

# Dedicated to the Community and the Future DDC Staff Support Career Day

What do you do on your day off? Sleep in? Mow the lawn? Clean out the garage?

Not Russ Fry, Defense Distribution Center (DDC) Financial Systems Specialist. For the last two years Fry has given one of his days off to the community and to the future as a guest lecturer for Career Day at Good Hope Middle School, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania.

“I think some people believe that financial and accounting work isn’t very exciting,” Fry said. “But everything we do at DDC is so important to the service men and women—I want to show these young people that a financial career can be exciting.”

To get the attention of a room full of 8th graders, Fry started with an exciting video called “Who Let the Dogs Out.” The three-minute video merges clips of various Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine units in their day-to-day work of launching and recovering jets, scrambling from helicopters into unknown territory, and generally making the world safer.

It worked. Everyone was attentive and had questions and even some answers. “I was quite surprised that the youngsters were aware of much that has been happening lately,” Fry said. “They were able to tell me how much additional money Congress gave to President Bush. They were so interested in our discussion, they even agreed to take an ‘Accountant Aptitude Test.’ The test is an example of how you can get two completely different answers from a set of numbers. The most important thing that I told the students? – to find a job that they would enjoy and then do the best that they could in that job.”

“My job involves monitoring cash flow and accounts payable for many different organizations in the DDC,” Fry told the students. “We ensure that funds are allocated correctly for supplies, equipment, and transportation to see that the



*Russ Fry at Good Hope Middle School Career Day.*

Soldiers and Sailors get everything that they need to do their mission. It’s a complex and interesting job that is very challenging. I tried to show the students how the work of one individual, no matter what the job, can have impact on the needs of many other people”

“I started my career as a forklift driver,” Fry said. “So I have a real appreciation for the effort that it takes, every day, to keep our troops supplied. I went to HACC (Harrisburg Area Community College) to get the additional education that I needed to advance my career. I have a great job in an organization that is vitally important to the defense of our country.”

Fry and the other career day speakers also answered questions about pay, benefits, and the education required to become a federal employee. Two of Fry’s children have attended Good Hope Middle School and one is a current student.

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## DDC’s Palko Awarded Meritorious Service Medal

CDR Daniel A. Palko, SC, USN, was awarded the Joint Meritorious Service Medal on June 23, 2003. BG Kathleen Gainey, USA, Commander, Defense Distribution Center (DDC) presented the award. CDR Palko distinguished himself while serving as the Officer-in-Charge of the DDC forward distribution activity in Bahrain, from December 2002 through May 2003. During this period, CDR Palko was responsible for validating the concept of operations and establishing the physical presence of the DLA bulk Class IV distribution operation in the Central Command area of operations.

“DDC had never before opened a distribution center in a remote location in support of a war effort,” said BG Gainey. “Dan and his team started from scratch and did a magnificent job of

supporting our men and women in the armed forces as well as serving all of us by saving tax payer dollars.”

In anticipation of requirements in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, more than \$30 million worth of bulk material identified as critical to the Warfighter was moved forward to the Persian Gulf. CDR Palko was handpicked to lead the team to establish the first-ever DDC combat theater distribution platform, which resulted in these critical inventories being effectively positioned for direct delivery to allied units engaged in combat operations. Efficiently placing the material by surface transportation modes, CDR Palko not only saved tens of thousands of dollars, but freed valuable aircraft capacity for emergent critical supplies.

CDR Palko serves in the DDC Strategic Plans Directorate.