



# U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command FLIGHT

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## Maj. Gen. Tom O'Connor takes the reins at AMCOM



With the passing of the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command colors, Maj. Gen. Thomas W. O'Connor, Jr. assumed command during a ceremony August 12 at AMCOM headquarters on Redstone Arsenal, Alabama. The ceremony was preceded by a promotion ceremony in which O'Connor received a second star.

Gen. Edward Daly, commanding general of Army Materiel Command, hosted both ceremonies, which were attended by distinguished visitors, family, friends and the AMCOM

## AMCOM commander relinquishes command, retires from active duty, reflects back

A couple of months before he prepared to hang up his uniform one last time, Maj. Gen. Todd Royar, the commander of the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command, reflected back over his military career, which spanned more than three decades.

"I grew up in Iowa," he said. "My father had gone to Texas A&M for a little bit and my grandfather was a Department of the Army civilian with the Army Corps of Engineers, so I had a slight exposure to the Army, but no one had served in the military."

In fact, Royar said it was his sister's boyfriend at the time who ended up influencing him to make the biggest decision of his life.

workforce.

"As we look at today's ceremony, we're honoring not only this organization, but the organizations that are integrated and synchronized every day," said Daly. "Secondly, it represents a transition to the future it challenges the new commanding general to build on an already impressive organizational resume lineage and history, which I think is tremendously important. And then thirdly, it signifies continuity. The colors being passed is a validation of the unit's commitment to its mission and vision."

Outgoing AMCOM Commander Maj. Gen. K. Todd Royar thanked Daly for his comments, as well as his trust and confidence during his tenure.

"I am blessed by the simple fact that I've had the opportunity to command in a great environment... [READ MORE](#)



"My sister was dating a guy — who is now her husband — and he was going to West Point. I looked at him and I thought, 'Well if he can do it, then I can too.'" [READ MORE](#)

## Introductions

*I'd like to introduce myself to the great AMCOM team. My Soldiers and I have been on the receiving end of AMCOM's stellar support for many years.*

*In the few days I've been on ground, I've learned about the great initiatives that you all are developing to sustain our current force and provide sustainment for our future force. I learn more every single day about the outstanding support you provide to each other, the Army, and the joint warfighter.*

*As for me, I've served our nation for more than 28 years in various assignments around the world. In nearly every assignment, AMCOM's reach-back and sustainment helped our team to accomplish the mission. Now, I'm proud to have the opportunity to be part of this exceptional team.*

*I am here to support you, to build upon the progress you have already made, and to help improve the Army's sustainment and readiness posture for the future. I am committed to your continued growth and to ensuring the wellbeing of you and your family. I am here for you.*

*I look forward to working with each and every member of the team.*

*Army Strong!*

Maj. Gen. Tom O'Connor  
AMCOM commanding general



## Military policeman from Letterkenny Army Depot named AMCOM Best Warrior



After days of grueling competition in the extreme heat of southern Alabama, Sgt. Chance Cain was named Best Warrior for the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command at an awards ceremony Aug. 5 at Fort Rucker, Alabama.

Cain is a military policeman assigned to Letterkenny Army Depot in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, and this was his first time contending for the Best Warrior designation. Staff Sgt. Sean Juneau, a quality assurance representative at Cairns Army Airfield on Fort Rucker, represented Aviation Center Logistics Command in this

year's event, which was hosted by the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence.

AMCOM Command Sgt. Maj. Bradford Smith visited with the Soldiers and was on site for several events, offering encouragement and advice.

"I am thankful for the USAACE and Fort Rucker team for allowing our Soldiers to use the resources they have available to conduct our competition this year," said Smith.

"With our Soldiers competing alongside their Soldiers, I think that made each of them try... [READ MORE](#)

## Letterkenny commemorates the 80th anniversary of the depot's establishment

The Letterkenny Army Depot workforce commemorated the 80th anniversary of the depot's establishment with a ceremony held July 28.

Maj. Gen. Todd Royar, commanding general, U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command, provided the keynote speech for the event. As a subordinate command of AMCOM, Letterkenny supports an air and missile defense mission.

"The workforce makes a difference at LEAD every single day. You, the workforce, allow the Army to win. Winning matters, and you make it happen. We are Army strong," Royar remarked.

