



Opinions strong, logical, articulate and respected; Brown's career leads to DLA Hall of Fame

The Defense Logistics Agency Hall of Fame recognizes and honors former members of the DLA community who have made significant and enduring contributions to the Agency. This year's ceremony included two former DDC leaders, Donald P. Brown and Jerri Taylor.

Donald P. Brown distinguished himself throughout his career with unsurpassed and conspicuously notable service to our Nation, both in the military, and as a civilian.

Brown followed a steady career of increasing responsibility culminating in his appointment as director of the Defense Distribution Depot Columbus, Ohio in 1997, serving as the first permanent civilian director of a Defense Logistics Agency distribution center.

Brown, retiring in 1992 from the United States Army Reserve, had 28 years of successful participation in transportation, logistics, and major command units. After obtaining a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Logistics from the Pennsylvania State University in 1964,

Brown began his military career in January 1965, when he entered active duty completing the Transportation Officer Basic Course and, in his first permanent duty assignment at Boeblingen, Germany, he was promoted to first lieutenant while supporting troop movements to West Berlin, transporting supplies during the relocation of U.S. Forces from France and transportation support for the consolidation Army Headquarters with U.S. Army Europe at Heidelberg, Germany.

In December 1966, he was assigned as commanding officer, 15th Transportation Company, 4th Transportation Battalion, Ludwigsburg, Germany. In February 1967, he was reassigned as battalion maintenance officer, 4th Transportation Battalion, and served as the U.S. Army transportation officer for the DoD Joint Task Force at the 1967 Paris, France International Air Show.

Brown was promoted to captain in July 1967 and reassigned to the inactive reserve in August 1967. A distinguished military graduate, he was also commissioned a second lieutenant, Transportation Corps, United States Army Reserve.

Brown began his Federal civilian career in November, 1976 as an administrative supply technician for the Department of the Army in Columbus, Ohio. Brown served in that role until he resigned in December 1977.

Brown worked in the civilian sector with Sears, Roebuck and Company Logistics and then with Ohio Public Warehouse/Transportation. Then in June 1985, Brown returned to government service as a management analyst, General Schedule (GS)-09 with DLA at the Defense Construction Supply Center in Columbus, Ohio. Brown was then quickly promoted to a program analyst GS-11 position in October 1985.

He then decided to change his career path when he was selected as a traffic management specialist, GS-12 in 1987 at Defense Distribution Depot Columbus, Ohio. Another promotion was to quickly follow when Brown became a supervisory

traffic management specialist, GS-13 at DDCO. It was clear that he was a dedicated employee when he accepted a temporary assignment as the traffic manager position at DDCO.

In 1992, Brown was selected as the GS-14 distribution facilities manager, the lead civilian in charge of the DDCO organization. The employees of DDCO were led by many great leaders in uniform, but the continuity would come under the leadership of Don Brown.

Little did he know that many challenges were to face DDCO in the coming years, and Brown, a man with 28 years of experience as an Army Reservist, a big heart for people, and several decades of hands-on technical experience, was an incredible asset in leading and implementing those changes.

After a history of significant and steady high workload and superior support to the Warfighter, starting with its establishment by the Army in 1918 and continuing throughout the rest of the twentieth century, DDCO, in 1995, was identified by the Base Realignment and Closure, or BRAC, Commission as the Depot to hold military war reserve assets and other slow moving items. This effort not only required massive materiel movement efforts with receiving and shipping functions but also impacted personnel at the Depot. During a two-year period, DDCO went from 505 personnel processing more than 1 million receipts and issues annually, to 55 teammates processing 243,000 receipts and issues.

Through Brown's leadership as the Transportation Officer, DDCO exceeded all expectations in executing the BRAC recommendation ensuring



Don Brown, former director, Defense Distribution Depot Columbus, Ohio

those that were displaced acquired other positions and that the DDCO maintained a positive and motivating environment for all...no small feat.

Brown was selected as DDCO's Director in 1997 and his next challenge came in 1998, when it was determined that DDCO would be the first Depot to undergo the A-76 public/private competition for distribution services. DDCO then served as a model for all future distribution center competitions.....and there were many.

Brown's tireless efforts, his broad and extensive knowledge of depot operations and his dedication to the task, bought the government a win over competitors in the private sector and still saved millions of dollars to the taxpayer. However, as part of the winning proposal, the DDCO team was reduced from 41 to 19.

After the events of Sept. 11, 2001, as units were mobilized and deployed

to Afghanistan, DDCO, and Brown's small staff, was called upon to furnish uniforms, boots, and other items of organizational equipment. The DDCO attacked this surge with their usual motto of "Dedicated, Dependable, Customer Oriented" support to the Warfighters. In supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom, DDCO experienced their last "surge" in war reserve material. Starting late February 2003 and lasting through early April 2003, DDCO team members working 12 hour days, 7 day weeks processed more than 5,000 requisitions packing and shipping 200 truckloads of materiel.

Brown's final challenge at DDCO was with the BRAC recommendation of 2005, which was to disestablish the distribution activity at DDCO. While the recommendation did not direct the closure to be completed until 2009, under Brown's leadership, and with a skeleton staff of 12 team members, they finished this task one year early.

Brown's foresight, not only saved the American taxpayers millions of dollars, but also ensured that not one of those team members was adversely affected.

In keeping with his previous excellent performance standards, Brown executed the movement of materiel, supplies and equipment to other sites while still meeting customer expectations. In fact, Brown and the DDCO staff performed some work that could not be executed at DDC's larger sites.

Brown's knowledge of all aspect of distribution operations, including his intensive knowledge of the Distribution Standard System, or DSS earned him the respect of managers, employees, peers. Many times, Brown was contacted for his expertise. He has always been viewed as a distribution

subject matter expert.

Brown constantly exceeded all expected performance requirements and more than frequently went the extra mile to provide exceptional Warfighter support. Brown was always committed to continuous process improvement by frequently sharing ideas, suggesting improvements, and being proactive in developing solutions which are technically accurate, cost effective and creative. He routinely received unsolicited positive comments from customers.

Throughout his career, Brown raised the bar on performance for himself, his employees and his peers. He was always the epitome of a dedicated professional. His efficiency and professional demeanor won him the respect of both contemporaries and superiors. His opinions have always been strong, logical, articulate and respected. He was repeatedly recognized for his technical competence, depth of knowledge and the ability to grasp a situation and institute a viable solution. Unusually dedicated and an expert in his field, he exceeded all expected performance goals, in every job. He was always a trusted advisor to senior leadership.

Brown's performance clearly demonstrates the extraordinary recognition of the DLA Hall of Fame award. Total dedication to process improvement, insistence upon excellence, and commitment to customer service and fiscal responsibility were hallmarks in his career. However, it is Brown's leadership and his love for people, which set him apart from the rest.

Time and time again, throughout his career, Brown achieved success operating with limited resources and staff members, but always serviced the Warfighter with "the right item, in the right amount, to the right place, in the right condition, and on time."