

OSD's Berkson Tours DDC Sites in Pacific

By Jessica Walter-Groft, DDC Command Affairs



Touring DDPH. From left to right: *Estevez, Hall, Berkson, COL Iskra, CDR Vitelli, LCDR Anderson, and O'Brien.*

Representatives from the Office of the Secretary of Defense recently visited Defense Distribution Depot Pearl Harbor, HI (DDPH), and Defense Distribution Depot Yokosuka, Japan (DDYJ) to discuss on-going initiatives to improve support to the Warfighter.

Acting Deputy Undersecretary of Defense (Logistics and Materiel Readiness) and senior DoD logistics official Bradley Berkson; along with James Hall, Director of Studies and Analysis, Office of the Undersecretary of Defense (Acquisition Technology and Logistics); and Alan Estevez, Assistant Deputy Undersecretary of Defense (Supply Chain Integration), visited DDPH and DDYJ in December to learn more about customer support and materiel flow in the Pacific Command (PACOM) region.

At DDPH, the group received the DDPH command brief and toured the distribution facility including the areas of shipping, receiving, packing and preservation, as well numerous storage warehouses. The OSD group was accompanied by CDR Joe Vitelli, SC, USN, DDPH Commander; Mike O'Brien, DDPH Deputy Commander; DDPH Operations Officer LCDR Chris Anderson, SC, USN; and COL Chris Iskra, USA, DLA-Pacific Commander.

"We were proud to showcase our employees' hard work and dedication to our customers," said CDR Vitelli.

At DDYJ, the group was interested in how quickly materiel flows from the Defense

Distribution Center's (DDC) west coast strategic distribution platform, Defense Distribution Depot San Joaquin, CA (DDJC), to DDYJ as part of the Forward Stocking Initiative to preposition highly demanded items closer to the customer.

"During Mr. Berkson's visit, we provided information on our customer-focused approach to meeting the Warfighters' needs with the right item at the right time every time," said CDR Kent Vredenburg, SC, USN, DDYJ Commander.



Speedy Delivery at DDYJ. *Berkson and DDYJ Receiving Director Joe Pirman (left) look at the shipping labels on pallets of materiel that have been received from DDJC to see how quickly the shipment arrived at DDYJ.*

Korean Military Members Learn from DDRV Operations

Members of the Korean military visited Defense Distribution Depot Richmond, VA (DDRV) to learn more about DDRV's distribution operations.

As DDRV Director Jerri Taylor led the group through the bin storage, receiving, packing and shipping areas, the visitors were impressed with the synchronization of operations. "They noted the coordination of the workforce during surges in incoming orders as well outbound trucks to deliver the materiel," said Taylor.

Many foreign militaries visit Defense Distribution Center sites to study best practices for military distribution in order to better their own countries' distribution operations.



DDRV Director Jerri Taylor discusses distribution operations with BG Ha, Chul So, the Chief of the Foreign Procurement Department for the Korean Ministry of Defense.

SSA Reps Benchmark with DDC on Logistics Processes

By Jessica Walter-Groft, DDC Command Affairs

Members of the Social Security Administration's (SSA) Center for Warehouse and Logistics Services in Baltimore traveled to the Defense Distribution Center in New Cumberland, PA, as part of a benchmarking visit to learn more about DDC's distribution operations.

The group was interested in learning how DDC leveraged all the various distribution components in the supply chain to provide support to America's Warfighters using 26 distribution sites around the globe – knowledge SSA hopes to integrate into their operations consisting of six warehouses in the Baltimore area.

"My staff walked away with a greater understanding of your operation and several ideas that we may attempt to integrate into our operation," said Clifton Blount, Director of SSA's Center for Warehouse and Logistics Services.



During the tour of Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, PA's (DDSP) Eastern Distribution Center, DDSP Packaging Specialist John Price describes distribution operations to the SSA visitors.