

Army Lt. Col. Robert Maxham assumes command of DDCT

Army Lt. Col. Timothy Orner relinquishes command and retires after 20 years

By Polly Charbonneau, DDC Public Affairs

Army Lt. Col. Robert C. Maxham assumed command of Defense Distribution Depot Corpus Christ, Texas, on July 10, 2007, in a ceremony held inside a DDCT warehouse. Army Brig. Gen. Lynn A. Collyar officiated at the ceremony and presided over the retirement of Army Lt. Col. Timothy W. Orner, Sr, who relinquished command of DDCT and retired from the Army after more than 20 years of service.

The Patriot Band and Honor Guard of America provided music to accompany the ceremony as well as posted and retired the colors, keeping traditions alive.

“You make sure the right item gets to the right people at the right time,” Collyar told the DDCT Team. “You do it without glory, but with a dedication to supporting our war fighters that is nothing short of outstanding.

“Each of our team members—civilian employees, active and reserve military personnel, local and foreign national employees, and contractors—all are integral to that support. On behalf of those war fighters, I thank you for what you do,” Collyar said.

DDCT serves as the primary wholesale distribution point for major components to support helicopter repair missions for Department of Defense customers worldwide. Its mission is to receive, store, pack, preserve, issue, and arrange transportation for assigned supplies and equipment as directed by the Defense Logistics Agency and other military item managers.

Items stored and processed at DDCT include end items and repair parts for small aircraft and helicopters, avionics, and electronics. The DDCT Team also loads and unloads helicopters and other cargo from C-17, C-5A, C-141,

and C-130 aircraft operated by the Air Mobility Command.

“While in command of DDCT, Orner developed a long-range business plan, assigned ownership, and designed and managed initiatives and metrics to achieve continuous process improvement,” Collyar said.



Army Lt. Col. Robert C. Maxham



Army Lt. Col. Timothy W. Orner, Sr.

“He enacted process improvements known as Lean initiatives which resulted in reduced processing cost per transaction and increased productivity by 35 percent at the same time improving DDCT’s organizational culture dramatically,” Collyar said. “He re-engineered work flow processes to increase velocity of critical supplies to the collocated Army maintenance depot and overseas to the war fighter.”

Orner shaped a safety and security environment that resulted in a 50 percent reduction in overall accidents and a zero case rate of facilities or information technology system breaches.

Orner assumed command of DDCT on July 14, 2005. Born in Scranton, Pa., Orner was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Field Artillery in 1987. Orner transferred to the Quartermaster Corps in 1991. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from the University of South Carolina and

a Master of Science degree in Logistics Management from the Florida Institute of Technology. His military education includes the U.S. Army Airborne, Parachute Rigger and Air Assault Schools, the Field Artillery Basic and Advanced Courses and the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.

In 2003, Orner was assigned as the Director of Logistics for the Joint Prisoners of War/Missing in Action Accounting Command, Camp Smith, Hawaii, part of the U.S. POW/MIA accounting mission in Southeast Asia, North Korea, China, Europe, Papua New Guinea and Burma.

As the Director of Logistics, Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, Orner merged two organizations (Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii and the Joint Task Force

Full Accounting) to synchronize supply, maintenance, distribution and financial management functions supporting Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command.

He successfully resourced POW/MIA operations totaling more than \$120 million and his management enabled the flexibility to conduct additional missions in Thailand, Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia.

Orner was directly responsible for the recovery and identification of 62 missing Americans from the Vietnam, Korean and World War II.

Orner’s awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Meritorious Service Medal two oak leaf clusters, the Army Commendation Medal and the Army Achievement Medal one oak leaf cluster. He is also authorized to wear the Parachutist Badge, the Parachutist Rigger Badge and the Air Assault Badge.

“Max, Tim leaves a strong legacy for you to continue,” Collyar told Maxham. “You bring a wealth of skill to us and you are being entrusted to lead a great team.”

Maxham graduated from Norwich University in May 1988, and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Medical Service Corps. He completed the Medical Service Corps Officer Basic Course at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, and was assigned to the 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. While assigned to the Division, he served as the Medical Platoon Leader in the 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, and Medical Company Treatment Platoon Leader and Executive Officer in the 725th Main Support Battalion. Returning to Fort Sam Houston in 1993, he attended the Medical Service Corps Officer Advance Course.

Following the Advance Course in 1993, Maxham was assigned to the 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y. During this assignment, he served as a Medical Company Commander and S3 in the 710th Main Support Battalion. In 1997, Maxham was assigned to the 70th Medical Battalion, 44th Medical Brigade, as the Battalion Executive Officer.

In 1999, Maxham returned to the 10th Mountain Division as the Chief, Division Medical Operations Center, 10th Division Support Command. He served in this position until 2001 and was then assigned to Fort Detrick, Md., and served for three years as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations in the Army Medical Research and Material Command.

Maxham returned to Fort Sam Houston in 2004 and served as the Executive Officer, 232nd Medical Battalion.

Most recently, Maxham was assigned as a Medical Operations Consultant for the Directorate of Combat and Doctrine Development, Army Medical Department Center and School.

Maxham holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration and a Masters of Science in Health Care Administration. His awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal (four oak leaf clusters), the Army Commendation Medal (three oak leaf clusters) and the Army Achievement Medal (three oak leaf clusters). He is also authorized to wear the Expert Field Medical Badge and the Air Assault Badge.

New distribution center commanders complete Logistics Pre-Command Course

By Polly Charbonneau, DDC Public Affairs

Each summer, several of the Defense Distribution Center’s 26 distribution center commanders change command. In June 2007, ten new commanders completed the DDC Logistics Pre-Command Course.

The program helps prepare new commanders for their role of managing and operating DDC’s distribution centers. The LPCC demonstrates the importance of supply chain integration and illustrates how all components of the supply chain system connect together in order to flow most smoothly. Emphasis is placed on DDC specific systems, functions and programs.

“Overall, it was an outstanding program,” said incoming Defense Distribution Depot Tobyhanna, Pa., commander, Army Lt. Col. Michael J. Talley. “The curriculum exposed incoming commanders to DDSP (Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, Pa.), the military’s largest distribution platform, as well as to commercial best practices. This

was the first joint pre-command course specifically structured and focused for the unique challenges of DDC commanders.”

The LPCC included overviews of all DDC program areas; a simulation of a distribution center; metrics discussion; an overview of the Distribution Standard System, or DSS, the backbone of information technology operations for DDC; and hands-on DSS training using the computer lab and mock warehouse.

Additionally, DDC’s Transformation Office discussed DDC’s culture and organizational transformation initiatives with a focus on DDC Lean initiatives.

“LPCC was a good, fast-paced and focused course,” said incoming Defense Distribution Mapping Activity commanding officer Navy Cmdr. John Palmer. “New commanders complete the week and are fully briefed in DDC processes and methods of doing business.”



As part of the Logistics Pre-Command Course, or LPCC, new distribution center commanders participated in a simulation of a distribution center; including training on the Distribution Standard System, or DSS, the backbone of information technology operations for DDC; and hands-on training using the computer lab and mock warehouse.