

# DDC Directors and Key Staff Attend Ninth House Network Kick-Off

By Stacy Umstead, DDC Command Affairs

At 10:00, Thursday, January 31, 2002, the Directors and Key Staff of Defense Distribution Center (DDC) were “huddled” for the big “Kick-Off”. No, it wasn’t to watch the Patriots vs. Rams in Super Bowl XXXVI, it was the Ninth House Network Kick-Off.

Ninth House Network is a personalized interactive e-Learning Program that uses video-based parables, episodes, puzzles, role-playing and quizzes to teach and reinforce key business skills. It focuses on six strategic core competencies: Leadership, Management, Business Essentials, Communication, Team Building, and Project Management. Dynamic speakers such as Ken Blanchard, Tom Peters, Lorraine Segil and Clifton Tolbert contribute their knowledge and expertise to the presentations.

Vice Admiral Keith Lippert, Supply Corps, United States Navy, Director, Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) provided an introduction to the Ninth House Presentation, “You may wonder why we are offering leadership training, why it’s computer-based, and why Ninth House. Effective leadership is critical to any organization. We want DLA leaders to be prepared for that role. We also want people who aspire to leadership positions to have opportunities to develop leadership skills before they are selected for those positions. DLA could not afford to expand our leadership development programs to such a wide audience without using computer-based learning.”

DDC management reaction has been positive.

“I’m looking forward to beginning the Ninth House Network program. This looks like a great opportunity to gain knowledge on new management ideas and strategies that industry is currently using and incorporate those ideas into our programs. Learning is something we are never finished with and the technology offered through this series allows for extensive and on-going learning opportunities.”—*Denise Kurtz*, DDC Logistics Operations.

“Prior to the kickoff, I was a little skeptical. I know e-learning is the way of the future, but I’ve been disappointed in previous computer-based training experiences. However, after seeing the demo, the first thing I did was thank my office chief for including me. I’m really looking forward to starting it, and in addition to being worthwhile; I think it will be enjoyable as well. The demo and briefing did a lot to quell any concerns about trying to fit more into the pretty full schedules most of us already have. The flexibility of being able to use a laptop or to even learn from at home is great!”—*Thom Bettinger*, DDC Business Systems Modernization Office.

Although the Super Bowl only declares one winner, Defense Distribution Center managers feel that this program will be a win for all!



*DDC staff focus on leadership.*

