

Gonzales named deputy commander of Defense Distribution Center

Former director of distribution re-engineering becomes DDC's highest ranking civilian

By Jessica Walter, APR, DDC Command Affairs

Twila Gonzales, a member of the Senior Executive Service, was named the deputy commander of the Defense Distribution Center March 5.

Gonzales will be responsible for working with the DDC commander to direct DDC's distribution services to support combatant commands, military services and other agencies. Currently, DDC's global logistics operations include 26 distribution centers, two theater consolidation and shipping points, and one deployable distribution center.

"The Defense Distribution Center is very fortunate to have someone of Twila's character helping to lead the organization," commended DDC Commander Army Brig. Gen. Lynn Collyar. "One would be very hard pressed to find someone with a deeper understanding of DDC's business or a higher level of commitment to our success."

In the announcement of Gonzales' selection, Defense Logistics Agency Director Army Lt. Gen. Robert Dail wrote, "She has served DLA with distinction for many years and understands the distribution business thoroughly."

A long-time proponent of leadership and workforce development, Gonzales hopes to focus on succession planning during her tenure since nearly half of DDC's workforce will be eligible to retire within the next ten years. "I hope to work with Brig. Gen. Collyar on developing strategies to ensure we maintain the solid foundation established over the last couple of years and accelerate our momentum."

Gonzales also plans to place significant attention on continuing DDC's legacy of outstanding customer service. "We have to continue to evolve and explore new ways of doing business to keep pace with our customer's changing needs."

Additionally, Gonzales intends to maintain high customer service standards by staying in touch with other key stakeholders in the organization. "I want to ensure I stay connected to the DDC workforce, enhance the good working relationship DDC has with the Defense Logistics Agency enterprise, and remain an advocate for the distribution centers and headquarters staff."

Gonzales sees the redesign of DDC's distribution network as the organization's greatest current opportunity, citing mandates and initiatives that are changing the landscape of DDC's business such as Base Realignment and Closure, radio frequency identification,

Joint Regional Inventory Materiel Management, and the Defense Transportation Coordination Initiative.

"It's really like a puzzle and it's our job to ensure the distribution network continues to function at an optimum level during those changes," Gonzales explained.

Inducted into the Senior Executive Service in 2006, Gonzales most recently served as DDC's director of distribution re-engineering,

overseeing the transitions required across DDC's distribution network as a result of the Base Realignment and Closure, or BRAC, Act of 2005.

Gonzales led DDC's Commercial Activities Program Office from 1998 to 2005 where she managed the A-76 process at DDC's distribution centers. Circular number A-76 released from the Office of Management and Budget established a policy for public-private competition to determine if it is the best value for the government to have the mission completed by government employees or contracted out to a private sector company.

Gonzales also served on the team that established the Defense Distribution Center in 1997 through the consolidation of Defense Distribution Regions East and West. At the time, Gonzales was a division chief within the Office of the Comptroller at Defense Distribution Region West.

Although DDC has experienced extensive change during the last decade, Gonzales says the core of the organization

still bears many similarities to the team's concept. "The team understood that it was imperative to design an organization that could be flexible and adaptive, and DDC was established with a founding principle of centralized distribution management," she said. "That's one thing that hasn't changed over the last ten years."

With more than 25 years experience in the federal government, Gonzales began her career as a summer intern and has worked in numerous positions in the planning and resource management fields.

Gonzales holds a master's degree in Human Resource and Organization Management and a bachelor's degree in Social Science and Education.

Her awards include the Department of Defense Distinguished Civilian Service Award, DLA Meritorious Civilian Service Award and DLA Superior Civilian Service Award.

Gonzales replaces Phyllis Campbell, Senior Executive Service, who retired after serving nearly 41 years in the federal government.



DDC Deputy Commander Twila Gonzales, Senior Executive Service.