

## DDSI supports base closure

*By Navy Cmdr. Mark E. Semmler, commander, DDSI*

When the closure of the Navy base in La Maddalena, Italy was announced earlier this year, Defense Distribution Depot Sigonella, Italy, or DDSI, was tasked with coordinating the necessary transportation requirements.

Closing a base has many requirements, including determining what to do with furniture, equipment, vehicles and other general and hazardous materiel and then once the decision is made deciding how to get the items where they need to go. Receiving, consolidating and arranging for the transportation of a wide variety of cargo to diverse destinations is a daily routine in the DDSI warehouses located aboard Naval Air Station II, Sigonella. DDSI is well-positioned to handle the additional workload generated by the redistribution of base closure assets to locations both within theater and around the world.

Operating around the clock, DDSI has the personnel, expertise and resources to cost-effectively accomplish the redistribution mission. DDSI has nearly 200,000 square feet of distribution and warehouse operating space as well as the materiel handling equipment and vehicles required for lifting and transporting large quantities of materiel. In addition, DDSI has the capacity to accomplish robust packing evolutions, including a woodworking capability to support complex crating and bracing requirements. DDSI also has a packing team certified to prepare hazardous materiel for transportation.

In collaboration with logistics partners, the DDSI team is also able to facilitate timely materiel movement through the customs clearance processes, and effectively utilize commercial, organic and government



*Mary Westlake, left, accountable officer, Defense Distribution Depot Sigonella, Italy, and Giuseppe "Joe" Savarino, technical support specialist, DDSI, discuss the disposition of materiel in DDSI's main warehouse. The materiel came from regional installations that have closed or are in the process of closing.*

transportation resources to meet customer requirements.

Even though the redistribution effort is just getting underway, DDSI has already processed more than 125 pallets of materiel for movement from Sigonella. Additionally, DDSI has centrally procured and delivered 200 pallets and 100 tri-walls packing containers to support the liquidation effort. It is estimated that more than 200 truckloads of materiel will need to be moved from La Maddalena. In September, a team of DDSI transportation experts visited La Maddalena to certify hazardous materiel packing for shipment and provide personnel support as La Maddalena draws down its personnel. The entire effort is expected to run through February 2008.

In a related project earlier this year, DDSI was called upon to accomplish materiel redistribution efforts for seven sea van containers of cargo received as a result of the

closure of the Navy base in Keflavik, Iceland. With the help of Naval Facilities Engineering Command, or NAVFAC Sigonella, DDSI received, catalogued, and redistributed over 198 pallets of maintenance and repair materiel. With the Defense Distribution Center's goal of being a good steward of taxpayer dollars, personnel from DDSI, the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service in Sigonella, and Naval Air Station Sigonella NAVFAC have collaborated to ensure that much of the materiel will be reused by local commands or by humanitarian operations.

Mary Westlake, the DDSI Accountable Officer and Project Manager for the redistribution efforts, summed up the efforts of DDSI employees, "These projects have highlighted DDSI's strength of tailored distribution to support any customer no matter their location or destination."