

DDSP Opens “Building 911”

DDSP Centralizes Emergency Response Teams in New Public Safety Facility

By Sherre Mitten Bell, DDSP Public Affairs

Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, PA (DDSP) officially opened a state-of-the-art Public Safety Facility on February 6, 2004.

The facility allows for optimum operations with high-tech equipment and provides functional accommodations for more than 100 Police personnel as well as Fire and Emergency Services personnel. Additionally, the new facility allows both services to be collocated-working out of the same building-for the first time.

The new facility was named “Building 911” to represent the national emergency phone number and to honor fellow Police and Fire personnel who died in the attacks of September 11, 2001.

“Federal Fire Department, York County Station 69, has been tasked with various special operations to include such things as confined space, trench, water, high angle rope, and collapse rescue, hazardous materials response, advanced life support, and aircraft rescue firefighting,” said DDSP Fire Chief Gary Brouse. “What Building 911 does for Public Safety as an organization is to bring all the resources together under one roof and allows us to utilize the latest technology.”

“The Police Department is responsible for the overall safety and security of the installation to include administrative and controlled areas. With the enactment of increased security requirements, we have stepped up all facets of operation,” said



DDSP's new public safety facility, “Building 911”.

DDSP Police Chief Robert Bishopp. “Building 911 has allowed for expanded training capabilities, a larger armory, and an interview room and holding cell. More importantly, it allows the entire department to operate as a single team from a central location.”

The ribbon cutting ceremony featured Chief Brouse and Chief Bishopp along with Public Safety Deputy Director Howard Sheeley and Chief of Facilities Rob Montefour who were also joined by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Baltimore District Deputy Commander LTC J.T. Hand, USA; Harrisburg District Engineer Denis DuBreuil; and William J. Ripley, Principal with architectural firm Rodriquez Ripley Maddux Motley.

DDSP Deputy Commander Andrew Leitzel also participated and provided the closing remarks. “Federal Fire Departments have a slogan, ‘Protecting those who defend America,’ and that is exactly what these men and women do. Building 911 offers the means for a unified management staff that can establish goals, set priorities, and assign resources to provide high-quality protection for nearly 4,000 employees and residents of the New Cumberland military installation.”



Cutting the ribbon left to right: Mr. Ripley, Mr. DuBreuil, LTC Hand, Chief Bishopp, Mr. Sheeley, Chief Brouse, Mr. Montefour, and Mr. Leitzel.



The DDSP Public Safety Facility houses both the Police Department and the Fire Emergency Services Department.