



Team DDDK celebrated one year of operation in February.

up strategic airlift assets to better support combatant command needs,” explained DDDK Commander LTC Jim Lippstreu, USA.

According to LTC Lippstreu, DDDK is committed to continued success and is improving internal processes through

the Lean initiative designed to enhance operational efficiency by eliminating wasted steps. “We’re constantly looking to improve our capacity to support the customer where it makes sense.”



DDC HQ employees participate in Town Hall

By Polly Charbonneau, DDC Command Affairs

Staff from the Defense Distribution Center (DDC) Headquarters met with DDC Commander, BG Mike Lally, USA, for a Town Hall Feb. 24, 2006. BG Lally began the Town Hall by recognizing several employees for their exceptional service to DDC’s customers.

Linda Norman, DDC Research Specialist, was presented a United States flag flown over LSA Anaconda, Balad, Iraq, for her dedication and support in distributing repair parts for Logistics Task Force 129 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

BG Lally presented the DDC winners of the 2005 DLA Team Award with engraved framed pictures of themselves with VADM Keith Lippert, SC, USN, Director, DLA.

Barbara Eberly, Pete Fludovich, and Paul Galiotto from DDC’s Enterprise Support Office were presented with DLA Certificates of Achievement for their efforts in assisting the Defense Distribution Depot San Joaquin, Calif. (DDJC), water treatment facility in meeting newly imposed drinking water standards.

DDC had numerous employees that assisted with Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. Those recognized include Randy Seward, Sherry Amrhein, Jim Blockus, Eric Fegley, Roxanne Gabel, Nathanael Hale, Brian Hatcher, Rich Hawkins, Barbara Huss, Maria Joseph, Joyce Kiel, Jeff Kone, Al Miller, Brenda Miller, Tom Minerick, Eric Mueller, Wayne Myers, Joe O’Neal, Janice Reisinger, Tim Schaming, Jason Smith, Renae Stahl, Sonya Gish, Sheryl Matter, Sharon Rowe, Deb Stephens, Jeff Still, Diane Covalt, Peggy Hopple, Janet Wise, John Bordlemay, Tracy Coffee, Margaret Hinkle, Kathleen Rodman, Thomas Henry, Judy Miller, Ellen Duffey, Lisa

Faris, Cory J. Shover, Cliff Flick, Dyann Grider, Mike Smith, Dennis Kochert, Carolyn Salmans, Sam Notorangelo, Patty Myers, Thomas Robert, Susan Alpaugh, Lisa Walker, Richard Nash, Pat Wojciechowski, and Joelle Monroe.

On Feb. 8, BG Lally cut the ribbon on Defense Distribution Depot Kuwait's (DDKS) newest operation – the Theater Consolidation and Shipping Point, or TCSP. BG Lally recognized those DDC team members who made the “TCPS” possible with a DDC Commander's coin. Individuals recognized include Renee Cairo-Iocco, Medard Kowalski, Janet Wise, LTC Clay Newton, Eileen Boyer, Dale De Arment, Richard Nash, Lori Lucius, Lisa Miller, Bill Paver, Carl Washington, John Arms, Susan Avaritt, Jan Brown, Erika Geserer, Darlene Landis, Cathy Martin, Denise Myers, Avis Penn, Sharon Rowe, Randy Seward, Richard Shumway, Richard Stephen, Deb Stephens, Joanne Wagner, and Mac Wertz.

After the awards portion, BG Lally took time to discuss DDC's recently published business plan that is based on the DLA strategic plan. According to BG Lally, the DDC business plan lays out four basic goals:

1. Provide responsive, integrated best value supplies and services consistently to our customers.
2. Establish the internal processes required to deliver value-added logistics solutions to the Warfighters.
3. Ensure our workforce is enabled and empowered to deliver and sustain logistics excellence.
4. Manage DDC resources for best customer value.

“Working toward our first goal of bringing responsive and valuable services to our customers, the TCSP in Kuwait is consolidating and segregating shipments from multiple sources and preparing them for onward shipment directly to our customers. The TCSP makes a positive difference for supporting our Warfighters,” said BG Lally.

BG Lally said DDC is also pushing ahead with JRIMM, or Joint Regional



During the February DDC HQ Town Hall, BG Lally recognized numerous employees for their support to the Warfighter including the group responsible for the opening of the new Theater Consolidation and Shipping Point in Kuwait.

Inventory Materiel Management. “JRIMM is a program that removes layers of inventory and extra handling. Today, the DOD has some common inventory stored at service-owned and DLA distribution sites. Through JRIMM implementation, we expect to obtain cost savings from inventory reductions and reduced material handling. I've just signed an agreement to test JRIMM in Pearl Harbor, an excellent environment for the test due to the on-island presence of the services and DLA. The program is starting out small, but we expect it to grow.

“Our second goal focuses on our internal processes,” BG Lally said. “To improve our internal processes, we are implementing Lean at several distribution depots. Our two largest depots, DDSP [Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, Pa.] and DDJC [Defense Distribution Depot San Joaquin, Calif.] are already obtaining improvements. For example, DDSP's CCP [Containerization and Consolidation Point] hold time was cut in half – from an average hold time of five to six days to two to three days. They did this in part by redesigning the floor and adding more signage. DDJC invested in training trainers – providing an in-house team who can train others how to Lean their processes. The DDJC team recently redesigned a process that required an employee to walk 12,000 steps to a process requiring only 3,000 steps, a reduction of

70 walking miles a month.

