

mobilized in November to complete the inspection mission in Iraq. They will be looking for weapons, contraband, war souvenirs, insects and other pests that may pose a threat if transported back to the states.

"I'm proud to serve my country," said Agustin who is expected to return to DDPH this summer.



Agustin "gets into his work" at DDPH.

DDJC Reservist Returns after Activation

By Doug Imberi, DDJC Public Affairs

DDJC Information Technology Specialist Patrick O'Brien returned home after being activated for three years by the United States Air Force Reserves.

For the last three years TSgt O'Brien reported for duty at Travis Air Force Base where he worked on the flight line. As a hydraulics maintenance specialist, he was responsible for keeping C-5 planes, the Air Forces' largest aircraft, ready to fly.

"I saw a lot of supplies coming out of DDJC headed for Afghanistan, Iraq and Kuwait," he recalled.

O'Brien has served in each branch of the military except the Marines. He was in the Navy for four years as a shipboard electrician. He was in the Army

National Guard for 10 years performing aircraft maintenance, and he served nine years in the Air Force Reserves before his retirement.

"I was proud to do my part in the War on Terrorism as an active duty service member and now as a civil service employee."

Since his return to work, O'Brien is getting refreshed on the changes that occurred while he was gone. "It's great to be back," he said. "There are a lot of new faces."



DDJC IT Specialist Patrick O'Brien returned to DDJC after serving in the Air Force Reserves.

Utah Guardsman Returns from Deployment

By Leland Shumway, DDHU

Defense Distribution Depot Hill, UT (DDHU) welcomed back one of its own from a yearlong deployment in Iraq with the Utah National Guard's 116th Combat Support Equipment Company.

Sergeant First Class Flamino Montoya, USA, a forward signal support specialist, and DDHU stock-maintenance packer, returned with a number of impressions of Iraq, its people, and his mission there.

"It feels kind of Biblical" Montoya commented, "I stood in front of the ancient temple at Ur, the city Abraham left to found Israel thousands of years ago."

SFC Montoya explained that the unit's official mission was just the beginning of the work accomplished by the Soldiers of the 84th Engineer Combat Battalion based near Tikrit. "While we were there, we graded and paved Route 1 to Kuwait, and built an ammo storage area, but some of the guys took on extra projects. We teamed up with soldiers from Arizona and built some orphanages in the area. Some other people in the unit had family from home send supplies for the schools in town, and assisted in repairing school buildings. Occasionally we'd get a citizen that would come to the wire either hurt or sick requesting medical care. Our commander always allowed these."

Flam believes that Iraq's people were generally happy to see Americans. "I had contact with merchants, mostly. Although they don't want us here forever, the merchants tell me that they like Americans because they pay for what they get. These guys are glad just to be able to make a living."

He remembers the children with clear delight. "We used to box up small cartons with candy, toys, and drink powder from the MREs before we would go on convoy. As the trucks passed the little Iraqi kids waving like mad at the side of



SFC Flamino Montoya in foreground. Photo courtesy of Specialist Levi John.

the road, we'd roll off the cartons from the truck for them. By the time we were on our way back they would be chowing down and playing and wave at us even harder."

SFC Montoya summarizes his deployment to Iraq positively. "Most of the time it was pretty good. Sometimes convoy got to be pretty scary. Though I'd go back if they needed me."

DDYJ's Schneider Supports the Warfighter in Iraq

SKCM Danny J. Schneider, SW/AW, USN, has become the new DLA Contingency Support Team-Iraq (DCST-IZ) customer service representative to the U.S. Marine Expeditionary Force in Iraq. In this vital role, SKCM Schneider acts as DLA-CENTCOM's "eyes and ears" on the ground, making sure that DLA's supplies and services enhance the Warfighter's combat capability.

SKCM Schneider, Command Master Chief at Defense Distribution Depot Yokosuka, Japan (DDYJ), volunteered to deploy to Iraq to relieve MAJ William T. Klaus, USAR, who recently received the Bronze Star award for his accomplishments as part of DCST-IZ.

"From my perspective as DCST-IZ Commander, DDC not only provides the Warfighter superior support but also provides highly motivated, outstanding professionals like SKCM Schneider to work Warfighter issues in our austere and challenging environment," praised DCST-IZ Commander Lt Col Tiger Hession, USAF.

Despite the harsh and dangerous conditions in Iraq, SKCM Schneider finds the job both challenging and rewarding. "It's great to be able to provide the customer service on expediting

and tracking materiel to get their equipment and vehicles back into the fight and the satisfaction of being able to support the Warfighter from behind the lines,” he said.



