History of the Leonard Wood Institute

(continued from website)

The state of Missouri provided initial funding to organize the Institute, and a consortium of government, industry and academic organizations were the founding partners. Those founders include: Missouri Enterprise (which manages the National Institute of Standards and Technology-sponsored Manufacturing Extension Partnership in Missouri); the University of Missouri System; the Missouri Department of Economic Development; Battelle Memorial Institute; the Missouri Technology Corporation (the state's technology development proponent); and Boeing Integrated Defense Systems (the St. Louis-based division of the Boeing Company).

The not-for-profit research institute model, on which LWI is based, is used in various forms in support of military research missions to provide formal structure under which government, industry and academic entities can partner and pursue science and technology (S&T) initiatives of mutual benefit. Examples include the Wright Brothers Institute at Wright-Patterson AFB, the Hawaii Technology Development Venture with the Office of Naval Research, the National Center for Defense Robotics (NCDR) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and the Navy's Technology Research, Education and Commercialization Center (TRECC) in West Chicago, Illinois.

LWI~~'s~~ works to increase the capabilities of Missouri businesses, universities and research organizations to provide technology-related solutions to the Army, the result of which is a stronger technology base in Missouri for meeting military technology requirements and a more vibrant economy in the region and state. LWI supports FLW mission to identify required capabilities and provide doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leadership and education, personnel and facilities (DOTMLPF) solutions in its areas of responsibility. LWI also supports and enhances FLW's Joint, Interagency, Intergovernmental, Multi-National, Industry, and Academia (JIIM-IA) outreach and engagements.

Since it was founded in 2004, LWI has been involved in supporting numerous technology and training initiatives at FLW, including those related to explosive/toxic hazard and CBRNE detection/defeat, protection, non-lethal capabilities, stability operations, consequence management, geospatial information systems, modeling and simulation and Maneuver Support operations, concepts and systems. LWI is also a partner in efforts to support the continued growth and development of the University of Missouri Technology Park at FLW, where LWI maintains its office. A Memorandum of Understanding between LWI and MSCoE was signed in 2006 as a way to define and formalize the relationship between LWI and the Army. That MOU remains in effect.

LWI is dedicated to achieving five primary outcomes from its work: 1) benefit Soldiers through new innovations; 2) build a tangible presence for military-related technology at FLW; 3) be a catalyst for efforts to bring new missions or enhanced functions to FLW; 4) encourage commercialization of non-classified technologies; and 5) promote technology-related economic and business development in the region, with a focus on the UM Technology Park.

LWI is governed by a Board of Directors who serve without compensation and are bound by a conflict of interest policy that prohibits personal or organizational gain from board service. The directors share a common interest in benefiting Soldiers and supporting the Army though the fulfillment of technology-related needs, and leveraging economic growth in the region. Two of the directors are currently Civilian Aides to the Secretary of the Army, and another is a Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Air Force.

LWI sought and received a directed appropriation from Congress in FY 2007 for the purpose of funding applied research projects focused on FLW and MSCoE. The Army Research Laboratory (ARL) and LWI signed a 5-year Cooperative Agreement (CA) that enabled this funding. The CA served as a vehicle to define and implement a major initiative that addresses "training-based approaches to improve military consequence management initiatives", especially related to complex and dynamic threat environments. In particular, Congress found that "research is needed to produce advanced capabilities in the fields of military law enforcement, engineering, chemical-biological management and training, mines and unexploded ordnance, and non-lethal weapons". LWI's specific approach was to competitively award, manage, and collaborate in projects to develop technologies and services that meet Army capability requirements.

Under the cooperative agreement, LWI leveraged $69 million from Congress, Army and other sources and supported 170 research and development projects. Research outcomes included detection and defeat of IED & CBRN threats; environmental systems for basecamps; improvements in training and human performance, and new Missouri small businesses and greater Missouri university focus on military research.

In collaboration with the Army, LWI also provided a number of innovation-focused conferences and information exchanges. They included:

- Science and Technology Conferences
- Technology Demonstrations

In 2011, LWI was instrumental in the creation of the Sustainable Ozarks Partnership (SOP), a private sector-funded, non-profit, membership-based organization that is working in concert with FLW, Missouri's Congressional Delegation, state leaders and others to identify and execute strategies that are designed to: 1) bring greater National Recognition for the FLW region as an excellent place for people to live, work and play and for businesses to prosper; 2) help support a strong FLW; 3) help build a higher quality of life and a better business climate in the region, especially in areas of interest to FLW; and 4) explore ways the region can partner with FLW to lower its costs of operation and enhance its sustainability.

In 2014 the Army Research Laboratory (ARL) and LWI signed a new five year cooperative agreement. LWI is currently engaged in efforts to help regional small businesses and universities provide technology assistance to the Army through applied research and development projects.