

# DDCO's DLA Hall of Famers

**HENRY T. FLINT**

**DDCO DEPUTY COMMANDER**

**DLA HALL OF FAMER**



Henry T. Flint, better known as “H.T.,” began his civil service career in 1946 at the former U.S. Army Columbus General Depot after four years in the U.S. Navy. Starting as a grade 2 temporary laborer making 78 cents an hour, “H.T.” served in no less than 27 positions during his tenure at the depot. Perseverance, dedication and a lot of hard work helped him rise from his original appointment to Deputy Director of Distribution at the Defense Construction Supply Center, now the Defense Supply Center Columbus. On April 6, 1986, the directorate became the Defense Depot Columbus Ohio, and “H.T.” became the first Deputy Commander of the new organization. On March 15, 1992, the depot was designated Defense Distribution Depot Columbus, Ohio (DDCO) and assigned to the newly formed Defense Distribution Region East, now the Defense Distribution Center (DDC). “H.T.” ensured a smooth transition of depot activities between the commands as he continued as Deputy Commander.

“H.T.” distinguished himself in many notable ways during his career. He was instrumental in the transformation of DDCO from manual processing to mechanization, guiding the implementation of major automated processing systems. “H.T.’s” knowledge of depot workload capacity and processing procedures was influential in helping DDCO meet the challenges during the nation’s critical needs.

From the Vietnam War to Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm and other occasions requiring immediate support for our warfighters to the devastation of Hurricanes “Hugo” and “Andrew” and the Mississippi River floods, “H.T.” ensured DDCO, supporting its customers, got “the right item, in the

right amount, to the right place, in the right condition, on time, all the time.”

In November 1993, with “H.T.” assuming the lead, the DDCO team took on the challenge of re-engineering its key business process of satisfying customer orders. DDCO rethought and radically redesigned the process to achieve dramatic improvements in the critical measures of performance-speed, cost and quality. Through this re-engineering, DDCO reduced the average time to fill a customer order from 11.8 days in November 1993 to 2 days in July 1994—down 83 percent. The 83 percent improvement in processing time was accomplished notwithstanding a 24 percent personnel cut, a 26 percent budget cut, and a reduction of only one percent in customer orders from the previous year.

Many who have worked with “H.T.” have said his support and direction to DDCO and his concern for each person in the organization was his greatest attribute. His understanding and concern for the workforce played a major role in the harmonious relationship the local unions and DDCO managers enjoyed. Flint knew well the concerns of the employees. He was a former president of American Federation of Government Employees Local 1148. As Deputy Commander, he helped people solve problems, he settled conflicts and he created a more enjoyable place to work for all DDCO associates.

For his many contributions to DDCO and DLA, Henry T. Flint certainly deserves a place in DLA’s Hall of Fame.

Flint retired from DDCO in 1995 and remains in Columbus. He is active in the community, serving as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Columbus Metro Federal Credit Union, among other activities.