

Former Director of DDC's BSM Office inducted into DLA Hall of Fame

By Stacy L. Umstead, DDC Command Affairs

The late Michael E. Yost, former Director of the Business Systems Modernization (BSM) Office, Defense Distribution Center (DDC), New Cumberland, Pa., was inducted into the DLA Hall of Fame in an April ceremony held DLA headquarters at Fort Belvoir, Va.

DLA Director, Vice Admiral Keith W. Lippert, SC, USN, presided over the ceremony.

Yost, one of six inductees, was honored for his unsurpassed service as the Supply Management Officer for the Defense Distribution Region East (DDRE); the Distribution Facilities Manager; Office of the Commander; Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, Pa. (DDSP); the DDC Financial Manager (Comptroller); and DDC BSM Manager.

During his tenure, Yost was instrumental in the implementation of the Distribution Standard System (DSS), while standing up the Department of Defense's (DOD) largest distribution facility, the Eastern Distribution Center (EDC) located at DDSP. Both of these critical accomplishments occurred flawlessly during a most critical time, as DDSP supported the Warfighters of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Yost's work on DSS unified the formerly stove-piped warehouse management systems used by each military service and, at the same time, seamlessly merged transportation management; allowing for greater control and visibility of all DDC processes across the organization.

Through Yost's outstanding logistical experience, he implemented continuous process improvements allowing DDSP to reduce customer wait time and meet DLA performance goals. Yost was the driving force in establishing a world-class 24/7 customer assistance center which would eventually evolve into the DLA Contact Center concept.

As DDC's Comptroller, Yost was the senior participant in developing and marketing Net Landed Cost (NLC). In addition, he led the implementation of PowerTrack, a commercial, electronic financial transportation billing system that not only reduces DFAS processing costs by \$70,000 per month, but also reduces interest payments to commercial carriers while providing valuable traffic management data that permits time definite delivery and reduces transportation costs.

As DDC's BSM Manager, Yost continued his quest for efficiency and for cost reduction in the transportation area. While leading DLA's BSM initiative, Yost spearheaded the Distribution Planning and Management System (DPMS). Through the use of DPMS, DLA will significantly reduce transportation costs and give DLA greater visibility of assets inside the supply chain pipeline. Yost's

dedication to process improvement, insistence upon excellence, and commitment to customer service and fiscal responsibility were the hallmarks of his leadership through each position he held.

Ana Yost accepted the honor on her husband's behalf and reflected on his life. "Family was vital to Michael. He lived his life by being

a constant example to his daughters – loving, strong, level-headed, and patient. As a husband, he was a devoted, reliable confidant. We are thankful that he touched our lives and gave us his love and support throughout the years. We miss him each and every day."

Ana also spoke about Michael's other family—his work and his co-workers. "Michael had a profound dedication to the Defense Logistics Agency and the Defense Distribution Center. Michael loved his work and the wonderful people he served with. He truly cared for his career and co-workers. He had the utmost respect for all who crossed his path. Michael brought his strong values, compassion for others, and constant diligence to the workplace to become a strong leader, educator, and mentor to many. He was extremely proud of being part of such a great organization and supporting our men and women in uniform."

The DLA Hall of Fame recognizes and honors former members of the DLA community who have made significant and enduring contributions to the Agency. Membership in the Hall of Fame is open to all former DLA military and civilian personnel regardless of rank or grade. The DLA director appoints a selection board that reviews nominations. The board is comprised of representatives from headquarters staff components and field activities.



The late Michael E. Yost.



Celebrating Michael Yost's accomplishments: Front row, left to right: Jackie Noble; Frank Egan; DLA Director VADM Keith W. Lippert, SC, USN; Margorie Jones; Ana Yost; Jessica Yost; Jerri Taylor; Phyllis C. Campbell, SES; Joan Cannon; Stella Starkoski; Suzanne Witmer. Back row, left to right: DDC Commander BG Michael J. Lally, USA; John Yost; Jim Blockus; Janet Cravener; Pat McCormick; COL Dave Rodriguez, USA; Daniel Strausbaugh.