

Senate Appropriations Committee staff member visits DDAG

By Jessica Walter, DDC Command Affairs

Senate Appropriations Committee staff member Kate Kaufer met with representatives at Marine Corps Logistics Base (MCLB) Albany in January to discuss the work associated with the supplemental funds received by MCLB Albany for armor installation, force protection, and depot maintenance and logistics.



DDAG Deputy Commander Rita Varner (left) describes to Kaufer how DDAG supports the protective armor mission.

Kaufer, accompanied by a Marine Corps Lieutenant Colonel and a Navy Commander who each act as a liaison to the committee, also visited Defense Distribution Depot Albany, Ga. (DDAG), where they received the DDAG command briefing and a tour of the facility.

“We’re very proud of our involvement in the distribution of protective armor to Marines and Soldiers fighting the War on Terror,” said DDAG Commander Maj Kent Wheeler, USMC. “What we do here saves lives every day.”

One of the major missions at DDAG is to package and send armor used to fortify vehicles against improvised explosives and small arms fire as well as mine and grenade fragments.

For one Marine Lance Corporal whose convoy came under attack, the armor shipped to his unit by DDAG made all the difference. “I was inside the blast radius, but no scratches,” he said.

Germany’s Rheinland-Pfalz State Minister President visits DDDE

By Joel Hair, DDDE

In January, Germany’s Rheinland-Pfalz State Minister President Kurt Beck visited the Defense Distribution Depot Europe (DDDE). Minister President Beck, the equivalent to a U.S. State Governor, was accompanied by several members of the German Federal Parliament, the Secretary of the Interior, State House members, and Mayors from the local towns of Germersheim and Lingenfeld.

The visit began with a windshield tour of DDDE’s facilities and proceeded to DDDE’s main operational warehouse containing the fast-moving supplies and the transportation terminal. Minister President Beck was given a walking tour where he observed the pick and pack process and a demonstration of DDDE’s state of the art automated conveyor and sorting equipment.



DDDE Operations Support Division Chief, Roland Rohrbacher briefs the operation of the conveyor system to Minister President Beck (second from left) and Innenminister (Secretary of the Interior) Karl-Peter Bruch (right). LTC Koenig (left) and Issue Division Chief, Brian Burkholder (background) are also pictured.

The visit continued with a briefing presented by DDDE Commander, LTC Lance Koenig, USA, on DDDE’s operations, capabilities, and accomplishments. After the briefing, Minister President Beck addressed DDDE employees and members of the press. He spoke of the importance of the installation in supporting the U.S. forces, the contributions to the local economy, and how impressed he was with the DDDE operation and workforce. In addition, he expressed his desire for a continued relationship for many years to come.

Finally, Minister President Beck and the other distinguished visitors spent a few minutes speaking with DDDE employees individually before departing. LTC Koenig praised the visit, “This was a great opportunity for DDDE to get the message out to local officials and local citizens on what we do, how we benefit the local area, and to increase cooperation between us and the government authorities.”



DDDE Commander, LTC Lance Koenig, USA, briefs the DLA structure to the distinguished visitors.