



1980s

In the 1980s Letterkenny began evolving through the expansion of new facilities and modernization projects. Letterkenny's mission became three-fold; supply, maintenance and ammunition. In 1981, the Future Missions and Concepts Office or FMCO was established to concentrate on the acquisition of new missions for the depot. Paladin, PATRIOT and HAWK work made Letterkenny a Center for Technical Excellence in 1983.

Letterkenny was the single largest repair and maintenance facility for the HAWK system. Letterkenny received two new missions; the Sparrow, a radar guided air-to-air missile and the Improved Sidewinder, an infrared guided air-to-air missile. With the Department of Defense's reorganization, Letterkenny's supply mission fell under the Defense Logistics Agency. Employees began taking a closer look at how they did their jobs and Total Quality Management arrived promising to change the way the depot did business.

Colonel Charles S. Green, Commander of Letterkenny speaks about the future and modernization in 1982:

"Work at Letterkenny is the most fulfilling I've ever had. Letterkenny does its job only because of its workforce. People are willing to work hard and take pride in what they do. The depot is currently modernizing its plants with state-of-the-art electronic equipment. Letterkenny must grow with the technology. The depot has a very healthy future doing the same kind of work with improved technology and will also do new work on PATRIOT air defense systems. The depot is looking at the same types of problems as industry - becoming more productive and efficient."



The ammunition area stores many missiles such as the ATACMS missile.



The HAWK missile system workload contributes significantly to establishing LEAD's prominent and renown reputation in air defense.

"People are willing to work hard and take pride in what they do."
- COL Charles Green



An ariel view of the completed buildings 350, 370 and 320 ready for the new Paladin mission as well as other tracked, wheeled vehicle projects and the new missile workload.



In 1982 a 4-bay building located at the Combat Vehicle Test Track is completed, which gives Quality Assurance personnel capability to perform their inspections in a protected environment.



Letterkenny becomes a Center for Technical Excellence with the addition of the PATRIOT missile system, the Sparrow radar guided air-to-air missile and the improved Sidewinder, an infrared guided air-to-air missile.



M109, M107 Howitzers and the M110 are part of the depot tracked vehicle workload.