

DDJC Fire Department selected as best in DLA

By Annette Silva, DDJC Public Affairs

For the fourth time in five years, the Fire Department of Defense Distribution Depot San Joaquin, Calif., was named the Defense Logistics Agency's Fire Department of the Year. Additionally, Firefighter Lawrence Beal was selected as DLA's Firefighter of the Year.

The department was evaluated in five key areas: customer service, recognition, innovation, quality management principles and initiatives, quality of life initiatives, and community support.

Upon notification, DDJC Commander Army Col. Doug Serrano said, "Congratulations to all of you! You continue to make us proud, and feel safer knowing you are protecting us!"

During 2006, the fire department responded to more than 300

emergency situations on the San Joaquin installation and more than 250 requests for mutual aid with the nearby communities. In addition to the mutual aid support, they provide two arson investigators to the County Arson Investigation Task Force. The department also serves as the training hub for other fire departments in the community and hosts all major county and municipal fire service training.

Presently, the department

is in the process of being accredited by the Center for Public Safety Excellence of Chantilly, Va. The accreditation serves as the blueprint for all fire departments, bringing commonality among them and promoting excellence within the fire and Emergency Management System agencies. DDJC's fire department has completed their self-assessment process



DDJC Firefighter Lawrence Beal was named DLA Firefighter of the Year.

which includes the Strategic Plan, Standards and Response Coverage, Fire Demand Zone, and Community Planning Maps. They are now waiting for the assessment team to complete the accreditation process.

Another area of expertise for the department is their aggressive training program which uses the train-the-trainer method. This training has enabled their personnel to teach courses from the Department of Defense and

required courses from the state and county. Ninety percent of all training was performed in-house saving the government more than \$800,000.

Firefighter Lawrence Beal was evaluated on his professional accomplishments, job performance, technical competence, leadership, initiative, and resourcefulness to earn him the top honor.

Firefighter Beal serves as the Accreditation Manager for the DDJC Fire Department, and is responsible for developing a plan of action to complete the department's accreditation process.

Fire Chief Arnold Dail said, "His dedication, innovation, and positive work ethic motivates others around him to participate in the success of the accreditation process."

Firefighter Beal is a top performer and was recently named DDJC's Firefighter of the Year as well. He far exceeds all of the required federal job element

criteria and expectations of his supervisors and peers.

Beal often serves as a leader of fire operations teams at emergencies and regularly provides DDJC employees with sound guidance and valuable information. In addition, he is assisting other DLA Fire Departments with their accreditation process.

Beal received his Associate of Science Degree in Fire Technology from American River College of

Sacramento and has attained numerous certifications and instructs in the areas of fire inspection, hazardous materials, CPR, and first aid. Additionally, he has completed the Federal Emergency Management Agency's courses in Fire Supervisor, Emergency Program Manager, Emergency Preparedness, and Radiological Emergency Management.

DDPH Deputy receives elite recognition

By Jessica Walter, APR, DDC Command Affairs

Defense Distribution Depot Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, Deputy Commander Mike O'Brien was awarded the Defense Logistics Agency Meritorious Civilian Service Award earlier this year.

O'Brien, who joined the DDPH team in 2004 after serving as the Lead Supply Systems Analyst for Defense Distribution Depot Puget Sound, Wash., received the award in recognition of his successes in the areas of safety, performance and inventory management.

Described by DDPH Commander Navy Supply



DDPH Commander Navy Supply Corps Cmdr. Joe Vitelli, left, presents the DLA Meritorious Civilian Service Award to DDPH Deputy Commander Mike O'Brien.