

## DDC recognized for role in providing jobs for people with disabilities

By Jessica Walter, APR

Representatives from the National Industries for the Blind recognized staff from the Defense Distribution Center

earlier this year for their role in providing jobs for people with disabilities.

According to National Industries for the Blind, the work provided by DDC's order of "fast pack" boxes to be used at DDC distribution centers assisted 40 blind individuals in reaching their goals of independence.

The work was completed as a result of DDC's use of the AbilityOne Program that creates employment opportunities for people who are blind or have other severe disabilities by manufacturing products for use by federal agencies.

"Seven out of ten working-age Americans who are blind are not employed, but the AbilityOne Program means the chance at the American dream for employees who are blind or have other severe disabilities," said Kevin Lynch, interim president of National Industries for the Blind.

He added, "It is because of the relationships with outstanding organizations like DDC that this program and our employees are able to thrive and achieve the personal and economic independence that we all desire."



Team members from the Defense Distribution Center's Acquisition Operations Directorate pose with representatives from the National Industries for the Blind during a ceremony to recognize DDC's support of the AbilityOne Program that creates employment opportunities for people who are blind or have other severe disabilities by manufacturing products for use by federal agencies.



Defense Distribution Center Acquisition Operations Director Gene Surmacz, left, receives a plaque from Charlie Wood of Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth, Texas, in recognition of DDC's role in providing jobs for people with disabilities.



Mario Hernandez of Lighthouse for the Blind of Fort Worth, Texas, manufactures "fast pack" boxes that will be used at DDC distribution centers. According to National Industries for the Blind, the work provided by DDC's order assisted 40 blind individuals in reaching their goals of independence.

## DDC Guardsman thanks local students for their support during his tour in Iraq

Dennis Amrhein, stock readiness packaging specialist at the Defense Distribution Center and an Army National Guard Reservist, shares stories and gifts from his deployment to Iraq with students of his daughter's first grade class earlier this year. The students sent Amrhein letters and cards while he was deployed.



Earlier this year, Army National Guard Reservist and Defense Distribution Center packaging specialist Dennis Amrhein visits students at Silver Springs Elementary School in



Mechanicsburg, Pa., to thank the first grade classmates of his daughter, Mackenzie, center, for the letters and cards they sent to him during his deployment to Iraq. Also pictured is Amrhein's son, Logan.