



KENNY LETTER



A publication for the greater Letterkenny Army Depot community

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SPECIAL EDITION #2!

LETTERKENNY HONORS ITS MILITARY WORKFORCE!



Veterans and active duty reservists/guardsmen comprise 42% of Letterkenny's workforce population. Some proudly served during the Vietnam War, the Middle East conflicts and on relief missions throughout the world. Many completed their active duty tours; others continue their service on weekends and for several weeks throughout the year.

We salute you, one and all, for your sacrifices and those of your families. Enjoy this 2nd edition of a special tribute to you, the Soldier, the Airman, the Seaman, and the Marine.



NAME
Billy Claggett

CURRENT CIVILIAN POSITION
Electronic Mechanic, Patriot Trailer Section, Theater Missile Systems Division, Directorate of Industrial Operations, Letterkenny Army Depot

BEST PART ABOUT CURRENT JOB AT LEAD
People, pride in workmanship, operational tempo

MILITARY SERVICE
U.S. Army, 1994-2014, retired
Staff Sergeant, Patriot missile/maintenance manager

DEPLOYMENTS
2001: Operational Iraqi Freedom
2003 and 2007: Korea
2012-2013: Bahrain

REASON FOR CONTINUING TO SERVE
Support and give back to the military community

BILLY CLAGGETT



NAME
Ryan Desmond

CURRENT CIVILIAN POSITION
Electronic Mechanic, Theater Missile Systems Division, Directorate of Industrial Operations, Letterkenny Army Depot



RYAN DESMOND

BEST PART ABOUT CURRENT JOB AT LEAD
Learning new processes and fixing issues; helping fellow employees work and in a safe environment

MILITARY SERVICE
U.S. Army, 2001-2005
E-4, Armor Crewman

DEPLOYMENTS
2004: Iraq (North Babel, Tikrit, Sadr City, Abu Ghraib, Fallujah)

MOST MEMORABLE MILITARY EXPERIENCE
Seeing majority of the people I went to war with come home to their families.

REASON FOR CONTINUING TO SERVE
I served with people from all four branches of the military; they are my brothers and sisters. I will do what I can to help their mission so they can come back home alive.





NAME

Michael Berthiaume

CURRENT CIVILIAN POSITION

Quality Control Inspector, Directorate of Product Assurance, Letterkenny Army Depot

BEST PART ABOUT CURRENT JOB AT LEAD

Using my Army experiences to continue serving my country

MICHAEL BERTHIAUME



MILITARY SERVICE

U.S. Army and Reserve, 1987-2013, retired
Rank at retirement: Chief Warrant Officer II

DEPLOYMENTS

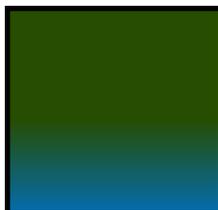
1998 and 2000: Kuwait (two 'no-notice' deployments)
1993-1994: Korea
2010-2011: Operation Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan

MOST MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE

My 'no notice' deployment in 1998, when we went from M1A2 Tank Table 12 exercises at Ft. Hood, Texas, to sitting on the Iraq border some 72 hours later. Totally unexpected. In my mind forever will be the picture of me telling my three-year-old son that I couldn't take him to Sea World that weekend and that I didn't know when I would be back.

REASON FOR CONTINUING TO SERVE

The military is my second family. They are my brothers and sisters out there, and they deserve the best support and equipment we can provide.



NAME

Gary A. Shoop



CURRENT CIVILIAN POSITION

Planner & Estimator (Electrical), Production Engineering Division, Directorate of Operations Planning and Support, Letterkenny Army Depot

BEST PART ABOUT CURRENT JOB AT LEAD

I get to win workload for the LEAD workforce

MILITARY SERVICE

U.S. Navy, 1977-1981, E-5
Job title: Aviation Electrician
Secondary duties: inport/shipboard emergency response team
Expeditionary Forces

DEPLOYMENTS

1979-1981: USS Dwight D. Eisenhower
Countries/Ports Visited: St. Thomas, Virgin Islands; Guantanamo, Cuba; Rota, Spain; Naples, Venice, Rome, & Pisa, Italy; Athens, Greece; Haifa, Israel; Lisbon, Portugal; Singapore
1980: Indian Ocean (9 months off the coast of Iran)

MOST MEMORABLE MILITARY EXPERIENCE

Indian Ocean Deployment and the Iran hostage attempt, 1980

REASON FOR CONTINUING TO SERVE

I was born on a U.S. Navy base (NAS Patuxent River) and raised in 'boot camp style' by my father, a Lt. Commander in the U.S. Navy. We moved every 3 years until I was 14. I'm more at home and comfortable in a Department of Defense military environment.



BTW: I run for The LEAD Army Ten Miler Team!

