~ Kenny Letter ~

Summer 2026

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If you would like to submit an article or have an idea for the next edition of the Kenny Letter, contact the LEAD Public Affairs Office at 717-267-5482 or by email at usarmy.letterkenny.usamc.list.public-affairs-office@army.mil

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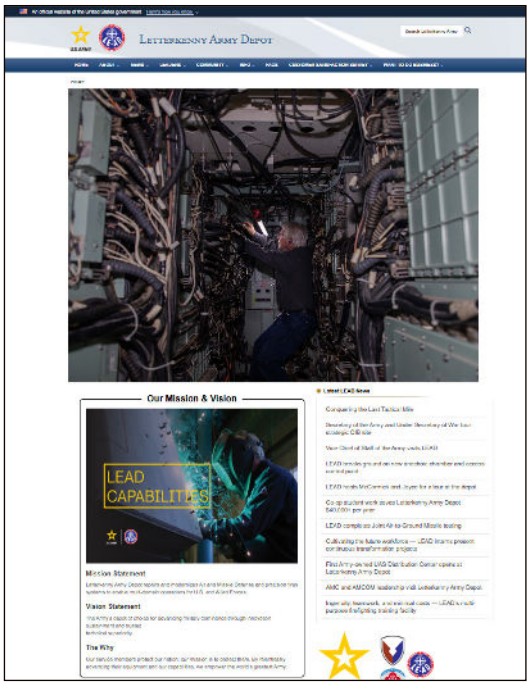

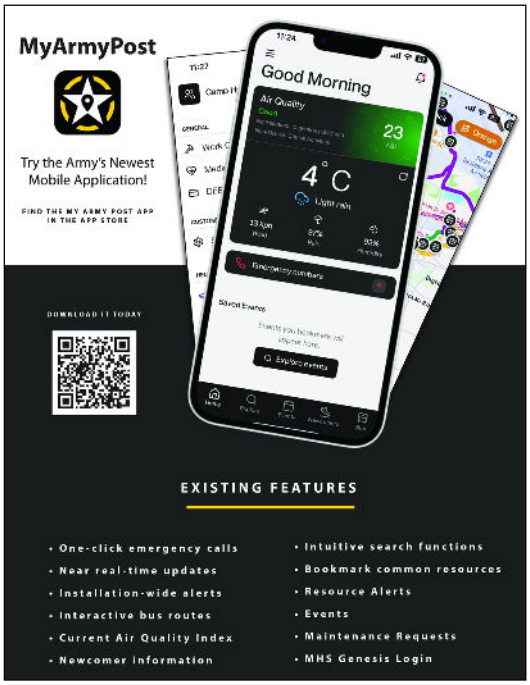

COMMANDER'S CORNER WITH COL. LEWIS

Team,

As we celebrate our Nation's 250th birthday, we take a moment to reflect on the legacy of Letterkenny Army Depot. For 84 of these 250 years, LEAD has stood as an unwavering strategic enabler, playing a vital role in preserving our republic throughout both peacetime and war.

Our history is permanently etched in the success of our military forces. From supplying critical munitions to the European theater during World War II, to ensuring materiel readiness throughout the Korean, Vietnam, and Middle Eastern conflicts, this depot has consistently delivered reliable, timely support to Warfighters across the globe.

Today is no different. We have recently proven our enduring agility and capability by surging the production of strategic assets in support of Operation Epic Freedom. You have shown time and again that when the Nation calls, LEAD answers.

This mission is not achieved by the facilities around us, but by the people within them. Each Artisan and employee here at LEAD continues to responsibly fulfill our solemn promise to this Nation. Your unmatched skill and dedication ensure that our Warfighters are always prepared.

As we look toward the horizon, here's to another 250 years of strength and prosperity secured, in part, by a strong defense and the ability to project military strength at a moment's notice. You all help to achieve this. Together we continue within this Great Experiment that is our republic, the United States.

Thanks for all you do!

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FROM THE DESK OF THE DEPUTY TO THE COMMANDER WITH MR. TODD BLACK

Changes to DPMAP and What it Means for You

For this edition of the Kenny Letter, I'd like to take an opportunity to discuss changes to the Defense Performance Management and Appraisal Program rating schedule and provide some recommended actions.

For your situational awareness, the Department of War is undergoing a critical transition in civilian DPMAP shifts from its traditional April 1 to March 31 timeline to a fiscal year appraisal cycle. This strategic alignment, directed to conform with Office of Personnel Management guidelines for standardizing federal performance management, aims to improve accountability, eliminate rating inflation, and better connect performance to organizational outcomes. It ensures that civilian contributions are evaluated in direct parallel with the fiscal planning and execution cycles of the DoW.

To seamlessly bridge the gap, the DoW is executing a phased transition timeline.

Following the conclusion of the standard 2025/2026 rating cycle on March 31, 2026, our workforce navigated to a shortened six-month appraisal cycle running from April 1, 2026, through September 30, 2026. This transitional cycle will carry a rating effective date of December 1, 2026, and any corresponding rating-based monetary awards will utilize FY 2027 funding, subject to availability.

