

DDSP Welcomes a New Commander

By Sherre Mitten-Bell, DDSP Public Affairs

Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, PA (DDSP) welcomed CAPT James P. Naber, SC, USN, as the next Commander of DDSP in an outdoor Change of Command Ceremony held on July 22, 2004. The U.S. flag waved in



BG Gainey passes the organizational colors to CAPT Naber, charging him with command.

honor of the outgoing commander CAPT Robert J. Ritchie, SC, USN, as three hundred spectators welcomed the arrival of the official party, including friends and family, and former DDSP Commanders CAPT Joseph Kenney, SC, USN, and CAPT (Ret) Chris McKelvey, SC, USN. Officiating at the ceremony was Defense Distribution Center (DDC) Commander, BG Kathleen M. Gainey, USA.

Before relinquishing command, CAPT Ritchie received the Defense Superior Service Medal for distinguishing himself as DDSP Commander from July 2002 to July 2004. The award recognized his visionary leadership throughout the largest ramp up in operations in the depot's history. Mission workload increased by more than 200,000 receipts and issues per month, and Containerization and Consolidation Point throughput increased an incredible 350 percent in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In addition, as commander of the New Cumberland military installation, he personally directed the restructuring and upgrade of force protection and emergency services capabilities, expanded quality of life and military family services, and

oversaw extensive facility and base infrastructure improvements to effectively support the tenant commands, military members and their families well into the future.

Immediately following the passing of the organizational colors, charging CAPT Naber with the responsibility of command, Mrs. Sook Yee Naber pinned the Command Ashore insignia to her

husband's uniform, and then joined her sons, mother, and in-laws, as they proudly watched him start a new page in the history of DDSP commanders.

"Today marks the changing of the guard between two great leaders," said BG Gainey. "CAPT Ritchie is one of the finest Logisticians. He is a trusted partner in developing better ways to do business. DLA, DDC, and our joint warfighters can be proud that he is a part of their team.

"CAPT Naber is the very best choice to continue the long-standing tradition of excellent officers to

command this great workforce," she continued. "I challenge you to find those areas still untouched here at DDSP, to continue to build the rapport with your customers, and to continue to improve your processes."

CAPT Ritchie spoke to the work force as he summarized, "Each member of the DDSP Team can take great pride in both individual and team accomplishments, because you made them possible. I never cease to be amazed at the scope of your capability, the quality of your efforts, or the outstanding products of your labor."

CAPT Naber concluded the ceremonial remarks with this comment, "I am excited about being here, elated at the prospect of being a part of the organization, looking forward to working with all of you at DDSP and ready to have some fun at the same time. In the immortal words of an old submarine Captain, 'If you aren't having fun, then you aren't doing it right.'"



DDSP's newest Commander, CAPT Jim Naber, and outgoing Commander, CAPT Robert Ritchie..