

# DEFENSE DISTRIBUTION DEPOT PUGET SOUND, WASHINGTON

## CHANGE OF COMMAND & RETIREMENT CEREMONY

**By: Stacy Umstead, DDC Command Affairs Office**

On July 10, 2001, Commander (CDR) Darby J. Duchow, Supply Corps (SC), United States Navy (USN), relinquished command of Defense Distribution Depot Puget Sound, Washington (DDPW) to CDR Nicholas K. K. Mato, SC, USN. Brigadier General James H. Pillsbury, United States Army, Commander, Defense Distribution Center (DDC) officiated at the ceremony.

CDR Duchow led DDPW's diverse workforce to high levels of success, meeting and exceeding performance goals in all mission areas. DDPW's inventory accuracy statistics rose to levels never previously attained. CDR Duchow was a driving force behind maintaining one of the most successful Union and Management Partnership Committees within DDC.

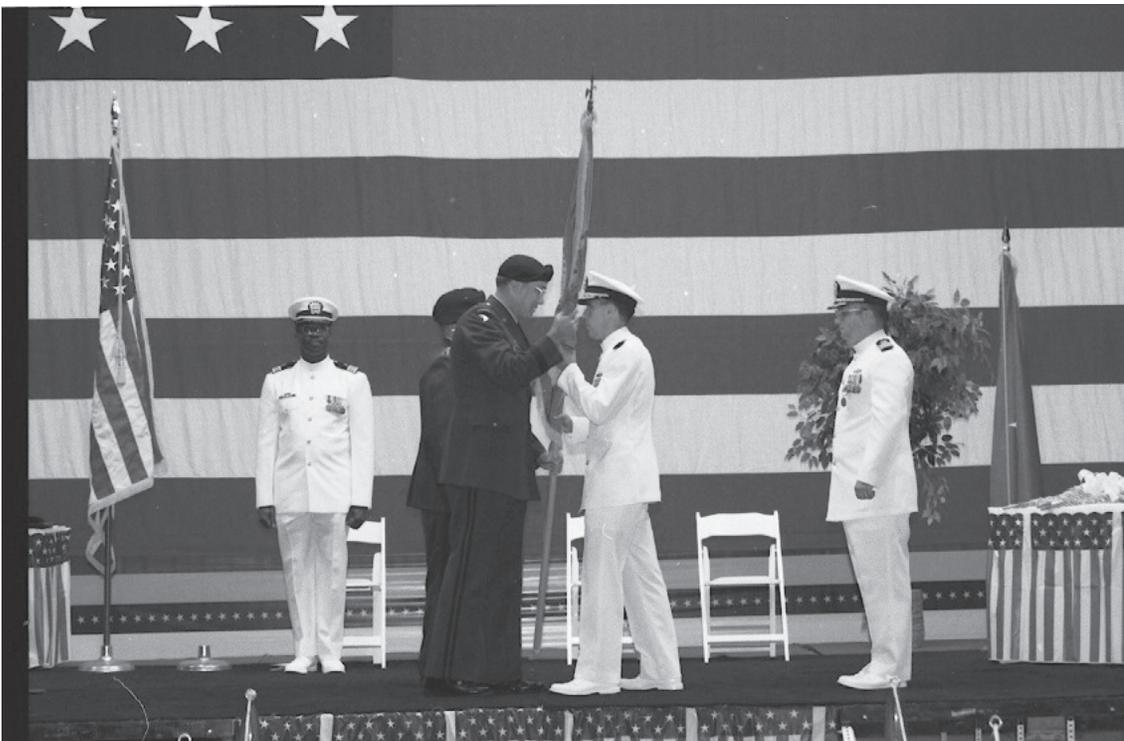
CDR Duchow retired from active duty with more than 21 years of service to his country.

CDR Mato's assignments have included Asset Visibility Project Officer at the Fleet Material Support Office in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania; Deputy Information Systems Officer at the Fleet and Industrial Supply Center, Team leader in the Naval Supply System; and as the Regional Supply Officer for the Mid-Atlantic Public Works Center.

Commander Mato's awards include two Navy Commendation Medals and one Navy Achievement Medal.

DDPW is the west coast facility for the storage and handling of Level 1/subsafe material. This unique mission requires that industrial items identified to this program be inspected to ensure critical tolerances and exacting standards are met. This material receives the highest level of care and attention in preserving the integrity of the material. Employees who handle subsafe material receive specialized training to ensure that the material is properly segregated and tracked, utilizing the material identification number associated with each item.

Other special interest items stored at the center include huge propulsion systems such as ship propellers, gears and shafts. These items are specially packed and crated for storage or shipment. Collocated to the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton, Washington, this small DLA center provides both retail and wholesale support to its industrial neighbor and surrounding naval commands. Its strategic location provides logistical support to a variety of major DOD Installations including McChord Air Station, Fort Lewis Army Base and Whidbey Island Air Station.



*BG Pillsbury passes the flag of command to CDR Mato.*