Immediately following, the permanent annual FY appraisal cycle will launch on October 1, 2026, running through September 30 of each subsequent year, establishing a unified cadence across DoW components.

While standard DPMAP has historically required only one formally documented progress review per year, the DoW is transitioning to a quarterly review model to align with new federal performance management guidelines. If you would like to learn more, the primary policy guidance for DPMAP can be found in two main DoW/ Department of Defense (DoD) instructions "DoD Instruction (DoDI) 1400.25 series:", as well as on the official advisory service website.

Here are some recommended actions:

- Supervisors and employees must collaboratively adjust to this accelerated schedule, ensuring that performance plans for the transition cycle are finalized.
- The mandatory 90-day minimum period of performance is met before September 30, 2026.
- Maintain proactive communication remains central to executing the DoW's national security mission.

In closing I would like to thank each of you for your dedicated service to the United States Joint Forces and our Allied Partners.

This information includes elements of AI-generated content, which were reviewed and edited by relevant DoW personnel to verify appropriateness and compliance with DoW policies and guidance.

SECRETARY of the ARMY, UNDER SECRETARY OF WAR visit LEAD

By Todd Wivell - LEAD Public Affairs

Top defense officials, including Secretary of the Army Dan Driscoll and Under Secretary of War for Acquisition and Sustainment Michael Duffey, toured Letterkenny Army Depot on July 14 to inspect the depot's critical role in providing precision sustainment to combat formations.

"It was a true privilege to host our senior defense leadership and showcase the unparalleled dedication of the Letterkenny workforce," said Col. Caleb Lewis, LEAD commander. "This visit highlights the strategic importance of our depot in delivering advanced air defense and precision fires capabilities to ensure our warfighters remain lethal on the modern battlefield."

Driscoll and Duffey, escorted by Lt. Gen. Chris Mohan, U.S. Army Materiel Command commanding general and Donald Nitti, U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command deputy to the commanding general, toured one of the primary maintenance facilities at the depot and received capabilities updates on the following:

- Repair and overhaul of PATRIOT and other air missile defense systems
- Regional sustainment framework opportunities
- Corrosion repair and expeditionary competencies
- Manufacturing and fabrication of critical/obsolete subcomponents
- High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, Avenger and Terminal High Altitude Area Defense systems

Dale McClanahan, LEAD Product Assurance director, led the tour through the facility and briefed on the cohesion between industry, the Army and the organic industrial base.

"What our artisans demonstrate here is the perfect teamwork required to sustain a modern military. They take the best capabilities that private industry offers, align them with the Army's strict operational requirements, and leverage our depot's unique industrial capacity to scale those solutions," explained McClanahan. "They are living proof that our nation's defense relies on a unified, co-dependent network of industry and military infrastructure."

Seeing firsthand LEAD's capabilities in the primary maintenance facility, Driscoll commented on how impressed he was.

"What I saw at Letterkenny today is the standard: a logically structured, incredibly efficient operation," said Driscoll.

After touring of the production facility, Driscoll and Duffey visited LEAD's Directorate of Missile and Aerospace Readiness and received updates on the PATRIOT and Hellfire weapons systems, including PATRIOT Advanced Capability-2, direct commercial sales new builds, and stockpile reliability testing efforts and throughput.

At the same facility, Lt Col. Jim Beecher, Letterkenny Munitions Center commander, provided senior leadership with a comprehensive operational briefing. His brief highlighted the center's core capabilities in the regional and contingency distribution of ammunition, precision-guided missile maintenance, and munitions demilitarization.

"Hosting the Secretary and Under Secretary at Letterkenny underlines the critical role our OIB plays in national security," said Mohan. "As we accelerate our sweeping OIB transformation strategy, LEAD is at the absolute forefront — transitioning from a traditional maintenance footprint into a highly integrated, data-driven engine of modern warfare."

The tour concluded when Driscoll and Duffey recognized 10 LEAD and LEMC employees for their exceptional work and contributions to supporting missions at home and abroad.

Top row - Secretary of the Army Dan Driscoll (middle), looks on as Chris Frank, Letterkenny Army Depot Directorate of Missile and Aerospace Readiness director, talks about the PATRIOT missile during a tour of the depot on July 14. For the first time since 2005, top defense officials, including Driscoll and Under Secretary of War for Acquisition and Sustainment Michael Duffey, toured Letterkenny Army Depot on July 14 to inspect the depot's critical role in providing precision sustainment to combat formations. (U.S. Army photo by Joshua Shinn)

2nd row left photo - Secretary of the Army Dan Driscoll, accompanied by Lt. Gen. Chris Mohan, commanding general of U.S. Army Materiel Command, tours production and sustainment facilities at Letterkenny Army Depot, Pennsylvania, July 14, 2026. The visit provided Driscoll an opportunity to observe the depot's work supporting the Patriot Air Defense System and discuss how modernized Army Organic Industrial Base facilities are strengthening readiness and setting the standard for the future of Army sustainment. (U.S. Army photo by Joshua Shinn)

