

sound environmental logistics” said VADM Lippert who thanked all the participants and encouraged activities to participate in next year’s award.

The Defense Logistics Information Service received an honorable mention at the Corporate Board for their innovation in creating the Environmental Reporting Logistics System/Green Procurement Report, a web-based application that consolidates green purchase data on requisitions processed through DLA and the General Services Administration. Last year alone, the GPR recorded 612,681 individual purchases of green items with a total dollar value of more than \$1.1 million. The GPR helps customers at all levels to effectively utilize taxpayer dollars, preserve natural resources, and protect the environment.



As part of DDC’s Environmental Management System, DDC’s Acquisition Office implemented a program to purchase products made of recycled content including boxes.



Paper used in packaging is also made of recycled material to promote environmental stewardship.

DDJC is first federal agency in region to be accepted in Voluntary Protection Program

By Doug Imberi, DDCJ Public Affairs

Defense Distribution Depot San Joaquin, Calif. (DDJC), has become the first federal agency in Region IX to be accepted in the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s(OSHA) Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Challenge Pilot Program.

Region IX includes California, Nevada, Arizona, Hawaii and all U.S. Pacific territories.

The VPP was adopted by OSHA in 1982 to promote excellence in safety and health by recognizing facilities with outstanding occupational safety and health management systems.

Based on a cooperative relationship between management, labor and OSHA, the VPP management system promotes worker protection, requiring active employee involvement and management commitment. The VPP process emphasizes the continual identification and elimination of hazards. In calendar year 2004, OSHA created the Challenge Pilot program as a road map to help organizations meet VPP requirements in three incremental stages. Once an organization successfully completes all three stages and graduates, they are expedited for approval to OSHA’s VPP Star Merit Program.

The four key elements of the VPP are Management Leadership and Employee Involvement, Work site Analysis, Hazard Prevention and Control, and Safety and Health Training.

When a site applies for VPP, management commits to operating an effective occupational safety and health program. Employees and unions agree to participate in the program and cooperate with management.

In March, DLA’s largest union, the American Federation of Government Employees Council 169 Executive

Board, and DLA reached an agreement to proceed with OSHA’s VPP.

The VPP process starts with identifying safety program weaknesses and developing corrective action plans. The personal involvement of leaders, managers and employees in the safety program is key to VPP success. The program also demands upstream accident prevention efforts as well as continuous improvement of safety processes.

DDJC employees will soon see and begin to participate in many VPP related activities. After all VPP elements are in place, the DLA Headquarters Health and Safety Office, serving as a third party, will validate the safety management system and make a determination on measures achieved.

Federal VPP participants typically experience accident rates more than 50 percent below their industry averages. More than 10 years of private industry experience demonstrates safety management systems typically experience a reduction of 23 percent in recordable cases and a 40 percent reduction in lost time cases. Department of Defense (DOD) and federal agencies implementing this approach have seen similar reductions.

