

Stewardship Excellence critical to DDC mission

Defense Logistics Agency, or DLA, Director, United States Navy Vice Adm. Alan Thompson released his fiscal 2010 Director's Guidance Sept. 30. The guidance provided three strategic focus areas: Warfighter Support Enhancement, Stewardship Excellence and Workforce Development.

To provide background and depth on stewardship excellence it is critical in these times of high demand for Warfighter support and declining Service budgets we constantly balance performance with cost or stewardship. Stewardship is little more than daily practices that assure storage and distribution services are relevant, affordable, and sustainable over time. In the end, stewardship is not new for the workforce at Defense Distribution Center, or DDC,...it is the way of life.

As DLA's responsibilities have continued to grow in recent years as Base Realignment and Closure, or BRAC, 2005 and other partnerships with Service customers to implement logistics capabilities that optimize retail elements of end-to-end supply-chain performance, it is important to remind ourselves that integrating business processes is hard. Creating efficiencies in inventory planning, investment, positioning, storage, and distribution requires constant and continuous stewardship.

As DLA has been deeply involved in new or expanding partnerships with various commands and agencies, DDC has responded by developing a capability to provide the required support. But what DDC does best comes after that initial response...DDC assesses current and potential roles and related processes to ensure that it delivers maximum payoff from taxpayer resources while effectively supporting the Warfighter. "As we look at our individual contributions to the end-to-end supply chain process we need to ensure that we look left and right to make sure we, DDC, exemplifies the culture of being better -- which is crucial as we go through FY2010 and beyond," said United States

Marine Corps Brig. Gen. Peter Talleri, DDC commander.

"We will hear much more about stewardship in the weeks to come but it is important to remind ourselves that we have not reached

the plateau we are on with integrated processes, compliance with authoritative guidelines that govern us, and transparency in a single great leap," said Talleri. "This has been a never-ending journey which has required us to work together to develop a coherent distribution network that started on Oct. 1, 1997 when DDC was founded." The simple organizational compass founded on the principles of stewardship has been, and will continue to be, DDC's compass for the journey, providing direction and serving to coordinate all of our activities as we move from our current position to the next level.

As DDC constantly rebuilds and retools customer support opportunities, it looks to mobilize the entire workforce around the shared vision outlined in the 2010 Director's Guidance.

"We have a clear way ahead for DDC and I will release my FY10 guidance in the next week," said Talleri. "We will be building new measures for determining individual and organization success and welcome each and everyone's interest, drive, suggestions, and dedication to achieve our common goals."