2nd row right photo -Secretary of the Army Dan Driscoll, accompanied by Lt. Gen. Chris Mohan, commanding general of U.S. Army Materiel Command, tours production and sustainment facilities at Letterkenny Army Depot, Pennsylvania, July 14, 2026. The visit provided Driscoll an opportunity to observe the depot's work supporting the Patriot Air Defense System and discuss how modernized Army Organic Industrial Base facilities are strengthening readiness and setting the standard for the future of Army sustainment. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Amanda McLean)

Generative AI Enabled Threats Learn How to Protect Yourself and Loved Ones

Published by - DA Criminal Investigation Division

The recent rollout of the GenAI.mil platform to all DoW employees underscores how generative AI has become a standard feature in today's digital landscape. This swift integration means similar capabilities are available on the open market, where criminals are already leveraging them to enhance their tactics.

Adversaries are using AI to amplify traditional criminal methods, making them more scalable, personalized, and deceptively realistic. Stay informed about these emerging threats and learn how to protect yourself and your loved ones.

AI-ENABLED IMPERSONATION AND FINANCIAL FRAUD

Currently, this is the most prevalent and damaging category of AI-enabled crime.

- **Voice-Cloning Scams:** Criminals can create convincing audio clones of a person's voice using just a few seconds of publicly available audio. They often use these clones in "virtual kidnapping" scams, where a target receives a frantic call from what sounds like a loved one in urgent need of money.
- **Deepfake Video Fraud:** In a notorious incident, criminals used deepfake technology to impersonate a company's CFO during a video call, tricking a finance employee into transferring over $25 million.

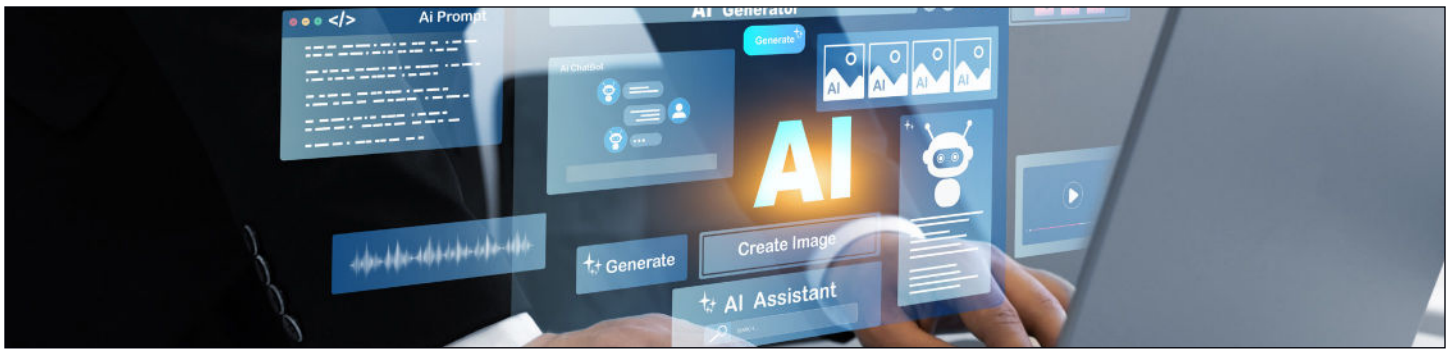
AI-ENHANCED PHISHING AND INFORMATION THEFT

Generative AI enables criminals to mass-produce highly personalized phishing attacks that are increasingly difficult to detect.

- **Exploiting AI Summaries:** In one case, criminals embedded hidden text with a malicious phone number into a harmless email. AI tools, like Google Gemini, read this text and present the malicious contact as legitimate, directing unsuspecting users to scammers.
- **Sophisticated Phishing Emails:** AI tools allow foreign adversaries to craft grammatically correct and contextually relevant phishing emails, eliminating the spelling and grammar errors that once signaled a scam.

BEST PRACTICES

- Critically evaluate information, especially from digital channels, and cross-reference with trusted sources.
- Report phishing emails and content to the appropriate authorities.
- Verify unusual requests for information through official channels before responding.
- Establish a "safe word" or duress code with family to confirm identities during suspected emergency calls.
- Use strong passwords and enable multi-factor authentication.
- Avoid sharing sensitive information online.



LYME DISEASE IN CENTRAL PA HOW TO PREVENT IT

By - LEAD SAFETY OFFICE

What is Lyme disease?

Lyme disease is a bacterial infection transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected blacklegged tick, commonly known as deer ticks. It is the most common tick-borne illness in the United States, particularly in the Northeast, mid-Atlantic, and upper Midwest. Pennsylvania consistently leads the nation in Lyme disease cases, and as of May 2026, Central Pennsylvania remains a significant hotspot with nearly 16,624 lab-confirmed cases reported statewide in 2025 and 2026 data suggesting a rising trend with the risk of infection in local counties now higher than ever. The Pennsylvania Department of Health notes that reported figures represent only a fraction of the reality; actual infections could be ten times higher due to underreporting.

What are my options if I am bitten by a tick?

