

News Release



Defense Logistics Agency
Defense Distribution Center
New Cumberland, PA 17070-5000
(717) 770-2880
<http://ddc.dla.mil>
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Media Contact: Stacy Umstead

Defense Distribution Center

(717) 770-2880

stacy.umstead@dla.mil

Easton native retires from Navy after more than 34 years of service

Norfolk, Virginia – (June 28, 2010) In a recent change of command ceremony, United States Navy Supply Corps Capt. Brad A. Bellis, native of Easton, Pa., relinquished command of Defense Distribution Depot Norfolk, Virginia, or DDNV to United States Navy Supply Corps Capt. James E. Watts, and retired after 34 years of service to our country.

The change of command ceremony was officiated by United States Marine Corps Brig. Gen. Peter J. Talleri, former DDC commander.

“Team DDNV, I have been amazed by your performance since the day I took command,” said Bellis, to a standing-room only crowd. “On your accomplishments, I could not be more proud. Over the past three years, you have exceeded my expectations at every turn.”

During the ceremony, Bellis was awarded the Legion of Merit for his exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services.

“Brad’s visionary leadership and determination to continuously improve has transformed DDNV into the mid-Atlantic Region’s largest provider of sustainment material for both CONUS and OCONUS forces,” said Talleri during the presentation of the award.

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Bellis enlisted in the Navy in April 1976 and attended the Naval Academy Preparatory School. In 1977, he was accepted into the U.S. Naval Academy, earning a Bachelor of Science in Marine Engineering. In 1994, he earned a Master of Business Administration in Decision and Information Sciences from the University of Florida. In 2005, he completed the Executive Management Program from the Pennsylvania State University's Smeal College of Business.

Upon his commissioning in 1981 as a surface warfare officer, Bellis served aboard the guided missile frigate USS Julius A. Furer as the missile and gunnery officer, tactical action officer and nuclear weapons security officer. His next assignment, in 1984, was to the Seamanship and Navigation Department at the U.S. Naval Academy where he taught basic shipboard operations, navigation and warfare tactics. During this tour, Bellis transferred to the Navy's Supply Corps, and in 1986 attended the six-month Supply Corps Basic Qualification Course and graduated first in his class.

He then served as supply officer aboard the guided missile destroyer USS Sampson and deployed to South America and the Mediterranean Sea. In 1989, he transferred to the Fleet Industrial Supply Center, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, where he served as director of the Systems Integrity Department and deputy director of the Petroleum Department. From 1992 to 1994, Bellis attended post-graduate school at the University of Florida and graduated Beta Kappa Sigma with a 3.93 GPA. In July 1994, he deployed to the Persian Gulf aboard the guided missile cruiser USS Vella Gulf.

Bellis' next assignment was a three-year tour at the Pentagon with the office of the Chief of Naval Operations in the Supply Programs and Policy Branch. In 1999, he transferred to Naval Inventory Control Point, Philadelphia as director of Integrated Logistics Support for aviation weapons systems. From NAVICP, Bellis returned to sea aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Saipan, and deployed to the Persian Gulf in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In the summer of 2003, he assumed command of Defense Energy Support Center Pacific in Hawaii. He returned to Iraq the following year to lead a special U.S. Central Command team whose mission was to execute and oversee fuel importation contracts worth more than \$400 million. His team's efforts helped Iraq through the turmoil of establishing its new interim government and ensured the availability of sufficient fuel stocks for the Iraqi people during that time. In 2005, Bellis reported to Defense Supply Center, Philadelphia, as the Defense Logistics Agency's director of Subsistence Operations.

Bellis' awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with two gold stars, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with two gold stars, Navy Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary and Service Medals, Armed Forces Service Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal with one bronze star.

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He has also earned the designations of surface warfare officer, Naval aviation supply officer, Navy Supply Corps surface warfare officer, small craft officer-in-charge and military parachutist.

The Defense Distribution Center, or DDC, offers best value supply chain solutions through a broad range of services including storage, distribution, customized kits and specialized packaging as well as transportation support and technology development. Customers include the U.S. Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and other agencies. Headquartered in New Cumberland, Pa., DDC operates a global network of 25 distribution centers that employ nearly 10,000 people worldwide. DDC is a field activity of the Defense Logistics Agency.

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