

## New warehouse an asset to distribution of uniforms, add-on armor

By Sherre Mitten-Bell, DDSP Public Affairs

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held March 1 to officially open Building 732, a new warehouse that will support operations at Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, Pa.

“DDSP provides essential supplies to the war fighter here in the U.S. and around the world,” said Navy Capt. Jim Naber, commander, DDSP. “This facility, Building 732, will allow us to be a better, faster supplier.”

“It is a key building block in our modernization program,” Naber added. “We replaced two World War I-era warehouses for its construction, which is strategically located beside the hub of our operations—the Eastern Distribution Center.”

The Eastern Distribution Center is the largest warehouse in the Department of Defense.

The new building will be used to store clothing and textile commodities—all the components of a war fighter’s uniform. Those items currently move between 11 buildings at DDSP’s detachment in nearby Mechanicsburg.

Consolidating fast-moving clothing and textile materiel under one roof at the main site in New Cumberland allows DDSP to store the remainder of the materiel in only three or

four warehouses.

Two additional projects will provide a rail-guided, high-rise pallet storage system, transporter stations, and other materiel-handling equipment.

The building’s bay 1 will hold the first walk-and-pick operation dedicated solely to clothing and textile items. Bays 2, 3, and 4 will store, at a minimum, a six-month supply of each item.

In addition, bays 1 and 4 feature three in-floor pits to aid in building

Air Line of Communication 463L air pallets.

Although the equipment setup and inventory relocation process won’t be completed in all four bays until the end of June 2008, limited operations will begin by September 2007.

“This building has already proven to be an asset to our mission,” Naber said. “Since December of 2006, bay 4 has been used to build and ship thousands of 463L air pallets of add-on-armor kits in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.”

According to Naber, the modern facility provides more than an improved, safer working environment for DDSP employees. It allows for optimum storage and handling of the clothing needed by American war fighters. The uniforms, socks, boots, shoes and hats that are requested the most often are now located, picked and shipped under one roof.

The increase in timeliness equates to DDSP’s ability to provide even better customer service.

*“This facility... will allow us to be a better, faster supplier.”*



DDSP officially opened Building 732, the center’s new state-of-the-art warehouse, earlier this year. From left to right, DDSP Chief of Installation Services Jeff McCauslin, DDSP Distribution Division Chief Robert Brickey, DDSP Deputy Commander Ed Visker, DDSP Commander Navy Capt. Jim Naber, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Baltimore District Deputy Commander Army Lt. Col. John Osborn, Kinsley Construction representative Keith Stewart, and DDSP Facility Engineering and Maintenance Division representative Rob Montefour.