

the season, which included Continuing Government Agency (CGA) Academy team instructors, employees, friends, family, and DDRV Director Jerri Taylor.

“Jerri Taylor was our most energetic and loudest fan,” said Coach Penny Holcomb. “She even had her own set of green and white pompoms to cheer us on.”

Material Handler Larry Haynes of the Transportation Department believes the team’s success lies in the fact that “Players win games, teams win championships.

“The 2005 softball season was a remarkable season, not because we finished undefeated and won the title, instead, it proved that our players’ individual commitment to the team made us triumphant and it’s what makes our company work so effectively off the field,” Haynes explained.

“A coach once told me that playing sports does not build character, it reveals it,” Haynes said. “Our crowd support and sportsmanship revealed our true character, and winning was only half the victory—having fun was the other half.”

After the season, Coach Holcomb said, “Our success was built on teamwork and having fun. Practice plays a big part in winning also. Every team will be after us in Spring 2006.”

DDDC trainee passes basic

Remember GiGi? Here’s the latest...

By Stacy Umstead, DDC Command Affairs

Gigi IV, the now sixteen-month old golden retriever mix, who arrived in sunny San Diego a year ago, has successfully completed Basic Puppy Class with her puppy raiser Jim Siegfried, a member of the Defense Distribution Depot San Diego, Calif.’s (DDDC), Continuing Government Activity (CGA).

Puppy and raiser received above average marks during the final exam. The exam consisted of a series of commands designed to observe the ability of the raiser and the attention and the willingness of the puppy to perform. Such commands included the heel and side, directing the puppy to sit on the left and right side of the raiser, the stay command,

which requires the puppy to remain in a stand for one minute, a sit for three minutes, and a down for five minutes and the basic speak, shake, and wait – all performed without a hitch.

From here, Gigi moves on to Advanced Puppy Class. There she will learn another series of commands like jump, up, lap and visit, while her on-the-job training continues at DDDC. The on-the-job training continues with sitting quietly while her puppy raiser is in a meeting, receiving or giving training, and sitting alone for short periods of time in the office.

All the members of the CGA have taken a part in socialization development, which will be in preparation for her Matriculation later this year when her puppy raiser’s job is complete and she is presented to the professional trainers of Canine Companions for Independence (CCI)



Poised and ready for Advanced Puppy Class, GiGi and her trainer Jim Siegfried.

for further learning and advancement.

The matriculation ceremony is in conjunction with the quarterly graduation ceremony, where dogs have successfully completed a two week live-in training session at the CCI campus. The dogs will then serve as service animals for people with disabilities or as a facility dog.

A service dog has the capability to open doors both figuratively and literally for its handler. “A facility dog will just share its unconditional love with as many people as it comes in contact with,” explained Siegfried.

“Everyone at DDDC is anxious to see what path our dog will take because in the end it’s all up to Miss Gigi IV to decide what she’ll become,” said Siegfried.



GiGi and trainer Jim Siegfried at work at DDDC.