First, remove the tick and if possible have the tick tested for the Borrelia burgdorferi bacteria. In the state of Pennsylvania, having the tick tested is a free basic process. This can be done by going to the tick lab of Pennsylvania website at https://www.ticklab.org/ . You can great information on different ticks, how to identify them as well as the process for having the tick you were bitten by tested.

What is my prognosis if I contract Lyme disease?

People treated with antibiotics such as Doxycycline, Amoxicillin, or Cefuroxime in the early stages of Lyme disease can typically make a full recovery. If Lyme disease progresses to a more advanced stage and involves the nervous system, intravenous antibiotics may be needed. Without treatment there can be complications that involve the joints, heart, and nervous system, but these symptoms can still go away with treatment.

How do I prevent Lyme disease?

There isn't a vaccine to protect against Lyme disease. The following precautions can help reduce your chances of getting a tick bite:

- Avoid woody, brushy, and grassy areas, especially in May, June, and July.
- Wear light-colored clothes so that you can spot a tick if it gets on you.
- Wear long pants and long-sleeved shirts and shoes that cover your whole foot (no sandals).
- Tuck your pant legs into socks or shoes and tuck your shirts into your pants.
- Wear a hat to protect your head.
- Spray insect repellent containing DEET on clothes and areas of uncovered skin.
- If you're on a trail, walk in the center to avoid brush and grass.
- Take off your clothes right away when you come in from the outdoors, and wash and dry them at high temperatures.
- Carefully check your body and head for ticks after outdoor activities.

CONQUERING THE LAST TACTICAL MILE HIGH-STAKES BATTLESPACE IN THE OIB

By Kate Williams - LEAD Director of Strategic Management

Imagine a car breaking down and having to be transported 7,000 miles for repairs. Now imagine that vehicle is a critical asset needed to keep families and neighbors alive.

For modern warfighters, this logistics bottleneck is not a hypothetical scenario. It is a harsh operational reality known as "the last tactical mile" - the high-stakes battlespace where a military capability is delivered and where its reliability and endurance matter most.

During Operation Iraqi Freedom, a tremendous amount of cargo space on military aircraft was dedicated to moving repair parts forward or retrograding damaged equipment. In a contested near-peer conflict, however, uncontested airlift is not guaranteed. To survive and win on the modern battlefield, units must possess the technical data, tools, and authority to 'fix forward' at the point of conflict.

The "Black Box" Vulnerability

Taking the car breakdown example, a step further highlights the inherent risks of "black boxes." Imagine if instead of being able to replace spark plugs or belts when they fail, all you can do is replace an entire engine. This is reality for maintainers when it comes to proprietary sub-components that only the Original Equipment Manufacturer can test and repair.

Early acquisition decisions frequently trade technical data rights for rapid delivery speed or immediate functionality. While these choices result in short-term acquisition wins, they inevitably create long-term sustainment nightmares. Trapped within proprietary information and supply stovepipes, the system effectively surrenders organic repair capabilities to private defense contractors for the duration of their operational life.

Upon deployment, tactical maintainers encounter modified or non-standard system configurations that they can neither troubleshoot nor repair. This gridlock extends all the way up the sustainment chain. Geographically anchored by costly and numerous OEM test stands and starved of proprietary technical data, organic depots find themselves facing the exact same constraints.

Retaining Rights to Repair/Freedom to Fix

While defense contractors argue that private industry is best suited managing the physical and digital details of complex defense platforms, logistical experts, who have visibility across several weapon platforms, argue that this creates severe operational and financial vulnerabilities.

Without sustainable maintenance pipelines, high-tech weapon systems quickly become liabilities. This vulnerability is especially acute for low-density, high-variety fleets that lack strategic spare parts, face complex modernization efforts, and suffer from extended repair cycle times.

Because the military unit — not the defense contractor — is evaluated on operational readiness and system reliability, any gaps between acquisition and sustainment are ultimately paid for with a decrease in combat power and readiness.

LEAD's Digital Engineering Solution

To bridge this gap, LEAD is establishing a comprehensive engineering services framework for its customers. LEAD's configuration management team works with product offices to organize all available technical information and define the baseline configuration within Windchill, an organic Product Lifecycle Management system.

This baseline serves as the foundation for all sourcing, tracking, modernization, and decommissioning decisions.

While depots are not configuration managers, utilizing LEAD as a centralized hub ensures sustainment experts are integrated into the decision-making loop alongside community subject matter experts. This baseline technical data includes:

- Component attributes and engineering models
- Repair and theory of operation data
- System test documentation and effectivity records
- Parent-child assembly relationships, parts lists, and sourcing alternates

During any maintenance cycle at the depot, artisans create a digital twin of each asset as it is being built. These digital twins organize vast amounts of technical data into an intuitive and interactive owner's manual of what will be delivered. The twin doesn't just show what the parts are, but how they are routed throughout the system and how they connect and interact with each other. These twins serve to better connect warfighters and depot SME's through a common operating picture during forward deployed operations.