GARY SHOOP

**NAME**

Aaron Davis

CURRENT CIVILIAN POSITION

Electronics Mechanic, Ground TOW/Javelin, Directorate of Industrial Operations, Letterkenny Army Depot

**BEST PART ABOUT CURRENT JOB AT LEAD**

Working on systems that blow up things, especially bad guys

MILITARY SERVICE

U.S. Army, 2005-2009
 U.S. Army Reserve, 2009-2011
 Intelligence Analyst

DEPLOYMENTS

Afghanistan... 7 months in 2006, 7 months in 2007, and 4 months in 2008.

MOST MEMORABLE MILITARY EXPERIENCE

Serving with my dad while we were both deployed

AARON DAVIS**REASON FOR CONTINUING TO SERVE**

My father is approaching 30 years active duty Army, so I've been around the military my whole life. While serving, I made friends that I now consider brothers and sisters, and some are still serving. I would like to think I am helping some of them and other warfighters by providing reliable and effective equipment needed to neutralize the enemy.

NAME

Celio Quinones, Jr.

CURRENT CIVILIAN POSITION

Electronics Integrated Systems Mechanic, Directorate of Industrial Operations, Letterkenny Army Depot

**CELIO
QUINONES****BEST PART ABOUT CURRENT JOB AT LEAD**

Happy to be working on the same system I have been for the past 22+ years

MILITARY SERVICE

U.S. Army, Air Missile Defense Tactician/Technician
 Chief Warrant Officer III

**DEPLOYMENTS**

Saudi Arabia: Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation Enduring Freedom

MOST MEMORABLE MILITARY EXPERIENCE

Most memorable military experience was working with the Patriot missile system and being around a great group of leaders, peers and Soldiers.

REASON FOR CONTINUING TO SERVE I love working with the Patriot system and interacting with the military.

NAME
Paul Jones

CURRENT CIVILIAN POSITION
Equipment Specialist, Patriot Control Section, Theater Readiness Monitoring Directorate, Letterkenny Army Depot

BEST PART ABOUT CURRENT JOB AT LEAD
Providing the best missile defense system to the Soldiers

MILITARY SERVICE
U.S. Army, 6 years (2004-2005: homeland security at LEAD; Hurricane Katrina Relief support in New Orleans)
U.S. National Guard, 18 years
SFC, Platoon Sergeant; acting First Sergeant

DEPLOYMENTS
2007-2008: Operation Enduring Freedom, Iraq

REASON FOR CONTINUING TO SERVE
You never know how good you have it until you see firsthand how others live their lives. Lives matter. I continue to support my fellow Soldiers in the field as well as America's mission to continue to keep her free and the safest place to raise our children.



PAUL JONES

NAME
Michael W. Gossard

CURRENT CIVILIAN POSITION
Chief, Business Development Office, Letterkenny Army Depot

BEST PART ABOUT CURRENT JOB AT LEAD
Securing the future of the Depot with new workload

MILITARY SERVICE
U.S. Army Reserve, 1980-1984 (electronics)
U.S. Air National Guard, 1984-2004 (avionics), retired, Master Sergeant

DEPLOYMENTS
Asia, Middle-East, Europe, Central America and South America



MICHAEL GOSSARD



MOST MEMORABLE MILITARY EXPERIENCE
Operation Provide Promise while delivering humanitarian supplies in Sarajevo for the United Nations. This was the first time I observed the effects of war on the civilian population.

REASON FOR CONTINUING TO SERVE
As a civilian working for the Department of the Army I am assisting in providing the support to our men and women in uniform who are protecting us both at home and abroad.

NAME

Tikisha Tripp

CURRENT CIVILIAN POSITION

Management (Manpower) Analyst, Directorate of Resource Management, Letterkenny Army Depot



BEST PART ABOUT CURRENT JOB AT LEAD

Learning more and more about the Army life and the people I come in contact with on a daily basis

MILITARY SERVICE

U.S. Air Force, 1994-2014, retired Master Sergeant

DEPLOYMENTS

- 1997: Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia
- 2000: Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia
- 2001: Camp Snoopy, Qatar
- 2002: Al Udeid, Qatar
- 2003: Al Udeid, Qatar
- 2005: Manas AB Kyrgyzstan
- 2007: Al Udeid, Qatar
- 2011: Kandahar, Afghanistan

REASON FOR CONTINUING TO SERVE

It's a way of reciprocating the opportunities and freedoms that my country has allowed me and my family.



