

# DDC Change of Command

By Stacy Umstead, DDC Command Affairs Office

On August 2, 2002, Brigadier General James H. Pillsbury, United States Army, relinquished command of the Defense Distribution Center (DDC), New Cumberland, Pennsylvania to Colonel (Promotable) Kathleen M. Gainey, United States Army, on August 2, 2002 in a ceremony officiated by Major General Mary Saunders, United States Air Force, Vice Director, Defense Logistics Agency (DLA).



*Maj Gen Saunders hands the DLA flag to BG Gainey, symbolically passing the authority of the DDC to her.*

The 108th Army Division Band, Charlotte, North Carolina provided their musical talent to the ceremony, while the Joint Service Honor Guard, Ft McNair, proudly presented the National Colors. Former Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, Pennsylvania (DDSP) employee, Mr. Randy Romine, sang the National Anthem and “God Bless the USA”.

The significance of the change of command ceremony goes back to the beginning of our nation’s history and provides for the orderly transfer of organizational responsibility and



*Maj Gen Saunders presents the Silver Letter to BG Pillsbury.*



*Maj Gen Saunders officiated at the CoC.*

accountability. The passing of the colors is a symbolic act, through which the outgoing commander relinquishes authority to his superior, who in turn passes the authority on to the incoming commander.

Major General Saunders opened the ceremony by addressing the attendees and the DDC employees, “Never in the history of the DDC has the mission been more relevant than it is today, as we have an array of combat forces deployed around the world in support of the war on terrorism.”

Major General Saunders presented Brigadier General Pillsbury with the DLA Director’s Silver Letter in recognition of his outstanding support to the Defense Logistics Agency.

The silver letter read:

*Dear General Pillsbury:*

*On the occasion of your departure from the Defense Logistics Agency and on behalf of a grateful agency and nation, I want to express my sincere appreciation for your extraordinary service to this agency. Serving as the Commander of the Defense Distribution Center, you have contributed immensely to making this agency and DDC a great success. Selfless service, integrity, and professionalism have been your hallmarks. You leave a rich legacy, and we owe you a great debt. You will always have our deepest respect and admiration.*

*I join with your many friends in wishing you the very best in your new assignment.*

*Sincerely,  
Keith W. Lippert  
Vice Admiral, Supply Corps, United States Navy  
Director, Defense Logistics Agency  
August 2, 2002*

Brigadier General Pillsbury assumed command of the Defense Distribution Center on August 3, 2000. He is a 1973