

Rodriguez assumes command of DDJC

By Annette Silva, DDJC Public Affairs

Army Brig. Gen. Lynn A. Collyar, Defense Distribution Center commander, welcomed Army Col. David Rodriguez back into the DDC family during a morning Change of Command ceremony at Defense Distribution Depot San Joaquin, Calif., June 26.

Rodriguez is not a new face at DDC. He previously commanded Defense Distribution Depot Tobyhanna, Pa., and served a tour at Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, Pa.

"I can't think of anyone more capable or qualified to take this command and keep the momentum of continuous improvement," remarked Collyar during his speech. "You are being entrusted to lead a great team. I know the men and women of DDJC will continue to perform with dedication and excellence for you."

Collyar thanked outgoing DDJC Commander Army Col. J. Douglas Serrano for a job well done and talked about the numerous achievements under his command and his superb role as a leader.

"Under Doug's leadership, DDJC has achieved notable recognition," said Collyar.

He went on to talk about DDJC receiving the Commander-in-Chief's Installation Excellence Award and the California Awards for Performance Excellence's Gold and Silver Eureka Awards, and being chosen to compete for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award.

"I commend you for your leadership," Collyar said. "Your character and contributions will be missed."

Upon assumption of command, Rodriguez gave a short speech to the employees of DDJC.

"I am excited about the opportunity I have been given to command an organization with such a great reputation," said Rodriguez. "I am equally excited about teaming up with you, the DDJC workforce, to seize the many opportunities that lay ahead of us and to confront and overcome challenges together."

"I know that I will not be disappointed, and that you will all meet my expectations," he continued. "I just hope that as your commander, that I will meet yours."

After turning over command to Rodriguez, a retirement ceremony was held to celebrate Serrano's 27 years of faithful and honorable service to his country.

Retired Army Maj. Gen. Daniel Mongeon was the guest speaker for Serrano's retirement.

"You have every right to be extremely proud of your accomplishments," said Mongeon. "I can also tell you that previous organizations have benefited from your leadership whether it was for supply excellence, transportation excellence, dining facility excellence, or safety excellence – your superb leadership and management skills helped organizations achieve outstanding results. You have always set the bar high and your three-year tour at DDJC was not different."

Mongeon went on to talk about how proud he was that DDJC was named by the Department of Defense as one of four applicants forwarded for the prestigious Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award.

Upon completion of his remarks, Mongeon said, "Thank you for being a great soldier. Thank you for your focus on mission

and thank you for your leadership and dedication to our civilian workforce and to our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines. They are your legacy. This chapter of your life is over and a new chapter for you and your family begins. I welcome you to the Army Retired Rolls."

Serrano took the stage to deliver his last remarks before a standing room only crowd directing his comments to the DDJC workforce.

"These people here, while standing on the shoulders of those who have gone before them, the men and women of today's DDJC have remained focused on our vision - to be the DOD distribution center of excellence," said Serrano. "For over 60 years, this installation

has never failed the American war fighter, and it never will.

"Now my successor is in command, and so I can take my place among the retired ranks. Godspeed to all of you as our nation takes the fight to the barbarians, know full well that you've got their backs," continued Serrano. "I'd ask that you occasionally glance to the far sidelines or the back of the room, that will be me over there, I'll be smiling and nodding, and then whispering in the background, and cheering you on with a quiet 'Hooah!' in recognition of your quiet excellence."



Defense Distribution Depot San Joaquin's new Commander Army Col. David Rodriguez, right, passes the organizational colors to Army Sgt. 1st Class Jose Rosario during the Change of Command ceremony. (Glenn Moore/The Tracy Press)