TIKISHA TRIPP

MOST MEMORABLE MILITARY EXPERIENCE

There I was ... "Afghanistan deployment an experience in job satisfaction" by Master Sgt. Tikisha Tripp
6th Force Support Squadron

3/3/2011 - **MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla.** -- There I was landing in Kandahar, Afghanistan on Nov. 20, 2010, bracing myself for the arrival onto the airfield. I was a little nervous but excited to start a new experience. Kandahar was surprisingly quiet in the late hours of the night. As I walked off the airplane, I started to get excited and my heart began to beat a little harder. The view from the flight line made me eager to see what Afghanistan was like other than pictures shown on the news. After 16 years in the Air Force, I had deployed around the world, this time to learn a new job at a very different location.

The initial tour around the base was nothing like I had expected. There were a few places that reminded me of the United States, to include a coffee shop and some popular restaurants. There was still the dry, dusty wind and terrain to let you know it's not quiet home. Although I was still a little jet lagged from getting straight off the airplane, there was not much time left with my replacement so I began to receive training.

It seemed like so much information was given to me in only a few hours of time. I was also overwhelmed about what was expected of me with no official training prior to my arrival to KAF, but I am determined to do a good job. The next day, reality hit me: I was issued a weapon with ammunition and was told to keep it with me everywhere I go. I realized at that moment how really dangerous it is at this location, especially when I heard the occasional loud noise, then sirens.

Over the next few days, I continued to learn the base, base rules and processes to becoming more efficient at my job, and preparing for my first distinguished visitor: from the Secretary of the Air Force the following week. However, with Thanksgiving approaching it was hard not to think about my family, family traditions, and friends at home celebrating without my being there. Instead, I stayed focused and reminded that here at KAF I have somewhat of a family away from home. It got me through the Holidays but it's just a little different and I appreciated family at home even more.

After the next few weeks, which seemed like they lasted an eternity, my new job as the Protocol non-commissioned officer in charge was more than I expected. It required thorough planning and coordinating of details that I didn't expect. For example, considering the path the DVs would take entering and exiting different locations; cleaning and preparing their rooms; favorite snacks. It was as though I would have to predict the future of every detail at every location traveled.

Despite the long hours, I realized there great people in the Air Force to include leadership at the Air Force level, U.S. Air Forces Central, and even here at the 451st Wing, so it made the job satisfying. Along with job satisfaction, I received fulfillment from volunteering for the local Afghanistan children. I assisted with loading and delivering jackets to the Afghanistan hangar for 256 children during the Afghan Air Wing's open house.

My favorite event I volunteered for was the Kandahar Bazaar School. The interaction with the school kids was amazing. Airmen taught the children American crafts and talked to them about what they liked about school. It really eased the feelings of being away from my daughter. Nevertheless, I know the purpose of our being here and I'm glad I was selected to come to Kandahar. The main reason the military is always present at any location, to shield and protect the interests of those who are innocent and worthy.

As military members, we are selected to travel to places we never knew existed prior to enlisting. Kandahar was one of those places I didn't know before my own enlistment. However, after 60 days here, I have learned a lot about Air Force leadership, people and my new job as protocol NCOIC. This experience has helped me appreciate the conveniences of the United States and has helped me focus on the fact that overall I'm here supporting the people of Afghanistan.



NAME

William 'Burgie' Bragunier

CURRENT CIVILIAN POSITION

Equipment Operator, Construction Division, Directorate of Public Works, Letterkenny Army Depot

MILITARY SERVICE

U.S. Army, 1974-1978
Stationed in Ft. Hood, Texas, bridge specialist

U.S. Army National Guard, 1979 – 1996
Assigned to the guard unit in Waynesboro, Pa., as an armor specialist and a master weapons instructor



**BURGIE
BRAGUNIER**

MEMORABLE MILITARY EXPERIENCE

During the blizzards of 1993 and 1994, I transported doctors back and forth from Waynesboro to Greencastle. I couldn't see the road because of all the blowing snow.

REASON FOR CONTINUING TO SERVE

I do what I can to support the Soldier and the civilian employees here at the depot. I'm part of the team that keeps the depot roads open in the winter to allow the mission to continue despite Mother Nature.



NAME

Larry Strobel

CURRENT CIVILIAN POSITION

Director, Operations Planning and Support, Letterkenny Army Depot

BEST PART ABOUT CURRENT JOB AT LEAD

Knowing that I can continue supporting the Soldier in the field

MILITARY SERVICE

Pennsylvania Army National Guard, 1982-1983
U.S. Army, 1983-2013, retired, colonel
Maintenance management



2LT Strobel



LARRY STROBEL

DEPLOYMENTS

- 1990-1991: Saudi Arabia
- 2000: Kosovo
- 2003: Turkey
- 2004: Iraq

MEMORABLE MILITARY EXPERIENCE

The comradery in my overseas units that provided a second family away from the stateside family. The ties we developed over the 15 years in Europe have endured to this day.

REASON FOR CONTINUING TO SERVE

I have a dedication to supporting the Soldier in the field. My goal was always to ensure the Soldier had what they needed when they needed it. Working at LEAD allows me to continue supporting the Soldier in the field.

