

DDJC recognized as DoD Installation of Excellence

By Doug Imberi, DDJC Public Affairs

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld announced Defense Distribution Depot San Joaquin, CA (DDJC) as an Installation of Excellence in July. The recognition came as DDJC was named a winner of the Commander in Chief's annual award for Installation Excellence. The award recognizes the outstanding and innovative efforts of the people who operate and maintain U.S. military installations.

The award was presented to DDJC Commander, COL Doug Serrano, USA, in a Pentagon ceremony on August 17 by Kenneth Krieg, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics. One installation from each service and one from the Defense Logistics Agency receives the award each year.

"They are the home of combat power for today and for the future," said Philip Grone, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Installations and Environment. "The efficiencies that we are building today, the innovation that we are building today, contributes to that combat power."

Installations are considered for the award based on how well they support their missions with the resources available to them. Imaginative solutions for better sustaining the mission, increasing productivity and enhancing the quality of life are key to winning the award, Pentagon officials said.

DDJC was commended for increasing productivity while obtaining a corresponding decrease in shipping costs. The award also recognized DDJC's strategies and ongoing efforts in the areas of customer support, workforce improvements, environmental compliance and support services.

In the nomination for the award LEAN methodologies are listed as the primary systematic approach to design, assess, control and improve processes along with



DDJC Commander, COL Doug Serrano, USA, holds the letter from President Bush congratulating DDJC being selected an Installation of Excellence at the Pentagon. DDJC personnel joining COL Serrano from left are: Ellis Archerda, Alvin Wong, Ella Studer (DLA Director, Support Services), Laurie Beach, Phyllis Campbell (DDC Deputy Commander) Tommie Jones, Anna Tuake, Frank Payan, Harry Tostado, Bob Mahan, VADM Keith Lippert, SC, USN (DLA Director), John Guzman, Archie Soleta, Bill Golden, Bret Goodwin and Gene Maier.

the criteria found in the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award to improve performance. As part of the LEAN initiative, DDJC utilized both management and non-management employees to map processes, identify waste, such as wait time and excess material movement, and develop alternative processes.

In one example, 50 employees participated in an effort to eliminate waste from the Consolidation and Containerization Point's Air Lines of Communication mission. As a result, material movement was reduced by 65 percent, average processing time was reduced 10 percent and processing cutoff time was extended by 90 minutes.

In the area of workforce development, reference is made to the DDJC Business Plan objective that develops and sustains a process oriented and multi-skilled workforce that performs a variety of tasks and moves quickly to handle workload surges.

In the environmental restoration category DDJC has removed over 1,000 pounds of contaminants from groundwater, cleaned up 23 contaminated soil sites and removed 119 underground storage tanks. These efforts are expected to result in DDJC's removal from the Environmental

Protection Agency's Superfund List within the next five years.

In the area of energy conservation the depot has saved nearly \$350,000 by using energy efficient lighting and upgrading the electrical substation.

Additionally, water conservation programs resulted in a savings of nearly 200 million gallons of water through limiting irrigation. A closed-loop steam cleaner vehicle wash rack saves about 100,000 gallons of water each year.

Economical facility support is achieved through an aggressively managed military construction program which is replacing aged World War II warehouses with large, modern warehouses. Benefits include improved operations flexibility and reduced maintenance and utility costs.



The award took into account a vigorous safety program that saw a 39 percent reduction in lost workdays.

“DDJC is continuing on its journey to performance excellence through delivery of ever improving value to its stake holder, contributing to our Warfighters’ success, while being good stewards of the resources entrusted to our care,” said DDJC Commander, COL Serrano.

“Our motto, ‘Quiet Excellence’ reflects our customer-driven focus on the future, organizational and personal learning, managing for innovation and management by fact in order to focus on results and creating value for our stakeholders,” COL Serrano said.

