

## Knox assumes command of Defense Distribution Depot Cherry Point

By Polly Charbonneau, DDC Public Affairs

Navy Cmdr. Joseph T. Sermarini, relinquished command of Defense Distribution Depot Cherry Point, N.C., or DDCN, and retired after more than 21 years in the Navy.

The ceremony, held Sept. 20, in Cherry Point, N.C., was officiated by Army Col. Perry L. Knight, chief of staff, Defense Distribution Center.

While in command of Cherry Point, Sermarini provided superb distribution support to Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point; 2nd Marine Air Wing; Marine Aviation Logistics Squadrons; and Fleet Readiness Center East, Cherry Point, Knight said.

DDCN maintains an inventory of approximately 53,000 line items with a dollar value exceeding 3.8 billion. DDCN is one of 26 distribution centers located around the world managed by DDC.

“Joe was not just focused on the numbers, he knows there are people behind those numbers,” Knight said. “He implemented a myriad of internal support initiatives aimed at improving the DDCN command climate, and employee morale and discipline.

“Joe, you held your people accountable and they performed,” Knight said.

For his service, Sermarini was awarded the Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

To the employees of DDCN, Knight said, “Your hard work, teamwork and commitment are a testament to Joe and to each of you individually. You have directly contributed to our many successes. That hard work, teamwork and commitment will continue to be important in the days ahead.

“You work without glory, but with a dedication to supporting our war fighters that is nothing short of outstanding,” Knight said.

As the new commander, Knox’s priorities include establishing DDCN



*Navy Cmdr. Joseph T. Sermarini*

as a model workplace, exceeding the standards for quality, safety, and equal opportunity while meeting his customers’ expectations.

Knox, a Navy Supply Corps Officer, earned a bachelor’s degree in Economics from Davidson College in 1985 and holds a Master’s of Business Administration degree from Boston University and a master’s degree in Operations Research from the Naval Postgraduate School.

Knox’s sea tours include serving as Aircraft Commander and Naval Air Training Operations Procedures Standardization instructor in Helicopter Support Squadron Five, Group Aviation Safety Officer in Marine Aircraft Group 26 and Assistant Supply Officer aboard USS Saipan (LHA-2).

His shore tours include

serving as a flight instructor in Helicopter Training Squadron 18, Academic Instructor for the Naval Aerospace and Operational Medical Institute, Operations Research Analyst for the Chief of Naval Operations (Manpower and Personnel), Operations Research Analyst for Chief of Naval Operations (Resources, Requirements and Assessments) and Operations Research Analyst for Commander Naval Supply Systems Command.

Knox’s personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal (three awards), Navy Achievement Medal (three awards) and numerous unit, campaign and service awards. He is a qualified Naval Aviator, Naval Aviation Supply Officer and Surface Warfare Supply Officer.



*Navy Cmdr. Bryant Knox*