

## U.S. Congressman Jerry McNerney visits DDJC



*U.S. Congressman Jerry McNerney of California's 11th Congressional District, center, visited Defense Distribution Depot San Joaquin, Calif., earlier this year. Also on the tour were Erich Phueler, district director, far left, and DDJC Commander Army Col. Doug Serrano, right. The Congressman was impressed was of the enormity of the operation and how DDJC quietly goes about the business of supporting the war fighter.*

## State Rep Perry visits DDC

*By Stacy L. Umstead, DDC Command Affairs*

Pennsylvania Rep Scott Perry, 92nd District, visited the Defense Distribution Center earlier this year to learn more about how DDC serves the war fighter.

After receiving an overview, he toured DDC's largest distribution operation, the Eastern Distribution Center, part of the Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, Pa.

"The breadth of the operation is impressive," Perry said of DDC's work. "As a member of the Armed Forces myself, I'm glad to know we are so well supported."

Perry is also a Lieutenant Colonel in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard.



*Pennsylvania state representative Scott Perry, left, tours the "Walk-and-Pick" area of the Eastern Distribution Center with DDSP Commander Navy Capt. Jim Naber, right.*

## DDSI exchanges courtesies with local marina militare

**Navy Supply Corps Cmdr. Mark E. Semmler, Commander, Defense Distribution Depot Sigonella, Italy**

A contingent of the Defense Distribution Depot Sigonella, Italy, staff accepted an invitation from the senior logistician of the Marina Militare di Catania, Italy, or Capo Servizio Amm Logistico June 5 to visit the base, tour the facilities, and meet with the base Comandante.

It started when Italian Master Chief Mario Mirabella of the base logistics department felt a need to link up with his counterparts in Sigonella. Having recently reported aboard the installation, following his position as a customer service agent for arriving ships, he did what came naturally and went out to meet his service provider. His initiative set off a chain of events that led to a friendly personnel exchange, which included DDSI's commander, trans-shipment, and inventory personnel to share ideas and experience the intricacies of an Italian Navy Base.

DDSI accomplishes distribution activities throughout the Mediterranean and Africa for all services, even local national military activities. Aided



*Cmdr. Mark Semmler, left, presents DDSI coins and ballcaps to incoming Base Supply Officer Cmdr. Giovanni Di Guardo, center, and outgoing Base Supply Officer Cmdr. Fiorgio Sabella.*

by an agreement established by the Marine Corps to support the Italian Navy's AV8B Harrier program, DDSI began supporting the Italian Marina Militare nearly two years ago when Navy transformation initiatives shifted support from Naples to Sigonella.

Since then, DDSI has been providing trans-shipment services for the Italian helicopter training base located just 20 kilometers from Naval Air Station Sigonella, facilitating a relationship between the two naval air stations.

The DDSI visit was hosted by the incumbent senior base logistician Cmdr. Giovanni Di Guardo whose previous duties included a Supply Officer tour aboard the USS Ross homeported in Norfolk, Va. Di Guardo escorted the team around the base facilities which included a live demonstration of the "Dilbert Dunker," an apparatus that trains air crewmen how to escape a helicopter following an emergency water entry.

The Marina Militare di Catania is the only place in Italy that conducts this specialized training. The visit also integrated a tour of the electronics repair depot capable of the most sophisticated levels of repair on helicopter electronics and avionics.

The DDSI team also was introduced to the base's training classrooms that showcased interactive computer learning, simulator, as well as the traditional classroom instruction.

The visit culminated with an exchange of plaques with the base Comandante Capt. Tommaso Perillo. The DDSI Commander also presented a DDSI ball cap and command coin to both the outgoing and incoming senior base logisticians.

"The time that we are able to share with our fellow logisticians and base leadership enables us to better understand their mission in order to meet their requirements," said Renato Ferrini, inventory and customer support division director, "and it also goes a long way toward cultivating a strong relationship between the two military communities that share the same interests as well as the province of Catania."

## Italian Navy visits DDC



*Defense Distribution Center Deputy Commander Twila Gonzales, SES, center, recently hosted representatives from the Italian Navy and the U.S. Naval Inventory Control Point Mechanicsburg. While at DDC, they received an overview of DDC's operations and toured the Eastern Distribution Center.*

## DDC hosts DLA General Counsel senior leaders



*During a recent team meeting, Defense Logistics Agency General Counsel senior leaders were provided a Defense Distribution Center command overview which outlined DDC's mission and current initiatives as well as a tour of Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, Pa.'s, Eastern Distribution Center.*

*"This meeting gives us an opportunity to share ideas and benchmark with one another, as well as, acquaint counsel from other areas with our mission," said DDC Chief Counsel George Sisson.*