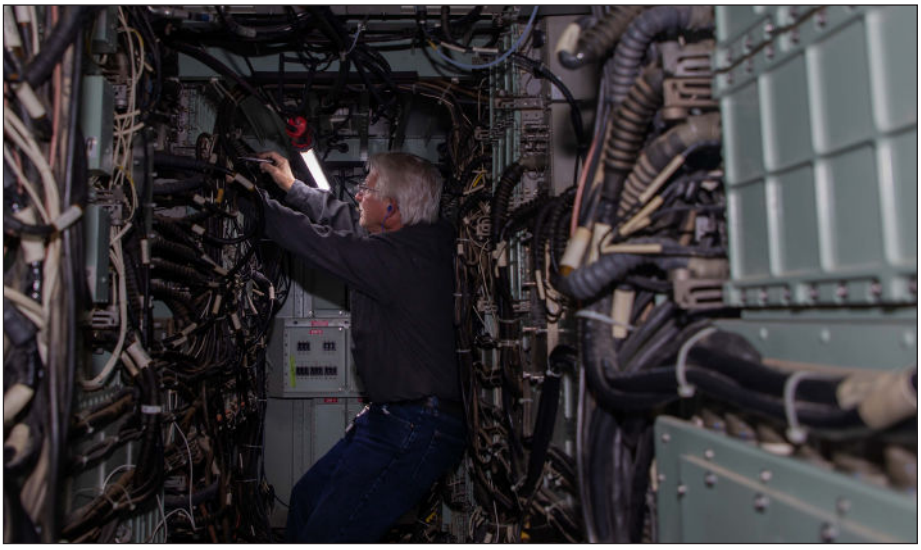
The final phase of this digital rollout will make these digital twins fully interactive. By incorporating cyber secure physical sensors into fielded equipment, the Army can capture real-time material failures and eliminate contrived durability or planned obsolescence. The government would now have all the information necessary to place strategic spares and plan field upgrades. This continuous feedback loop eliminates the "dirty ledger" data mismatch (where physical configurations don't match the digital databases) that typically plagues physical systems and their digital records.

This government-owned digital thread provides a single, continuous and traceable data pipeline that starts with configuration lock and utilizes a change management process to connect acquisition and sustainment throughout the lifecycle. When all phases are deployed the Army's priorities become the only consideration for acquiring, modernizing, modifying, and repairing warfighter equipment.

Sustaining on the Tactical Edge

LEAD engineers and technicians have 80+ years of demonstrated commitment to supporting the warfighter. Reimagining the space beyond the depot gates and between maintenance intervals is just another example of how LEAD remains relevant and innovative. By pushing technical expertise directly to the tactical edge, LEAD extends equipment operational life, minimizes down-time, and directly increases the combat readiness of forward-deployed forces.

Just as you wouldn't ship a broken car 7,000 miles for repairs, LEAD's comprehensive engineering framework equips our warfighters to complete the mission efficiently and effectively right where they are.



Jeffrey Traini, a Letterkenny Army Depot electronics mechanic, straps cables on a Patriot RADAR at Letterkenny Army Depot, June 1, 2021. This insider's view of integration shows an example of the additional layer of complexity that cable routing and component layering adds. LEAD's engineering services framework helps to demystify the troubleshooting and repair process by providing warfighters and depot subject matter experts with a common operating picture of the delivered asset.

(U.S. Army photo by Pam Goodhart)

VICE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMY VISITS LETTERKENNY ARMY DEPOT

By Todd Wivell - LEAD Public Affairs

In a major visit to the Letterkenny Army Depot on April 2, Vice Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Christopher LaNeve met with depot leadership and personnel to personally observe the depot's latest breakthroughs in air and missile defense sustainment.

"Hosting Gen. LaNeve afforded LEAD the opportunity to showcase our artisan workforce and their expert abilities to deliver precision sustainment to our Army, the Joint Force and our Allies," said Col. Caleb Lewis, LEAD commander.

LaNeve and his staff toured one of the primary maintenance facilities at the depot and received capabilities updates on the following:

- Repair and Overhaul of PATRIOT and other Air Missile Defense Systems
- Manufacturing and Fabrication of Subcomponents including Cables/Harnesses
- Corrosion Repair and Expeditionary Competencies
- Robotic Weld
- Metal Treatment Processes

Dale McClanahan, LEAD Product Assurance director, led the tour through the facility and briefed LaNeve on how LEAD is a "system-of-system's depot."

"Our artisans combine their expertise and skill working on independent units to support a complex network," explained McClanahan. "That synergy creates powerful capabilities that no single component could provide by itself."

After the tour of the production facility, LaNeve visited LEAD's Directorate of Missile and Aerospace Readiness, where he received updates on the PATRIOT and Hellfire weapons systems.

During his visit to DMAR, LaNeve learned more about missile assembly and disassembly; forward deployment capabilities; forebody testing; and subassembly testing, recertification, and repair.

"It was an honor to host Gen. LaNeve and demonstrate how the Letterkenny workforce is focused on sustaining today's Army systems, while modernizing to support tomorrow's combat formations," said Lewis. "His visit underscores the strategic importance of our depot in ensuring that our soldiers have the most advanced and reliable equipment ready for the multi-domain fight."

