

DDOO's Reiman retires after 30 years in Air Force

By Stacy L. Umstead, DDC Command Affairs

As the United States flag was given a final fold, so ended a 30-year career with the Air Force as Col. James Reiman, commander, Defense Distribution Depot Oklahoma City, Okla., retired his wings.

Presiding over the momentous ceremony was Vice Director Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center Air Force Col. Richard Matthews.

To open the ceremony, Defense Distribution Center Commander Army Brig. Gen. Lynn Collyar presented the Defense Superior Service Medal to Reiman. Under Reiman's leadership, DDOO achieved all acceptable performance levels in processing times for high priority and routine issues, receipts, stows and returns for 12 consecutive months. Reiman initiated actions that brought inventory accuracy to its highest level in three years and reduced the absolute inventory adjustment rate by \$150 million.

As part of his initiative to provide continuous improvement of customer service, Reiman introduced total package fielding, providing automated accounting of foreign military sales assets, replacing the manual tracking used previously.

Reiman's hands-on involvement and proactive safety policies allowed DDOO to receive agency recognition for a 50 percent accident reduction rate and 1.75 million man-hours worked with a lost time accident rate of less than 1 percent.

In his remarks, Matthews addressed the audience and commented on Reiman's character, "Jim is not a show horse, he didn't want to be a show horse. He's a workhorse. If you look at his 30 years, three times squadron commander, group commander, Numbered AF LG, someone who's touched transportation, munitions and supply – Jim is a 'Joint Warrior.'"

Matthews presented Reiman with his certificate of retirement and various mementos including certificates of appreciation from the Commander-in-Chief and the Director of the Defense Logistics Agency.

Making his final remarks as an Air Force Officer, Reiman thanked the many



DDC Commander Army Brig. Gen. Lynn Collyar presents the Superior Service Award to Air Force Col. Jim Reiman during Reiman's retirement ceremony celebrating his 30 years of military service.

friends, family members and employees of the Oklahoma workforce attending the ceremony. His wife Nancie received special recognition. Reiman explained how she put aside a promising career in floral design to follow him throughout his career and ended the ceremony with a sincere thanks for her dedication, "We started this trip together and now at the end, once again, it is just you and me, babe."

Experienced leader pilots team to success

By Scott Woosley, DDC Command Affairs

When the Defense Distribution Center decided to create the Deployable Distribution Center and Theater Consolidation and Shipping Point, it needed someone with experience in all areas of the distribution process to lead the staff of distribution process workers who would make up the deployable work force.

Don Hernandez, a supervisor at Defense Distribution Depot San Joaquin, Calif., fit the bill.

"Don had the experience and leadership skills we needed to be the lead supervisor for the Deployable Distribution Center," said Marc Parsons, deputy commander of the Deployable Distribution Center. "He knows the process inside and out."

His experience goes back to 1975 when a then 21-year-old Hernandez was first hired to work at San Joaquin when it was Tracy Defense Depot.

Over the years he has worked as a laborer, packer, rigger, supervisor and branch chief. Those experiences prepared him for the job of setting up, staffing and supervising a deployable distribution center. "I was honored to be chosen to do this," Hernandez said. "I think my experiences showed that I could do this and get it done right."

In fact, Hernandez had already demonstrated his ability to establish a distribution center a couple of times. He helped set up distribution centers in Bahrain in 2003 and Korea in 2005.

Hernandez led the set up of DDC's distribution center in Korea, essentially from the ground up. He started out with some buildings, equipment, staff and a plan and in a few short months had Defense Distribution Depot Korea up and functioning.

"Donnie was invaluable in helping us get DDDK activated and into initial operating capability back in February 2005," said Pete Halseth, deputy commander, DDDK.

"Donnie was able to quickly pick up Korea-specific operations and mission flow while simultaneously adapting several DDC employees from different depots and quickly molding them into an effective team. We couldn't have done it without him."

Once Hernandez had been given the job of lead supervisor for the San Joaquin Deployable Distribution Center team, he set out to put together a team of people. He wanted a good mix of experience and youth, but most importantly he wanted people who were motivated to do the job.

"I wanted to find people who didn't have any problems with deploying," Hernandez said. "The most important quality though, was a desire to do this job to support the war fighters who need the materiel we would be handling."

Once he had a team put together, Hernandez began training them. The Deployable Distribution Center deployed to exercises in June and September 2006—one month after Hernandez was named the supervisor.

That experience helped him decide what he needed to focus on when he trained his staff for the deployment to Korea that was scheduled in April and May of 2007.

He arranged for the staff to travel to