

DDOO's Reiman retires after 30 years in Air Force

By Stacy L. Umstead, DDC Command Affairs

As the United States flag was given a final fold, so ended a 30-year career with the Air Force as Col. James Reiman, commander, Defense Distribution Depot Oklahoma City, Okla., retired his wings.

Presiding over the momentous ceremony was Vice Director Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center Air Force Col. Richard Matthews.

To open the ceremony, Defense Distribution Center Commander Army Brig. Gen. Lynn Collyar presented the Defense Superior Service Medal to Reiman. Under Reiman's leadership, DDOO achieved all acceptable performance levels in processing times for high priority and routine issues, receipts, stows and returns for 12 consecutive months. Reiman initiated actions that brought inventory accuracy to its highest level in three years and reduced the absolute inventory adjustment rate by \$150 million.

As part of his initiative to provide continuous improvement of customer service, Reiman introduced total package fielding, providing automated accounting of foreign military sales assets, replacing the manual tracking used previously.

Reiman's hands-on involvement and proactive safety policies allowed DDOO to receive agency recognition for a 50 percent accident reduction rate and 1.75 million man-hours worked with a lost time accident rate of less than 1 percent.

In his remarks, Matthews addressed the audience and commented on Reiman's character, "Jim is not a show horse, he didn't want to be a show horse. He's a workhorse. If you look at his 30 years, three times squadron commander, group commander, Numbered AF LG, someone who's touched transportation, munitions and supply – Jim is a 'Joint Warrior.'"

Matthews presented Reiman with his certificate of retirement and various mementos including certificates of appreciation from the Commander-in-Chief and the Director of the Defense Logistics Agency.

Making his final remarks as an Air Force Officer, Reiman thanked the many



DDC Commander Army Brig. Gen. Lynn Collyar presents the Superior Service Award to Air Force Col. Jim Reiman during Reiman's retirement ceremony celebrating his 30 years of military service.

friends, family members and employees of the Oklahoma workforce attending the ceremony. His wife Nancie received special recognition. Reiman explained how she put aside a promising career in floral design to follow him throughout his career and ended the ceremony with a sincere thanks for her dedication, "We started this trip together and now at the end, once again, it is just you and me, babe."

Experienced leader pilots team to success

By Scott Woosley, DDC Command Affairs

When the Defense Distribution Center decided to create the Deployable Distribution Center and Theater Consolidation and Shipping Point, it needed someone with experience in all areas of the distribution process to lead the staff of distribution process workers who would make up the deployable work force.

Don Hernandez, a supervisor at Defense Distribution Depot San Joaquin, Calif., fit the bill.

"Don had the experience and leadership skills we needed to be the lead supervisor for the Deployable Distribution Center," said Marc Parsons, deputy commander of the Deployable Distribution Center. "He knows the process inside and out."

His experience goes back to 1975 when a then 21-year-old Hernandez was first hired to work at San Joaquin when it was Tracy Defense Depot.

Over the years he has worked as a laborer, packer, rigger, supervisor and branch chief. Those experiences prepared him for the job of setting up, staffing and supervising a deployable distribution center. "I was honored to be chosen to do this," Hernandez said. "I think my experiences showed that I could do this and get it done right."

In fact, Hernandez had already demonstrated his ability to establish a distribution center a couple of times. He helped set up distribution centers in Bahrain in 2003 and Korea in 2005.

Hernandez led the set up of DDC's distribution center in Korea, essentially from the ground up. He started out with some buildings, equipment, staff and a plan and in a few short months had Defense Distribution Depot Korea up and functioning.

"Donnie was invaluable in helping us get DDDK activated and into initial operating capability back in February 2005," said Pete Halseth, deputy commander, DDDK.

"Donnie was able to quickly pick up Korea-specific operations and mission flow while simultaneously adapting several DDC employees from different depots and quickly molding them into an effective team. We couldn't have done it without him."

Once Hernandez had been given the job of lead supervisor for the San Joaquin Deployable Distribution Center team, he set out to put together a team of people. He wanted a good mix of experience and youth, but most importantly he wanted people who were motivated to do the job.

