

## ***Piburn takes the helm at San Diego as Jacunski retires***

### **Jacunski recounts the historic events of an exciting Naval career**

*By Stacy L. Umstead, DDC Command Affairs*

Navy Capt. James Piburn assumed command of Defense Distribution Depot San Diego, Calif., in an official ceremony held July 6 as Navy Capt. Walt Jacunski relinquished command, then retired.

Presiding over the ceremony was Army Brig. Gen. Lynn Collyar, commander of the Defense Distribution Center.

During his remarks, Collyar expressed his admiration for one of the Navy's finest, "When I first arrived at the DDC, there were two people that I would usually call to ask for advice. Walt was one of them." Collyar continued, "Walt used his extensive experiences, out-of-the-box thinking, and dynamic personality to take the Defense Distribution Depot San Diego, Calif., and DDC, into the future."

According to Collyar, Jacunski meticulously and flawlessly executed the highly complex contract transition to a new service provider at DDDC, ensuring a seamless turnover of all center functions between contractors. "Walt worked closely with our logistics partners ensuring that the focus was, and is continually, on the customer," said Collyar.

Collyar then presented Jacunski with his certificate officially retiring him from the United States Navy.

"As I look back and reflect on my career, it was clear that my recruiter was right – it certainly has been an adventure and I did get to see a lot of the world," said Jacunski.

Jacunski recounted memories of Operation Desert Storm. "As the first strikes were being launched, I stood there

stunned and in awe of all that was going on around me. Bombs being loaded, jets being positioned, red shirts, yellow shirts, white and purple shirts, a kaleidoscope of color with activity everywhere.

"It truly was something to behold. I stood there with sea bag in hand watching as history was made. You'd be hard-pressed to find a more exciting occupation!"

During the symbolic passing of the flag, Jacunski relinquished command of DDDC

School in Newport, R.I., in May 1984. He earned a master's degree in Material Logistics and Systems Inventory Management from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif., in 1994, and is a 2006 graduate of the Columbia University Senior Executive Program.

His sea tours include Supply Officer, USS Guardfish; Supply Officer, USS Pollack; Material/HAZMAT Officer and Stock Control Officer, USS Ranger; and Officer in Charge, Military Detachment, USNS San Jose.

Piburn's shore tours have included Customer Service Officer/Fleet Support Officer, Naval Submarine Base New London, Conn.; Weapons Systems Officer and Repair Officer, Naval Inventory Control Point, Mechanicsburg, Pa.; Freight Terminal/Storage Director and Business Officer, Fleet and Industrial Supply Center, Yokosuka, Japan; Deputy for Submarine Supply Policy and Operations on Staff, Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, Norfolk, Va.; and Navy/Marine Corps Team Leader for National Inventory Management Strategy and Navy National Account Manager, Headquarters, Defense Logistics Agency.

He is qualified as a Submarine Supply Officer, Surface Warfare Supply Corps Officer, and Naval Aviation Supply Officer. Piburn is a member of the Acquisition Professional Community and is a Certified Professional Logistician.



*Navy Capt. Jim Piburn, holding the organization's colors, accepts responsibility for command of Defense Distribution Depot San Diego, Calif.*

to a long-time friend. During their careers, it was the third time Piburn had relieved Jacunski.

Piburn graduated from San Diego State University in 1980 with a bachelor of science degree in Accounting. He received his commission through Officer Candidate