

DDC Employees Designate their Positions as Emergency Essential

What motivates DDC employees to volunteer to put their lives on the line in support of U.S. Warfighters all around the world? The same type of self-sacrifice that motivates our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines.

Defense Distribution Center (DDC) employees were recently given the opportunity to have their current positions designated as Emergency Essential (E-E). By doing so, these employees become part of the DCST which provides logistical support to conflicts, natural disasters, emergencies, and other contingency operations around the world. They can also be called upon to help with Internal DDC missions like military exercises, depot surge, and humanitarian assistance. These tours last from 14 to 179 days. Upon approval, E-E criteria is then incorporated into the employees' current position descriptions and they begin to receive training so that they are able to deploy immediately upon notification of a requirement.

Sacrificing so much can put strains on many aspects of one's life, both personally and professionally, but those who have volunteered to have their positions designated E-E say the benefits are much greater than the drawbacks. Some volunteers cite the advantages as gaining a sense of teamwork and self-satisfaction while others say the promise of a new adventure in a distant land and the feeling of helping our Warfighters makes it all worth while. "My experience (as a DCST volunteer in Bahrain) gave me a very good feeling of helping the Warfighter close up," said Walter Bostdorf of the DDC. "I have always felt a need to help others and this gave me a look at what the DDC does and how it makes a difference."

Other volunteers say the attacks of September 11, 2001, encouraged them to get involved. Robert New of Defense Distribution Depot Pearl Harbor, Hawaii (DDPH), recently volunteered to have his position made E-E. "Since 9-11,

I wanted to contribute in some way that would help our military service members at home and afar," said New.

Terry Elliott volunteered to have his position at Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, Penn. (DDSP), made E-E in hopes that it will improve his knowledge of the job. "I hope to learn more about the support we give to our customers and I think the experience will make me a more valuable employee by giving me skills and knowledge that will help me in the future."

For Tommy Vickers of Defense Distribution Depot Red River, Texas (DDRT), it's all about the golden rule. "If I were out there and there was someone who could help me defend my country as good as I possibly could, I would want them to help me," said Vickers.

Like many other DCST volunteers, Christopher Newland of Defense Distribution Depot Europe (DDDE) has personal knowledge of the needs of the U.S. Warfighters. "I was formerly in the U.S. Navy as a Sailor, so I can understand some of the day-to-day needs of someone in the military, and I am ready to tackle the challenges that lie ahead to show our military that their fellow civilian service men and women are there around the clock to give them what they need."

DDRT's William Bourne had his position designated E-E so that he would have the opportunity "to support our troops as they are putting it on the line for us. They (the Warfighters) need our support whether that means gas for their Jeep or shoes for their feet, or even those MREs (Meals Ready-to-Eat)," Bourne said.

For more information on designating your position as E-E and to have your opportunity to help provide "gas for their Jeep and shoes for their feet" or to just feel the self-satisfaction of supporting the Warfighter when they need it most, call Sue Alpaugh at DSN 771-2805 (717-770-2805 commercial) or Lisa Walker at DSN 771-4114 (717-770-4114 commercial).

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