

Defense Distribution Center Change of Command

COLONEL MICHAEL J. LALLY, UNITED STATES ARMY, ASSUMES COMMAND OF DLA'S LEAD CENTER FOR DISTRIBUTION

By Stacy Umstead, DDC Command Affairs Office

As the lyrics to the song "Freedom" were being sung, more than five-hundred attendees to the Defense Distribution Center's (DDC) change of command took their seats at Tuesday's ceremony in New Cumberland, Penn.

At the ceremony, Army Brig. Gen. Kathleen M. Gainey, relinquished command of the DDC and its twenty-three distribution centers, to Col. Michael J. Lally, United States Army. Officiating the ceremony was Navy Vice Admiral Keith W. Lippert, Director of the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA).

Members of the Joint Armed Forces Honor Guard, U.S. Army's Military District of Washington, presented the colors as a moving rendition of the National Anthem was performed by local singer Ms. Donna Mark Miller, who provided her musical talent to the day's ceremony. The 389th Army Band, Army Materiel Command's own also performed during the ceremony. The feel of military tradition and patriotism was evident throughout the day's event.

During his remarks, Lippert addressed Gainey's many triumphs during her two-year tour at the DDC. "Kathy Gainey has led groundbreaking initiatives to improve DLA's support to the our customers to include establishing Defense Distribution Depot Sigonella, Italy, and shortly distribution centers in Guam, Korea, and Kuwait," said Lippert. "Through your leadership, the workforce has risen to meet seemingly impossible standards, and has been energized with a new vision for

being a true world-class logistic provider, and is ready to meet the needs of the warfighter in the future."

Lippert continued by acknowledging the men and women of DDC, "I know I need not remind you of why you are here, but let me assure you that it is your ingenuity, stamina and relentless dedication that ensure our warfighters have the tools they need to complete their mission."

As the organization's colors passed from Brig. Gen. Gainey's hands to Col. Lally's, Gainey assured Lally that that he was inheriting a world-class team of employees. Lally agreed when it was his turn to speak, "The centerpiece of the DDC and its centers are the military and civilian members. Your talents, expertise, hard work and dedication make this organization successful. I look forward to working with you as we provide timely and quality support to our Armed Forces around the world through an efficient, effective and innovative distribution system."

Lally comes to the DDC after having served as the Executive Officer to the Commanding General of the Army Materiel Command.

Attendees to the day's ceremony

included many general officers and senior civilians within the Department of Defense, foreign military liaison officers from the countries of Australia, United Kingdom and Israel, local congressional representatives and community leaders.

The Defense Distribution Center is DLA's lead center for distribution and is responsible for receiving storing and distributing more than 4 million military items annually in support of Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and other federal agencies worldwide. DDC is comprised of more than 8,000 military and civilian personnel in twenty-three centers located throughout the United States, Europe, Hawaii and Japan.



VADM Lippert passes the organizational colors to COL Lally, symbolizing his acceptance of command of the DDC.