

DDCT extends customer support to meet airlift mission

By Maria Dimick, DDCT Deputy Site Manager

Defense Distribution Depot Corpus Christi, Texas, which is collocated with Corpus Christi Army Depot, or CCAD, on a Naval Air Station, sometimes receives unique distribution requests.

DDCT received one of those requests Sept. 15, a Saturday.

Extending their customer service to meet the mission of CCAD, DDCT went beyond their normal airlift support. The week before, CCAD had scheduled an over-hauled utility helicopter to be loaded onto an airplane for transport from Corpus Christi to Yokota, Japan. With construction closing portions of the Naval Air Station, the airlift was rescheduled to Corpus Christi International Airport, located 20 miles from the Naval Station.

“We perform airlift missions about once a month,” said Victor Parra, distribution process work supervisor and airlift team lead, “but this is the first time any of us had done an airlift mission off-base at the international airport.”

For this mission, CCAD Aircraft Logistics Support Branch coordinated the airlift with Corpus Christi International Airport officials. The airport granted permission to use their tug and forklift. The helicopter was flown from the NAS to the airport the day before.

Diana Hendrix, DDCT transportation assistant, prepared the passenger manifest and hazardous declaration.

“Communication is key,” Hendrix said, “and CCAD does an excellent job in getting us the information we need.”

The DDCT airlift team members who participated in this mission included Jon Rogers, Don Woods, Richard Fuentes, Lee Cason, Walter Musgrove, Johnny Contreras Sr., Jason Martinez, David Garcia, Gary Christmas, and Chris Evans. Victor Parra led the team.

The DDCT airlift team arrived and pre-positioned the tractor trailer loaded with the ramps then awaited the arrival of the aircraft that would transport the helicopter, a C-5 Galaxy.

In typical Corpus Christi weather of 91 degrees, high humidity and scorching sun, the team began to unload the fabricated C-5 wood ramps. The forklift driver completed an operational check of the equipment while the team lead coordinated with the C-5 load master.

The team positioned the fabricated ramps at the end of the C-5 ramp then

shimmed them to get a tight fit against the C-5 ramp and airfield pavement.

The team maneuvered the helicopter by the tail and stabilized the main rotor blade during the upload. The load master called out when the helicopter was in place and his team secured the helicopter.

Then the DDCT team loaded the wood ramps onto the C-5 that would fly the helicopter to Japan. The paperwork was finalized and turned over to the load master.

The DDCT team secured the unused ramps on the tractor trailer and, mission complete, departed for home.

“The DDCT team always comes through,” said DDCT Commander, Army Lt. Col. Robert Maxham. “These folks know their jobs and their customers and how important the work they do is and they do it without glory. I couldn’t be more proud of them.”



Extending their customer service to meet the mission of Corpus Christi Army Depot, DDCT went beyond their normal airlift support. An airlift had to be rescheduled to Corpus Christi International Airport, located 20 miles from the Naval Station. DDCT performs airlift missions about once a month, but this is the first time they had done an airlift mission off-base at the international airport.