



News Release

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DEFENSE DISTRIBUTION CENTER

For Immediate Release

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Local support key to deployment success

SEGUIN, TEXAS (Sept. 19, 2008) – The support provided by the staff of Randolph Air Force Base's Auxiliary Airfield in Seguin, Texas, was the foundation of the success of the Deployable Distribution Center's mission to help with the response to Hurricane Ike.

The deployable center arrived in Texas the day before the hurricane hit the region Sept. 12, so they would be in a position to respond more quickly to the needs of hurricane survivors.

"The support we have received from the hosting installation has been superb especially in the early stages of site setup," said Scot Seitz, deputy director of the deployable center. "Lighting, material handling equipment, security and space were critically important to our success."

The person that coordinated most of the necessary arrangement was Leon Spradling who is the operations manager at the auxiliary airfield where the Federal Emergency Management Agency established one of its national logistic staging areas, and where a team from the deployable center, or DDXX, helped process trucks of relief supplies.

According to Spradling, absorbing a major logistics operation at an auxiliary airfield with rudimentary support infrastructure posed a challenge, not the least of which was the sheer volume of ground vehicles involved. The airfield has minimal protective barriers to prevent runway intrusions, so it was critical to maintain positive traffic control so the runways wouldn't be damaged. Spradling also had to have some parts of the fence around the airfield removed so that the trucks would be able to get through the gates.

Spradling and his staff also went the extra mile and arranged for temporary sanitation facilities, some necessary construction and also took care of security until FEMA's contracted security could take over. The normal pilot training that takes place at the auxiliary airfield was delayed for two days, far less than the week Spradling initially



Trucks wait at Randolph Air Force Base's Auxiliary Airfield near Seguin, Texas. The auxiliary airfield's support staff made a number of adjustments to their schedule and infrastructure to support relief efforts in the region after Hurricane Ike hit the Texas Gulf coast around Galveston Sept. 13.

expected. He also feels that it was a team effort and that everyone working together made it successful. Seitz agrees.

“Partnerships with our military host enables and expedites our support to the survivors,” Seitz added. “Whenever we called, the Civil Engineering shop responded.”

“The mission of FEMA and [the Defense Logistics Agency] parallels that of the United States Air Force – protect and defend the citizens of our great nation,” Spradling explained. “In this case, the opposing force was Mother Nature, and the impact on the citizens of Houston and Galveston was monumental.”

Spradling added that the Air Force takes great pride in providing humanitarian relief at home and abroad, and Randolph's contribution to this effort was just a manifestation of that philosophy.

“It was a great opportunity to support the Defense Distribution Center and FEMA in providing relief to our neighbors affected by Hurricane Ike,” Spradling said. “The big thing is we're people helping people—humanitarian starts with human.”

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The Deployable Distribution Center is a capability of the Defense Distribution Center (DDC) headquartered in New Cumberland, Pa. DDC headquarters operates a network of 25 other fixed distribution sites around the world. By offering this deployable distribution capability, DDC headquarters provides the military and/or emergency responders with world-class support for the distribution of supplies anywhere in the world and on very short notice. DDC headquarters, established in 1997, is a field activity of the Defense Logistics Agency.