Gen. Christopher LaNeve, Vice Chief of the Staff of the Army, looks on as Dale McClanahan, Letterkenny Army Depot Product Assurance director, explains LEAD's cable and harness program during a tour of the depot on April 2. LaNeve and his staff toured two primary facilities at the depot and received updates on various systems and depot capabilities.

(U.S. Army photo by Pamela Goodhart)

Making Mental Health a Priority at LEAD

By Alexandra DeCarlo - LEAD Employee Assistance Coordinator

Those of us in the Army Substance Abuse Program know that mental health and wellness aren't things we can just focus on for one month out of the year and then pack away. It is a 365-day reality. Under AR 600-85, our program is dedicated to promoting connection and highlighting the critical resources available to our community. I truly believe there is never a bad time to talk about these programs and make sure you know exactly what is located right here on our installation.

You can read more about the Army's message of connection and find great outreach tools anytime on the DoD Suicide Prevention Outreach Toolkit website.

But today, I want to focus on what we are doing right here at Letterkenny.

You Are a Human First
Our mission here at Letterkenny Army Depot is vital, and we all work hard to support it. But the Army and our Depot leadership also realize a simple truth: our employees are human beings first. You have a whole life going on outside of your job and our Depot's day-to-day mission.

Life doesn't stop when you clock in. We all face struggles, and taking care of our employees is our absolute priority. Let's be incredibly clear about what matters most:

- Mental health is important.
- Relationships are important.
- Our families are important.
- And you do not have to struggle alone.

Free, Confidential Support is Always Available
As your Employee Assistance Program (EAP) Coordinator, I want to make sure you know exactly what resources are available to you. We have two main routes for EAP support, and both of them are completely free for all employees and their family members.

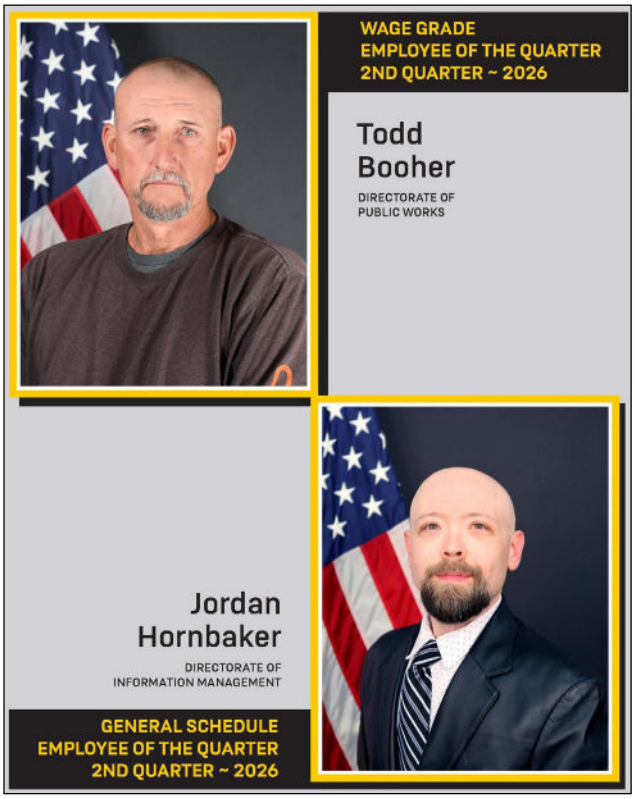
Our Local EAP (On-Site)
Open to all employees & family members
As your accredited local EAP coordinator, I am right here on the installation to listen, help you navigate whatever challenges you are facing, and help find you a good resource and relief.
Stop by our office on the installation or call me directly at 717-267-8412.

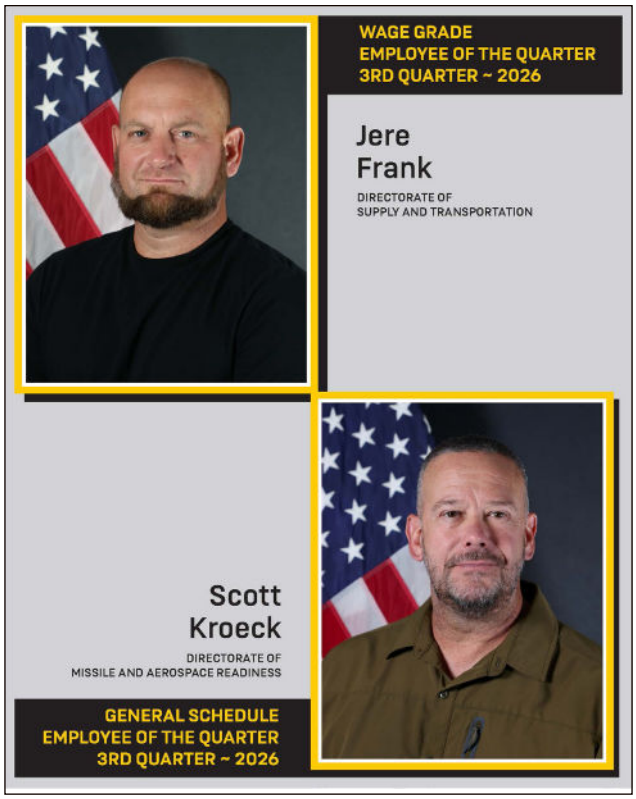
Magellan Ascend (Contracted EAP)
Open to all employees & family members
Our contracted program offering 24/7 confidential professional counseling, relationship tools, and wellness guidance.
Access the Magellan Ascend portal online or call their toll-free helpline at 866-580-9046.