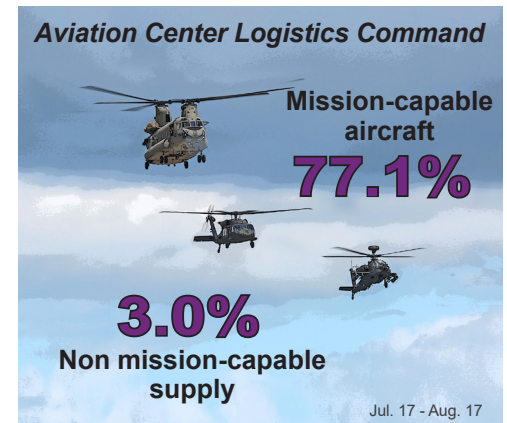
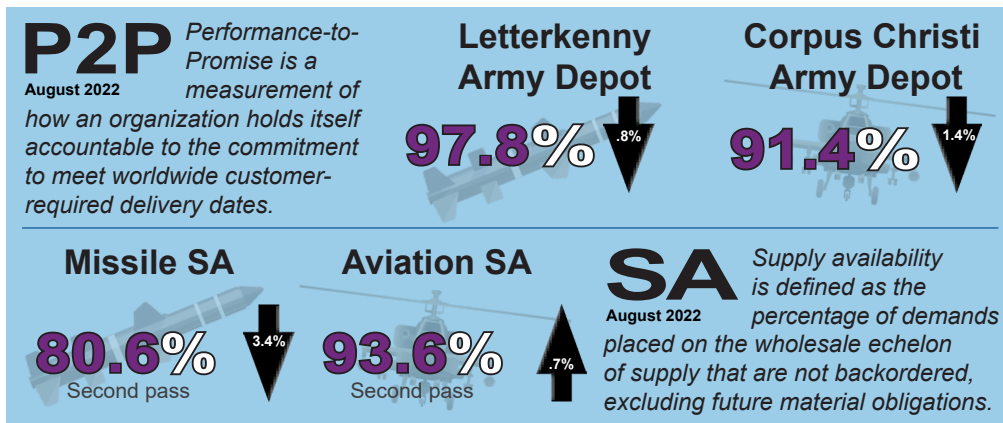
The ceremony was officiated by Letterkenny Commander, Col. Ricky L. Allbritton. As the depot's 51st commander, Allbritton's leadership focuses on the depot's people, modernization and readiness priorities.

"The LEAD workforce is comprised of talented employees with diverse skillsets ranging from skilled artisans to talented engineers to inspirational leaders," Allbritton said. "Our team is agile, adaptable, dedicated to the warfighter, and we embody the Army values."



Allbritton also focused on the depot's historical significance in the community. Citing the depot's origins when the Secretary of War issued a directive to acquire the land and establish the depot in 1942, Allbritton emphasized the importance of the community's support to Letterkenny's continued success.

"The Letterkenny Army Depot 80th anniversary ceremony showcases LEAD's past, present and future, and strengthens our bond with the Franklin County... [READ MORE](#)





## Letterkenny hosts AMCOM symposium focused on OIB modernization



Subject matter experts in various disciplines gathered in person and virtually for the second iteration of the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command Organic Industrial Base Symposium Aug. 2-4 at Letterkenny Army Depot, Pennsylvania.

The symposium, hosted by Letterkenny Army Depot, was focused

on aligning the strategic direction of the AMCOM OIB with the Army modernization strategy to ensure that the depots can sustain the multi-domain force of 2035.

Tom Ray, director of the AMCOM Logistics Center Industrial Operations Directorate, further elaborated on the goals and expectations... [READ MORE](#)

## AMCOM adds new field to prep for ACFT

The U.S. Army recently made a significant change to its physical fitness test by implementing the Army Combat Fitness Test. The test requires new equipment and space to conduct the events. With the deadline to pass the new ACFT rapidly approaching, the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command has created that space.

A new physical fitness field recently opened on the north side of the AMCOM campus. The synthetic turf field features four lanes to complete the ACFT. The equipment needed for the ACFT is housed in a nearby building and access can be gained from the G-3.

Construction on the new field began in October 2021. [READ MORE](#)



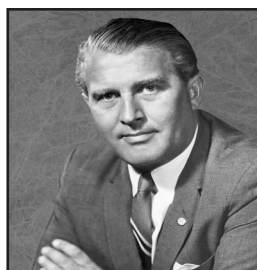
## This month in history



Sept. 10, 2001: Larry Dodgen assumed Command of AMCOM the day before the terrorist attacks that shook the nation. Dodgen served as Commanding General until December 1, 2003. He assumed Command of the US Army Space and Strategic Command on 16 December 2003 and was promoted to Lieutenant General. He retired from the Army in January 2007 and died suddenly on February 20, 2010 at age 61.



Sept. 12, 1981: Two Pershing missiles were launched from a test site near Blanding, Utah. The first missile impacted successfully at White Sands Missile Range, but the second malfunctioned, crossed the Mexican border and impacted 20 miles south of Juarez, Mexico.



Sept. 20, 1945: Wernher Von Braun arrived in the United States. In 1950 von Braun's team moved to Redstone Arsenal, where they designed the Army's Redstone and Jupiter ballistic missiles, as well as the Jupiter, Juno, and Saturn launch vehicles. A Jupiter C orbited the first U.S satellite, Explorer I, in 1958. Von Braun also became one of the most prominent advocates for space exploration in the United States during the 1950s.



Sept. 23, 1963: MG John G. Zierdt became Commanding General of MICOM 23 September 1963, when ARGMA was abolished. Zierdt served as Commanding General until June 30th, 1967. He presided over development of early anti-missile programs including Nike Zeus. The well-known Zierdt Road in Huntsville is named after him.



Sept. 26, 1941: The Military Police Corps achieved permanent status. Over the last two centuries, the military police, or provost marshals as they were called during much of their history, evolved from a group of miscellaneous units and men organized on a temporary basis in time of national emergency to perform a limited range of law and order responsibilities into today's highly organized and trained combat support force.



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