

The Chance of a Lifetime

By Polly Charbonneau, DDC Command Affairs



DDHU Olympic Volunteers served their country, their state and DDHU. Back row left to right: Tymothy Dyer, Joy Oram, Monty Barnes, Connie Kraft, Kathy Mallis, Janis Henrie, Tym Fowers. Front row: Jodee Diarte, Janine LaChance, Rowene Radabaugh, Connie Walling.

Several Defense Distribution Depot Hill, Utah (DDHU) staff members volunteered to assist with the 2002 Winter Olympics held in Salt Lake City, UT.

Jodee Diarte, Janine LaChance, Mike Dyer, and Tym Fowers all knew it would be a chance of a lifetime. "I thought it would be a once-in-a-lifetime chance to be a part of the Olympic Winter games! It was!" Diarte said.

Janis Henrie chose to volunteer, "to experience a great, peaceful gathering of the world in my backyard."

Kathy Mallis volunteered because she believes "that volunteering is a critical part of our society and often times it is volunteers that make things work."

Monty Barnes "wanted to make the difference, and show the world that we are good people and that we could make the Olympics work."

Rowene Radabaugh "wanted to meet people from all over the world and share Utah with them."

Their Olympic jobs included communications coordination, driving for athletes and sponsors, event services (like greeting athletes, families, and volunteers), ceremony preparation, transportation coordination, and even working as a cast member of the opening ceremonies.

Cynthia Chapman's favorite part of this experience was meeting the athletes. "I was strongly affected by the athletes during the games. They wore their dedication and commitment to themselves and their countries on their sleeves.

"About the time I thought I had experienced the best the Olympic Games could offer me, I started my volunteer work for the Paralympics," Chapman said. "I watched a sight-impaired down-hill skier going at least 60 miles an hour down the hill with the ease and confidence of a skier with full-sight capabilities. The obstacles that had to be overcome, the perseverance and will power that I have witnessed in the Paralympic athletes style, and overall presence of grace is something I cannot express adequately with words.

"It was an overwhelming feeling," Chapman said, "knowing that what I/we take for granted every day is what they live without every day whether it be sight, limbs, etc., and yet they chose to master their personal obstacles to fulfill their dream of winning the Gold! It was something."

Diarte's favorite part was "being around all the people who were involved because everyone was so happy to be there! And especially, getting to be so close to the Canadian athletes and be a part of their team! I was even cheering for Canada when they played the U.S. for the bronze and my team won so I was really excited! Sorry [US team]!"

The best part for Henrie was "forming new relationships with other volunteers and sharing their enthusiasm."

For LaChance the best was "meeting people from all over the world. Even the ones in your own back yard."

Barnes didn't have a favorite part. "The whole experience was so wonderful," he said, "a lifetime of excitement in 28 days. When I dropped off my guests for the evening and they told me how much fun they had and how great the people of Utah are and how beautiful Utah is, that's about the best."

Barnes had the opportunity to drive the Grainger group, an industrial supply company. "I had 27 different people, one of them was Kenneth Starr, and I had the winners of the NASCAR Race Caterpillar, in addition to the CEO's of Granger."

Mallis met many former athletes and most of the medallists from this Olympics since all of these folks visited Park City, where she worked. "Some of the former Olympians I met were Rulon Gardner, Marion Jones, Evander Holyfield and others," Mallis said. "From this Olympics I met Mark Grimmette and Brian Martin, silver medallists in the luge, Shannon Bahrke, silver medallist in moguls, and Jim Shea, gold medallist in the skeleton. I also met many of the athletes from a number of different countries."

Joy Oram met "Derek Parra, Dorothy Hamil, Katarina Witt, two-man luge bronze medallists, Chris Thorpe and Clay Ives, just to name a few."

Chapman met several Olympians and Paralympians including Sara Hughes, Jimmy Shae, Chris Wadell, and Muffy Davis.

Dyer didn't work much with the athletes but did meet "a lot of the talent, such as Steve Young, Bon Jovi, KISS, Willie Nelson, a local group called Eclipse, and Donnie Osmond."

Chapman had "so many experiences and stories it would take a month at talking non stop to get through them all."

Fowers agreed, "I have so many experiences and stories it would take a month at talking non stop to get through them all."

Interacting with so many visitors to Utah was its own reward. "I was always being told by visitors how incredibly wonderful the people of this state are," Henrie said, "and how warm their reception has been."

Mallis had a similar experience. "I was told countless times by people that the Salt Lake 2002 Olympic games were the best, most organized games they had attended and that they were having a wonderful time. Timely transportation for our

sponsors and their guests was critical, and we were thanked many times for our assistance and our cheerful attitudes. One of our sponsors took our crew to lunch as a “thank you” for our help. It was truly a “once in a lifetime” experience.

LaChance summed up everyone’s feelings when she said, “If I had a chance to do it again, I would”!!

Barnes agreed, “I worked 291 hours, and 48 hours of training, the best time of my life! I will be planning for a trip to Athens, Greece 2004.”



Seeing Europe, Serving Your Country

DDPH’s AK2 Timothy Rayel Deploys to Germany

By Polly Charbonneau, DDC Command Affairs

Aviation Storekeeper Second Class Timothy Rayel, USN, stationed at Defense Distribution Depot Pearl Harbor, Hawaii (DDPH) is already serving his country. He has been in the Navy for more than six years. But his love of country and travel have drawn him to volunteer for a new challenge. He’s deploying for six months to Weisbaden, Germany as a DLA Contingency Support Team (DCST) member.

“I like to try new things and different jobs,” AK2 Rayel said of this Germany deployment, “I’ve been to Europe and I am looking forward to going back.” AK2 Rayel will work in the Logistics Operations Center performing numerous administrative duties.

Volunteers can be DDC civilians, active duty military—like AK2 Rayel—or military reservists. They complete physical fitness and computer training and a DDC orientation before deploying. The DDC Orientation provides volunteers (both civilian and military) an opportunity to take a broader understanding of the DDC with them on deployment.

If you are interested in being a part of this exciting opportunity, contact the DDC Strategic Plans Office. The DCST Program Manager can be reached at DSN 771-2805 or commercial 717-770-2805. Or check out the DDC DCST web page at www.ddc.dla.mil/Programs/DCST.



AK2 Timothy Rayel, USN.