

## DDC Commander's Column

By BG Lynn Collyar, United States Army

We stand on the verge of the 10th Anniversary of the formation of the Defense Distribution Center. Over the last ten years, the DDC team has achieved amazing successes, against what sometimes seemed to be insurmountable odds.

From the time DDC was established, you have continuously reviewed processes, created standardization, and optimized the network through innovative operational ideas and technology. In 1997, it took days for any DDC distribution center to process a high priority requisition. Today, that same process can be measured in hours.

In DDC's short history, you developed and rolled out DSS – the Distribution Standard System – one of the keys to the strength of our network. DSS is an information technology backbone so robust that customers are still clamoring for it. Because of your ingenuity and foresight, DSS is becoming the distribution system for the Department of Defense.

DDC evolved through the Base Realignment and Closure activities of the 90s, and came out the other side as a distribution network, not a patchwork of people doing similar work.

You opened seven distribution centers outside the continental U.S., two Theater Consolidation and Shipping Points and are planning for a third, while at the same time developing a deployable capability.

You assumed responsibility for storage and distribution of mapping products for our military and the Map Support Offices that accomplish this mission. With DSS and your ingenuity, you improved those processes and metrics too.

You took DOD's inventory and made it accurate and more visible for the owners. You moved from static inventories that placed everything everywhere, to creating velocity in the system to get supplies delivered quicker by adding precision with time-definite delivery. Ultimately, this will lead to the entire supply chain being integrated ... not just within DLA, but across the Department of Defense.

You centralized transportation management for the enterprise and created the Distribution Planning Management System to further enhance supplier shipment processing.

DDC is ready for the Defense Transportation Coordination Initiative. The DTIC Program Management Office is working closely with DDC and the Services to conduct effective transition planning. This is another success for DSS, which has been modified to generate and accept DTIC transactions and to communicate transportation requirements to the coordinator.

In the midst of this momentous change, you are fully engaged in the ongoing War on Terror – making the very fight possible.

DDC has evolved with the enterprise and the rest of DOD and our combatant commanders. Because of your work, DDC is more efficient. You've reduced the number of distribution centers, reduced the storage footprint, reduced the size of the workforce while reducing cost and greatly improving support to the Warfighter.

At the ten year mark, the DDC team is poised for equally dramatic challenges and I know you will turn them into successes. What you have done in the past has established your credibility for the future. I know you are fully prepared to accelerate another decade of change.

BRAC 2005 will bring changes to DDC, but with your initiative, it will enhance the network.

You are establishing for the Navy an intermodal hub and transitioning Material Processing Centers from Navy to DLA/DDC operation inside and outside the continental U.S. This is possible because the Navy knows your work and that, with DDC management, customer wait time will be reduced and efficiencies increased.

When the DDC team is tested, you bring optimization, visibility, accountability, innovation, and an expeditionary nature that is second to none.

DDC metrics are evolving to be more customer oriented. We are changing the requirement from one-day processing for both high priority and routine shipments to time-definite delivery for routine materiel. This change tightens the performance for high priority orders at the 85th percentile. And, for routine orders, we will deliver the materiel when the customer asks for it – not just process the request in a day.

We are looking at establishing a closer relationship with the DRMS organization, facing the customer together. In a combined effort, we will work the forward and reverse logistics processes in a unified manner – all focused on creating efficiency for the customer.

Over the next ten years you will face challenges that I cannot even name today, but the distribution network that you have forged with the iron of your labor and the steel of your will is strong and can withstand even the unknown challenges of the future.

Your vision for DDC is my vision. We will continue to enhance joint force readiness today while expanding global capabilities tomorrow through the execution of world-class distribution services for DOD.

And we'll do it all by getting the right item and the right service at the right place at the right price, and at the right time ... every time.

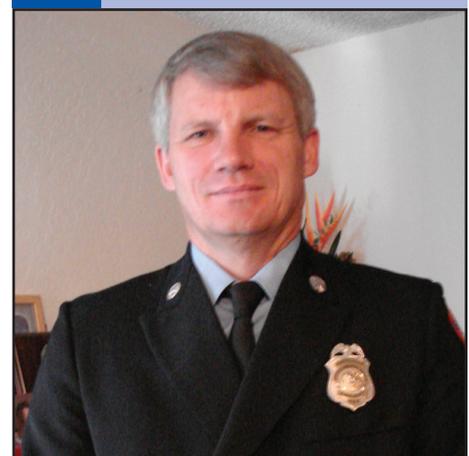
DDC today is strong because of the network and your initiative. DDC tomorrow will be even better. And it was all possible because of you.



### 4 Deployable Distribution Success



### 18 Changes of Command



### 35 Top Honors for Fire Fighter