

DSCP Recognizes DDSP Employees

By Ms. Sherre Mitten-Bell, DDSP Public Affairs

Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna PA (DDSP) employees Mr. Jeff Ressler and Mr. Mike Foltz received awards from Brigadier General Raymond Mason, USA, Commander, of the Defense Supply Center Philadelphia (DSCP) on Friday, September 23, 2005. Presenting on the General's behalf, was DDSP Commander Captain Jim Naber, SC, USN. Ressler is the DDSP Distribution Facility Manager at the Mechanicsburg West Site and Foltz is the Supervisory Supply Technician in charge of DDSP Clothing and Textile warehouses located at the West Site. Clothing and Textile issues items such as Army Camouflage Uniforms, Duffel Bags, Shoes, Boots, and Jackets.

Each received a letter of recognition and a coin from DSCP for going above and beyond the call of duty in the handling and distribution of Class II items - repair parts or clothing - in the Defense Logistics Agency supply chain. The receipt and segregation of high priority and sensitive contract shipments is critical. The award from DSCP recognizes that the hard work and attention they provide to even the smallest detail has been timely, efficient and flawless. "Having another agency in the supply chain recognize our employees reminds us that we play a vital role in that chain, and that our people are doing a good job," said CAPT Naber.



CAPT Jim Naber presents an award from DSCP to DDSP employee Mike Foltz (right) for outstanding handling and distribution of Class II items in regards to Clothing and Textile.



CAPT Jim Naber presents an award from DSCP to DDSP employee Jeff Ressler (right) for outstanding handling and distribution of Class II items.

DDSP Chief Rigger Tells Story of Survival

By Benton Jackson, DDC

United States Army Chief Warrant Officer Kevin D. Wood is the only Airdrop Systems Technician assigned to the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA). Working in the Aerial Delivery and Textile Section of Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna DDSP, Pennsylvania (DDSP), his face is now familiar to the local area residents and communities surrounding the Defense Distribution Center and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. His face and his story were posted on publications, billboards, and television starting in September. Wood's new found notoriety is not from his military service, but from an unexpected health condition.

Wood, the Chief Rigger for DDSP, has always kept himself in shape. It has been part of his job for 18 years in the U.S. Army to maintain his body. He is a non-smoker, works out regularly, and doesn't engage in excessive drinking. Chief is not the typical person you think of when it comes to potential health problems. Even his job as a parachute rigger and a jumpmaster requires him to test his physical limits on a regular basis.

One evening, Wood felt his limits tested not from jumping from a plane hurling towards the earth, but from jumping into bed. I felt "the intense sensation of burning and ripping in my chest and I knew something was definitely wrong," said Wood. His wife rushed him to the closest hospital. The emergency room staff

that attended to Wood was able to correctly and swiftly identify his problem as an aortic aneurysm, a rare and often fatal condition that resembles the symptoms of a heart attack. The chief, after correct diagnosis, was rushed to surgery that saved his life.

Ten hours of surgery later, Chief was on his way to recovery. Wood said, "The care from the nurses and staff was amazing. I was treated like a king." Wood has now returned to his home and his job at DDSP. He considers himself an extremely lucky person for having survived such an ordeal.

End of story, not quite. It seems that this local hospital not only provided Wood with outstanding service, but also some other members of the community. The hospital has won the Harrisburg Magazine Readers Choice Award for their superior service to the community.

The hospital has developed an advertising campaign about the services that they provide. Wood and two other patients were contacted and asked to express to the community the services that saved their lives. Wood, grateful to the hospital staff that saved his life was eager to get the message out about being diagnosed quickly. Wood wants to provide the message that we should never ignore symptoms even if you're young and don't fit the profile of being at risk.

The advertisements show Wood at his home with his son, on the flight line of the local airport next to a C-130 airplane getting ready for a jump, and interviews from the medical facility that treated him. A hospital spokesman said that Wood's story will help raise awareness to how even "healthy, active, young men can become heart patients."

He has finished cardiac rehabilitation and is currently being evaluated by Walter Reed Medical Center. Currently, Wood is not yet cleared to continue his jumping career however; he has just completed his Warrant Officer Advanced Course at Fort Lee, Virginia. Wood said he finds it difficult following the doctors advice concerning not lifting weights and working out like he did in the past, but they haven't been wrong yet. "Life is all about change. If you can't roll with the tides of change, you'll soon be washed up on shore."

Wood's commercial is airing on several Harrisburg area TV stations and cable networks.