COL and Mrs. Strobel at his retirement



NAME

Marisa Maroukian

CURRENT CIVILIAN

POSITION

Supply management specialist,
Directorate of Operations, Planning
and Support, Letterkenny Army Depot

MILITARY SERVICE

U.S. Marine Corps, 1994-2004
Sergeant, Supply

MOST MEMORABLE

MILITARY EXPERIENCE

Being named 4th Marine Air Wing Marine of the Year and NCO of the Year from Marine Aircraft Group 49 in 1998. As a result, I met former President Bill Clinton, former Vice President Al Gore, and their spouses as they flew into the Naval Air Station, at Willow Grove, Pennsylvania.



MARISA MAROUKIAN

REASON FOR CONTINUING TO SERVE

No greater feeling than to support the Warfighter, regardless of branch of service.



NAME

Todd E. Black

CURRENT CIVILIAN POSITION

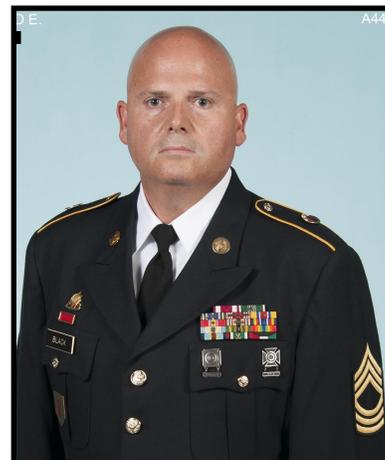
Director, Product Assurance, Letterkenny Army Depot

BEST PART ABOUT CURRENT JOB AT LEAD

Having the opportunity to provide our Nation's warfighter with the best quality equipment possible.

MILITARY SERVICE

U.S. Army, 1985-1992
Pennsylvania Army National Guard, 1993-1995
U.S. Army Reserve, 1996-2014, retired, 1SG
Transportation NCO



TODD BLACK

DEPLOYMENTS

1991: Operation Desert Storm/Shield
2003-2005: Operation Iraqi Freedom

REASON FOR CONTINUING TO SERVE

Carrying on my family's long history of ensuring the security and protection of the greatest country in the world.



**BRIAN
MCELROY**

NAME

Brian T. McElroy

CURRENT CIVILIAN POSITION

CPT, Judge Advocate, Command Group, Letterkenny Army Depot

BEST PART ABOUT CURRENT JOB AT LEAD

I always loved everything military, and military history is a hobby of mine. As the years progressed after 9/11, it kept weighing on me that others were going off and serving, some were not coming back whole, while others were not coming back at all. I justified my not serving by saying that I was old, that I have a new family, or that the military doesn't need another lawyer for this type of fight. I just got to the point where I couldn't accept those excuses from myself anymore, so I joined.

MILITARY SERVICE

U.S. Army, Ohio Army National Guard
2013-2014: JFHQ Ohio
2014-2015: Trial Defense Attorney



REASON FOR CONTINUING TO SERVE

I'm only 2.5 years into an eight-year commitment. Kidding aside, I wasn't sure if joining the military (even in a part time capacity) was the right decision. Many people in my life told me it was the wrong decision. So I joined. However, soon after joining, I knew that not only was it the right decision, but it was one that I should have made it years earlier.



JOHN NORMAN

NAME

John Norman

CURRENT CIVILIAN POSITION

Motor Vehicle Operator (Materials Handler) Leader, MEI Receiving/Shipping, Directorate, Supply and Transportation, Letterkenny Army Depot

BEST PART ABOUT CURRENT JOB AT LEAD

The challenge. Every day presents new challenges, and I enjoy having the flexibility to come up with ideas and suggestions to "keep the ball rolling" in support of the Warfighter. As a leader, I have the best of both worlds - admin/office work AND hands on, operating equipment.

MILITARY SERVICE

U.S. Army, 1990-2011, retired

Purple Heart Recipient, 2012

DEPLOYMENTS

Germany, Norway and Bosnia

REASON FOR CONTINUING TO SERVE

I still can work with military equipment and occasionally interact directly with the Soldiers.



NAME

Erica N. Chambliss

CURRENT CIVILIAN POSITION

Lead Management Analyst (Manpower), Directorate of Resource Management, Letterkenny Army Depot

MILITARY SERVICE

U.S. Army: 1997-2001; 2003-2008
Overseas Service: Korea, 2000-2001

DEPLOYMENTS

2005-2006: Operation Iraqi Freedom

REASON FOR CONTINUING TO SERVE

Being an Army civilian has taught me that service does not end when the uniform comes off. My work as a civilian always relates back to my experiences as a Soldier, and I value having a career that allows me the opportunity to give back.



ERICA CHAMBLISS

THANK YOU!

