

DDC HQ Security Specialist returns from the front lines

By Jessica Walter, APR, DDC Public Affairs

Justin Bullard returned to work in July as a security specialist for the Defense Distribution Center after being called to active duty in Balad.

Bullard was called off the Army's Inactive Ready Reserve in December 2005 to serve as an Aviation Operations Specialist managing flight missions throughout Iraq.

He also volunteered as a part-time door gunner on Blackhawk helicopters.

Part of Bullard's mission was to assist with the movement of troops and civilians by air so they could avoid injury by explosives on the ground.

Although he says the work was difficult and became dangerous at times, the job had its advantages. "It made me feel like I was really helping those guys."

Bullard's teammates in the Defense Logistics Agency Enterprise Support Security division at DDC are glad to have him back. "Not only is his commitment to our mission unwavering, but he's also a very positive, upbeat person – a true asset to the team," commended Security Chief Sharon Heiner.

Bullard served in the Army from 1999 to 2001 when he took a security specialist position in Washington, D.C., working for the Navy.

"Being a Soldier is a life

experience I'll carry with me forever," Bullard said.



Security Specialist Justin Bullard, Defense Distribution Center, was called back to active duty in December 2005 to assist with the movement of troops and civilians by air so they could avoid injury by explosives on the ground.



Security Specialist Justin Bullard, Defense Distribution Center, in his flight gear. Bullard was called back to active duty in December 2005.

Defense Distribution Center employee heads back to Iraq

By Scott Woosley, DDC Public Affairs

A Defense Distribution Center employee who is a member of the Maryland National Guard, returned to Iraq for a second deployment in September.

Dennis Amrhein, a member of the DDC's Asset Accountability Team, deployed to Iraq, this time with the 1st Battalion, of the 158th Cavalry Regiment of the Maryland National Guard.

Amrhein, returned to Iraq barely a year after

coming home in June 2006 from his first deployment to the war-torn country. He was an employee of Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, Pa., when he was first deployed in 2005 for an 18-month deployment.

Amrhein expected this deployment to be a little different from the previous one when interviewed prior to deploying.

"The area that I'll be working in is the western part of Baghdad," Amrhein said. "Last time I was in Ramadi, Al Anbar Province, which was considered the 'bad lands.'"

During Amrhein's first trip to Iraq, he was a member of a Long Range Surveillance/Sniper Team, which is his primary military occupational specialty.

During that first deployment he, and his team, were sent out on several missions to set up surveillance posts to gather information. As is common in war, situations can change with little notice and a surveillance mission can turn into a combat mission. Amrhein's actions during that first deployment earned him several decorations including the Bronze Star with Valor, the Combat Infantryman Badge and the Army Commendation Medal.



Staff Sgt. Dennis Amrhein, an employee of the Defense Distribution Center Asset Accountability Team, in Al Anbar province in Iraq Aug. 8, 2005. Amrhein returned to Iraq for a second deployment in September with the 158th Cavalry Regiment of the Maryland National Guard.

He didn't believe he would see the same kind of action during this deployment. While he did expect to see combat, he expected to spend more time in vehicles since he deployed with a cavalry unit.

"I believe this mission will include more mounted combat patrols in Humvees," he said.

Despite the obvious hardships he knew he would endure while in Iraq, Amrhein thinks deployments are just as hard on the families who remain behind.

"It is important to recognize the families of service



Staff Sgt. Dennis Amrhein sites in with an M24 sniper rifle while in Iraq in January of 2006. He returned to Iraq for a second deployment in September with the 158th Cavalry Regiment of the Maryland National Guard.