

# DLA well represented at Armed Forces Day celebration

*By Sherre Mitten-Bell, DDSP Public Affairs*

The Defense Logistics Agency's local organizations provided a number of displays for Central Pennsylvania's Armed Forces Day celebration in Harrisburg in May.

The Defense Distribution Center and Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, Pa., set up several booths to provide information about DLA and its mission to the people of Central Pennsylvania as part of the celebration held on Harrisburg's City Island in the Susquehanna River.

"Armed Forces Day on City Island had a wide variety of exhibits to see and activities to do for all ages," said Navy Capt. James Naber, former commander, DDSP. "I was proud to see DLA's largest presence this year, sharing our mission, services, and job opportunities with Central PA."

Naber co-chaired this year's event with Harrisburg Mayor Stephen Reed.

A National Armed Forces Day celebration has been held the third Saturday in May since 1950. The original purpose was

to expand public understanding of the Armed Forces.

The opening ceremony featured comments by Reed and Army Reserve BGen William Waff, commander, 99th Regional Readiness Command.

Following the ceremony, members of the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division, "The Screaming Eagles," parachuted into the island's baseball stadium.

More than 80 local military and government organizations were on hand to entertain the public and inform them of the role the organizations play in



*An Army sergeant provides encouragement to a local youth as he negotiates the obstacle course that was one of the events at Armed Forces Day celebrations in Harrisburg, Pa., May 17. The celebrations were co-chaired by U.S. Navy Capt. James Naber, former commander, Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, Pa., and Harrisburg Mayor Stephen Reed.*



*A child smiles after drawing a picture to send to military personnel deployed overseas. The booth staffed by members of Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, Pa.'s Family Advocacy Program provided local children with paper, crayons and other materials to draw pictures to send to deployed military personnel.*

the defense of the country. A rock-climbing wall and an obstacle course, complete with shouting sergeants, added a more exciting element to the day.

Exhibits staffed by DLA human resources and DDC customer support representatives were visited by students looking for information for reports on the military, military supply officers looking for the latest information on item-tracking technology and local individuals seeking job opportunities. Many were impressed by the scope of DLA's mission and its global presence,



Army Parachute Riggers assigned to Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, Pa., pose with members of the Army's 101st Airborne Division Screaming Eagles parachute demonstration team, in black.

“Our objective was to promote the services that FAP provides, as well as Morale, Welfare, and Recreation activities, to local military personnel and their family members, including those who are deployed,” said Rick Pedzwater, FAP manager for the New Cumberland installation.

Pedzwater and his co-workers provided material for local children who created 89 colorful works of art that were sent to deployed local military personnel. They also took 50 digital photos for family members to send to their loved ones overseas.

DDSP's Army Parachute Riggers' booth, located next to the Army Recruiting booth, demonstrated some of their airdrop equipment and how to pack parachutes. Their parachute display included a video and allowed potential Soldiers to feel the mass and weight of jump gear.

according to Roxanne Webster who works in DDC's Customer and Supplier Engagement Branch.

“As a former Marine and combat veteran, my goal was to inform as many veterans and active duty members of the benefits of working for DLA,” said Daniel E. Ocasio, a human resources specialist at the DLA Human Resources Center in New Cumberland, Pa. “Armed Forces Day was truly a full circle event for me, now as a HR specialist informing veterans on career options that could potentially help them in the future.”

The DLA/DDC Intern Program booth's objective was to inform local veterans and college graduates of the career opportunities available through the Corporate Intern Program.

“Along with patriotism, this event allowed the everyday person to know and understand who we are at DLA/DDC,” said DDC's Jennifer Ream, who was manning the booth.

DLA's Family Advocacy Program, or FAP, has participated in every Armed Forces Day event held at City Island and provides free resource materials such as videos and books to those who need them.



Roxanne Webster, left, Nate Morgan, center, and Shala Pulgar manned the Defense Distribution Center's booth during Armed Forces Day celebrations May 17.