

Distribution Center Yokosuka, Japan



CDR David Armstrong presents Rear Adm. Daniel Stone, DLA Director of Logistics Operations, with a hat from DDYJ.

people had always been the mainstay of why that operation had been so successful. "Every Sailor who sails the oceans in the Western Pacific has a heavy reliance on what comes from and what happens in Yokosuka," said Stone. "And the people are just absolutely super. (They provide a) big smile and good job everyday."

Stone says Yokosuka Sailors will be seeing their base's importance expand over the next few years, and that the DLA will be growing right along with it. "I think it is going to grow just not in the Navy support role, but I think it's going to grow in support across the whole the Department of Defense," said Stone. "The DLA is going to be a part of that growth, supporting not just the Navy but also the Air Force and the Army operations out here. I think it's a good place to be and there are lots of good experiences that Sailors and the officers in the Navy will gain from the operating in this area. Their role is very important and we realize that and we support them 100 percent."

Admiral Stone, DLA Director of Logistics Operations Visits DDYJ

by Keiichi Adachi, CFAY Public Affairs

Rear Adm. Daniel Stone, Director of Logistics Operations of the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), visited Fleet Activities Yokosuka recently as part of an extensive tour in the Western Pacific region.

"The Defense Logistics Agency has a growing involvement in support of all the war-fighters in the Pacific Theater and I have a number of our activities that are located in Korea and Japan and Okinawa," said Stone. "I'm using this as an opportunity to come and see the operations and be able to talk to some really good people that work for DLA and doing a great job out here."

"The primary purpose of the tour was to visit DLA customers, activities and commands providing logistical support to Department of Defense forces forward deployed in the region," said Commander of Defense Distribution Depot Yokosuka, Japan (DDYJ), CDR David Armstrong.

Although the Admiral's visit to Yokosuka was brief, there was time enough for DLA's hardworking employees to make a lasting impression on him. Stone said that he was impressed with many things. First, the way that the operation had grown in importance here in Yokosuka and also that the

Drum Yard Cleanup at DDYJ Contributes to Environmental Protection

by KEIICHI ADACHI, CFAY Public Affairs

Defense Distribution Depot Yokosuka, Japan (DDYJ) recently completed improvements to minimize drum corrosion which can result in deteriorated products, as well as high costs of getting rid of the resulting damaged goods.

"In the past, not having the facility to store drums caused corrosion on the drums," said Henry Lee Grays Jr., Material Handling Supervisor of the DDYJ Drum Yard. "We wasted a lot of money to dispose of materials and recontainerize our materials. So having a new building in which to store our material will greatly improve our ability to get out our material to our customers."

"These [new] structures are major improvements to the drum yard previously constructed by the Government of Japan in 1992," said SKCS (SW) Peter Rose, Command Senior Chief of DDYJ. According to Rose, the "initial construction of the reinforced concrete. open storage drum yard

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DDJY Staff Travel to DDC Headquarters

A first-ever visit to the United States was made recently by several of the team of employees from DDYJ. Invited by DDC managers, the team represented the spectrum of distribution disciplines in an effort to gain knowledge and insight into policy at the DDC level and automated operations at the local DDSP level. By all accounts, the five day visit was a success.

The group contained folks with a wide variety of life-experience and exposure to the United States and its culture. Some of the team were long time civilian employees of the United States Government. Jim Morton, the DDYJ Packing Division Chief, has about 30 years of government service behind him and has been at DDYJ for approximately six years. After spending 25 years in the Puget Sound area, Jim decided to expand his life experience with a tour in Japan, taking his teenage son and daughter with him when he left. His son lived full time with him in Japan, while his daughter made trips back and forth, graduating from her American high school with her friends. In the interim, Jim has



married, as has his son.

Employment at a depot outside the continental United States (CONUS) is a bit different than it is in CONUS. The bulk of the labor force at DDYJ is made up of foreign nationals, that is Japanese citizens who are employed by the Japanese government. They work under a master labor contract with the Japanese government to perform work for the Defense Logistics Agency. Approximately 35 mid-level managers are U.S. civil servants, along with another 350 Japanese nationals.

The purpose of the visit was twofold.



To provide an overview of distribution operations from a DDC and policy point of view. And to see a depot level environment where automation is used to the greatest extent possible. The DDYJ team members met functional experts in their respective fields and were able to exchange information about operations, receive some training and to present training needs to the appropriate DDC counterparts.

The group received a depot level briefing presented by LCDR Steve Thorne and had a tour of the Eastern Distribution Center, DDSP's automated distribution center. Jim Morton was surprised by the level of automation at work in the EDC. One of the benefits of the trip that Jim will take



home is that he became aware of some commercially available packing containers he needs at DDYJ. Until now, DDYJ employees have been fabricating the containers they need. Morton said that presentations by the Transportation program managers have succeeded in broadening the perspective he has on transportation issues.