"I wanted to find people who didn't have any problems with deploying," Hernandez said. "The most important quality though, was a desire to do this job to support the war fighters who need the materiel we would be handling."

Once he had a team put together, Hernandez began training them. The Deployable Distribution Center deployed to exercises in June and September 2006—one month after Hernandez was named the supervisor.

That experience helped him decide what he needed to focus on when he trained his staff for the deployment to Korea that was scheduled in April and May of 2007.

He arranged for the staff to travel to

Travis Air Force Base, Calif., to learn Air Force procedures.

“The nature of the deployable center meant that we would be working with the Air Force on a regular basis,” he said. “So we needed to know what their processes were.”

Other training included practicing receiving procedures and visiting the consolidation and containerization point at San Joaquin to learn how to properly package and palletize materiel. Several team members also traveled to DDC headquarters at New Cumberland, Pa., to review Theater Consolidation and Shipping Point procedures.

Hernandez’ experience paid off during the training too, when questions arose.

“I was able to answer just about all the questions because I had done all of this at one time or another during my career,” he said.

Hernandez traveled to Korea in January 2007 for a site visit for the Node Management and Deployable Depot Advanced Concept Technology Demonstration that the Deployable Distribution Center would play a key role in. He visited the warehouse that would serve as the center of their operations, took measurements and added the information to his training plan.

“I was able to take accurate measurements and lay out the work flow we would use,” Hernandez explained. “That meant everyone could walk the floor plan during training and familiarize themselves with it before we even brought everyone to Korea.”

Hernandez also spent time gathering all the names and contact information of everyone he would need to work with. He contacted them all and gathered any pertinent information. He also spent time reviewing the established delivery routes that the materiel he processed would travel along. That allowed him to establish more efficient load plans for the delivery vehicles.

Hernandez’ training plan and preparation had immediate impact once the team arrived in Korea. “We had allotted five days for set up,” Parsons said. “They were done in three.”

The warehouse began accepting shipments the Friday and Saturday before the Monday they had originally been scheduled to begin. That meant there was



Don Hernandez of Defense Distribution Depot San Joaquin, Calif., left, guides Marines on a tour of the Deployable Distribution Center operation in Korea during an exercise earlier this year. Hernandez has been critical to the success of numerous DDC initiatives.

a large amount of stock that had to be moved on Monday morning.

“We got an early start and worked a long day, but we got everything sorted, loaded and on its way,” Hernandez said. “There have been some days when we were challenged with the amount of freight that we had to process, but the team pulled together and got it done.”

The efficiency of Hernandez’ team combined with his planning also reduced the number of trucks normally required to deliver stock, saving money. Delivery times were also reduced and in-transit visibility has been improved, which means customers can track their shipments more easily.

Several senior leaders from various organizations and commands that have an interest in the capabilities the Deployable Distribution Center brings to the table toured the operation and came away impressed.

“The TCSP is something we need to have in Korea on a permanent basis,” said Brig. Gen. Kurt Stein, assistant chief of staff, logistics, headquarters, U.S. Forces Korea, who visited the Deployable Distribution Center and TCSP May 7.

Hernandez takes it all in stride. “The credit for this goes to the whole team,” he said. “We had a job to do and we got it done.”

Kozma selected as Support Services Chief

By Annette Silva, DDJC Public Affairs

Mike Kozma was selected as the Support Services Group Chief at Defense Distribution Depot San Joaquin, Calif., in April. Previously, he served as the Customer Support Representative for the Defense Logistics Agency at U.S. Fleet Forces, Norfolk, Va.

Prior to entering federal service, he retired from the U.S. Navy in 2003 as a Lt. Cmdr. in the Supply Corps. Prior to his retirement, he was serving as the Maritime Operations Chief for Defense Supply Center Columbus, Ohio.

Kozma received his commission through the Enlisted Commissioning Program and attended Ohio State University majoring in operations management and transportation logistics. Furthering his education, he received his masters of business administration from Otterbein College in Westerville, Ohio.

When asked why he chose to work for DDJC, he said, “I was ready for a new challenge, I wanted to get back into the distribution business.”

