

DDCO closes doors after long history of supporting America's military

By Stacy L. Umstead, Defense Distribution Center

With more than 90 years of service to America's military, the Defense Distribution Depot Columbus, Ohio, officially closed its doors Sept. 30. The closing was a result of the Base Realignment and Closure, or BRAC, decision of 2005.



Defense Distribution Center Commander Marine Corps BGen Peter Talleri, left, and Defense Distribution Depot Columbus, Ohio, Director Don Brown roll the organization's colors to symbolize the deactivation of the Columbus site.

As part of the closing process, an inactivation ceremony was held Sept. 26. Presiding officer for the ceremony was Defense Distribution Center commander Marine Corps BGen Peter J. Talleri.

An inactivation ceremony is of special significance in the military because it officially denotes a unit's closure. This action is symbolized in the ceremonial casing of the organization's colors by the



commanding officer. Addressing more than 100 guests attending the event, Talleri highlighted the history of DDCO and the employees who worked tirelessly to support the nation’s war fighters.

Talleri commended Don Brown, DDCO’s director, for his dedication to the organization. “The one constant that remained here at DDCO was Don’s leadership and his love for people,” stated Talleri. “Don raised the bar on performance for himself, his employees, and his peers.” During the ceremony, Brown retired after 27 years of service. Brown’s strong knowledge of logistics made him an icon within the supply and distribution community. “Don has always been the epitome of a dedicated professional. His proficiency and professional demeanor have won him the respect of both contemporaries and superiors,” said



The Mayor of the City of Whitehall, Ohio, proclaimed Sept. 26, 2008 as “Defense Distribution Depot Columbus, Ohio, Day.”

Talleri. “His opinion has always been strong, logical, articulate, and

respected.” During Brown’s remarks, he was humbled by the comments of Talleri, but gave accolades to the men and women who made DDCO a success – both past and present. During his career at DDCO, Brown never considered the workforce to simply be “employees.” Instead, they were called teammates and associates. One last presentation came from John Wolfe, mayor of Whitehall, Ohio. Wolfe read his personal proclamation that designated September 26, 2008, as Defense Distribution Depot Columbus, Ohio, Day in the city of Whitehall in honor of the employees, their dedication to supporting the war fighter, and the legacy they leave.

To conclude the inactivation ceremony, Talleri and Brown encased DDCO’s organizational colors, signaling the final official action at DDCO.

After 90 years of distinguished service to America’s military, the final shipment from Defense Distribution Depot Columbus, Ohio, leaves the dock March 28.

