

DDNV Joined by Army Reserves for Success

By Commander (Select) Kevin Carrier, Supply Corps, USN

The Defense Distribution Depot Norfolk (DDNV) recently joined forces with two Army Reserve Quartermaster companies to provide for their annual training requirements and at the same time help DDNV accomplish its mission.

Eighty-eight members of the Army's 499th Quartermaster Company from Richmond, Virginia and the 146th Quartermaster Company from Flushing, New York provided a welcome augmentation to DDNV while blending quickly and seamlessly with DDNV's civilian workforce.

Before the first soldier arrived at DDNV, Mr. Al Galvez, DDNV's Distribution Facilities Manager for Stock Readiness, began working closely with 2nd Lt. Bryan Paglinawan, Executive Officer of the 499th and 1st Sgt. Walton John, Company First Sergeant of the 146th, to coordinate work and training for the reserve soldiers. The advance planning and preparation paid dividends that maximized use of individual soldier's Military Occupational Specialties (MOSs) and allowed immediate employment of the soldiers throughout nearly every DDNV work area. From re-warehousing, to storage location surveys, to ADP/IT support, these citizen-soldiers applied their skills and learned new ones.

To improve operational efficiency through stock re-positioning, DDNV has been engaged in an on-going project to re-locate faster moving material from outlying storage areas into its central compound area while concurrently reducing warehouse space requirements. While there is no shortage of good ideas on how to improve DDNV's operations, there are seldom enough resources to put all those ideas to work. The 146th and the 499th Quartermaster Companies provided additional manpower resources that facilitated more rapid accomplishment for some of those ideas. They made a substantial contribution to the re-warehousing project by redistributing over 50 truckloads of material throughout the center. With a short introductory training session and some good old-fashioned on-the-job-training (OJT), the soldiers were soon picking material, loading trucks and stowing the material in new locations. They performed stock maintenance tasks at the hazardous materials warehouse where they

re-palletized gas bottle cylinders for proper storage, removing flammable cylinders from ejector kits and sending the remaining material to the local DRMO site and preparing associated paperwork.

While one group was busy accomplishing ongoing re-warehousing projects, another group was preparing buildings in a different area facilitating earlier completion of a future re-warehousing project. Soldiers, working with DDNV's Inventory Division, swept through two soon-to-be-vacated warehouses completing over 17,000 storage location surveys identifying over 270 previously unrecorded locations facilitating inventory accuracy improvement. Members of this team entered Defense Distribution Standard System (DSS) entries to close out surveys and post the findings to inventory records. Completing this task before beginning the re-warehousing effort will reduce the time required to relocate material and greatly facilitates this important project.

A third group of reservists worked with the command's Information Technology Team to inventory over 800 IT equipment items. Some members also helped troubleshoot a variety of IT equipment including CPUs, monitors, printers and other workstation peripherals. Others were busy correcting system material movement record errors by clearing over 400 records that had been created in error. They also prepared over 30 pallets of obsolete IT equipment for shipment to the local Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (DRMO) site.

The two-week training period concluded with a command briefing by DDNV Commander, Captain James N. Hagarty, SC, USN at which he also recognized top performers from both companies and presented them with DDNV command coins.

Through advance planning and hard work by DDNV, and the two reserve companies, everyone benefited from the professional relationship. The reserves received a quality-training period while DDNV took a leap forward with its command plan for the future. Together they increased DDNV's ability to meet the DLA goal "To provide best value logistics support to America's Armed Forces, in peace and war . . . around the clock, around the world."