

# Former DLA BRAC manager assumes command of DDC's newest Strategic Distribution Platform



*By: Emily Blubaugh, DDC Public Affairs*

The Defense Distribution Depot Oklahoma City, Okla., or DDOO, welcomed a new leader to carry forth the Defense Distribution Center's goal of timely and quality distribution support to the Warfighter. Ned LaViolette, Jr. assumed command of DDOO in a ceremony officiated by DDC commander United States Marine Corps Brig. Gen. Peter Talleri.

LaViolette joins the DDOO team for his fourth assignment to Tinker Air Force Base, bringing with him 39 years of military experience, having served in the United States Air Force in key assignments such as chief of Supply at Yokota Air Base Japan and detachment commander in Thailand and Cambodia for Joint Task Force Full Accounting, where he recovered remains and conducted investigations on individuals unaccounted for from the Vietnam War.

He also served as Logistics Group commander at Sheppard Air Force Base Texas; E-3 Airborne Warning and Control System Aircraft System

Support manager at the Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center; and Mission Crew commander, during which he logged over 4,500 flying hours. Additionally, LaViolette received the Bronze Star for his efforts in Operation Desert Storm.

He also spent three years with Army Forces command, where he planned and executed joint air defense exercises and fielded data link subject matter experts to support Operation Iraqi Freedom and Horn of Africa Operations.

LaViolette comes to DDOO at a critical time, as it evolves as a strategic distribution platform, or SDP. The creation of the SDP serves to handle increased surge capability, which is of vital importance as the United States increases its troop support in Afghanistan. The SDP also serves as contingency support for national emergencies and natural disasters.

The determination to elevate DDOO to an SDP comes as a result of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure decision, which calls for the restructure of Department of Defense distribution operations. This decision will improve the mobilization, deployment and sustainment of combatant forces deployed worldwide with the creation of consolidation, containerization and palletization capabilities at DDOO.

LaViolette noted DDOO's continuous outstanding support to the Warfighter. "In my previous position as DLA BRAC Air Force Team Program Management Officer, I was able to observe firsthand the outstanding teamwork and performance of the Defense

Distribution Depot Oklahoma City, Okla.," he said.

"When we implemented the stock transfer of retail inventory from the Air Force to DLA on Nov. 15, it generated an enormous amount of stock replenishment orders- four times greater than anticipated. In a matter of a few days, these assets had been picked and delivered to the applicable activity. The screening of critical safety items was also conducted in record time setting the benchmark for other activities."

Noting his firm belief in the importance of teamwork and workforce development, a strategic focus area highlighted by DLA director United States Navy Vice Adm. Alan Thompson in his 2010 guidance, LaViolette said, "Teamwork is one of the fastest avenues to ensure we provide the best possible support to the Warfighters. If you take care of your people, they will take care of the mission. This includes providing them a safe working environment, proper training and tools, rewarding them for superior performance, mentoring them and preparing them to take our jobs someday."

He continued, "DDOO will continue to expand our process improvement program with our team Tinker partners and customers."

In his remarks, Talleri highlighted DDC's ongoing enhancements in accordance with the 2010 guidance, saying, "In support of the Director's focus areas, DDC is prepared to support several Warfighter support initiatives - integration and performance in BRAC mission areas and design and development of a DLA retail strategy to optimize related supply chain performance factors."