

# DDC Opens 23RD Distribution Depot In Sigonella, Italy

By Stacy L. Umstead, DDC Command Affairs

*Benvenuti  
a bordo!*

In a ceremony conducted on March 30, 2004, the Defense Distribution Center (DDC) Commander, Brigadier General Kathleen M. Gainey, United States Army, unveiled the DDC flag signifying DDC's presence in the Mediterranean and officially opening the Defense Distribution Depot Sigonella, Italy (DDSI).



*DDC Commander, Brigadier General Kathleen M. Gainey, USA, unveils the DDC organization flag establishing DDSI.*

On what was a very overcast day in the Mediterranean, attendees to the ceremony observed a traditional DDC activation ceremony with participation by the host Commanding Officer, Naval Air Station Sigonella (NASSIG), Captain Timothy Davison, United States Navy. Captain Davison spoke to the employees who would become part of DDSI, "NASSIG Supply, you've actually become too successful. As a Naval Air Station, we are not structured to provide support to all the military units in the southern European region; you've had to ask the 'big guy' to step in further. With the subject matter expertise, logistical core competency and vast resources a joint organization the size of Defense Logistics Agency brings with it, also comes opportunity. Customers from all four military service components in the European and even the Southwest Asia theater will now benefit directly from this transition. Many of you that have made the combined NASSIG-DLA effort so successful while working for NAS Sigonella will be crossing the fence today, and will join

## DDSI Employees Learn What DLA and DDC is All About

### Orientation Provided to New DDSI Employees

On March 30, 2004, new employees of Defense Distribution Depot Sigonella, Italy (DDSI) attended an orientation session provided by the Defense Distribution Center (DDC). The purpose of the meeting was to welcome everyone to the Defense Logistics Agency team and introduce their new organization.

Acting Commander, Ms. Denise Cordeiro-Bennett, opened the session by welcoming the workforce, comprised of military, civilian, and local nationals, and provided her insight on distribution, the future of DDSI, and the challenges that lie ahead.

The employees viewed the Defense Logistics Agency's (DLA) "Round the Clock, Round the World" video providing them with an overview of who DLA is, where DLA is located, and what role DLA plays in supporting the Warfighter.

Employees were given welcome packets containing a copy of the video, the DLA Director's welcome letter, which was translated into Italian for the local nationals, as well as, other DLA and DDC informational items.

Brigadier General Kathleen Gainey, United States Army, Commander, Defense Distribution Center, provided a briefing on her command philosophies and priorities to include the importance of safety in the workplace. "Safety is a number one priority at the DDC. Your health and well-being is important to me and to this organization. We will do everything to provide for a safe working

environment, but I want each of you to be responsible for identifying and reporting potential safety hazards."

After the General's briefing, Ms. Stacy Umstead, DDC Public Affairs Specialist, provided the DDC Command Overview which explained the DDC distribution network, its mission and services provided, and how DDSI will play an important role in supporting the Warfighter. "DDSI will play an integral part of the DDC Distribution Network. By forward stocking items at DDSI, combined with the DDSI workforce meeting one-day processing goals, the Warfighters, and those transiting the Mediterranean will get the right item, at the right price, and at the right time," said Umstead.

The entire orientation program was translated in Italian for the local nationals by Mr. Vincenzo Ingoglia and Mr. Maurizio Saia, and was well received by all employees.



*DDC's newest employees, members of the DDSI.*



*Ms. Denise Cordeiro-Bennett is charged with command of Defense Distribution Depot, Sigonella, Italy.*

the new Defense Distribution Depot Sigonella, Italy workforce. I am confident that you will achieve even greater heights as part of this DLA organization.” Davison further commented, “This change is absolutely the right thing to do to improve our Warfighter support in this theater.”

Captain Larry Arcement, Supply Corps, United States Navy, NAVSSIG Supply Officer, a key player in the success of the transition, was

awarded the Defense Meritorious Service Medal during the ceremony.

After the award presentation, Brigadier General Gainey, unveiled the DDC organization flag, as DDC Public Affairs Specialist Ms. Stacy Umstead, read the General Order formally activating DDC’s 23rd distribution depot. Brigadier General Gainey then passed the DDC organization flag to Ms. Denise Cordeiro-Bennett, charging her with command of Defense Distribution Depot Sigonella, Italy.

