

Sigonella celebrates successes in logistics

By Cmdr. Mark E. Semmler, commander, Defense Distribution Depot Sigonella, Italy

Defense Distribution Depot Sigonella, Italy, hosted a ceremony Dec. 21, to recognize the efforts and accomplishments of the logistics community in Sigonella. Representatives from a number of the logistics community members in Sigonella took the opportunity to highlight specific successes.

Of particular note was the establishment of the Navy Logistics Working Group, staffed by representatives from multiple organizations, including Navy Region Europe, Commander Task Force 63, Fleet and Industrial Supply Center Sigonella, Naval Air Station Sigonella and DDSI.

The logistics community leverages the NLWG to effect change. A key benefit has been the creation of a forum with an open channel of communication for discussing and resolving issues that affect the region. This medium is not only the workbench for crafting logistics solutions in the Mediterranean, but it has also fostered a strong and effective working relationship among the key logistics partners in Europe, forging a new level of trust among participants.

Among the successes of the logistics community has been an initiative for the installation of radio frequency identifiers throughout seaports in southern Europe. This initiative has enhanced asset visibility and streamlined the requisition process. There has also been a reduction in the number of redundancies, improving support for deployed units. For example, one activity, FISC Sigonella, coordinates requisitions for all the commodities available in theater. Another is a consolidated shipping



Members of the logistics community in the Sigonella area received plaques at a ceremony Dec. 6, commemorating their efforts to improve logistics support to the war fighter. From left to right are Navy Lt. Cmdr. Doug Harold, supply officer, Naval Air Station Sigonella, Navy Cmdr. Mark E. Semmler, commander, Defense Distribution Depot Sigonella, Navy Capt. Joe Stuyvesant, commanding officer, Naval Air Station Sigonella, Navy Capt. John Camuso, commanding officer, Fleet and Industrial Supply Center Sigonella and Navy Cmdr. Charles Huff, air terminal officer, Naval Air Station Sigonella.

and distribution point at DDSI. This consolidation initiative has enhanced timeliness and responsiveness.

Another initiative has been the creation of a joint customer service office in Sigonella. Physically located at DDSI, the Consolidated Customer Service Center has significantly reduced the need for units to call multiple activities for logistics support answers. Manned by representatives from the air station's supply department, the fleet and industrial supply center, and DDSI, the customer service center partnering effort successfully merged the extensive expertise, as well as the physical locations, of three different customer service branches into one convenient source for logistics support.

Three specialized databases, the Global Air Transportation Execution System, the Distribution Standard System, and the Uniform Automated Data Processing System for Stock Points, commonly used by members of the Consolidated Customer Service Center, were also centralized. This

effort effectively provides customers with enhanced in-transit visibility, timely responses to information and expediting requests, and on-going continuous improvement of logistics processes.

Another success that has enhanced timeliness and responsiveness is a Consolidated Cargo On Hand Report. This report greatly improves theater materiel movement and visibility. Consolidated reporting is answering customer inquiries on a daily basis without a phone call. However, with the occasional exception to the program, the Consolidated Customer Service Center is where phone call solutions are immediately sourced and plans amended.

Achievements gained through cargo consolidation and the Consolidated Cargo On Hand Report include accurate inventories, flexibility for employing multimodal conveyance, improved responsiveness, guaranteed deliverability, and in-transit visibility to the customer. Improved performance levels have been achieved

through the entire transportation pipeline. This performance improvement has reduced customer wait time, transportation costs, and has positioned Sigonella for supporting contingency operations in the region.

Finally, the improved collaborative process of the logistics community significantly came together to deliver products and services to afloat units deployed throughout the Sixth Fleet and into the Fifth Fleet areas of operation, as well as, support for Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom, the Global War on Terror, as well as other contingency operations including Joint Task Force Lebanon.

With Sigonella as the “Hub of the Mediterranean,” there was immediate logistics response for the USS Eisenhower, USS Enterprise, and USS George Washington Carrier Strike Groups, the USS Iwo Jima Expeditionary Strike Group, and the USS Elrod/USS Ross Surface Action Group. The Sigonella logistics community executed timely movement of material to areas of re-supply, including Naples for in-port replenishment, Augusta Bay for Combat Logistics Force transshipping, and loading high priority material and morale-boosting mail onto aircraft assets at the NAS Sigonella Air Terminal. Support for Joint Task Force Lebanon included moving essential material and providing contracting services for both deployed units and American citizens being evacuated to Cyprus.

The individual Sigonella organizations represented have truly looked beyond individual benefit at the expense of the whole, to find customer solutions that support the war fighter in the most cost effective manner. Perhaps it is Sigonella’s close-knit community or the influence of the Italian emphasis on relationship and family that has fostered the heightened sense of teamwork. Either way, the unity forged at the foot of Mt. Etna has had a significantly positive

impact on customer support in the Mediterranean, and beyond.

“Believe it or not, this concept of teamwork is not universal,” said Navy Capt. John Camuso, commanding officer, Fleet and Industrial Supply Center Sigonella and former commander of Defense Distribution Depot Sigonella, Italy. “Sigonella is leading the way in this method of support. What we do here, as a matter of culture, is not practiced everywhere.

“It is our collective spirits of cooperation and collaboration that facilitate the wonderful accomplishments we enjoy and celebrate today,” Camuso added.

Navy Capt. Joseph Stuyvesant, commanding officer, Naval Air Station Sigonella, was the gathering’s honored guest and presented plaques to each of four logistics partners in Sigonella. Receiving plaques were Camuso representing the FISC, Navy Cmdr. Charles Huff representing NAS Sigonella’s Air Terminal, Navy Lt. Cmdr. Doug Harold, representing NAS Sigonella’s Supply Department and Navy Cmdr. Mark E. Semmler, commander, Defense Distribution Depot Sigonella, Italy.

At the conclusion of the ceremony the guests joined Stuyvesant for a ceremonial cake cutting and refreshments.

DDC Army Reserves gain enhanced knowledge of FEMA

By Jose Abreu, DDC Reserve/Mobilization Office

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, and the Defense Logistics Agency entered into a collaborative partnership through an Interagency Agreement to optimize the planning, ordering, and replenishment

of certain FEMA-requested commodities, and develop a road map for larger scaled supply chain initiatives.

The Defense Distribution Center Reserve/Mobilization Office has set aside a team of about 20 reservists known as the Crisis Action Team. The team, which rotates annually, is composed of Army, Navy, and Air Force Reserves who hold Annual Training Orders on hand and whose mission is to deploy on a moment’s notice in support of disaster relief operations.

In late 2006, the DDC Army Reserve Team, led by Army Reserve Col. Joseph Brown, participated in Emergency Preparedness Training to acquire an enhanced understanding of FEMA operations and the important role they would play in the event of a disaster.

The instructor for the training was Jose Lopez who is a Supervisor Logistics Management Specialist with FEMA. Lopez is also a Lieutenant Colonel on the DDC Army Reserve Team.

“This training provided my soldiers and me with a good understanding of how FEMA operates,” said Brown. “Now that we understand the role of FEMA and the Crisis Action Team we are ready, willing and able to support any mission that may arise.”



Emergency preparedness training was held at the Army Reserve Center in New Cumberland, Pa.