



News Release

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DEFENSE DISTRIBUTION CENTER

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DEFENSE DISTRIBUTION DEPOT JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA CHANGE OF COMMAND AND RETIREMENT CEREMONY

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA – Commander Steven B. Ellis, Supply Corps, United States Navy, will relinquish command of the Defense Distribution Depot Jacksonville, Florida (DDJF) to Commander James W. Smart, Supply Corps, United States Navy, in an official ceremony on Friday, July 23, 2004 at 9:00 a.m. at Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, Florida. Cmdr. Ellis will then retire from the United States Navy. Officiating at the ceremony will be Brigadier General Kathleen M. Gainey, United States Army, Commander, Defense Distribution Center, New Cumberland, Pennsylvania.

Ellis has been DDJF's Commander since July 2000. He will return to his home state of Ohio upon his retirement.

CDR Smart is a native of Albany, New York. He graduated Summa Cum Laude from Bryant College in Smithfield, Rhode Island with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Management in 1983 and worked for two years in retail management before earning his commission from Officers Candidate School in 1986. In 1997, he graduated from the Navy Postgraduate School in Monterey, California with a Master of Science degree in Transportation Logistics.

Smart comes to DDJF after having served as the Logistics Plans and Operations Officer for Commander, Logistics Group Western Pacific in Singapore. In this assignment, he was responsible for development and execution of logistics support to all United States Navy ships operating in Seventh Fleet, the Navy's largest area of responsibility.

Smart's first shipboard assignment was as the Disbursing, Sales, and Food Services Officer aboard the USS KIRK (FF1087), a Seventh Fleet deployed unit operating out of Yokosuka, Japan. He was next assigned to the staff of Naval Air Station Cubi Point, Philippines where he was in charge of the Navy-operated AMC Terminal and later served as the Inventory Control Officer. His next assignment was as Supply Department Head at the Naval Facility, Whidbey Island Washington.

In June 1997, Smart reported as the Supply Officer of the USS CHANCELLORSVILLE (CG 62) where he completed deployments to the Middle East and to South America. During this tour the CHANCELLORSVILLE was awarded both the Navy "E" and Supply "E" awards. His next assignment was to United States Central Command J4/7 staff where he performed duties in the Security Assistance and Mobility Divisions.

Smart then served as Deputy Director of Policy for the Naval Transportation Support Center with responsibility for instituting Navy-wide transportation and distribution policies and was the lead action officer on a Navy Supply Corps initiative to re-engineer the training and billet assignments for Transportation Subspecialty Officers.

Defense Distribution Depot Jacksonville, Florida (DDJF) ensures that its major customer, the Naval Aviation Depot (NADEP) has the right material at the right place, at the right time, and at the right price to perform depot maintenance on aircraft engines, avionics, airframes and other electronic components. These parts are critical to the rework facilities and maintenance teams that travel worldwide to assist air squadrons and other units requiring aircraft maintenance, modification and repair work. The airplanes, engines, and components repaired at the NADEP are critical items for the warfighter in their combat arenas around the world.

DDJF also supports a wide variety of customers from the Department of Defense and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to the United States Customer Service.

Defense Distribution Center, New Cumberland, Penn., is the Defense Logistics Agency's Lead Center for Distribution. DLA provides supply support and technical and logistics services to the military services and to several civilian agencies. Headquartered at Fort Belvoir, Va., DLA is the one source for nearly every consumable item, whether for combat readiness, emergency preparedness or day-to-day operations.

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