



# U.S. Army Environmental Center

Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21010-5401

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Release No.:749

## For more information contact:

Robert DiMichele  
Public Affairs Officer  
(410) 436-2556 (office)  
robert.dimichele@aec.apgea.army.mil

## Environmental cleanup wins Letterkenny Army Depot national recognition

*Washington, D.C. (January 22, 2003)* --- Recent strides in the long-term cleanup of soil and groundwater at Letterkenny Army Depot, near Chambersburg, Pa., just captured the Army's highest honor for environmental stewardship.

The Department of the Army on Jan. 22 announced Letterkenny Army Depot's win of the Secretary of the Army Environmental Award for Environmental Restoration for 2002.

At Letterkenny, a 19,243-acre base that serves as the nation's primary provider of air defense and tactile missile support, environmental restoration work focuses on sites first used in the 1940s for the maintenance, modification, storage and demilitarization of vehicles, missiles and ammunition. These past activities left behind weaponry processing components such as solvents, heavy metals, petroleum hydrocarbons (PHCs), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and volatile organic compounds.

Recent accomplishments in the cleanup of soil and groundwater at these sites earned Letterkenny its award. These successes include:

--MORE--

- Completing the cleanup and transfer of 563 acres of land to the local community for industrial and commercial redevelopment. At project completion, nearly 1,450 acres of restored land will go to Franklin County's Letterkenny Industrial Development Authority for reuse.
- Removal of 14,300 tons of contaminated soils from old scrap yards, landfills and storage areas.
- Pursuit of advanced technologies to clean groundwater. Letterkenny has entered into three pilot programs to test new methods of cleaning groundwater. These methods involve the injection of hydrogen peroxide and other solutions into the groundwater's bedrock aquifer to identify contaminants and neutralize them. The results of the pilot studies were shared at the National Research Council in Washington, D.C., with the goal of helping other Army installations combat similar environmental challenges.

A panel of non-military and Army experts, including representatives from the Department of Defense and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, judged competitors for the environmental restoration award.

"Although Letterkenny's environmental restoration staff faces tough challenges, they still have found a way to explore innovative technologies, provide opportunities for small business, form partnerships, and make property available for transfer," said Kristine Kingery, an environmental engineer with the Army's Office of the Director of Environmental Programs who served on the judging panel. "They've accomplished a lot while staying focused on the goal of reducing risk to human health and the environment," Kingery added, "It's very impressive."

Judging panel member Dennis Druck, an environmental scientist with the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine, pointed out that partnerships with the State of Pennsylvania, the local community and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency established by Letterkenny also deserve recognition.

--MORE--

"Letterkenny Army Depot's restoration accomplishments reflect the successful effort that the staff have made in partnering with all of the stakeholders and should serve as a model for other installations," he said.

As an award winner, Letterkenny Army Depot stands out as a leading example of the investment the Army makes in environmental stewardship on the 16.7 million acres of land it manages while it trains and prepares America's soldiers to fight the global war on terrorism. The readiness of our soldiers depends upon the Army's ability to use its training and testing grounds to the fullest. Meeting and exceeding local, state and federal regulations ensures that restrictions on these grounds are minimal.

Letterkenny Army Depot is one of eight 2002 Secretary of the Army Environmental Award winners. Each year, Army environmental professionals from around the world compete for recognition in the categories of natural resources conservation, cultural resources management, environmental quality, pollution prevention and environmental restoration.

A special awards ceremony will be held to honor Letterkenny and the other Army winners during the Garrison Commanders' Conference on March 18 at the Marriott City Center in Charlotte, N.C. The winners then go on to participate in the Department of Defense's Environmental Awards competition.

--30--

*The U.S. Army Environmental Center guides the Army's efforts to increase readiness, improve the well being of our soldiers, and enhance community relationships through sound stewardship of the environment. Working through the Army headquarters' Director of Environmental Programs, the staff of the U.S. Army Environmental Center brings world-class expertise and innovative solutions to environmental stewardship challenges. As part of its mission, USAEC manages the Secretary of the Army Awards Program for the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management.*

*For more information on the recipients of the 2002 Secretary of the Army Environmental Awards, please visit USAEC's Web site at <http://aec.army.mil>*

**“Preserving the Environment while Protecting Our Freedom”**