

## DDPW Unloads Weighty Aircraft Carrier Navigation Equipment

*By Jessica Walter, DDC Command Affairs*

Defense Distribution Depot Puget Sound, WA (DDPW) employees unloaded an enormous crate containing a radome destined for the Navy aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis dry docked for overhaul at the nearby Puget Sound Naval Shipyard.

The radome, valued at about \$50 thousand, is the largest part of an antenna pedestal assembly that is used to conceal and protect the ship's radar equipment.

The radome arrived at DDPW on a flatbed truck from San Diego. The size of the crate was much larger than the typical shipments received at DDPW, making the unloading of the radome a very delicate

maneuver that required DDPW's largest forklift and most highly skilled forklift operator.

"This shipment is significantly larger than those normally received here at DDPW, but our employees moved quickly to find the right materiel handling equipment to unload the crate so that it could be delivered to the customer quickly," said CDR Nick Mato, SC, USN, DDPW Commander.

The aircraft carrier, previously homeported in San Diego, arrived in its new homeport in Bremerton, WA, on Naval Base Kitsap in January for an overhaul. The ship entered dry dock at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard for routine docking earlier this year.

The mission of the USS John C. Stennis and its air wing is to conduct sustained combat air operations. The air wing consists of up to nine squadrons of aircraft including F-14 Tomcats, F/A 18 Hornets, EA-6 Prowlers, S-3B Vikings, E-2 Hawkeyes, and SH-60 Sea Hawks.

## DDC Reserve Affairs Attends DLA Force Provider Conference, Visits CONUS Replacement Center

*By Jose Abreu, DDC Reserve Affairs*

The Defense Distribution Center (DDC) Reserve Affairs & Mobilization Division participated in the DLA Force Provider Conference held in El Paso, TX, in April. DDC's Reserve Affairs team also visited the CONUS Replacement Center (CRC) at Fort Bliss, TX.

Individuals preparing to deploy attend the CRC to be validated as an individual replacement, Department of Defense (DOD) civilian, or contractor for overseas assignments in the Southwest Asia theater. The validation takes place over several days and includes medical screenings and training activities. Civilians and military deploying for DDC go to the CRC for one week and two weeks respectively.

The trip to the CRC by the Reserve Affairs and Mobilization Division was to gain first-hand knowledge of what it's like for those who get deployed overseas and what they go through at CRC before deploying to locations such as Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan to support DDC missions.

"The information gained at the CRC will be very beneficial when we are talking to our civilian workforce about our program and the different processes they will have to go through," said Lisa Walker, Civilian Program Manager. "Now we can provide information from experience, not from just what others have said."

Kristy Farner, Civilian Deployment Specialist, added, "Before, if they would ask me what to expect at the CRC, I wouldn't have had a clue, but now I can give them an idea of what they can expect."



*DDPW's Rick Saldana carefully and methodically unloads the aircraft carrier's radome from the truck.*