DDYJ "stands among the top of the organizations in the distribution network."

He concluded by thanking the workforce for what they have done to ensure the readiness of the U.S. military and for strengthening the relationship between the U.S. and Japan.

His visit served to instill even greater confidence in the organization, encouraging it to push beyond its current role toward an even greater role in support of the U.S. Military Forces around the world.

During his trip, Dail also visited other DLA activities in Hawaii, Guam, Japan, and Korea.

New system helps to streamline distribution process

Duplicate entry avoided through collaboration with Navy

By Jessica Walter, APR, DDC Command Affairs

In June, the Defense Distribution Center completed validation of a prototype system that will eliminate steps in the distribution process.

The new Material Processing Center component of DSS, the distribution and transportation system used across DDC's global distribution network, combines the functions of DSS with the Navy's asset visibility system, LCAV.

The new MPC expansion in DSS will keep distribution workers from having to enter duplicate data into the two separate systems.

"We worked very closely with the Navy to ensure the new system provided all the same data, reports, and accessibility they received from LCAV," said Dave Olenick, leader of the Navy support team at DDC headquarters.

The expanded version also includes a new feature that provides dual verification to ensure that each item gets to the correct Navy customer. The new system now automatically identifies the package's sorting requirements when the employee scans the shipping label. And to close out the order, the system requires the employee to scan the container in which the item is placed to verify that it is the correct one.

According to Olenick, this new capability streamlines the activities in the MPC by automating the process instead of requiring busy distribution employees to continually refer to a sheet that displays sorting location information.

The new DSS capability will be used by the personnel in the Material Processing Centers of DDC's distribution sites. The MPCs serve as sorting and staging areas for materiel destined for Navy vessels. As shipments arrive at the MPCs, they are sorted by destination and moved into the proper distribution area for each ship.

The 10-week test of the prototype was conducted at the MPC at Defense Distribution Depot Norfolk, Va., and was applied to shipments received for the USS Arleigh Burke (DDG 51) and the USS Wasp (LHD 1).

"We've seen the opportunity to gain significant efficiencies," said DDNV MPC and Customer Service Officer Navy Cmdr. (Select) Linda Spangler. "The test of the prototype demonstrated that we can realize improved materiel receipt accountability and automatic sortation identification, as well as increased customer asset visibility."

Shortly after the validation of the prototype concluded, the MPC at the Norfolk distribution center began using the system for materiel destined for six more ships including the aircraft carrier USS George Washington (CVN 73).

According to Spangler, DDNV hopes to begin using the system for shipments to the other five carriers homeported in Norfolk later this year.

DDNV's MPC currently provides support to about 60 Navy vessels including aircraft carriers and other ships manned by Navy personnel or civilians.

DDC has begun rolling out additional prototypes of the MPC function of DSS to other MPCs across DDC's network including those at Defense Distribution Depots Jacksonville, Fla.; San Diego, Calif.; Puget Sound, Wash.; Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; Yokosuka, Japan (Sasebo detachment); and Guam, Marianas.

When deployed to all sites, the new function will support more than 150 Navy ships. Full implementation is expected by January 2008.

According to Olenick, the success of the project is due to the collaboration of numerous organizations including the Navy Supply Information Systems Activity, the Navy's Fleet Industrial Supply Center – Norfolk, and the Defense Logistics Agency Information Technology offices in New Cumberland, Pa., and Ogden, Utah.

"The assistance from our business partners was invaluable," commended Olenick. "Results like these would not have been possible without their support."

Distribution Processing Expeditor Sondra White scans parcels in the Material Processing Center at Defense Distribution Depot Norfolk, Va., as DDC Commander Army Brig. Gen. Lynn Collyar observes. The DDNV Material Processing Center was the first to validate the prototype system that combines the functions of DDC's distribution and transportation system with the Navy's asset visibility system.