

LETTERKENNY ARMY DEPOT PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE



U.S. ARMY



On December 18, 1941, the Secretary of War issued an order to purchase the land for an ordnance depot. It was given the name Letterkenny Ordnance Depot after the township where the land resided.

Construction at the site began in early 1942, and the first shipment of ammunition arrived on September 23, 1942. Decades of war, peace and Base Realignment and Closures reshaped Letterkenny Army Depot, or LEAD. A new facility for Phased Array Tracking Radar Intercept of Target, or PATRIOT, and Homing All the Way Killer, or HAWK, missile recertification activities opened in 2010 after depot-level missile maintenance activities were relocated to LEAD. The depot has proudly served the nation for over eight decades.

PRESENT

LEAD is the Army's Center of Industrial and Technical Excellence, or CITE, for Air Defense and Tactical Missile and Long Range Precision Fire systems. Initially created to store and ship ammunition and ordnance supplies, LEAD is known today as the "missile depot." However, missile capabilities are just the beginning of the depot's full spectrum of competencies. LEAD's mission is to develop and deliver materiel readiness for the Air Defense forces of the United States and its international partners and build combat power for combined and joint route clearance operations worldwide. A subordinate of the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command, LEAD is a capabilities-based versus a commodity-based depot. Its geographical location in south-central Pennsylvania provides easy access to both air and rail transportation as well as major interstate routes.

LEAD has been building public-private partnerships, or P3s, with the private industry since 2003. Title 10 United States Code allows for P3s that lower the cost of products and services, sustain critical skills and capabilities, and improve operational efficiencies. The successful accomplishments and positive collaboration of the P3s continue to expand new workload opportunities, provide mutual partner success, reduce costs and improve soldier readiness.

LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE

Letterkenny Army Depot's core expertise is in Air and Missile Defense systems, and has aligned its modernization plan with the Army's 15-year Organic Industrial Base Modernization Implementation Plan. LEAD is modernizing its facilities, processes and workforce to bring the OIB into the 21st century. The depot's comprehensive modernization plan infuses industry best practices and refines human resource management structure to maximize the skills and capabilities of its workforce. LEAD is uniquely poised from its proud history as the "capabilities-based depot" to support the Echelons Above Brigade enablers and the Aim Point Force initiative. Our workforce's expertise supports many disciplines, including electrical, electronics, automotive, power generation, fabricators and engineering that will be required to support the breadth of variety in multi-domain operations.

LEAD is preparing to sustain new technologies under development and continuing to execute the enduring workload by laying the groundwork for transforming people, processes, equipment and facilities. LEAD continues to provide quality products to the customer, demonstrating an exceptional performance-to-promise rating and maintaining the Aerospace Standards 9100 and 9110, or AS9100 and AS9110, Quality Management Systems Certifications.

LEAD continuously executes complex production plans that meet high- and low-density requirements. LEAD reduced a PATRIOT battalion's reset time from over 200 days to under 150 days. LEAD overcomes obsolescence through additive manufacturing methods such as cold spray and 3D printing. The depot is gaining efficiencies by implementing metrology tools such as blue light scanning and laser alignments. LEAD is improving tracking and communications through wireless implementation and radio frequency identification, or RFID. LEAD is expanding its testing capability to flexible, next-generation test platforms and digital component tests. Additionally, the depot is expanding its competencies with an

anechoic chamber and is partnering with Army Research Laboratories to develop the ability to position lasers, optics and mirrors using power combiner and beam steering technology.

LEAD is committed to being the best steward of our resources. LEAD's Area Development Plan details the construction of 1.7 million square feet of production space, including upgraded utilities and modern energy efficiencies. The depot's modernization plan will increase throughput by building new facilities on a co-located production campus. LEAD's future production will be done in a secure, accommodating space with high ceilings and limited internal columns. The space is adaptable for any mission and integrates particle and humidity-controlled areas. This new space will include "Factory 4.0" networked and cyber-secured equipment and will be easier to monitor and more efficient, increasing reliability.

To support next-generation capabilities, we must modernize the sustainment warfighting function, including infrastructure, training, processes and skillsets.

