



*DDC Commander, BG Kathleen M. Gainey, USA*

***“World-class organizations do not tolerate preventable accidents.”***

**— Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld**

DDC is a world-class organization but we have yet to demonstrate this in every business area. Secretary Rumsfeld and VADM Keith Lippert, SC, USN, Director, DLA, are committed to significantly reducing accidental injuries and illnesses, reducing their costs, and improving our overall readiness. As VADM Lippert says, this is important because it demonstrates that we value our employees and are good stewards of the taxpayers’ money.

DDC has experienced a continuous reduction in accident rates in the past several years and I commend the personal integrity, teamwork, and focus on safety that has made this possible. However, we have not gone far enough in reducing the number of accidents. We still lead the Department of Defense in numbers of accidents and total lost time. Safe and healthy employees are an essential element of a confident and productive workforce and I intend to provide the support necessary to reinforce good safety habits and to gain further improvements in safety performance throughout the DDC. In turn, I challenge every employee to intensify their efforts in the direction of safety awareness and the elimination of unsafe acts or conditions.

Safety is a command program executed by engaged management and supervisors and involving all personnel. I expect all leadership to set a top-quality example of safety and to motivate

the workforce toward a sense of responsibility and concern for personal safety and the safety and health of each other. A safe work environment is the result of team effort and the conscious use of safety precautions and safe work practices; such a concerted effort will prevent injuries and illness and save lives.

Accident prevention is the outcome of proper training, counseling and oversight, and then the reinforcement and recognition of safe work practices. Every accident is avoidable and I am committed to the prospect of a workforce free of injuries, illnesses, and fatalities. Please take the time to think and act safely every day, all day.

I am deeply concerned about safety, and we want to take a deeper look at what we can do to prevent accidents from occurring. I expect managers to be committed to accident prevention. I expect employees to be actively involved in accident prevention. I expect everyone to identify opportunities to improve the safety program.

You have made great strides in serving the Warfighter. Now Secretary Rumsfeld and VADM Lippert have challenged us to do even better by ensuring that every member of the DLA workforce is ready to serve-safe, healthy, and at work. I am counting on each of you to provide the leadership necessary to make this happen.

**HOOHAH - Go Safety!**