

## Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month: DLA corporate interns provide essential skills to DDC

By Jessica Walter, DDC Command Affairs

DLA corporate interns of Hispanic heritage contribute special talents to the Defense Distribution Center's (DDC) mission to support America's Warfighters.

For DDC Supply Management Specialists Jose Abreu and Alex Ramirez, the ability to adapt to a different culture has proved to be an advantage that helps them excel at their jobs.

"As an immigrant, you have to work hard, learn, adapt, overcome challenges, deal with change and never give up," said Abreu who was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and moved to Pennsylvania when he was 13.

The biggest challenge Abreu and Ramirez face is communicating across two languages, a barrier they've both transcended remarkably well.

For Ramirez, who works in DDC's Customer Support Division and holds a bachelor's degree in Business Management from the InterAmerican University of Puerto Rico, being bilingual has allowed him to provide excellent customer service.

"My native Spanish language helps me talk to DDC customers of the same cultural background. I can explain to them what DDC is doing for them and how I am going to help."

Abreu's job in DDC's Reserve Affairs and Mobilization office also lets him stretch his communication muscles. Abreu designs the marketing materials used to promote awareness of and participation in the DLA Contingency Support Teams and Emergency Essential program to support contingencies, emergencies, mobilizations, joint military

exercise and deployments that maximize customer readiness.

"Being bilingual, I'm already conscious of the importance of communication, so when I'm creating posters for presentations to promote awareness of our programs, I have additional sources from which to pull ideas," said Abreu.

Abreu holds a bachelor's degree



Alex Ramirez of DDC's Customer Support Division.

in Business Administration from Millersville University in Pennsylvania and is in the process of earning a Master of Business Administration degree.

For more information on the DLA Corporate Intern Program, visit [www.hr.dla.mil/dtc/dlacipcollege.htm](http://www.hr.dla.mil/dtc/dlacipcollege.htm).

To contact the DDC Reserve Affairs and Mobilization

office call 717-770-6166 (DSN 771) or [DDCmobilization@dla.mil](mailto:DDCmobilization@dla.mil).



Jose Abreu of the DDC Reserve Affairs and Mobilization Office promotes awareness of contingency support opportunities for DDC employees.

## DLA launches intern program website

DLA has added a webpage to its resources for the Corporate Intern program, <http://www.hr.dla.mil/dtc/dlacipcollege.htm>.

The Corporate Intern Program is a Human Capital initiative and was established in 2000 at the direction of the DLA Corporate Board as a result of extensive study of the Agency's resource replenishment needs.

The program is a two-year corporate training program designed to train entry-level personnel for subsequent advancement to the journey level in professional, administrative, and technological career fields. This is accomplished through on-the-job assignments, cross-training, rotational assignments, and formal training such as classroom, distance learning, web-based training, conferences, and seminars. Participants enter the program at the GS-7 level and are targeted to the GS-11 level upon successful completion of the program requirements.

DLA uses both external and internal sources to identify interested candidates for the Corporate Intern Program. Internal candidates use Merit Promotion to apply for the Program while those external to the Federal Government are brought in through various appointing authorities. DLA primarily utilizes the Federal Career Intern Program (FCIP) authority to appoint external candidates.

The Defense Distribution Center (DDC) is an active participant in the Corporate Intern Program. For more information about DDC's participation, contact Mike Hasuga, DDC Logistics Operations.