With the traditional Army HOOAH! (not typically heard on the Naval Air Station grounds), Brigadier General Gainey gave a special welcome to her new DDSI workforce, “DDSI joins the DDC distribution network as part of DDC’s forward stock positioning effort, ensuring that our men and women in uniform get the right item, at the right price, and at the right time. DDSI will be instrumental in supporting the many Warfighters located here and that transit the Mediterranean.”

Gainey assured the DDSI workforce that they were inheriting one of the best leaders DDC has. “Denise is a trusted partner in developing better ways to do business. She’s proven that in her previous position as Deputy Commander of Defense Distribution Depot Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, where it was just about 5 years ago that Denise played an integral part in activating that depot. She’s been there, done that, and does it all very well.”

Acting Commander, Ms. Denise Cordeiro-Bennett, addressed her new workforce. “To the men and women who have participated in the transition effort, and to those of you who will continue to be valued members of the DDSI organization, I want you to know that I am very proud to have the opportunity to be a part of the Defense Distribution Center’s 23rd distribution



*Cordeiro-Bennett addresses ceremony attendees.*

depot. It has been a challenging and rewarding effort to see Defense Distribution Depot Sigonella, Italy evolve from a vision and operational concept into a full-fledged distribution depot with a clear and important mission in support of the Mediterranean region.” Cordeiro-Bennett concluded, “I look forward to continuing to build valuable relationships with both customers and our many partners in providing superior distribution support to America’s Armed Services.”

A reception, which included many traditional Italian anti-pasti dishes, was held after the ceremony. More than 200 people were in attendance, most of which included representatives of NAVSSIG, tenant activities, employees, and Naval representatives from the Mediterranean region.

## Midwest Man Explores the Challenges of Other DDC Sites

By Stacy L. Umstead, DDC Command Affairs

Robert Pattillo, a former Defense Distribution Depot Oklahoma City, OK (DDOO) employee, spends his time in a place very different from his home in Oklahoma City. Pattillo is currently serving in an overseas assignment as a Distribution Facilities Specialist at DDC’s new forward site, Defense Distribution Depot Sigonella, Italy (DDSI).

Pattillo started his government career at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. When the distribution functions at Tinker were transferred to DLA, Pattillo came to the DDC distribution network as a Systems Supply Specialist working in the Transportation Office. Pattillo has worked his way up the ladder during his 15-year career, and emphasizes “taking care of the customer, and helping people is the most important thing you can do, no matter where you are in your career or what grade you are.” Pattillo is a stickler for good customer service, “Early in my career, I would get so frustrated when I called someone if I needed help, or if I would ask a question of someone and they made me feel like I was a burden to them. I don’t ever want one of my customers to have that feeling. I want to be the person who people can rely on to get the information they need.”

After having served several years at DDOO, Pattillo met up with someone he calls one of the biggest influences in his career—Debra McBeath, a supervisor at Defense Distribution Depot Europe (DDDE) who convinced him that working overseas was an opportunity he should not pass up. Pattillo’s extensive knowledge of DSS has proven to be key at DDDE. After the DSS training provided by DDC Headquarters, Pattillo was able to be a part of the DSS cadre at DDDE. The cadre wrote DSS instruction manuals and provided in-depth training to local nationals and the US workforce.

Pattillo served at DDDE for two years. His most recent assignment finds him as a Distribution Facilities Specialist at DDSI, his third DDC distribution center. “I like to be challenged. DDDE challenged me, and now I want that challenge at DDSI.” I’m excited to have the opportunity to be a part of a team standing up a new distribution site, and having the ability to influence the way DDC does business.”

Pattillo further comments on his new boss at DDSI, Acting Commander, Denise Cordeiro-Bennett. “I could not do what she does, she works tirelessly to ensure everything is on track, paying attention to every detail. I’m amazed at the extensive distribution knowledge she possesses. The most important trait she has is that she believes in doing what is right and she takes care of the customer. Those are all qualities of a good leader. She proved that at Defense Distribution Depot Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. She’s here to do the same at DDSI.”

Pattillo will serve at DDSI for three years, then he will return to the states. “I have been challenged in my positions overseas while serving with the DDC, and I have taken advantage of many great opportunities, but Oklahoma is still my home and ultimately I would like to return there to accept whatever new challenges come my way. For right now, I’m just proud to be a part of such a great organization!”