

assessment of DSS, DDC's warehousing and transportation system. "It was an amazing experience that put me face-to-face with DLA's customers and gave me an appreciation for the struggles an austere environment creates," she said. "Being that close to the war fighters made me realize the importance of having the right item at the right place at the right time."

Defense Training Center - Columbus Career Program Branch Chief Pam Latker who oversees the Corporate Intern Program addressed the graduates during the ceremony, commending them on their accomplishments. "You have stepped up to the challenge with an eagerness to learn, a thirst for knowledge, and a commitment to the enterprise. You now have the skills necessary to function in an integrated logistics environment," said Latker.

Latker also posed a challenge to each of the graduates: "Look up, look forward, and look ahead – because that's where you're headed."

IT intern Lynn Robertson found DLA's commitment to the program encouraging. "The Corporate Intern Program is one bit of evidence of how much DLA is willing to invest in the future and the continued success of the organization."

Lukins commended DDC Intern Program Manager Mike Hasuga for his role in the professional development of each DDC intern. "He has encouraged us to challenge our strengths both in the classroom and on the job. He has been both a professional sounding board and a source of sage advice."

Blackwell was impressed by "the excellent educational opportunities, the exceptional level of command interest and support, and the chance to make so many contacts throughout the organization."

Abreu considered the program to be "one of the best educational and professional opportunities available." He added, "Without any doubts, I would definitely do it all over again."

Robertson added, "I would highly recommend an internship to anyone interested in pursuing a career with DLA."

DDSP offers on-the-floor experience to exchange participants

By Sherre Mitten-Bell, DDSP Public Affairs

The first three participants in the Defense Logistics Agency/Defense Distribution Center Exchange Program experienced first-hand the operations at the distribution center level where supplies for war fighters are received, stored, and shipped around the globe.

The ideal site for these employees to see the mission outside an office was on-the-floor at the Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, Pa., DLA's largest strategic distribution platform.

Part of the experience for Renea Burns, Valli Lampkin, and Stephanie Easter was walking for miles in their safety shoes through the 1.7 million square-foot Eastern Distribution Center, and its other associated warehouses.

After receiving a command and safety overview Nov. 13, they spent the next day studying operation processes in Receiving. They also spent a day each in Stow and Pick, Transportation and Systems/Planning to round out their first week in the program. Their final week will be spent with the DDC Headquarters staff at New Cumberland.

The three employees were impressed with the scope of work involved in the distribution process and grateful to see

exactly how their jobs relate and support the workforce at the distribution center.

"People appear as numbers in statistics, then you see what they do each day and they become real," said Easter, who works for the Resources and Requirements Office.

Lampkin, who works for the DLA Transportation Policy Office, found that seeing the policy and procedures executed at the ground level was helpful.

"Book knowledge is good, but seeing the process in place was impressive," she said.

"Materiel appears as numbers in statistics but once you physically see the amount of frustrated stock and amount of returning retrograde materiel from Southwest Asia it becomes real, especially when my objective is to assist the military services in supporting the BRAC mandate by reducing the inventory stored within the DLA depots," said Burns, who works in the DLA Materiel Accountability and Distribution Policy Office.

All three agreed that the experience was well worth the walking required and are thankful to everyone who exchanged information and shared time with them along their way.



Three employees from Defense Logistics Agency Headquarters received first-hand experience of how their jobs impacts employees at the depot level through the DLA and Defense Distribution Center exchange program. Pictured, from left to right, are Renea Burns, Valli Lampkin and Stephanie Easter.