

by an agreement established by the Marine Corps to support the Italian Navy's AV8B Harrier program, DDSI began supporting the Italian Marina Militare nearly two years ago when Navy transformation initiatives shifted support from Naples to Sigonella.

Since then, DDSI has been providing trans-shipment services for the Italian helicopter training base located just 20 kilometers from Naval Air Station Sigonella, facilitating a relationship between the two naval air stations.

The DDSI visit was hosted by the incumbent senior base logistician Cmdr. Giovanni Di Guardo whose previous duties included a Supply Officer tour aboard the USS Ross homeported in Norfolk, Va. Di Guardo escorted the team around the base facilities which included a live demonstration of the "Dilbert Dunker," an apparatus that trains air crewmen how to escape a helicopter following an emergency water entry.

The Marina Militare di Catania is the only place in Italy that conducts this specialized training. The visit also integrated a tour of the electronics repair depot capable of the most sophisticated levels of repair on helicopter electronics and avionics.

The DDSI team also was introduced to the base's training classrooms that showcased interactive computer learning, simulator, as well as the traditional classroom instruction.

The visit culminated with an exchange of plaques with the base Comandante Capt. Tommaso Perillo. The DDSI Commander also presented a DDSI ball cap and command coin to both the outgoing and incoming senior base logisticians.

"The time that we are able to share with our fellow logisticians and base leadership enables us to better understand their mission in order to meet their requirements," said Renato Ferrini, inventory and customer support division director, "and it also goes a long way toward cultivating a strong relationship between the two military communities that share the same interests as well as the province of Catania."

Italian Navy visits DDC



Defense Distribution Center Deputy Commander Twila Gonzales, SES, center, recently hosted representatives from the Italian Navy and the U.S. Naval Inventory Control Point Mechanicsburg. While at DDC, they received an overview of DDC's operations and toured the Eastern Distribution Center.

DDC hosts DLA General Counsel senior leaders



During a recent team meeting, Defense Logistics Agency General Counsel senior leaders were provided a Defense Distribution Center command overview which outlined DDC's mission and current initiatives as well as a tour of Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, Pa.'s, Eastern Distribution Center.

"This meeting gives us an opportunity to share ideas and benchmark with one another, as well as, acquaint counsel from other areas with our mission," said DDC Chief Counsel George Sisson.