

DDC Commander's Column

By BG Lynn Collyar, United States Army

A new year is always an appropriate point to mark new beginnings, and that is certainly true at the Defense Distribution Center. The coming year is full of promise as DDC adopts a new vision and welcomes a new leader to fill our top civilian position.

In March, DDC Deputy Commander Twila Gonzales, Senior Executive Service, will trade positions with Paul Peters, Senior Executive Service. Paul is currently the Director of the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service (DRMS) – the materiel disposal arm of the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA).

Twila has been a tremendous asset to DDC since the organization was formed, having directed our efforts related to A-76 and Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) prior to assuming her current role as Deputy Commander. Throughout her career, she has led with compassion, integrity, and heart. A strong advocate for workforce development, she played a vital role in DDC's leader development initiatives. Twila is truly a DDC treasure, and she will be missed.

Her replacement, Paul Peters, comes to DDC with extensive experience in numerous business areas within the Federal government. With knowledge and skill of this magnitude, he is sure to be a very valuable resource to DDC.

In 2008, DDC will also adopt a new vision: To be the single distribution services provider for DOD ... anywhere in the world, under any condition.

The environment has changed in the 10 years since DDC was formed, and we must adapt in order to continue providing the level of support America's Warfighters deserve.

The readiness of today's American military is dependant on enhancing our performance in four main areas: Speed, Reliability, Visibility, and Efficiency. A focus on each of these must be incorporated into our day-to-day operations as well as the decisions we make for the future. Our Warfighters depend on us for their supplies. We will strive to continually meet their priorities and their expectations, and we will do so at the best possible value. That is our role in the DOD supply chain.

To achieve this, confidence is key. They must have

confidence in us. They must be able to trust us – to trust that we will get them what they need when they need it. Not too early, certainly not late, but exactly when they need it. This is nothing new to you – the 7,822 employees who work at DDC sites all around the world. What is new, however, is that we're taking our commitment one step further. We've been doing a great job, and now it's time to focus on doing it even better. What does it take to be the best defense storage and distribution organization in the world? To be a key link in the DOD supply chain? It takes everyone pitching in to do their part in making it happen.

Whether you're the person working in the distribution center who gets the supplies out to the Warfighter – or the person who makes sure materiel is in the proper location so it can be processed ASAP – or the safety officer who helps protect employees – or the leader who inspires your team – or the staff that supports the distribution center – you are a key link. Without your contribution, we wouldn't be nearly as strong.

The past year brought us numerous opportunities to prove our expert level distribution capabilities from within DLA and all across the

Department of Defense as well as other Federal agencies. Our input on Combatant Command (COCOM) distribution assessments has been critical to moving logistics processes and efficiencies forward all over the world. Furthermore, we continue to partner with the Services and other agencies like the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) on projects that optimize the movement of materiel within the government.

This year promises to be full of potential as we move forward with our work in support of America's Warfighters. There will always be more we can do, and more we can do better.

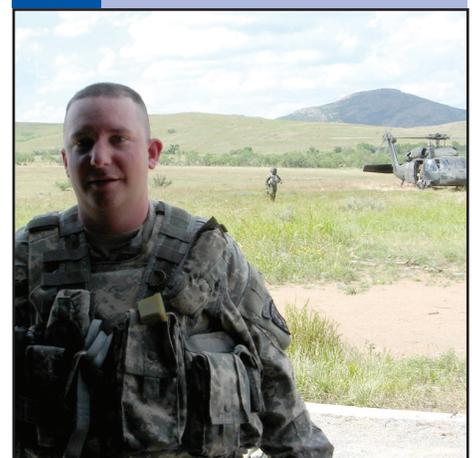
I hope you realize just how critical you are, and how much your efforts are appreciated. Without you, DDC wouldn't be able to boast such stellar successes. So, in 2008, as we begin our second decade of distribution excellence, let's do it again – and let's do it even better. Let's truly be the STONGEST link in the supply chain!



7 DDJC aids SoCal fire relief efforts



27 DDCT extends support



36 Security Specialist returns from Balad