

Change of Command—Texas Style! LTC Hugh B. Talley, USA, Takes Command at DDRT

Stacy Umstead, DDC Command Affairs Office

On July 16, 2003, Lieutenant Colonel Charles S. Young, United States Army, relinquished command of Defense Distribution Depot Red River, Texas (DDRT) to Lieutenant Colonel Hugh B. Talley, Jr., United States Army in a ceremony officiated by Brigadier General Kathleen M. Gainey, United States Army, Commander, Defense Distribution Center (DDC).

Welcoming the guests, CPT Jay R. Combs, USA, provided his services as the Master of Ceremony. Mr. Mark Mayton, former DDRT employee, performed the National Anthem.

In true DDRT tradition, and as the Yellow Rose of Texas played in the background, Ms. Cheryl Yount and Mr. David Morris rode in to perform the “Texas Salute” horseback performance. Carrying the United States and Texas flags, the riders paraded across the grounds of DDRT and presented yellow roses to the wives of the incoming and outgoing commanders.

Cheryl Yount parades the National Colors during DDRT Change of Command.



The Change of Command ceremony included the traditional passing of the organization colors from LTC Young who relinquished command to BG Gainey who, in turn, charged LTC Talley with the duties and responsibilities of Command of DDRT.

LTC Young assumed command of DDRT in July of 2001. Under LTC Young’s leadership, the depot’s performance excelled in every aspect during a period of national emergency. Significant efficiencies were gained through innovative restructuring of operations and material flow to accommodate change in workload mix. LTC Young reduced lost time accidents from 15 in 2001 to only 2 in 2003, and personal injury cost from 76,000 dollars to less than 5,000 dollars. Lieutenant Colonel Young achieved this success while leading a workforce amidst a challenging and complex A-76 commercial - private competition.

Official party prepares for the ceremonial passing of the organization flag.



In his farewell speech, Young attributed his many accomplishments as Commander to the hard working efforts of his Deputy, Kirk Zachry, and the great men and women of DDRT, “A-76 will bring about many challenges, I have every confidence that the DDRT workforce will meet those challenges.” LTC Young departs DDRT for Ft. Lee, Virginia.

Taking the helm, LTC Talley, USA, comes to DDRT from Fort Shafter, Hawaii, where he served as Special Assistant to the Commanding General of U.S. Army Pacific.

LTC Talley was born in Altus, Oklahoma. He attended Boise State University and entered active duty as a Second Lieutenant of Infantry in 1985. His military education includes the Infantry Officers Basic Course, the Quartermaster Officers Advanced Course, Combined Arms Services Staff School, and the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.

Lieutenant Colonel Talley served as a Platoon Leader and Company Executive Officer in 3rd Battalion, 36th Infantry, 3rd Armored Division, Federal Republic of Germany from 1985–1988. After branch transferring to the Quartermaster Corps, he was assigned as Assistant S-4, 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) at Fort Campbell, Kentucky and participated in Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm. He returned to Fort Campbell and served as Plans Officer, Division Support Command and as Commander for HQ and A Company, 526th Forward Support Battalion. In 1993, he was assigned as Chief, Resident Training Detachment, Camp Grafton, North Dakota. In 1995, he was assigned to Fort Hood, Texas where he served in G-3 Warplans, III Corps Headquarters and as the Deputy G-4 of 1st Cavalry Division. Following graduation from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College in 1999, he was assigned as Executive Officer, 17th Corps Support Battalion, then as Support Operations Officer and later Deputy Commander, 45th