

DDPH Provides Replacement Sonar Dome to Damaged Attack Sub

By Jessica Walter-Groft, DDC Command Affairs

The Defense Distribution Depot Pearl Harbor, HI (DDPH) sent a sonar dome to Naval Base Guam where the USS San Francisco (SSN 711), a Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine, was dry docked in January while awaiting a damage assessment.

The 360-foot long sub sustained damage to the sonar dome and forward ballast tanks when it collided with what is presumed to be an uncharted underwater seamount on January 8, 2005, just south of Guam.



The sonar dome, issued from Defense Distribution Depot Pearl Harbor, HI (DDPH), was transported from DDPH's storage facility to the local port where a ship heading to Guam received the shipment. Above photo courtesy of U.S. Navy.



"Traveling about 350 miles under its own power, the USS San Francisco entered the port at Naval Base Guam where it was certified for a one-time docking while an engineering assessment was performed to determine where, when and if repairs will be made" said LCDR Jeff Davis, SC, USN, spokesperson for Submarine Force Pacific.

The replacement sonar dome shipped from DDPH will be used to make the sub safe for surface navigation so it can travel to Pearl Harbor or Puget Sound after the decision on the vessel's fate is made.

Sonar domes house electronic equipment used to navigate, detect, and determine the range of objects underwater, and DDPH had three of them in stock.

DDPH employees prepared the fiberglass dome for shipment processing, affixing the proper labeling and generating transportation documentation.

They had already packed and shipped the tools and equipment needed for the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) "Fly Away" team to work with the maintenance crew in Guam to repair the sub in preparation of receiving the dome.

"The USS San Francisco was involved in an unfortunate accident, and DDPH is proud to have the opportunity to provide the necessary parts for the sub's repair," said CDR Joe Vitelli, SC, USN, DDPH Commander.

DDC Offers Assistance to Tsunami Survivors

By Polly Charbonneau, DDC Command Affairs

A nine-magnitude earthquake struck deep under the Indian Ocean off the coast of West Sumatra on Dec. 26, 2004. The quake triggered massive tsunamis that wiped out coastal areas in six countries. While the world mourns the tragic losses, employees from the Defense Distribution Center (DDC) are working hard to help the survivors.



Bob Sersch, DDSP, is operating the forklift in Building 50 New Cumberland.

DDC distribution centers are rushing to provide surgical masks and gloves, blankets, medical and first aid kits, bandages, thermometers, pesticides, health and comfort packs, water purification tablets, Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Units (ROWPU), repair parts for generators and other critical equipment, safety boots, lamps and flashlights, tents, and batteries among other items to help with recovery efforts.

The U.S. Pacific Command (USPACOM) leads the U.S. effort in support of coordination with other nations and international organizations to provide disaster relief to the Governments of Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and Thailand and other affected nations to mitigate the effects of the recent earthquakes and tsunamis. DLA is aligned with USPACOM to provide logistics support. DLA has established an around-the-clock operations center to handle all USPACOM requests.



Most of the support from DDC has been from five DDC distribution centers, Defense Distribution Depots Pearl Harbor, HI (DDPH); San Diego, CA (DDDC); San Joaquin, CA (DDJC); Susquehanna, PA (DDSP); and Yokosuka, Japan (DDYJ).

Three days after the tsunami hit, DDJC Freight Terminal supervisor Bob Mahan, Chief DDJC Freight Terminal Branch, started coordinating relief efforts and, at the same time, setting up a new Command and Control Center (CCC) to centralize all relief efforts. He spent the first 36 hours getting systems set up and outlining tasks for each area involved in the relief efforts.

Currently the CCC is staffed by a commander who is at the branch chief or above level and a member of Transportation's Emergency Support Operations Center (ESOC). The CCC operates seven days a week from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Staff from DDDC provided excellent support to USNS MERCY ensuring all material was processed quickly and delivered to the ship in time for her sailing from San Diego. USNS MERCY is a Navy Hospital Ship based in San Diego that sailed Jan. 5, 2005, for the Indian Ocean area. USNS MERCY is normally kept in reduced operating status with a small crew and few supplies. When ordered to activate, the ship must be ready to sail within five days. Outstanding support from DDC's distribution centers helped enable MERCY to meet that deadline. As one of many logistics partners supporting MERCY, "DDDC was proud to do our part," said CAPT Frank Lindell, SC, USN, Commander, DDDC. "Because of the efforts of hundreds of people throughout DDC,



Johnny Baluyot of DDPH in-checks hazardous material for shipment.

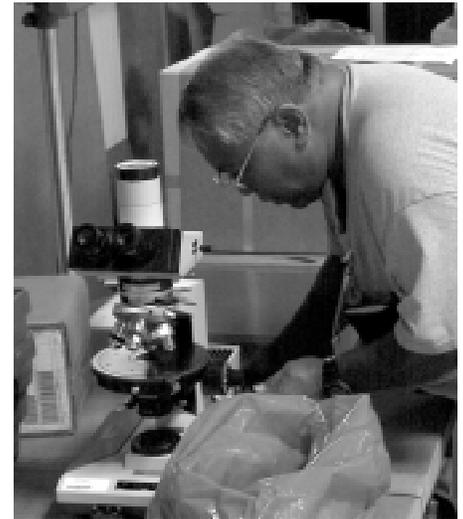


Raymond Shimabuku ties down a load of processed material on a DDPH truck headed to the Hicham air terminal.

equipment and supplies will be available to treat a wide variety of patients from young children to the elderly."

USNS MERCY made a brief port visit in Hawaii while enroute and DDDC staff worked over the weekend to ensure that all MERCY material received since their departure was packaged and shipped to Hawaii. Three separate shipments, totaling 42 pallets, were shipped via commercial air to Honolulu for delivery to the ship.