MAJ William T. Klaus, USAR, of the Army Reserve Detachment New Cumberland, PA, passes the DLA colors to SKCM Danny J. Schneider, SW/AW, USN, to signify the passing of responsibility of DLA Contingency Support Team-Iraq (DCST-IZ) customer service representative.

planning of Armed Forces Day, an annual event where thousands of people in the community interact with local military service members and organizations. We at DDSP feel the loss as SSG Brittain has moved on as a Drill Sergeant specializing in training other paratroopers,” said DDSP Commander CAPT Jim Naber, SC, USN.



SSG Steve Brittain, USA, (left) is receiving a Joint Service Commendation Medal from DDSP Commander CAPT Jim Naber, SC, USN (right).

DDSP's SSG Brittain Receives JSCM

By Jessica Walter-Groft, DDC Command Affairs

SSG Steve Brittain, USA, was awarded the Joint Service Commendation Medal for his service as Inspector/Tester and Operations Noncommissioned Officer in Charge at Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, PA (DDSP) where he was responsible for the classification of more than 10,000 aerial delivery items. SSG Brittain also conducted inspections on critical life-sustaining air delivery equipment. In addition, he scheduled a dozen successful Airborne Operations in coordination with the Joint Airborne/Air Transportability Training Program. The Army Airborne Riggers stationed at DDSP are the only Riggers assigned to the Defense Logistics Agency.

“SSG Brittain played a vital role not only in our Air Delivery mission, but was proactive in the

DDPH's SK2 Rosal Commended for Outstanding Service

By Jessica Walter-Groft, DDC Command Affairs

SK2 Anthony Rosal, USN, was awarded the Joint Service Commendation Medal for his accomplishments as Assistant Leading Petty Officer and Tiger Team Lead of the Operations Support Division at Defense Distribution Depot Pearl Harbor, HI (DDPH).

By developing a dynamic customer-focused team, SK2 Rosal was directly responsible for providing support for workload surges and completing an intense warehouse storage aid reorganization and modernization plan that saved DDPH more than \$350,000 in man hours and other production related costs.

“Petty Officer Rosal is an outstanding leader,” praised

CDR Joe Vitelli, SC, USN, DDPH Commander. “His commitment to duty motivates his team to complete our mission to support the Warfighter.”

SK2 Rosal was also selected as one of the Ten Outstanding DLA Personnel of the Year in 2003.



DDPH Operations Officer LCDR Chris Anderson, SC, USN, presents the Joint Service Commendation Medal to SK2 Rosal.

Marine Recovering from Sniper Shot Reclaims Prized Medal

By Sherre Mitten-Bell, DDCSP Public Affairs

LCpl Matthew J. Brown, USMC, left for basic training in September of 2003, a month before his 19th birthday. He deployed to Iraq the following June. In addition to the protective gear issued by the Marine Corps, Matt wore a symbol of his own spiritual belief close to his heart – a St. Michael’s medal. He had worn it since his brother and two close friends were spared in a tragic car accident. Grateful for the Saint’s protection, they had their names engraved, along with Matt’s on the back of the medal.

On November 10, 2004, Matt was wounded in battle during the first day of the U.S. offensive maneuvers in the Iraqi city of Fallujah. In his words, “All hell broke loose,” and it wasn’t long before bullets starting flying and

a sniper shot the machine gunner in the upper thigh. Matt was treated at a Bravo Surgical trauma unit, quickly transferred to Germany, and ultimately admitted to the Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland where the surgeons took veins from his calf to repair the damage to his thigh.

Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, PA (DDSP) employee John Brown is Matt’s father. He stayed by Matt’s hospital bed as often as possible. He was glad for the day when his son wasn’t so groggy from the pain medication and they were able to talk. Matt remembers being shot, vaguely recalls his buddies carrying him to help, and then waking up at a base in Germany. Although he was grateful for his life, he became distressed that his St. Michael’s medal was missing. It weighed so much on his mind that when the Commandant of the Marine Corps presented Matt his Purple Heart, Matt replied, “Sir, this is really nice, but what I really want is my St. Michael’s medal back.”

Father LCDR Ron Camarda, USN, was at Bravo Surgical when the Lance Corporal was brought bleeding into the trauma unit. Matt



LCpl Matthew Brown, USMC, earned a Purple Heart for his valor, but was more concerned with finding the medal he lost in battle.