

DDCT Employees Complete Tours with the DLA Contingency Support Team Forward in Bosnia

By Danny Kolb, DDCT

Defense Distribution Center Corpus Christi, Texas (DDCT) employees, Linwood Moore, Distribution Facilities Specialist, and Cleola Murphy, General Supply Specialist, recently completed tours of duty with the DLA Contingency Support Team Forward (DCST-FWD) at Camp Comanche, Tuzla, Bosnia.

The DCST is a DLA program designed to cultivate a pool of people from materiel handlers to logisticians that will support the various theater commanders or any disaster, inside the United States or outside.

Mr. Moore arrived in Bosnia July 29, 2001, and was assigned as a Class IX repair parts officer. His duties consisted primarily of providing logistics support to Task Force Eagle, Task Force Pegasus and the 143d Logistics Task Force (LTF) by managing missions essential repair parts, sourced by DLA, used in ground and air weapon systems. He managed the Critical Items List, prepared supply assistance requests, searched various sources of supply for lateral support on high priority items, and attended working level maintenance meetings for the ground and air support teams. His efforts were instrumental in achieving a combined readiness rate in the high 90s percentile.

Ms. Murphy arrived in Bosnia September 2, 2001, and was assigned as a Class IX repair parts officer in relief of Mr. Moore who returned to his assignment at DDCT. In addition to her normal duties, the DCST-FWD Commander gave her a challenge in the form of a "mission type" order to reduce the LTF's Authorized Stockage List's Zero Balance Rate which, at the time, was an unacceptable 29%.

By the time she left, that rate was a very acceptable 6.4%. Her efforts also helped maintain a combined readiness rate in

the high 90s percentile. Even though her job often required seven-day workweeks, Cleola found time to work on a variety of projects for the Tuzla Home for Children Without Parents. She escorted children on shopping expeditions and worked on holiday gift giving programs. On her departure from Bosnia, January 25, 2002, she was commended by the DCST-FWD Commander as a truly valuable member of the team.

Both Mr. Moore and Ms. Murphy indicated that in addition to the satisfaction they felt, making a significant contribution to the DCST-FWD mission in Bosnia, the sense of adventure they experienced was one they would never forget.

"We certainly missed them," said DDCT Commander LTC Teodoro Velazquez, USA, "but we are glad they supported the effort in Bosnia so well."

Within the Defense Distribution Center (DDC) twelve applications were received for the first deployment to Bosnia. Those selected, including Mr. Moore and Ms. Murphy, were put through extensive physical exams. Then the training began. First came forty hours of Material Management Contingency Training, learning logistic computer operations using a variety of DDC databases such as WEBVLIPS, WEBCATS, PCLINK AND WEBLINK. Then came a course in military skills called "Basic Contingency Orientation Training," which prepared them for deployment to the austere environment of Bosnia to support military operations.

Other DCST missions are underway right now and many more are planned for the future. If you think you've got the right stuff, call DDC DCST staff at 717-770-4114 or DSN 771-4114 for more information.



Mr. Linwood Moore, Mr. Robert Rosarius, DDCT Deputy Commander, and Ms. Cleola Murphy. Moore and Murphy recently returned from a DCST deployment to Bosnia.