

DDC celebrates Earth Day all around the globe

By Jessica Walter, APR, DDC Command Affairs

The Defense Distribution Center celebrated Earth Day all around the world as many of DDC's 26 distribution sites participated in events to protect the environment in April.

At Defense Distribution Depot Richmond, Va., a site that specializes in the storage and distribution of hazardous materials, the employees planted three trees outside the hazmat warehouse. "It's a tradition here at DDRV," said Jerri Taylor, DDRV director. "We plan to keep planting crape myrtles all the way up the street."

The workforce at Defense Distribution Depot Europe in Gernersheim, Germany, participated in an entire week of green activities like bike to work day, pollution prevention information day, and a landscape conservation day.

From Cherry Point, N.C., to Sigonella, Italy, and from Puget Sound, Wash., to Jacksonville, Fla., and Tobyhanna, Pa., hundreds of employees rolled up their sleeves to help remove trash and debris from local parks, roads and waterways.

Employees at Defense Distribution Depot Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, perked up a local park while workers at Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, Pa., donned bright orange vests as they removed trash and debris from around the New Cumberland installation as part of the Pennsylvania Adopt-a-Highway program.

"Protecting the environment is a top priority for DDC, and we're very fortunate to have such a committed workforce that supports those efforts all around the globe," said Michael Dobbs, chief of DDC's Environmental, Safety and Occupational Health office.

Numerous activities available to Defense Distribution Depot Warner Robins, Ga., personnel in recognition of Earth Day included bird watching, trail beautification, recycling events, and the opening of a new outdoor gardening center at the base exchange.

Additional events to recognize Earth Day at DDC sites included programs

focusing on prevention and pollution at Defense Distribution Depots Anniston, Ala., San Joaquin, Calif., Albany, Ga., and Norfolk, Va., and a creek cleanup and science fest at Defense Distribution Depot Oklahoma City, Okla.



Planting crape myrtle trees is a tradition at Defense Distribution Depot Richmond, Va.



Employees from Defense Distribution Depot Sigonella, Italy, pitch in to remove trash from a nearby road.

DDRV serves as testing ground for new chemical detection system

Equipment monitors air for dangerous fumes

By Jessica Walter, APR, DDC Command Affairs

A warehouse storing hazardous material at Defense Distribution Depot Richmond, Va., has become the testing site for a remote chemical sensing technology.

The new system, developed by Avir based in Charlottesville, Va., has been installed at the packaging point for chemicals stored at DDRV. The device uses an infrared beam to detect changes in chemical levels.

"DDRV provides a test bed for the sensor in a realistic, industrial type environment," noted Avir Vice President for Research and Development Keith Holland. "We greatly appreciate DDRV's willingness to allow such a test to occur."

DDRV already has an air exchange system that removes vapors, and if fumes rise above acceptable levels the chemical sensing system sends an alert to the fire department on DDRV's host installation, Defense Supply Center Richmond.

"We're very proud to do our part in the development of technology that not only protects our employees, but also has the potential to protect so many others," said DDRV Director Jerri Taylor.

According to Dave Van Pernis, staff director for installation management for Defense Logistics Agency enterprise support, "This warehouse demonstration installation could be instrumental toward future applications." He noted uses such as perimeter security and enhancing protection of administrative buildings.

Other possible uses of the technology include chemical detection at mass transit points, schools, sporting events, political rallies and other locations where public safety is a concern.



The chemical sensor, mounted on the wall near the top of the ladder, analyzes the air for dangerous fumes. Right to left, AVIR personnel Roger Reynolds, Dr. Gabriel Laufer, Dr. Keith Holland, and DDRV Safety/Security Specialist Guy Simmons.