

DDC Commander's Column

By Brigadier General Michael J. Lally, United States Army

As I travel and meet our customers, I hear nothing but praise for the Defense Distribution Center. Everyone reports that you are providing timely and quality support to our Warfighters and people are always amazed at how much you accomplish. You are doing a great job - you are definitely making a difference!

People are the centerpiece of our distribution operations. You can have the best information technology, equipment, and facilities, but it's the people that make an organization complete. Your hard work, creativity, and dedication make our organization run!

Command Culture Update:

- As you may recall, all of DLA assessed our culture climate with a company called Denison. After the results were reviewed, everyone agreed that our culture climate needed to be improved.

- The Defense Distribution Center developed and instituted a Leadership Academy for our supervisors. We have completed three sessions of the Executive Leadership Program for all Commanders, Deputies and Headquarters Staff Directors, and three sessions of the Leadership Academy for supervisors. Twenty supervisors at a time go through a two-week program and then return several weeks later to discuss what worked and what didn't. The initial feedback has been outstanding! During the next 16 months, every DDC supervisor will attend the Leadership Academy.

- We also changed the way we hire supervisors. There has been a perception of favoritism in hiring. To address that issue, every DDC supervisory position is now interviewed by a panel. Once the panel has identified the top candidates, they receive a second interview. To date, 66 new supervisors have been hired using this new process and the feedback is good.

Operations Update:

- As you know, we have opened four new overseas distribution centers since April 2004. Sigonella, Guam and Kuwait recently celebrated their one-year anniversaries. Our newest center in Korea will celebrate their first anniversary in January 2006. We are already seeing tremendous cost avoidance from the establishment of these distribution centers. Our distribution center in Kuwait realized a cost avoidance of more than \$190 million in the first year.

- In December 2005, DDC will announce a contractor to take over the Kuwait Theater

Distribution Center and DDC will assume responsibility for operations. LTC Vaccaro is already on site, and an eight person transition team will deploy to Kuwait during early December to help him transition from a LOGCAP operation to a DDC operation that is closely linked with our distribution center in Kuwait.

A 76 Update:

- Our distribution center in Tobyhanna, PA, transitioned to a Most Efficient Organization (MEO) in February 2005 and our distribution center in Corpus Christi, TX, transitioned to a MEO in June 2005.

- With the changes and workload impact of BRAC, all future A 76 distribution center competitions will be deferred until 2012.

A 76 efforts were already started for our distribution centers at Oklahoma and Richmond...we have asked the Office of the Secretary of Defense to defer these as well and are waiting on their response.

- The installation services competition continues at San Joaquin, CA, and Susquehanna, PA, and we expect awards in September 2006.

Facilities Update. To be a world-class operation we must upgrade our facilities.

BRAC will give us several new facilities, but this is not sufficient.

We recently hired a contractor to conduct a thorough assessment of all DDC facilities. They have already started

at Warner Robbins. In the coming months, we will develop a baseline; will determine our future requirements; will develop cost estimates; and will develop and execute a plan of action to improve the safety, security and quality of our facilities.

Humanitarian Relief Update:

- The past several months saw tremendous suffering as a result of the Tsunami; Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma; and the earthquake in Pakistan. At our distribution centers and headquarters, everyone pitched in and contributed to the disaster support efforts. Throughout the Department of Defense people and organizations have been amazed and thankful for the rapid and high quality response.

- To support getting relief material out to those in need, the Enterprise Transportation team did a phenomenal job of managing all the DLA transportation requirements for the hurricane relief. A lot of hard work and long hours went into coordinating transportation requirements and maintaining positive control. The handoff between FEMA and DDC was



7 DDC Katrina Support



27 DDC Changes of Command



52 VIP Kids Day

performed professionally and it appeared seamless to our customers. My congratulations to everyone!

The Holiday Season is rapidly approaching. My wife and I hope that you are able to spend time with your families, enjoy the holidays and stay safe. For those of you deployed or away from home, thank you for your hard work and dedication.

Lastly, please take time to reflect and pray for the safe return of Americans deployed around the world - especially for those Americans risking their lives and fighting the Global War on Terror.