

Naber relinquishes command, retires after more than 29 years of service

By Sherre Mitten-Bell, DDSP Public Affairs

Navy Capt. James P. Naber relinquished command of Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, Pa., to Navy Capt. John G. King in an outdoor change of command ceremony Sept. 5.

Naber then retired after more than 29 years of service in the Navy.

Marine Corps BGen Peter J. Talleri, commander of the Defense Distribution Center, presided over the change of command ceremony and praised Naber for his accomplishments.

“He championed the development of new processes and streamlined business practices that resulted in improved customer service to our war fighters and increased savings to the American taxpayers,” Talleri said. “He routinely walked the floors of DDSP – thanking the employees for their contribution. Naber was a hands-on, selfless leader who has left a significant positive impact on DDSP.”

Talleri also presented Naber with the Legion of Merit for his service as commander of DDSP since July 2004.

Naber then passed the organizational colors to Talleri, who then passed them on to King.

The passing of the colors during a change of command ceremony is a time-honored tradition that symbolizes the passing of command.

After King accepted the colors, assuming command of DDSP, his wife Rene pinned the Command Ashore insignia to his uniform.

King joins DDSP after serving as deputy commander for aviation at Naval Inventory Control Point - Philadelphia. A native of Canton, Mass., King is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy. He holds a bachelor’s degree in Business Management as well as a master’s degree in Acquisition and Contracting Management. His more than 24 years of military experience include combat deployments to Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

“I very much look forward to the sense of accomplishment that comes with supporting all of the nation’s Armed Forces from the Defense Logistics Agency’s premier distribution center,” King said.

At the conclusion of the change of command ceremony, Talleri talked about the importance of continuing to adapt to meet the current challenges. During

his comments he discussed the many challenges that lie ahead as the Defense Logistics Agency continues to extend the enterprise closer to the war fighter.

“The military services are transforming, and the Department of Defense is moving toward more joint logistics solutions,” he said. “We are implementing continuous process improvement into our day-to-day operations and improving our processes throughout the entire supply chain pipeline to provide timely and quality support to the war fighter.

“John has proven that he is a gifted leader and the right officer to continue the strong and outstanding leadership that Jim and his predecessors have brought to DDSP,” Talleri concluded.

Navy Rear Adm. Michael Roesner, commander of the Naval Inventory Control Point-Mechanicsburg and Philadelphia, Pa., presided over Naber’s retirement ceremony. During his comments, Roesner traced Naber’s career, which spans more than 29 years. He then presented certificates of appreciation to Naber, his wife and sons, and a retirement certificate to Naber.

The mayor of Harrisburg, Pa., also proclaimed September 2008 as Capt. James P. Naber Month, in honor of Naber’s service to the country.

After officially retiring, Naber reflected on his service and how honored he was to serve his country. “As Theodore Roosevelt said, ‘there is no greater satisfaction than working hard at a job worth doing,’” Naber said. “This job has been worth doing.”



The members of the official party for Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, Pa.’s change of command and retirement ceremony salute the colors as they pass by. Pictured from left to right are Navy Rear Adm. Michael Roesner, Marine Corps BGen Peter J. Talleri, Navy Capt. James P. Naber, and Navy Capt. John G. King. Naber relinquished command to King during the ceremony then retired after more than 29 years of service.



Navy Capt. James P. Naber, left, passes the colors to Marine Corps BGen Peter J. Talleri, center, commander of the Defense Distribution Center as he relinquishes command of Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, Pa., to Navy Capt. John G. King, right, in a ceremony at the installation Sept. 5.