988 Lifeline
Open to anyone in need of support
A national, 24/7 hot line providing free, confidential crisis support via phone or text.
Call or text 988 (Press 1 for the Veterans/Military Crisis Line).

Our resources are here, and we are standing by to help you find a good resource and relief! Please don't hesitate to reach out. We are in this together, and my door is always open.

LEAD RECOGNIZES EMPLOYEES of the QUARTER





Understanding & Preventing Retaliation

By Mindy Wright - LEAD Equal Employment Office

For federal employees, retaliation occurs when an agency takes a materially adverse action against an employee for engaging in a protected activity under EEO laws and regulations. A critical piece of legislation for federal employees is the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act (No FEAR Act). This act makes federal agencies directly account for violations of anti-discrimination and whistle blower protection laws and requires them to educate their workforce on these rights. Retaliation remains the most common claim[JG1.1] [MW1.2] (U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission) in the federal EEO process, making this a vital topic for every agency.

Protected EEO Activity
A federal employee engaging in "protected activity" is protected by law against retaliation for opposing discrimination or participating in EEO proceedings. This includes filing complaints and requesting accommodation. Retaliation for these actions is illegal under federal anti-discrimination and whistle blower laws. An "adverse action" in EEO refers to a materially adverse employer action—such as termination, demotion, suspension, or non-selection—that is serious enough to deter a reasonable employee from engaging in protected activity (e.g., filing a complaint). It encompasses tangible employment changes and, in retaliation cases, can include subtler actions like unjust, unfavorable, or retaliatory treatment, such as negative evaluations or unjustified scrutiny (U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission).

How LEAD Prevents Retaliation
LEAD maintains a clear, written policy that is easily accessible to all employees via SharePoint. CDR Policy 1-13, Command Unlawful Harassment Prevention and Response Policy explicitly states in section 3g that retaliation against an employee or applicant for making a protected disclosure is prohibited and will not be tolerated. LEAD EEO provides initial and recurring Mandatory No FEAR Act training to all employees, including managers and senior leaders. LEAD EEO ensures the training covers the rights and remedies available under EEO law, whistleblower protections, and the federal EEO complaint process.

Prevention of retaliation is a core intent of the No FEAR Act. LEAD has a legal and ethical obligation to create an environment where employees feel secure in exercising their EEO rights. Agency leadership must champion a culture that does not tolerate retaliation. Through training and other resources, LEAD EEO ensures that managers understand their duty to act proactively to prevent retaliation after an employee initiates an EEO complaint.

By understanding these specific rights and processes, the LEAD workforce can better identify, prevent, and address retaliation, ensuring a fair and just work environments for all, at every level.

U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. "Retaliation." www.eeoc.gov, 2024, www.eeoc.gov/retaliation.

This information includes elements of AI-generated content, which were reviewed and edited by relevant DoW personnel to verify appropriateness and compliance with DoW policies and guidance.

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Drug Awareness Alert: What You Must Know About Kratom

By Alexandra DeCarlo - LEAD Employee Assistance Coordinator

What is Kratom?
Kratom (Mitragyna speciosa) is a tropical evergreen tree native to Southeast Asia. In recent years, it has increasingly been marketed in the U.S. as a "natural" herbal supplement, energy booster, or pain reliever.
• The Active Ingredients: Kratom leaves contain compounds—primarily mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH)—that bind to the same opioid receptors in the brain as morphine.
• How It Is Marketed: It is commonly sold as a green powder, liquid extract "shots" (often placed near energy drinks at cash registers), capsules, or chewable gummies.

The Dual Effect and Severe Health Risks

Kratom is highly deceptive because its physical and psychological effects change dramatically depending on the dose:
• Low Doses (Stimulant Effects): At small doses (1–5 grams), users experience increased energy, alertness, sociability, and a rapid heart rate.
• High Doses (Sedative/Opioid-like Effects): At higher doses (5–15 grams), it acts as a sedative or opioid, causing pain relief, drowsiness, and intense euphoria.
• The Danger Zone: Chronic use can lead to physical addiction, severe withdrawal symptoms (muscle aches, aggression, and tremors), liver damage, hallucinations, and seizures. When combined with alcohol, prescription medications, or other substances, Kratom use has resulted in respiratory failure, coma, and death.
• Note: Because Kratom is not regulated by the FDA, commercial products are frequently contaminated with heavy metals, salmonella, or laced with highly dangerous synthetic drugs.

