



1960s

Letterkenny continued to grow in the 1960s. Numerous mission changes occurred as other government installations closed or went on standby status. Letterkenny solidified its place in the Army as it became a part of the new U.S. Army Supply and Maintenance Command and changed its name from Letterkenny Ordnance Depot to Letterkenny Army Depot on August 1, 1962.

Its mission expanded with the Vietnam Conflict. The Depot was affected in a similar way as the Korean Conflict in that materiel beyond normal requirements was funneled through the supply system to the troops. Letterkenny again stood ready to support American forces and employment rose to 5,400.

The Depot Maintenance Division had developed into one of the largest activities employing 1,400. That division reconditioned AA artillery, combat vehicles and guided missiles. The 1960s brought automation to the depot and the depot led the way in data processing.

The 60s were an enormous construction period as buildings were needed to change with the times. The Zero Defects program began in 1965. A Zero Defect Day, a depot-wide rally - the first in depot history, was held on June 10th in Building 2. All 5,000 employees were present. Each employee signed a pledge card and proudly wore their ZD pin as the U.S. Army Band played.



DEPOT HOSTESSES

These are the new 1961 team of hostesses. They are the official greeters of the depot and will accompany any visitors.



Letterkenny maintenance facilities' workload grows refurbishing tanks and wheeled vehicles in support of the Vietnam conflict.



The depot has a new heliport as of June 1961, which is located to the rear of the Fire and Guard Building.



A Nike missile, on display at Armed Forces Day, represents the immense workload with the guided missile NIKE maintenance mission.



Ammunition and General Supply Divisions receive, store, dispose and ship guided missiles, ammunition and materiel.



In September 1965, the facility's workmen begin removing trees and brush near Gate 16 to create a recreation area for all employees and their families. The construction consists of a pavilion, restrooms, playground and a spring fed pool.



The 20th Anniversary is celebrated on September 23, 1962, in honor of the day that the first shipment of ammunition arrived at the depot. A time capsule is buried that includes photos, a 20th anniversary Kenny Letter, a list of employees and a 1942 wage schedule.



Letterkenny workers are often shown appreciation for their hard work with a group picture after the run of combat vehicles or the rollout of missiles.