

## CDR Semmler assumes command of DDSI

Benvenuto CDR Mark Semmler, ciao and buona fortuna CAPT John Camuso

By Stacy L. Umstead, DDC Command Affairs Office

CDR Mark E. Semmler, SC, USN, assumed command of the Defense Distribution Depot Sigonella, Italy (DDSI), in an official ceremony held September 1 and officiated by Defense Distribution Center Deputy Commander, Phyllis C. Campbell, SES.

Relinquishing command of DDSI was CAPT John Camuso, SC, USN.

In her opening remarks, Campbell reflected on DDSI's successes during CAPT Camuso's tour as DDSI Commander, "John's renowned team-building skills have established DDSI as an innovative distribution center that regularly receives rave reviews for superb support from key stakeholders including both the combatant commander and Navy leadership."

During his tenure, the DDSI team re-engineered joint distribution support processes culminating in the highly successful implementation of the Southern Europe Regional Distribution Center (SERDC) to improve logistics support to Fifth and Sixth Fleet Navy/Marine Corps Warfighters. Under U.S. European Command policy guidance, and in partnership with the Naval Air Station Sigonella (NASSIG) Air Terminal, this initiative has achieved over \$1 million annual cost avoidance, improved cargo velocity, enhanced asset visibility, and resulted in more time-definite delivery of cargo to Warfighters in theater.

CAPT Camuso referenced his DDSI team's successes over the past two years to that of the most recent World Cup Soccer win by

the Italians. "Similar to the Italian National Soccer Team (also known as the "Azzurri"), our DDSI team has achieved great things and has worked together superbly to achieve common goals. We have successfully provided cost effective, timely distribution

having served as Program Manager for Logistic Support Centers and Material Processing Centers, Fleet Industrial Support Center San Diego, Calif.

CDR Semmler's shore assignments have developed his expertise as a supply chain management and water front support expert. His tours include: the Fitting Out and Supply Support Assistance Center, Norfolk, Va., where he served as an Outfitting Coordinator and Logistics Intern; as well as the Defense Supply Center Columbus where he served as Carrier and ALRE Weapon System Support Manager, then as the Carrier and ALRE Branch Chief.

CDR Semmler is warfare qualified in aviation and surface logistical support. His at-sea assignments include USS Guam (LPH-9) where he was the Stores Division Officer, Sales Division Officer, and Food Service Division Officer, the destroyer USS Ingersoll (DD-990) where he served as the Supply Officer, and aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis (CVN-74) as the Assistant Supply Officer.

CDR Semmler has participated in a number of operations including Operations Eastern Exit, Southern Watch, Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom, and most recently on the ground in

Iraqi Freedom.

CDR Semmler graduated from the University of Idaho with a bachelor's degree in Psychology and was commissioned in August 1987 after completing the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps program. He earned a Master of Management degree from Troy State University in 1994 and a Master of



CDR Mark Semmler, SC, USN.

support to our Warfighters in theater. Additionally, like the 'Azzurri,' our DDSI team has worked long, arduous hours to ensure mission success."

CAPT Camuso's next assignment will be as Commanding Officer Fleet Industrial Supply Center (FISC) Sigonella, Italy.

CDR Semmler comes to DDSI after

## What is the secret to great teamwork?

*As part of DDC's continuing focus on improving climate and culture across the organization, the staff of the DDC Review asked employees for the secrets to great teamwork. Here is what our employees had to say.*

*If you would like to submit a response to our question, visit the DDC Review page on the DDC website at [www.ddc.dla.mil/library/review/feedback.aspx](http://www.ddc.dla.mil/library/review/feedback.aspx). Responses will be posted to DLA Today & Tomorrow and will be published in the DDC Review. Anonymous responses are ok.*

In my opinion, the secret to great teamwork is to have dedicated people.

*Chad Mullis, DDAG  
Supply Technician*

Commitment to the overall goal, acceptance of the experience of others, respect for differences, and humility and regard for the weaknesses and shortcomings of all.

*Tina Tucker, DDDE  
Security Specialist*

A great team should be made up of flexible, multi-talented, cross-trained individuals who have clearly defined roles and responsibilities, are productive and cooperative, and have a sense of purpose with a common goal to achieve. I always think back to a "teaming" photo I had hanging on my wall of a row team slicing across the water. As a supervisor, I would use this photo to convey teaming efforts. My favorite saying is "having everyone pulling on the oars with the same intensity."

*Bobby Bryant, DDJF  
Accountable Officer*

Business Administration degree from The Ohio State University in 1999.

His personal awards include Defense Meritorious Service Medal, four Navy Commendation Medals, two Defense Joint Achievement Medals, and the Navy Achievement Medal.

DDSI is strategically located in the heart of the Mediterranean Sea. With capability to provide the full complement of physical distribution services and ideally located on the historically-rich island of Sicily, DDSI stands ready to support all four service components and other federal agencies located south of the Italian Alps.

Officially activated April 1, 2004, DDSI was established to provide forward stock positioning support and enhanced physical distribution services in conjunction with an expanding regional customer base. Collocated on Naval Air Station, Sigonella, Italy, DDSI's primary customers currently include the Aviation Support Division, Aviation Intermediate Maintenance Division, and Navy ships and squadrons operating in the Mediterranean region. Specialized handling and support services include managing the Navy's hazardous materials, depot-level repair part storage and distribution, and a complete range of material packing and shipping services. DDSI also provides expedited requisitioning and centralized receiving support to the military community throughout the Mediterranean.



## Parsons first Deputy Commander of Deployable Distribution Center

*By Stacy L. Umstead, DDC Command Affairs*

Richard "Marc" Parsons was named the first Deputy Commander for the Defense Distribution Center's (DDC) Deployable Distribution Center, the deployable and scalable distribution operation that can receive, store, issue, transship, and maintain in-transit visibility for items such as food, water and construction material needed for relief efforts in support of disasters occurring inside the continental United States.

Parsons, who assumed the position in late August, is certainly up for the task. "As a retired Marine, I am very accustomed to preparing organizations for deployments to austere locations. I also understand the leadership challenges of operating in remote areas with limited resources, much like we might face with the Deployable Distribution Center."

Parsons met the Deployable Distribution Center 75-member team at the recent exercise carried out in Corpus Christi, Texas. "I am really impressed with the Deployable Distribution Center team members' willingness to make personal sacrifices so that they can assist others. That willingness is what will make the Deployable Distribution Center a success when called upon."

The Deployable Distribution Center can be deployed in response to requests from federal or state agencies, which have been approved by the United States Northern Command (NORTHCOM) and the Department of Defense.

Deployable Distribution Center was established June 1, 2006, and according to Parsons, the need to be even closer to the customer in the future is critical and expects the Deployable Distribution Center concept to be expanded. "As