

DDPH welcomes a neighbor into their *ohana*

By Navy Lt. Cmdr. Jimmy Finley, DDPH

On a typical day, mechanized conveyor lines shuttle bins full of parts and supplies through several warehouses and high across vehicular roadway crossovers. Skilled workers fill, sort and direct the materiel to final destinations across Oahu.

The scene is repeated hundreds, sometimes thousands, of times a day, as Defense Distribution Depot Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, provides the necessary supplies to all Oahu-based war fighters.

As the main supplier for the island, DDPH supply arteries are literally the life-sustaining mechanism that ensures materiel and mission readiness for all branches of service based in Hawaii. Services are provided come rain, shine or Change of Command.

And business went on as usual despite a brief break for the DDPH *ohana* to bid a fond farewell to one of their own while welcoming a neighbor from a partner site to the fold during a change of command ceremony July 3.

But the scenery wasn't any less impressive. Overlooking the historic USS Arizona Memorial and the majestic USS Missouri, Navy Cmdr. Joe Vitelli, commanding officer of DDPH, was relieved by Navy Cmdr. Scott Smith of the nearby Fleet Industrial Supply Center - Pearl Harbor.

Collyar commended Vitelli for his unfaltering support to the men and women of America's military. "From reshaping the distribution process by eliminating unnecessary steps to dramatically improving the inventory accuracy rate to the best in the history of DDPH, Joe has fostered a culture that promotes trust, teamwork, safety, excellence, and a commitment to the war fighter."

Even with a streamlined workforce, Vitelli and his team were able to surpass all Defense Logistics Agency performance standards and generate an annual labor cost savings of one million dollars.

Under Vitelli's leadership, DDPH also became a hub

for joint logistics on Oahu. By partnering with other Department of Defense organizations, he assisted in implementing a Joint Regional Inventory Material Management Center. The initiative focuses on streamlining the flow of materiel through the Department of Defense supply chain so war fighters can get the supplies they need as quickly as possible.

Collyar challenged Smith and the employees of DDPH to continue to uphold the high customer service standards for which DDPH has become well known.

According to Collyar, Smith's past assignments have prepared him well. "Scott, you bring a wealth of experience and skill to DDPH. That is vital, as you are being entrusted to lead a great team of men and women with a very critical mission."

Smith is a Pennsylvania State University graduate and has

served aboard the USS Shiloh as a Supply Corps Officer. He also served as a Fuel Intern at the Fleet Industrial Supply Center in Oakland, Calif.; Naval Support Facility in Diego Garcia; and the Navy International Logistics Control Office in Philadelphia, Pa..

In November 1996, Smith was selected to be the Aide to the Commander, Naval Inventory Control Point where he served as the Executive Assistant to then Navy Rear Adm. Keith W. Lippert who later became the director of the Defense Logistics Agency and Navy Rear Adm. Raymond Archer, III who became DLA's vice director.

Smith subsequently served aboard the USS The Sullivans before reporting to the Commander, Pacific Fleet in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Smith then transferred to Fleet and Industrial Supply Center Pearl Harbor where he served as the director of the Supply Management Department.



Symbolizing the relinquishment and assumption of command of Defense Distribution Depot Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, Navy Cmdr. Joe Vitelli, left, passes the Defense Distribution Center flag to Army Brig. Gen. Lynn Collyar, center, who then passes it to Navy Cmdr. Scott Smith, right, DDPH's new commander.