For Our Soldiers: Zero Tolerance

Policy Reference: Army Directive 2026-14 (Prohibition of Kratom Use)
• The Ban: Effective 23 June 2026, all Soldiers (Regular Army, Army Reserve, and National Guard on Title 10 status) are strictly prohibited from the knowing use, possession, distribution, sale, manufacture, or importation of Kratom, mitragynine, 7-OH, or any product containing or derived from them.
• Punitive Order: This directive is a punitive lawful order. Violators are subject to prosecution under Article 92 of the UCMJ and adverse administrative actions.
• Mandatory Referral: Any Soldier identified as using Kratom must be referred immediately for a Substance Use Disorder (SUD) evaluation and will be required to complete the Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Training (ADAPT).

For Our Army Civilian Employees: A Drug-Free Workplace

While Army Directive 2026-14 is directly punitive for military personnel, the standard for our Federal Civilian workforce is clear under Executive Order 12564 (Drug-Free Federal Workplace) and Department of the Army policy:
• Duty Standard: All federal and Army civilian employees are expected to report to work fit for duty and remain completely free from the influence of any mind-altering or impairing substances.
• Workplace Prohibition: Civilian employees are strictly prohibited from possessing, using, or being under the influence of Kratom while on duty, inside federal facilities, or when operating government vehicles/equipment.
• Consequences: Being impaired on duty by any substance—regardless of its civilian legal status—violates safety regulations and can lead to immediate removal from duty, administrative discipline, or termination of employment.
• Support: Civilians struggling with substance use are highly encouraged to voluntarily seek confidential assistance through the Employee Assistance Program (EAP).

Understanding Referral Options Under AR 600-85

If you or a battle buddy are struggling, early action saves careers and lives:
1. Self-Referral: Soldiers who voluntarily seek help before being notified of a drug test are protected under a non-punitive track. This prioritizes medical treatment and career preservation.
2. Command Referral: Initiated by a commander who suspects substance abuse based on documented performance decline or behavioral indicators (using DA Form 8003).

3. Medical Referral: Initiated by a military healthcare provider during clinical evaluations.

Local Support Resources for Our Pennsylvania Workforce
If you, a family member, or a civilian colleague needs confidential screening, assessment, or treatment coordination, reach out to your local Single County Authority (SCA):

Franklin County ~ Franklin/Fulton Drug & Alcohol Program ~ Phone: (717) 263-1256 ~Provides confidential screening, referral, and funding assistance for treatment.

Cumberland County ~ Cumberland-Perry Drug & Alcohol Commission ~ Phone: (717) 240-6300 / 1-866-240-6300 ~ Offers assessment, case management, and funding for detox and rehabilitation.
Adams County~ York/Adams Drug & Alcohol Commission ~ Phone: (717) 771-9222 / 1-800-441-2040 ~ Assists residents in accessing outpatient, residential, and recovery support services.

National & Military Support Networks:
• PA "Get Help Now" Hot line: Call 1-800-662-HELP (4357). Free, confidential, 24/7 helpline connecting PA residents to local care.
• Military OneSource: Call 1-800-342-9647 (24/7 confidential, non-medical counseling).
• Employee Assistance Program (EAP): Confidential support for our Army Civilians. Stop by our office on the installation or call me directly at 717-267-8412.

References & Citations
1. Office of the Secretary of the Army. (2026). Army Directive 2026-14 (Prohibition of Kratom Use). Washington, D.C.
2. U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). (2023). Kratom Fact Sheet. Retrieved from www.dea.gov/factsheets/kratom
3. National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). (2023). Kratom Research Topic. Retrieved from nida.nih.gov/research-topics/kratom
4. Headquarters, Department of the Army. (2016). Army Regulation 600-85 (The Army Substance Abuse Program). Washington, D.C.

This information includes elements of AI-generated content, which were reviewed and edited by relevant DoW personnel to verify appropriateness and compliance with DoW policies and guidance.

LEAD HISTORY CORNER

James Finley Patriot of 1776

By Andrew Newman - LEAD Historian

As our nation embraces the 250th anniversary of its founding, let's remember Letterkenny's James Finley.

On July 4, 1776, the American colonies declared independence from Great Britain. Whether this served as inspiration, or not, James Finley at 36 years of age, enlisted as a private into the newly formed American army in July 1776. James is listed in the muster rolls as belonging to Captain John Murray's Company, 2nd Battalion, Pennsylvania Rifle Regiment. In August, James' company was ordered to defend Long Island from invasion. On August 26, 1776, British troops landed and the Battle of Long Island began. Also known as Battle of Brooklyn Heights, it developed into the largest land battle of North America at that time. After 3 days of fighting, James' company completed a daring night retreat to the safety of Manhattan. James would go on to fight in the Battles of White Plains, Princeton, and Trenton, and the famous crossing of the Delaware River of December 25, 1776 (Christmas Day).

James was discharged in 1777, returned to his 200-acre estate and built his home between 1778 and 1782. The stately Finley House, former Commander's Quarters, stands proudly on Coffey Avenue today.

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