

# DDC's Leos, Sexton Certified Protocol Specialists

Yolanda Leos, Defense Distribution Depot Corpus Christi, TX (DDCT) Executive Assistant, and Linda Sexton, Defense Distribution Center (DDC) Protocol Officer, were recently trained and certified in protocol. They were the first of ten to complete all phases of a new protocol training module which provides practical training in military and government protocol procedures covering all the services and federal government.

"I pursued the certification to help me in my present job in conducting ceremonies and special events," said Leos. "As the Command Secretary at DDCT I am responsible for planning official functions such as the Change of Command, as well as receiving dignitaries and foreign visitors that require knowledge of precedence and procedures."

"I wanted to enhance my protocol management skills through a level of formal training," Sexton said. "This program was well received — it is a short but effective training opportunity and has something for those who are experienced or inexperienced in the protocol field."

Both agreed the best part was dialoguing with classmates. "Networking with other protocol officers/specialists who are

from CONUS (inside the continental U.S.) and OCONUS (outside the continental U.S.) was fantastic," Sexton said. "We had discussions addressing different problematic situations and were able to analyze and give advice to each other to help resolve the issues."

"Meeting protocol officers from all over the world and the different military services that they represent was outstanding," Leos said. "Sharing ideas and experiences and how things are done at different levels of the government, also discussing the most up to date rules and regulations was very informative. It was also very challenging - like learning the different precedence formats for military and government."

And they are already putting to use those great ideas. "One of the ideas shared in one of my classes was to establish an e-mail address for Change of Command responses," Leos said, "this proved to be most helpful for my organization."

"Protocol requirements and etiquette are required for each and every visit and event that we host at DDC," Sexton said. "The information that I learned was extremely valuable in each of these circumstances - I use it every day."



*The first ten individuals to complete all four phases of JMAR seminar program were part of the recent Phase IV seminar held Sept. 10-12 in Orlando. The group of ten represent the Army, Army National Guard, Army Reserve, Navy, NASA, Air Force Reserve, and DoD agencies. They are (from left, front row): Linda Sexton, DDC; Yolanda Leos, DDCT; Delores Abraham, NASA Kennedy Space Center, Fla.; 1st. Lt. Leigh Palmer, 70th Regional Readiness Command, Seattle, Wash.; Jenny Killmon, US Joint Forces Command Joint Experimentation, Suffolk, Va.; Anthony Christian, Georgia National Guard, Ellenwood, Ga.; (back row, from left): CMSgt. Jim McNabb, 913rd Airlift Wing, Willow Grove ARS, Pa.; Reggie Mason, US Army Test and Evaluation Command, Alexandria, Va.; Donn Ladson, First United States Army, Forest Park, Ga.; and Lt. Col. Randy Lavender, 940th Air Refueling Wing, Beale AFB, Calif.*