

3rd Brigade logistician thanks DDC employee for support

By Scott Woosley

U.S. Army Maj. E. Sean Lanier presented a plaque to Linda Norman of the Defense Distribution Center's Customer and Supplier Engagement Branch July 29, thanking her for the support she provided to his unit while it was deployed to Iraq from March 2007 to May 2008.

Lanier presented the plaque on behalf of the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, which was deployed to Forward Operating Base Hammer about 40 km from Baghdad.

The brigade was the second surge brigade into Iraq, and while it was Lanier's fourth deployment, it was his first to Iraq and the first time he was responsible for supporting a fully modularized heavy brigade. Considering the austere environment, the task was daunting, according to Lanier.

"When you start with nothing, it's like dropping an 8,000-piece jigsaw puzzle on the ground without a picture," Lanier said. "My job was to get it and get it into theater."

With 3,500 Soldiers to support, 300 contracts valued in excess of \$50 million and very little infrastructure in place to provide that support, Norman helped him start to put the pieces in place.

"At that point, everyone who answers the phone is your friend," he added.

Lanier described Norman as someone who responded to his questions and allowed him to earn the respect of his leaders and the Soldiers he supported, by helping him get what the brigade needed to do their job.

"We get them the supplies they need to do their jobs and get home safely," Norman said. "That's who we are. That's what we do. We're here for you guys."



Army Maj. E. Sean Lanier, left, presented a plaque to Linda Norman, right, who works in the Defense Distribution Center's Customer and Supplier Engagement Branch during a ceremony July 29. Lanier presented the plaque to Norman in appreciation for her support of the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team during the unit's deployment to Iraq from March 2007 to May 2008.

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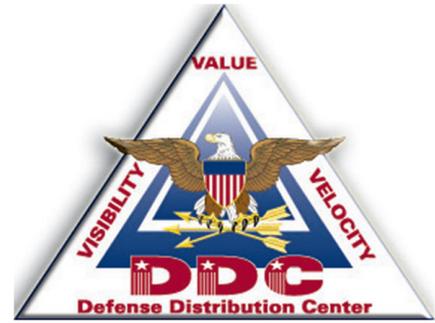
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