Historian

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“Even in 90-degree weather, you can’t stand in the pool for more than a few seconds at a time. Can’t something be done to warm up the water a bit so we can enjoy swimming there?” wrote a concerned mother to Col. Charles Green, then LEAD commander, on March 23, 1982.

For anyone who had the opportunity to swim in the spring-fed water of the Letterkenny Recreation Area pool, that water left a mark on your life as being the coldest ever. With the heat of summer bearing down on us all, let’s take a dip into the history of the swimming pool at Letterkenny.

In 1944, U.S. Army officers stationed at Letterkenny transformed the old Plough barn (the large white barn on Carbaugh Ave.) into an officers’ club later known as the LOOM, Letterkenny Officers’ Open Mess. In 1945, LEAD conducted a swimming pool behind the barn using LOOM funds. This LOOM pool was a popular destination for Letterkenny officers and their families.

In 1947, 250 grade-school students from Franklin and Fulton Counties visited the LOOM barn and pool as seen in the photo. While this pool was open to Letterkenny employees, it was not large enough to accommodate the Letterkenny workforce and their families.

In 1965, Letterkenny developed the acreage near old gate 16, the Rocky Spring, into a recreation site for the leisure of military and civilian personnel and their families. The site featured picnic tables, cooking pits, four bridges, a utility building, a softball field, a badminton court, a shuffleboard, a parking area, a lake for boating and fishing and a swimming pool. LEAD built a dam, containing the ample spring water, which they used to fill the lake and swimming pool.

After two years of construction, the LEAD officials opened the Letterkenny Recreation Area on Memorial Day, May

30, 1967. Over 3,200 people visited, but according to the Kenny Letter article, “not too many swimmers braved the somewhat chilly waters of the swimming pool...” The new 300-person capacity swimming pool was open from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday, until Labor Day in September.

The non-appropriated funded pool employed lifeguards and operated a snack shack for consumers. In the winter months, the Letterkenny Recreation Area pool was the scene of ice skating, sometimes drawing near 200 people. 18,663 in 1968 and 26,193 people in 1969 visited the recreation area.

The Letterkenny Recreation Area pool did not open for the 1984 season due to bacterial contamination discovered by the Carlisle Barracks Health Clinic. After testing, recreation area personnel could not maintain a proper pH and chlorine level because of the swimming pool’s flow-through design, which used natural spring water.

Officials determined the pool needed a filtration system to remedy the problem. However, after further inspection, officials found the pool cracked and structurally damaged. LEAD leadership decided to permanently close the Letterkenny Recreation Area pool in 1985.

Today, the DPW Lodge and picnic pavilion occupy the spot where the pool once was. While the LOOM pool stayed in operation until the end of the 1990s, it closed due to BRAC initiatives.

What memories do you have of the pools of Letterkenny?

Was the recreation area pool as cold as described in the Kenny Letter?









# KENNY LETTER

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LETTERKENNY ARMY DEPOT