“In addition to ‘Leaning’ many of our processes, we are also reviewing our current performance metrics,” BG Lally said. “We are specifically looking at our one-day processing metric for routines and high priorities. Is that the right metric for the future? Or could we do better?”

“A critical part of our internal processes is ensuring inventory accuracy,” BG Lally said. “DDC is just wrapping up a three-year effort to improve our inventory accuracy. We are 90 percent done and we have seen vast improvements. Now we have to sustain accuracy levels. We have to ensure that we continue to hold ourselves to the high standards that we have set.

“The third goal that we are working towards is an enabled and empowered workforce to ensure we are supporting our Warfighters in a world-class manner,” BG Lally said. Overall metrics for all 26 distribution centers are the best they have been in three years. “You should be very proud of yourselves for this excellent teamwork!” BG Lally commended.

“In listening to your comments through the previous DDC Climate/Culture Survey results, you said that supervisors have a tremendous impact on the success of the organization and your job satisfaction,” BG Lally said. “We heard you and have developed and

implemented a Leadership Academy to refresh and improve supervisory and interpersonal skills. All of our senior managers and more than a quarter of our supervisors have completed the Academy. The remaining supervisors will complete their training by the end of the summer. So, far the attendee feedback is positive and we are confident that this investment will enable an improved working environment.

“We will continue to work on improving our climate/culture, incorporating the results of the 2006 Climate/Culture Surveys being conducted in March,” BG Lally said. “Your input is invaluable!”

“Safety is always an important part of DDC life,” BG Lally said. “We are striving for a 50 percent reduction in lost time accidents. We have seen improvement but have lots of work to do to ensure a safe working environment for all. Work safely and report any unsafe conditions to your supervisor.

“Our fourth goal emphasizes that we be good stewards of all the resources that are entrusted to us,” BG Lally said.

“Some of the facilities we inherited in 1991 were not in great shape,” BG Lally said. “The facilities you work in can affect your performance and it is important that you have world-class facilities. We have a contractor visiting every facility and developing a plan so that we know what it will take to make our facilities world-class. Unfortunately, the contractor has already found some immediate facility safety issues. The contractor is fixing the problems as he finds them.

“We are preparing to close our Columbus distribution depot, DDCO, as required by the Base Realignment and Closure Act of 2005,” BG Lally said. “Our number one commitment is to assist our impacted employees. There is a good plan and I believe this will go smoothly.

“In closing, the distribution network remains busy and productive. Your continued support is critical to making sure we have the right item at the right time going to the right place to support our Warfighters.”

DDC Safety Program finds safety in numbers

By Lori Spiegel, DDC Command Affairs

In 2003, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld stated that the high number of accidents and their associated losses in time and money were unacceptable for the Department of Defense (DOD). He then challenged all the Department’s organizations to reduce their accident numbers by 50 percent over the next two years.

As a testimony to establish safety as a priority, DLA Director VADM Keith Lippert, SC, USN, made it one of his “Top Ten List” priorities.

As a result, since fiscal year (FY)

2002, the Defense Distribution Center (DDC) reduced its total number of accidents by 30 percent and lost time cases by 19 percent, which equates to a lost time case rate of 2.88 for every 100 employees. Among the five agencies monitored by the DLA corporate board, DDC has made the most significant improvements in the reduction of lost time case

rate, which is the number of accidents due to time off work or work restrictions.

Fourteen distribution centers have now met or surpassed Secretary Rumsfeld’s goals. In fact, 12 distribution centers now have a lost time cases rate of zero. Defense Distribution Depot Barstow,

Calif. (DDBC); Defense Distribution Depot Columbus, Ohio (DDCO); and Defense Distribution Depot Warner Robins, Ga. (DDWG), have not had a lost time injury during the last four years.

Defense Distribution Depot Yokosuka, Japan (DDYJ), was the first large distribution center to achieve a global lost time case rate of less than 1.0 in FY 2002. Since then, it has extended its record to a fourth consecutive year.

In FY 2004, DDYJ was joined by Defense Distribution Depot Oklahoma City, Okla. (DDOO), which now has recorded its second year below 1.0. Defense Distribution Depot Norfolk, Va. (DDNV), has reduced its lost time accident rate by 78 percent since FY 2002.

“The key to the success of the depots



LIFTING: Ergonomics is a key safety focus throughout DDC and accounts for nearly half of all accidents associated with lost time and money.

is the focus of safety from the commanders and deputy commanders,” according to DLA Enterprise Support (DES)-DDC Safety Manager Dave Mack. “They hold their employees accountable for performing their jobs in a safe and productive manner.”

During audits in FY 2005, the DDC Safety Team determined that the root causes

of most distribution center accidents involved inadequate procedures and improper work practices.

According to warehousing industry statistics, the most frequent lost time injuries over the last four years have been due to sprains, strains, and back