

Defense Distribution Center Supports Division Capstone Exercise

During the period April 1-14, 2001, the DDC Team really pulled together to ensure the success of the Division Capstone Exercise (DCX), Rotation 01-06. The success achieved was due in large part to extensive early planning and coordination between Defense Distribution Depot Barstow, CA (DDBC), Defense Distribution Depot San Joaquin, CA (DDJC), DDC, Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), USA Tank Automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM), USA Aviation and Missile Command (AMCOM), and elements of 4ID (the operational forces for the DCX).

This early effort resulted in the redistribution of certain DLA managed assets as well as Service managed assets to be prepositioned at DDBC. Marine Lieutenant Colonel Jim Kessler, DDBC's Commander and DDC's lead for DCX, conducted numerous conference calls, liaison visits and meetings with key players to ensure all processes and procedures were clearly understood. Whenever possible, face-to-face liaison was conducted to ensure there were no unanswered questions on anyone's minds. This included many meetings with the Ft. Irwin, CA points of contact and representatives from the operational forces conducting the exercise. These meetings and conversations ranged from the junior enlisted ranks who would actually be doing the requisitioning of parts to General Officers overseeing the entire DCX.

Additionally, extra Distribution Standard System (DSS) cycles were added to DDC's normal routine and dedicated delivery was added or frequency increased.

In the case of DDJC, dedicated deliveries were expanded to 7 days a week.

In the case of DDBC, they expanded deliveries to include two deliveries per day, 7 days a week. The DDBC staff also did some shift changes in order to cover the Emergency Supply Operations Center 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Of interest is that DDBC became a contractor-operated (EG&G, Inc.) activity in early August. This exercise was the first test of a contractor workforce's ability to show their surge flexibilities. The contractor work force worked right alongside the government employees for the same 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for the duration of the exercise.

DDBC Commander, Lt Col Kessler said, "The teamwork demonstrated between all elements of DDC, to include the contractor work force, was nothing short of OUTSTANDING. We were able to cut the Order Ship Time (OST) to units in the field down from days, to literally hours. In MANY instances, we were able to process and deliver an off-line requisition to Ft. Irwin within hours of that requisition being lodged."

"All indications I received were that everyone was extremely pleased with the support provided by all elements of DDC," stated Kessler.

Log on to <http://www.tradoc.army.mil/pao/dcx/dcxlive.html> for in-depth coverage, video, and photos of the Division Capstone Exercise (DCX), Rotation 01-06.

The HERCULES prepares to tow a Bradley fighting vehicle for repairs.

Photographer Pfc. Greg Heath

