

News Release



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Greenville native assumes command of Norfolk distribution center

Norfolk, Virginia – (June 28, 2010) In a recent change of command ceremony, United States Navy Supply Corps Capt. James E. Watts, native of Greenville, Ala., assumed command of Defense Distribution Depot Norfolk, Virginia, or DDNV.

The change of command ceremony was officiated by United States Marine Corps Brig. Gen. Peter J. Talleri, former DDC commander.

“I’m delighted to have this opportunity to return to Hampton Roads and to work with the professionals at DDNV in supporting our supply chains, and in meeting our ultimate goal of providing materiel support to the Warfighter,” said Watts, to a standing-room only crowd.

Watts comes to the DDC after serving as director of the Nuclear Reactors Supply Chain Management Directorate at Naval Inventory Control Point Mechanicsburg, Pa. In this role, he worked closely with Naval Reactors Headquarters in Washington, District of Columbia, in providing nuclear reactor items to shipyards, aircraft carriers and submarines.

Watts enlisted in the Navy in August 1976 and was commissioned as a Supply Corps Officer in November 1988.

Following his commissioning, he was assigned to USS Constellation (CV 64) as food service officer, sales officer and material division officer. During this tour, he earned the Ship’s Junior Officer Award, and the Christian B. Herter Leadership Award.

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After Constellation, Watts was assigned as an instructor at the Navy Supply Corps School, or NSCS, in Athens, Ga. During this tour, he trained Basic Qualification Course student officers in Disbursing, Retail Operations and Food Service Management. While at NSCS, he qualified as a master training specialist and fleted up to become the school's educational counselor and training officer.

In 1997, he was assigned to USS Nimitz (CVN 68), homeported in Bremerton, Wash. He served as the Principal Assistant for Services while onboard Nimitz. He also qualified as a surface warfare supply corps officer, and was selected as the Nimitz 1998 Batchholder Award nominee.

In 2000, he was assigned to USS Philippine Sea (CG 58) as supply officer. Under his leadership, Philippine Sea received its first Supply Corps Blue "E" in over eight years. During this tour he made a Mediterranean and Middle East cruise in which his ship was on station in the Persian Gulf on September 11, 2001 as a part of the Enterprise Battle Group. Also during his tour onboard Philippine Sea, he was selected for Junior Service College, possibly a first for a supply corps limited duty officer.

Watts attended Junior Service College at the Air Force, Air Command and Staff College in resident from 2002 to 2003 at Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Ala. He earned a Masters of Military Operational Art and Science degree, and Joint Professional Military Education Phase 1.

From 2003 to 2006, he was assigned to the Naval Operational Logistics Support Center, or NOLSC, as the director of Fleet Support (Ordnance). Noteworthy during this tour, Watts was nominated as the NOLSC 2005 Batchholder Award candidate.

From 2006 to 2007, Watts was assigned to Naval Supply Systems Command, or NAVSUP, headquarters as the director, Food Service Policy and Programs. His food service team won the NAVSUP 2006 Team of the Year award for their creation of the Navy's Standard Core Menu. This menu, currently being implemented fleet wide, provides a more nutritional menu while also taking advantage of cost savings and supports the distance support initiatives implemented at NAVSUP.

In May of 2007, Watts was assigned to Naval Inventory Control Point Mechanicsburg, Pa., as the director of the Nuclear Reactors Supply Chain Management Directorate. In this role, he worked closely with Naval Reactors Headquarters in Washington, District of Columbia, in providing nuclear reactor items to shipyards, aircraft carriers and submarines.

Watts' personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), Navy Commendation Medal (six awards), and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal. He is qualified as a surface warfare supply corps officer.

The Defense Distribution Center, or DDC, offers best value supply chain solutions through a broad range of services including storage, distribution, customized kits and specialized packaging as well as transportation support and technology development. Customers include the U.S. Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and other agencies. Headquartered in New Cumberland, Pa., DDC operates a global network of 25 distribution centers that employs nearly 10,000 people worldwide. DDC is a field activity of the Defense Logistics Agency.

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