Don Gonia, Team Lead in the Storage Division at DDYJ, expressed recent events at DDYJ as the most challenging in his career. With almost 30 years of service, newly implemented support to Korea as well as the challenges of learning Distribution Standard System have combined to keep things hopping. Daily production meetings as well as weekly team meetings are used to plan workload and to keep support to local customers at peak performance... "this is tailored logistics," said Gonia.

The group's stay in central Pennsylvania was not strictly business. In their off duty hours they went to HersheyPark to sample local roller coasters, played golf and visited an Amish farm in Lancaster county.

Tetsuo Ishiwata was on his first trip the the US. He works in Receiving at DDYJ and was astounded by the level of automation present in EDC operations. Ishiwata described the in-floor towline and high rise storage of Distribution Center Susquehanna, Pennsylvania's (DDSP) automated facility as futuristic. Said Ishiwata about DDYJ's own automation efforts, "We have been working

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was [designed] to prevent soil contamination, so protection against the weather was not taken into consideration.”

The location of the drum yard (alongside the waterfront) and exposure to the weather contributed to the problem and resulted in many warehouse denials that were due to the condition of the drums. The average drum received from the continental United States lasted only about three months under the previous environmental conditions before corrosion began to take place.

“Corrosion, which caused drums to be considered ‘Not Ready For Issue’ to forward deployed ships and shore activities became expensive,” said Grays. An average of \$150 thousand per year was expended on disposal of deteriorated products through the Public Works Center and local contractors.”

In lieu of continuing to deal with the high cost of the present method of storage, DDYJ created a long-term solution to the problem. The answer was to build prefabricated metal structures, which could be funded and constructed faster than a conventional flammable and hazardous material warehouse.

In November 1999, Navy Mobile Construction Battalion Unit 7 (NMCB- 7) was tasked to construct the structures. Because the work was completed by NMCB- 7, the cost of the project was only \$145 thousand for materials -about the same as the annual average disposal charges.

“These structures will provide bulk storage capability for easy storage and handling, big dollar savings for the Department of Defense, and ..”A” condition containers for issue to forward-deployed units in the Pacific theatre,” said Rose. “Completion of these structures is consistent with the dedication and commitment to environmental protection synonymous with Defense Logistic Agency activities.”

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establish standard DSS menu paths for all DSS sites worldwide; and the expansion of all DSS control numbers from 5 to 7 characters. In addition to these two most obvious changes, Single RIC DSS has provided improvements and standardization features in other functional areas, including item data, denial processing, and the Automated Weigh and Offer System (AWOS) at the Tracy worksite.

Another significant improvement provided by the single RIC is the elimination of the flashpoint function that used to be performed at the Tracy worksite for shipments going through the Consolidation and Containerization Point (CCP) at the Sharpe worksite.

Under a single RIC, all Material Release Orders(MROs) are designated as collocated with the CCP function, eliminating the need to process a separate MRO closeout and CCP receipt action for MROs picked at Tracy worksite.

The elimination of flashpoint will significantly enhance depot productivity, and sets the stage for migration of the CCP

operation to the Tracy worksite in early calendar year 2001.

Although the single RIC DSS implementation is considered a tremendous success, there is no denying the “growing pains” that occurred.

Tables and procedures had to be adjusted to make the system work properly. Additionally, several moderate deficiencies were revealed after implementing the single RIC in full production.

“Implementing the new 8.0 increment of DSS combined with the single RIC increased the complexity of differences in the new system,” said Mike Ruth of the DSS Team.

“The speed and success with which the workforce has adapted to new Single RIC environment is yet another tribute to the dedication and initiative for which DDJC is well known,” pointed out Louis Avila, DDJC project officer for the single RIC implementation. DDJC served as the “proving ground” for the single RIC concept. By being the first depot to operate under single RIC, DDJC has provided valuable “lessons learned” that are being applied to Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, as they embark on their own single RIC implementation, which took place over the weekend of June17-18.

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on DSS, now for one year...it is more comprehensive than the old way.” Ishiwata related that working on these information automation issues makes him look for other ways to become more efficient, other ways to improve process.

Ishiwata was surprised at the scope of everything he saw in America. “It is a big country with great resources.” Here everyone travels by car. Ishiwata compared this to everyday life in Japan, where he takes the train to work daily, and a bus to arrive at the train station.

Kayoko Shinozaki, has been to the US before. Shinozaki was impressed by the size of the DDSP operation. She was impressed with the hard working DDSP workforce. Shinozaki, too, takes public transportation to work in Japan. She was impressed with Amish culture and the continuity it lends to life, the connection to a time “already gone.”

Working on automation issues encourages employees to think about process.