Energy Source

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Defense Energy Support Center

DESC director to retire

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From the Director

We can always be better

DESC Director
Kim J Huntley

You are the best organization I have had the fortune to lead, but to stay on top, you have to continue to improve.

I have decided to retire this month from federal service and from my leadership of the Defense Energy Support Center. It is a bittersweet moment; I have many great memories from my 37 years in service to the warfighters of this great nation, and especially from my tenure in DESC.

We have accomplished much together in my time in DESC. We improved our support to the theater of operations and ensured there was never a mission failure caused by a shortage of fuel. We ensured the supply lines had built in back-up for the wide range of logistics challenges in operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. We provided country-building support by using local contractors and products.

We increased our success at providing alternative fuels and renewable energy solutions and postured ourselves to be the consolidator of requirements to leverage economies of scale and reduce duplication of resources across the federal government. We published the National Implementation Plan for Section 526 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to reduce greenhouse emissions across the federal government.

We emerged as a true leader of all things energy support related. We implemented customer relationship management, Lean Six Sigma, and continued to improve our customer support with higher quality products and services at reduced costs. We assumed the chairman role of the Interagency Working Group for Alternative Fuels and made this premier group a poster child for how productive federal government can be when we collaborate and communicate across agencies.

With all those accomplishments, could there be anything left to do? Oh, yes.

In fact, I have left my successor a long list of items I didn't get to.

We have the top procurement team in the Defense Department along with strong on-location customer support around the globe. Your ability to help shape the requirement and successfully deliver best-value solutions is world class. You are the best organization I have had the fortune to lead, but to stay on top, you have to continue to improve. We can always be better than we are today—the warfighter deserves no less.

Down the road, the Defense Logistics Agency's expanding roles in alternative fuels and renewable energy will continue to grow, as will installation energy and utility privatization. The energy supply chain will continue to expand into more retail operations and fuel infrastructure improvement.

As the energy center of excellence for the federal government, you must continue to provide our warfighters with the energy solutions they need to be the best. And you can lead the nation to fossil fuel independence through our alternative fuels, and promote environmental improvements through renewable energy solutions, conservation techniques, infrastructure improvements and greenhouse gas research and development.

To the warfighter, I say, "You can count on DLA to provide you the very best logistics support every time, so you don't have to use your valuable resources to duplicate that support. DESC is the best energy solution, and the team is committed to helping you achieve your energy goals and mission success. Tell us what you need, let us help you shape your requirements – then stand back!"

Thank you all for the warm and professional support you've shown me in DESC. When Navy Rear Adm. Kurt Kunkel, currently the DLA chief of staff, takes command, I know you'll extend the same hand to him. The admiral brings a wealth of experience as a warfighter and logistician. I know he'll do much to lead your team to continued excellence!

Fair winds and following seas!

Kim J Huntley

DESC: Providing energy solutions worldwide

Energy Source

On the cover: *U.S. soldiers measure the maximum elevation of an M-777 towed howitzer at Grafenwoehr Training Area in Germany July 24. Defense Energy Support Center-supplied fuels enable such exercises. The soldiers are from Alpha Battery, Fires Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment.(DoD photo by Spc. Pastora Y. Hall)*

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Joint effort in North Dakota resolves particulate issue

By Air Force Capt. Scott R. Thomas
DESC Americas East

Army Col. Bill Keyes, commander of Defense Energy Support Center Americas, visited two of the nation's Northern Tier air force bases in September to recognize outstanding effort and support following a recent fuel quality issue.

On Sept. 1, routine analysis identified JP8 aviation fuel with high particulates in the Minot Air Force Base, N.D., fuel dispensing system. High levels of particulates rendered fuel off-specification. As a result, flight operations were cancelled for the base's UH-1N helicopter and B-52H Stratofortress aircraft, pending further analysis. William Moore, the DESC Americas East quality assurance representative responsible for the geographic area of operations, immediately deployed to Minot AFB. There, he joined the Air Force Petroleum Agency Technical Assistance Team from Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, and the base fuel's flight to resolve the problem.

The team automatically gelled and became focused on identifying and eliminating the particulate levels within the fuel system. "The Minot fuels flight, AFPET and DESC worked in unison to bring the fuel back on specification by identifying specific jobs for each of the three teams to accomplish," said Moore. This effort to divide and conquer the tasks, while constantly collaborating, created a synergetic process that enabled the fuel systems to be fully operational again within three days of discovering the problem. Flight operations were quickly resumed.

The efforts recognized at Minot AFB also extended to Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D. When multiple filter changes were performed within the base fuels system at Minot AFB, the Grand Forks fuels flight and Civil Engineering Liquid Fuels Maintenance personnel stepped in to supply needed filters to backfill at Minot AFB.

Keyes visited the Grand Forks airmen and thanked them for responding to the needs of their fellow airmen. Their quick reaction enabled the delivery of key filters elements, bridging the 200-mile gap between bases, and allowed Minot to continue operations.

The overall cooperation and teamwork impressed the DESC Americas commander so much so that he awarded a record number of outstanding achievement coins. The visit highlighted the exceptional manner in which the fuels community comes together to focus on making the mission happen and ensuring the right product is available at the right time when customers call for it.

William Moore, Defense Energy Support Center Americas East quality assurance representative, receives an On the Spot Award in September from DESC Americas Commander Army Col. Bill Keyes for his efforts in resolving a Minot Air Force Base particulate issue.

Exercise simulates future of South Korean defense

By Air Force Capt. Bill Johnston
DESC Korea

Inset to a map of Korea, the Defense Energy Support Center Korea's Ulchi Freedom Guardian 2009 team gathered on Camp Walker, Korea, after the exercise. In the back, from the left, are Army Sgt. 1st Class Caleb Whitaker, Maria Rodriguez, Ralph Wells, Chad Carter, Randy Banez, Air Force Capt. Bill Johnston and Louie Comia. In the front, from the left, are Chris Berthaume, Army Lt. Col. Miles Glotfelty, Art Hebert, Army Lt. