

DDJC, local agencies test emergency response procedures

By Annette Silva, DDJC Public Affairs

Defense Distribution Depot San Joaquin, Calif., recently served as the host site for a simulated chlorine railroad tank car leak exercise in conjunction with the Tracy Fire and Police Departments, California Highway Patrol, California Office of Emergency Services, San Joaquin County Sheriff, Pioneer Chemical, California Northern Railroad, and Union Pacific Railroad.

DDJC volunteered a large area of the installation to support the exercise. The exercise was a drill using an Incident Command System, or ICS, Joint Command between Tracy and DDJC fire departments, with various supporting agencies.

The objective of the exercise was to determine response effectiveness in this type of disaster and cooperation with other agencies and organizations, using ICS.

The simulation scenario was that a chlorine tanker car began to leak on the Tracy installation. The simulated leak created a hazard that first responders had

to assess, take action, and resolve. DDJC supervisors were required to check on the safety and well being of their employees and directed them to appropriate shelter as defined by DDJC's emergency plans.

The successful execution of this exercise enabled DDJC to test its first responders with others to see how well they can contain a HAZMAT event.

Rob Sealey, Emergency Planner for DDJC, discussed the exercise's success.

"The tank car drill was a success in many aspects," said Sealey. "Community partners got an opportunity to exercise on a major HAZMAT event and DDJC got an opportunity to successfully exercise portions of our emergency plans by demonstrating sheltering and support to first responders."

Sealey also noted the exercise gave DDJC employees an appreciation and understanding from this learning and growth experience.

"We intend to excel in the objective of maintaining a safe, secure, and healthy work environment" said Sealey, "I look forward to our next training opportunity."

The railroads were particularly appreciative as they like to have local first responders use their tank car for real time training. Upon the completion of our exercise, the railroads took the tank car to another rail yard elsewhere in the country to train additional first responders.

Defense Distribution Center employee hikes for cancer cure

By Scott Woosley, DDC Command Affairs

Hiking has always been a way for many people to get into shape, relax, connect with nature and relieve stress.

When you hike to raise funds to help find a cure for cancer, hiking becomes a way to give to the community and find a different level of satisfaction.

Kimberly Dunlap, a financial program analyst in the Defense Distribution Center's Financial Operations Directorate, joined the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Hike for Discovery program to help raise money for cancer research and raise awareness.

"This program is a great way to make the community aware of the devastating effects of blood cancer," Dunlap said. "I feel that I can make a difference by participating in events like this to bring attention to the need for a cure."

Dunlap became interested in the society after the death of her cousin.

"He was diagnosed when he was 22," Dunlap said. "He eventually had a bone marrow transplant but died from complications of treatment he received prior to the transplant."

Her cousin's death motivated Dunlap to get more involved and help fund research.

She participated in several of the society's Light the Night Walks in honor of her cousin. Then she decided to get involved in the Hike for Discovery program. Hikers raise money by informing friends, family and co-workers that they are hiking and that donations can be made to the society in their name, and in honor of people who have died from the disease.

Each hiker is expected to raise \$4,100 to be able to go on the final hikes. Seventy-five percent of the



Ernie Sirotek, center, of Union Pacific Railroad briefs the exercise participants in front of the tank car used in the simulation.

money goes directly to funding for research. The other twenty-five percent pays for each hikers travel, lodging and food expenses on the trip to the final hike.

“I thought it would be impossible to raise \$4,100 in just a few months,” Dunlap said, “but, I’m well on my way just by sending out letters and e-mails to my family and friends.”

To prepare for the final hikes, which are scheduled for Arizona and Colorado later this year, Dunlap and other members of the society’s Central Pennsylvania Chapter are going on shorter, training hikes. Dunlap wants to make the hike in Colorado’s Rocky Mountains in June.

Among the training hikes are trips along stretches of the Appalachian Trail and several other local hiking trails.

The hikes are scheduled each weekend and progress in difficulty. They begin at three miles in length with an hour to complete them and progress to 10 miles with five and a half hours allotted to finish. The progression is designed to help the hikers gradually improve their stamina until they are ready for the longer hikes. There are multiple hikes Dunlap can choose from when she travels to Colorado in June. She has narrowed her choices to two which are approximately 7 and 10 miles in length and will take from five to seven hours to complete. She will make her final choice once she gets there.

The amount of hiking the program requires has proven to be a challenge according to Dunlap, who says she has never hiked this much before. When things get difficult however, she and her fellow hikers have extra support to draw from.

The hikers meet with their “hikemates” before each training hike. The “hikemates” are cancer patients the participants are hiking in honor of.

“Our motivation as hikers is everyone who is fighting the battle with blood cancers,” Dunlap explained.

Dunlap was introduced to the hiking program by a friend who works for the society. Part of the enjoyment



Kim Dunlap, left, an employee of the Defense Distribution Center; pauses on the Appalachian Trail with her friend Jess Pouchan who works for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Dunlap joined the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society’s Hike for Discovery program to help raise money for cancer research.

for Dunlap is the social aspect of the program.

“I’m only a few weeks into this program and while the hikes are very good training it is also great to meet the other hikers and those we are hiking in

honor of,” Dunlap said. “We seem to form a bond.”

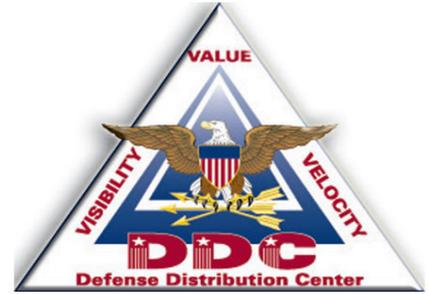
“We are all hiking for a common goal—finding a cure for leukemia, myeloma, and lymphoma,” she added.

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