

DDSP Cuts Ribbon for Model Aerial Delivery Warehouse

By Sherre Mitten Bell, DDSP Public Affairs

A state-of-the-art controlled humidity warehouse was officially opened for the Aerial Delivery & Textile Operation at Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, PA (DDSP) on January 29, 2004.

The 200,000-square-foot warehouse will provide storage for 1670-class materials and airdrop equipment as well as operational space for textile fabrication and parachute inspection. DDSP stores more than 13,000 contingency parachutes and related airdrop equipment worth more than \$250 million. Previously, the operation used mainly World War II era warehouses located at two sites—New Cumberland and Mechanicsburg, PA.

“This facility is the only warehouse of its kind throughout DoD specifically designed to properly store contingency parachutes and related air items,” said CWO3 Cortez Frazier, USA, Operations Chief. “Because of the controlled atmosphere, the repack cycle of a cargo parachute is extended from what is normally one year to twelve years. This allows us to maintain parachutes in a packed configuration awaiting shipment to a forward deployed unit, saving them time and resources in a wartime scenario.”

The ceremony provided the perfect opportunity to recognize the excellent customer service provided by the Aerial Delivery & Textile Operation. An award for Superior Customer Support



Cutting the ribbon for Warehouse 80 from left to right: *Mr. Pollack, COL Davis, CWO3 Frazier, Mr. Webodau, CAPT Ritchie and COL Sullivan.*

was presented from CWO3 Leo Venckus, USA, from the U.S. Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM) located in Natick, MA. In addition, DDSP Commander CAPT Robert Ritchie, SC, USN, presented certificates of appreciation to DDSP employees who assisted in moving more than 23,000 pallets of air items and support equipment into the facility.

As a highlight of the event, Defense Distribution Center (DDC) Chief of Staff COL Michael Sullivan, USA; Baltimore Corps of Engineers Commander COL Robert Davis, USA; and Mascaro Construction representative Craig Pollack joined Captain Ritchie, CWO3 Frazier, and Operations Building Manager Gary Wevodau in cutting the ribbon.

“DDSP has the uniqueness of having the only qualified parachute rigger personnel assigned to DLA. They are responsible for the storage, repair, testing and supply of air drop material to the armed forces. Due to their efforts, the majority of 1670 items are being transferred here from other distribution centers around the world,” said CAPT Ritchie. “This model warehouse allows for more cubic feet storage while providing storage protection. By placing the operation beneath one roof, processing and inspection time decreases, therefore, providing better service to our Soldiers, Marines, Sailors and Airmen.”



CWO3 Venckus (center) from the Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command presents DDSP with an award for Superior Customer Support received by Captain Ritchie (left) and CWO3 Frazier (right).