Accompanying the DDJC Commander to receive the award were 14 DDJC personnel representing the diverse functions and areas that are found at the depot. Attending the Pentagon ceremony were: Alvin Wong, police officer; Ellis Archerda, firefighter; Bill Golden, maintenance mechanic; Bret Goodwin, automotive mechanic; Laurie Beach, Information Technology Specialist; Harry Tostado, Distribution Facilities Specialist; Gene Meier, Transportation Management Specialist; Anna Tuake, Supply Systems Analyst; Tommie Jones, Occupational Safety and Health Specialist; Bob Mahan, Distribution Facilities Manager; John Guzman, Environmental Protection Specialist; Archie Soleta, General Equipment Mechanic Supervisor; and, Frank Payan, President of AFGE Local 1546.

DDAA Assists in Shipment of a Relic

By Lori Spiegel, DDC Command Affairs

The Defense Distribution Depot Anniston, AL (DDAA) coordinated with US Tank Automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM) and 3rd Infantry Division (ID) the shipment of the M113 Armored Personnel Carrier (APC) of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) Medal of Honor recipient SFC Paul R. Smith to Fort Stewart, GA, on September 16.



DDAA stored the M113 Armored Personnel Carrier of Operation Iraqi Freedom Medal of Honor recipient SFC Paul R. Smith.

The M113 will be on display at the 3rd Infantry Museum to honor SFC Smith’s military service in B Company, 11th Engineer Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized), which is stationed out of Fort Stewart, GA.

The APC was showcased as a museum piece to be dedicated upon 3rd ID’s return from Iraq next month and to honor SFC Smith during OIF when he earned the Medal of Honor posthumously.

In early September, DDAA received a phone call from the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) Rear Detachment Commander, who was trying to locate the M113 APC and arrange shipment to Fort Stewart, GA, for a dedication ceremony in conjunction with 3rd ID’s return from Iraq.

Originally, there was some confusion about the M113s whereabouts – whether it was in maintenance for overhaul in Oxford, AL, or at DDAA in storage. After DDAA conducted a serial number verification, it confirmed the APC to be in storage on its depot. The tank was segregated and intact from its original shipment from Iraq. DDAA preservation servicers, led by Larry Stephens of Vehicles and Artillery Division and Frances Weathington of the Transportation Division, helped to coordinate the shipment.

Enlisting in the US Army in October 1989, SFC Smith had deployed to the Persian Gulf War, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Kosovo before heading to Iraq. On that fateful day near Baghdad International Airport, Baghdad, Iraq, on April 4, 2003, SFC Smith was engaged in the construction of a prisoner of war holding area when his Task Force was violently attacked by a

company-sized enemy force.

Realizing the vulnerability of more than 100 fellow Soldiers, SFC Smith quickly organized a defense consisting of two platoons of Soldiers, one Bradley Fighting Vehicle, and three APCs. As the fight developed, SFC Smith braved hostile enemy fire to personally engage the enemy with hand grenades and anti-tank weapons, and organized the evacuation of three wounded Soldiers from an APC struck by a rocket propelled grenade and a 60mm mortar round.



DDAA coordinated with TACOM and 3rd Infantry Division ID to ship the M113 Armored Personnel Carrier of Operation Iraqi Freedom Medal of Honor recipient SFC Paul R. Smith to Fort Stewart, GA.

Fearing the enemy would overrun their defenses, SFC Smith moved under withering enemy fire to man a .50 caliber machine gun mounted on his damaged APC. In total disregard for his own life, he maintained his exposed position in order to engage the attacking enemy force. During this action, he was mortally wounded. His courageous actions helped defeat the enemy attack, and resulted in as many as 50 enemy Soldiers killed, while allowing the safe withdrawal of numerous wounded Soldiers.



The M113 will be on display at the 3rd Infantry Museum to honor SFC Smith’s military service in B Company, 11th Engineer Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized), which is stationed out of Fort Stewart, GA. The tank was showcased as a museum piece to be dedicated upon 3rd ID’s return from Iraq and to honor SFC Smith during OIF when he earned the Medal of Honor posthumously.