

Q & A with DDC's new

Paul D. Peters, Senior Executive Service, became the Deputy Commander of the Defense Distribution Center March 17, 2008. He comes to DDC after serving as Director of the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service in Battle Creek, Mich., since February 2006.

Peters has extensive experience in federal service. He served as the Defense Logistics Agency Business Systems Modernization Program Manager prior to directing DRMS. In that capacity, he led the acquisition, development, and implementation of DLA's primary business transformation program utilizing Enterprise Resources Planning commercial-off-the-shelf software to replace DLA material management and subsistence legacy systems.

Peters' more than 20 years of federal service includes positions with the Air Force Audit Agency, Air Force Materiel Command, Joint Logistics Systems Center, the Naval Fleet Industrial Supply Center at Norfolk, Va., the Naval Supply Systems Command headquarters, Deputy Under Secretary for Logistics for Business Systems Modernization, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Civilian Personnel and Equal Employment Opportunity, and the Defense Logistics Agency.

His Navy assignments include Deputy Program Manager for NAVSUP's One Touch Support Program from 2001 to

2002; a limited term appointment as Executive Director of DASN (CP&EEO) Human Resources Operations Center from 2000 to 2001; Director of SUP21 Re-engineering Office (managing the SMART Enterprise Resources Planning



program through software selection) in Mechanicsburg, Pa., from 1999 to 2000; and Executive Director of NAVSUP's FISC, Norfolk, Va., from 1997 to 1999.

Peters' assignments with the Air Force include representing the Deputy Under-Secretary of Defense for Logistics in the office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for Logistics from

1996 to 1997; leader of Joint Logistics Systems Center Commander's Action Group from 1995 to 1997; Chief of the Joint Logistics Systems Center Directorate of Maintenance Business Office in 1995; Programmed Depot Maintenance Scheduling System Program Manager from 1991 to 1994; Chief of Headquarters, Air Force Materiel Command Depot Maintenance Management Information System Office from 1989 to 1991; Headquarters Air Force Logistics Command's Logistics Modernization Systems Program Analyst from 1987 to 1989; and as an Air Force Audit Agency Audit Manager from 1984 to 1987.

He was a corporate auditor and tax accountant with Arthur Anderson & Co., Dayton, Ohio, from 1982 to 1984.

Peters graduated from Wright State University with a bachelor's degree in Accountancy. He passed the Certified Public Accountancy exam, and is Level III and Level II certified in Program Management and Communications-Computer Systems, respectively. He completed the Federal Executive Institute residential "Leadership for a Democratic Society" Executive Development Program. He has received the DLA Exceptional Civilian

Service Award, twice received the Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Award and Air Force Exemplary Civilian Service Award and was a recipient of the 2004 DLA Top Ten Employee Award. He was recognized as a Top 100 Federal Executive in 1993 and 2005, and has received numerous Sustained Superior Performance Awards.

deputy commander

By Jessica Walter, APR, DDC Public Affairs

The Defense Distribution Center welcomed Paul Peters, Senior Executive Service, as the new Deputy Commander Mar. 17. Peters is the fourth deputy commander in DDC's 11-year history. He joins the organization as it embarks on its second decade of distribution excellence – and era in which the command seeks to become the premier distribution services provider for the Department of Defense in any location and under any condition. In the interview that follows, Peters describes the experiences that prepared him for DDC's top civilian position as well as his view of DDC's strengths and his hopes for DDC's future.

Q: What are you looking forward to accomplishing most while at DDC?

A: I look forward to supporting the Commanding General's direction and intent, being an advocate of the organization and the critical role that DDC plays in the logistics supply chain, helping the organization improve our processes to be better while extending the services delivered, and being a part of the effort to increase the 'best value' of services delivered by DDC as measured through the 'eyes of our customers'.

Q: What do you feel are the strengths of DDC as a combat support partner?

A: DDC is a critical partner of combat support to the war fighter. As such, DDC manages and executes an important function in the logistics supply chain as well as being a central member of the DLA enterprise supporting the war fighter. We need to leverage the distribution expertise

and experience of the organization, and continue to demonstrate the flexibility required to remain relevant to customers we serve.

Q: Of your past experiences, which do you feel prepared you most for your role as DDC's Deputy Commander?

A: I have learned important lessons and gained invaluable experience from every position and organization and Agency in which I have worked. Each experience has built upon those preceding it and has blended into the experiences which have followed. The next position ... this position as Deputy Commander ... represents the opportunity to apply the accumulated observations, judgments, and applied lessons to enhance and strengthen the organization and the Agency.

Q: What have been the most challenging and rewarding achievements of your career?

A: Each job I have held has been progressively challenging and rewarding. The position as DRMS Director was reflective of that. Being a part of the effort to reorient the Agency's disposal business with a focus on national security, velocity, accuracy, and meeting the needs of the customer, restructuring the disposal organization through simplification of the chain of command and establishment of accountability at the point of execution was especially rewarding, especially when viewed in the context of concurrently increasing the capabilities and support of our personnel operating in Kuwait, Afghanistan, and Iraq.

Q: What are the benefits of the Senior Executive Service?

A: There are many benefits ... the association and participation with the senior leadership cadre that assists our military leaders in transforming our businesses to provide greater capabilities to the war fighters is one of the more valued benefits of serving as an SES.

Q: Why did you pursue a career in the federal government?

A: A career in the federal government is a wonderful way to provide service to the country and contribute in a positive way as a citizen.

Q: What inspires you?

A: Great leadership is inspiring, and is found in all aspects of our lives. Being part of organizations which understand their role in a changing environment and have the flexibility to adapt the performance of their mission to those changes and remain relevant is motivating and rewarding.

Q: What would you like people to know about you?

A: I look forward to this assignment - to continue working with Brig. Gen. Collyar and with the incoming Commander, Brig. Gen. Talleri. DDC is going to continue to play a major role in shaping DLA's future. The opportunities of the future will be based on a strong work ethic, the ability to make hard decisions, being accountable, delivering consistent performance that has value to our customers and is integrated with the DLA enterprise. I am glad to be a part of the team.