



Ribbon-cutting ceremony paves the way for rocket repair work at Letterkenny Army Depot

By **MARCUS RAUHUT** Staff writer

Letterkenny Army Depot cut the ribbon Tuesday to a new high-tech station to repair rocket systems.

The depot partnered with manufacturer Lockheed Martin for maintenance work on the high-mobility artillery rocket system, or HIMARS.

"We are very excited to begin this new venture and partnership, and we're looking forward to great missions ahead," said Col. Cheri Provancha, commander of Letterkenny Army Depot.

The new partnership brought new technology to the depot and, initially, as many as 10 jobs. Additional jobs are possible as more weapons come online.

HIMARS launchers can be mounted to trucks and are capable of firing multiple rockets. The systems have been successfully combat-tested in Operation Iraqi Freedom and are currently used in combat by the Army and the Marines.

"This is very much a success for soldiers and commanders in the field and there's quite a

contingent of foreign military sales customers," said Col. David Rice, project manager for the Precision Fires Rocket and Missile Systems.

Rice said depot employees will work on hydraulic systems, electronics cards and circuit card assemblies. The new capabilities at Letterkenny essentially replicate the original equipment production, he said.

Michael Syring, director for after-market enterprises and logistics modernization for Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control, said Tuesday's ribbon cutting marks the next phase of an effort started in 2007 by a contract awarded to Lockheed Martin to train Letterkenny personnel and outfit new equipment to repair the HIMARS equipment.

That contract was completed in May, ahead of schedule and under budget.

Letterkenny and Lockheed have worked together on other projects, but Syring said this time the depot will serve more as a teammate than a customer.

The depot has also worked with Lockheed for maintenance work on target acquisition designation sight/pilot night vision sensor systems and for the javelin joint venture with Raytheon.

"We've heard very favorable things about the staff and capabilities here," Syring said. "We are excited about this partnership and want to build

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