

Travis Air Force Base, Calif., to learn Air Force procedures.

“The nature of the deployable center meant that we would be working with the Air Force on a regular basis,” he said. “So we needed to know what their processes were.”

Other training included practicing receiving procedures and visiting the consolidation and containerization point at San Joaquin to learn how to properly package and palletize materiel. Several team members also traveled to DDC headquarters at New Cumberland, Pa., to review Theater Consolidation and Shipping Point procedures.

Hernandez’ experience paid off during the training too, when questions arose.

“I was able to answer just about all the questions because I had done all of this at one time or another during my career,” he said.

Hernandez traveled to Korea in January 2007 for a site visit for the Node Management and Deployable Depot Advanced Concept Technology Demonstration that the Deployable Distribution Center would play a key role in. He visited the warehouse that would serve as the center of their operations, took measurements and added the information to his training plan.

“I was able to take accurate measurements and lay out the work flow we would use,” Hernandez explained. “That meant everyone could walk the floor plan during training and familiarize themselves with it before we even brought everyone to Korea.”

Hernandez also spent time gathering all the names and contact information of everyone he would need to work with. He contacted them all and gathered any pertinent information. He also spent time reviewing the established delivery routes that the materiel he processed would travel along. That allowed him to establish more efficient load plans for the delivery vehicles.

Hernandez’ training plan and preparation had immediate impact once the team arrived in Korea. “We had allotted five days for set up,” Parsons said. “They were done in three.”

The warehouse began accepting shipments the Friday and Saturday before the Monday they had originally been scheduled to begin. That meant there was



Don Hernandez of Defense Distribution Depot San Joaquin, Calif., left, guides Marines on a tour of the Deployable Distribution Center operation in Korea during an exercise earlier this year. Hernandez has been critical to the success of numerous DDC initiatives.

a large amount of stock that had to be moved on Monday morning.

“We got an early start and worked a long day, but we got everything sorted, loaded and on its way,” Hernandez said. “There have been some days when we were challenged with the amount of freight that we had to process, but the team pulled together and got it done.”

The efficiency of Hernandez’ team combined with his planning also reduced the number of trucks normally required to deliver stock, saving money. Delivery times were also reduced and in-transit visibility has been improved, which means customers can track their shipments more easily.

Several senior leaders from various organizations and commands that have an interest in the capabilities the Deployable Distribution Center brings to the table toured the operation and came away impressed.

“The TCSP is something we need to have in Korea on a permanent basis,” said Brig. Gen. Kurt Stein, assistant chief of staff, logistics, headquarters, U.S. Forces Korea, who visited the Deployable Distribution Center and TCSP May 7.

Hernandez takes it all in stride. “The credit for this goes to the whole team,” he said. “We had a job to do and we got it done.”

Kozma selected as Support Services Chief

By Annette Silva, DDJC Public Affairs

Mike Kozma was selected as the Support Services Group Chief at Defense Distribution Depot San Joaquin, Calif., in April. Previously, he served as the Customer Support Representative for the Defense Logistics Agency at U.S. Fleet Forces, Norfolk, Va.

Prior to entering federal service, he retired from the U.S. Navy in 2003 as a Lt. Cmdr. in the Supply Corps. Prior to his retirement, he was serving as the Maritime Operations Chief for Defense Supply Center Columbus, Ohio.

Kozma received his commission through the Enlisted Commissioning Program and attended Ohio State University majoring in operations management and transportation logistics. Furthering his education, he received his masters of business administration from Otterbein College in Westerville, Ohio.

When asked why he chose to work for DDJC, he said, “I was ready for a new challenge, I wanted to get back into the distribution business.”

