

DDYJ supports Navy fleets in the fight against the flu

By Jessica Roman, DDC Public Affairs

In the fight against the flu, Defense Distribution Depot Yokosuka, Japan has a special mission: providing H1N1 influenza vaccine to United States Navy troops on board the 5th and 7th fleets in the Pacific. DDYJ is assisting in the process of receiving, storage and transshipment of the vaccines. DDYJ is the only OCONUS distribution center currently under the DDC area of responsibility handling the receipt, store and issue functions of pharmaceuticals, because they comply with Federal Drug Administration requirements. DDYJ supports the United States Navy Fleet within the Pacific Command.

H1N1 influenza vaccine is unique because there is special required handling and shipping procedures. The materiel must be maintained at a very specific temperature in order to preserve the vaccine. Because the vaccines are considered cold chain management materiel, coordination and teamwork between DDYJ and the customers on the 5th and 7th fleets is vital to ensure the temperature is regulated properly. The materiel is shipped from DDYJ using refrigerated and frozen gel packs and a temperature monitoring device to ensure that the temperature inside the package does not vary outside of the required range of two to eight degrees Celsius.

“DDYJ has consistently been proactive within the medical logistics community in recent years as they worked to stand-up a world class Cold Chain Management program,” said Michael Minto, DDC Medical and Chemical Biology

program manager. “They have the capability to accept for mission storage, or as a cross dock operation, the full scope of value added packaging as defined within the Department of Defense and FDA approved packaging protocols for medical chilled materiel.”

DDYJ has processed over 700 vials of the H1N1 vaccine to ship to Warfighters within their area of responsibility. In support of the influenza pandemic, DDYJ expeditiously transshipped the Anti-Viral Tamiflu, valued at over \$2 million.



United States Navy Leading Seaman 1st Class Ray Hererra inspects H1N1 vaccine.



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