This effort also required support from the DDC Command Control Center, DDPH, the Fleet Industrial Supply Center (FISC) San Diego, and DDC's west coast Strategic Distribution Platform, DDJC. To ensure all aspects of MERCY's logistics requirements were met, a daily teleconference was held between DLA Headquarters, DDJC, DDDC, DLA-Pacific, MERCY, Commander Pacific Fleet, the Military Sealift Command, Naval Supply Systems Command (NAVSUP), Defense Supply Center Philadelphia (DSCP), several DLA Customer Support Representatives, FISC San Diego, and a host of others. To further ensure coordination for USNS MERCY, a small detachment from the ship set up shop at DDDC. These detachments assist in identifying material received for the ship and prioritizing it for shipment. On Jan. 10th, some of those personnel transferred to DDJC. DDJC will take primary responsibility for resupply



DDPH's Max Jardin creates custom packing to protect sensitive lab equipment.

USNS MERCY while it transits from DDPH to the Indian Ocean.

DDPH also coordinated the last minute movement of donations collected by the Hawaii National Guard to be carried by the USNS MERCY for further transfer to tsunami victims. DDPH transported, repacked, and delivered a full truckload of highly valuable material.

In addition to USNS MERCY, DDC has been supplying many other customers, some small, some large, who are aiding in relief efforts. A small but unique customer is the Navy Environmental and Preventive Medicine Unit 6 (NEPMU 6). DDPH's Packing Operation worked throughout the New Year's weekend to pack and certify more than 50 pallets of material for safe shipment to South Asia. DDPH staff provided custom built crates and skids, consolidated material, and shuttled material between NEPMU 6 and DDPH facilities and then on to the Hickam air terminal.

"DDPH employees were quick to react and develop plans of action when the requests for assistance came in," said CDR Joe Vitelli, SC, USN. "There was no shortage of volunteers across the organization wanting to lend a hand. Because of the variety of ethnic backgrounds DDPH employees possess, the tsunami disaster in Indonesia touched many of the hearts of our employees. The workforce at DDPH is very sensitive to events that occur in Asia, and

we all know the same devastation that occurred there could easily happen to the Hawaiian Islands.”

To date, more than 21.5 million pounds of relief supplies have been delivered by the U.S. military to tsunami victims.

Managing these relief efforts is a massive job by itself. DDC employees are also helping with that work. Four DDC staff members from around the world have volunteered to help and are working at their new duty stations.

Walter Bosdorf, DDC Supply Specialist, and Greg Sims, DDC Traffic Management Specialist, left in early Jan. to work in the Pacific Distribution Operations Center (P-DOC), the operations center that DLA established to ensure the flow of material and enhance intransit visibility.

John Hankins, a Materials Handler at Defense Distribution Depot Europe (DDDE), and Willie Payne, a Distribution Processing Expediter at DDDE, left on Jan. 10, to support the Tactical Logistics Operation Center.

A three-man shore detachment from the USNS MERCY arrived Jan. 10 to augment the DDJC CCC and to identify materials needed to stock the hospital ship. Once the ship got underway from her homeport in San Diego, the shore detachment was coordinating shipping times to meet port calls in Pearl Harbor and Singapore. The detachment served as the link between DDJC and the USNS MERCY.

“I am tracking document numbers and letting the ship know on a constant basis the status,” said SKC Leo Igueldo, USN, shore detachment leader. While the vast majority of the shipments are medical items, the ship also required general supplies like cleaners, galley equipment, furniture, and spare parts.

Also arriving with the shore detachment to coordinate over 200 lines of medical shipments to the USNS MERCY was MAJ Robert Brich, USAF of DSCP. “There is already a great process here at DDJC so things are operating fairly smooth,” said Brich.

However, there were some issues concerning unit of issue that Brich needed to straighten out. “There are packaging differences in regards to unit of issue that are unique to medical items that are shipped Direct Vendor Delivery,” he added.

Also making a contribution to the tsunami relief effort, the Defense Distribution Depot Columbus, OH (DDCO) fulfilled a requisition for 95 pairs of safety shoes to the Marine Corps Logistics Base in Albany, Ga.

The U.S. Pacific Command has established a web site on U.S. military assistance to tsunami disaster relief efforts in South East Asia.

www.pacom.mil/special/0412asia/index.shtml

Latest RFID Tag Sharpens Asset Visibility Prototype “phones home” from any location in the world

By Jessica Walter-Groft, DDC Command Affairs

The next model in a long line of in-transit visibility enhancement technology, the “3G” radio frequency identification (RFID) prototype tag, was placed on four outbound pallets at Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, PA (DDSP) in January.

“The prototype tags function just as the current RFID tags but with one added benefit – they phone home from any position around the world,” said Mark Lieberman, Defense Distribution Center (DDC) Supply Management Specialist.

Using the Iridium network of global satellites, the prototype is a combination unit that includes a traditional RFID tag along with global positioning system and satellite capabilities, giving defense transportation personnel access to the tag’s location – exact to within feet.

As materiel release orders flowed in to DDSP, DoD’s largest warehouse and the eastern strategic distribution platform for military supplies, a group of self-proclaimed “wire heads” from various federal agencies and private technology companies worked alongside DDSP information technology personnel to write shipment data onto the 3G prototype tags.

“With the 410 tag that we currently use, we know when it passes through a portal [or interrogator], and when it passes through another portal, but we need visibility of where that shipment is in the meantime and the 3G will give us that ability,” Lieberman continued.

As DLA’s lead center for distribution, DDC is committed to minimizing customers’ uncertainty in the supply chain and ensuring that Warfighters receive the materiel they need, when they need it and with complete order status information from the time of order fulfillment until delivery.



LT Deon Huff from NEPMU 6 says thanks.