

CAPT Robert Ritchie, SC, USN, New DDSP Commander

DDSP CHANGES COMMAND

Captain Chris McKelvey, SC, USN, relinquished command of the Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, Penn. (DDSP) to Captain Robert Ritchie, SC, USN, July 25, 2002 in a ceremony officiated by Brigadier General James Pillsbury, USA, Commander, Defense Distribution Center (DDC).

The cool temperature and clear blue skies of New Cumberland set a perfect stage for the 9:30 a.m. change of command. The 389th Army Band provided the military music with a local joint Color Guard proudly carrying the colors. The change of command was a great mix of military traditions, from the side boys to the reading of the orders to the passing of the flag, and celebrated the support DDSP provides to the warfighters.

BG Pillsbury congratulated CAPT McKelvey on a job well done and recognized the criticality of the DDSP as a strategic distribution platform.

Pillsbury awarded McKelvey the Defense Superior Service medal for his work at DDSP. Under McKelvey's leadership, across-the-board improvements were achieved directly impacting global sustainment of the warfighter and peacekeeper. Requisition processing time was cut over 40%, receipt processing over 50%, and use of highly efficient "dedicated truck" operations increased over 70%. Faced with an aging workforce and very physical, fast-paced operations, McKelvey placed intensive personal emphasis on personnel safety, directly contributing to a phenomenal 90% reduction in lost time injuries.

CAPT McKelvey recognized the workforce and community that have embraced him and his family. He stated, "I am proud to have served with the people of DDSP and want to say "Thank You" to you all; you have faced many challenges these past two years. Yet you have increased production, reduced costs, focused on the needs of the customer, and done so while working smarter and safer. You have found better ways to do things. I'm constantly impressed with the innovation and expertise of this workforce."

Following McKelvey's address, CAPT Ritchie's address provided, "I am as I said honored, by the opportunity, and am anxious to get to work. To our customers and stakeholders, DDSP will continue the highest levels of customer support and service, and we'll actively look to partner on upgrades and improvements to both efficiency and effectiveness." Ritchie went on to state, "To the members of the world-class DDSP team—Our focus, day to day, everyday will be on accomplishing our mission—to provide logistics support with global reach—effective and on time—when and where needed by our warfighting forces."

McKelvey has been DDSP's Commander since May 2000. His next assignment is Chief of Staff for the DDC.

CAPT Ritchie is from Massachusetts and attended Bates College. Upon graduation, he entered Officer Candidate School



CAPT Chris McKelvey, SC, USN, delivers his farewell address. Incoming Commander CAPT Robert Ritchie, SC, USN, looks on.

and earned a commission in the United States Navy, Supply Corps in February 1979.

After attending the U.S. Navy Supply Corps School, Ritchie reported to his first ship, USS VREELAND (FF 1068) as Supply Officer. Subsequent sea duty tours have included Stock Control and Aviation Support Division Officer in USS CONSTELLATION (CV 64), Assistant Supply Officer in USS NIMITZ (CVN 68), and Supply Officer in USS DWIGHT D EISENHOWER (CVN 69).

Ritchie's shore assignments have included Staff Supply Officer, Commander Light Attack Wing, U.S. Pacific Fleet; Aviation Support Division Officer, Naval Air Station, Lemoore; Aircraft Engine Support Manager and AVCAL and Aeronautical COSAL Outfitting Officer, both at Aviation Supply Office, Philadelphia; and Deputy Financial Comptroller on the Staff of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic in Norfolk.

Ritchie earned a Master's Degree in Financial Management from the Naval Postgraduate School and a Master's Degree (with Distinction) in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College. He is a graduate of the Senior Executive Program at the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth University. He has been designated as a Naval Aviation Supply Officer (NASO) and a Joint Specialty Officer (JSO), and is a member of the Navy's Acquisition Professional Community (APC).

Ritchie's most recent assignment was as Executive Officer of the United States Navy Fleet and Industrial Supply Center,