

CDR Susan Talwar assumes command of DDJF

By Polly Charbonneau, DDC Command Affairs

A soft breeze blew off the St John's River as CAPT (Sel) James W. Smart, SC, USN, relinquished command of Defense Distribution Depot Jacksonville, Fla. (DDJF), to CDR Susan Talwar, SC, USN, July 21, 2006, in a ceremony officiated by former Defense Distribution Center (DDC) Commander BG Michael J. Lally, USA.

"During his tenure, Jim established the model for contractor operated distribution centers through the creation of a government-contractor team that consistently provided outstanding support to the FISC, the Naval Aviation Depot, Naval Air Station Jax, Naval Station Mayport, and world-wide customers," said BG Lally.

"DDJF consistently meets all the performance goals established by DLA and DDC. In fact, DDJF has not missed any performance or safety goal during Jim's tenure – that is an outstanding record and a testament to Jim's leadership and the hard work of every dedicated employee at DDJF," BG Lally said.

"During Hurricane Katrina relief efforts, Jim and the entire DDJF team provided flawless support on a short-notice receipt, sort, and delivery of all pharmaceuticals and medical supplies to outfit USNS Comfort. DDJF processed, shipped and loaded more than 800 different items onto the Comfort," BG Lally said.

"Jim knows his Navy customer and he expanded the Material Processing Center support to better Commander Task Force 43 ships thereby greatly improving material support in the CTF43 AOR," BG Lally said.

"Jim, you and your team have been faced with a demanding, dynamic and fluid environment and you have managed to remain customer focused. Well done, Team DDJF," BG Lally said.

"It has been a remarkable two years here," CAPT (Sel) Smart said. "We have filled over half a million requisitions for material in

of over 600 Sailors who were sent to relieve U.S. Army forces of their security mission in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba," CAPT (Sel) Smart said.

"On New Year's Day 2005, we emergency shipped over 40 pallets of water purification and insect control equipment to save lives in support of the tsunami relief efforts in Southeast Asia," CAPT (Sel) Smart said.

"Lastly, but certainly not least, I need to mention our successful transformation from a government operated distribution center to a contractor-operated distribution center," CAPT (Sel) Smart said. "Significant in that when I arrived here two years ago a small crew of dedicated, hard-working government civilians were trying to address the many challenges the first contractor left behind while simultaneously preparing for a new contractor and new workforce. I am extremely proud of how this group rose to the challenge and developed a culture with EG&G of mutual benefit and teamwork that has led to the very successful operation that we have today that provides service to our customers at a savings to the taxpayers.

"All of these significant accomplishments do not happen without fantastic people working with exceptional support and teamwork from our host, customers, and logistics partners," CAPT (Sel) Smart said. "I have to mention a core group of key personnel who

have supported me: Bobby Bryant, Brian Dacy, Joe DeCristafaro, Patty Freeman, Dave Friedman, AJ Hall, Dave Lamont, Charlene Padgett, Maddie Thomas, Bob Vickers, and Yolette Williams.

"Mike Cole, our EG&G site manager,



CDR Susan Talwar, SC, USN, Commander, DDJF.

support of the repair, training, or direct efforts in the War on Terrorism. On a near daily basis we are shipping much needed material to our forces in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"We provided the facilities and assistance necessary for the preparation and outfitting



CAPT (Sel) Smart passes the DDC flag to BG Lally, symbolically relinquishing command of DDJF.

when you took over last November you came at the right time, with the right skills, customer service focus, and leadership and took the performance of your workforce to new levels. My hat is off to all you have accomplished and I would be proud to work with you again in the future,” CAPT (Sel) Smart said.

“And of course Mr. Lenny “the law” Wallace, my deputy without whom none of our achievements would be possible, I cannot put in to words my appreciation for your patience, counsel, and seemingly never-ending explanations of the intricacies of our DSS system. I can say with absolute conviction that when it comes to the 26 deputy commanders in DDC there is none better than Lenny Wallace.

“For our new commander, Sue, you are about to begin the best tour you will ever have in the Navy. Command for a Supply Corps commander is a special opportunity. You are taking over a superb organization with an extremely talented group of professionals with whom you can accomplish many great things in support of our armed forces. Your time in command will fly by quickly – in fact mine went about a year quicker than I thought it would – but enjoy every minute of it and I wish you the

very best of luck.”

CAPT (Sel) Smart’s next assignment is as Deputy for Commander, Logistics Forces, Naval Forces Central Command, Bahrain.

“Jim, you have certainly set the bar high,” CDR Talwar said. I could best

describe DDJF with three big E’s: Energy, Excitement, and Enthusiasm. Your workforce shows limitless energy to face challenges, unbounded excitement about helping customers, and enthusiasm for making operations more efficient and accurate, and constantly striving to make themselves better.”

CDR Talwar holds a bachelor’s degrees in Mathematics and Physical Education from Rice University and a master’s degree in Business Administration from Old Dominion University in Virginia. She is a qualified Surface Warfare Supply Corps Officer, a designated Joint Specialty Officer and a member of the Department of Defense Acquisition Professional Community (Business and Financial Management).

CDR Talwar’s previous assignment was at Naval Supply Systems Command, Mechanicsburg, Pa., as Supply Chain Manager for Platform/Fleet Support.

BG Lally challenged CDR Talwar and the DDJF Team to strive to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and innovativeness of distribution capabilities; meet customer requirements; and stay focused on support to the Jacksonville military community and the Warfighter.



CDR Talwar accepts the DDC flag from BG Lally and accepts responsibility for DDJF.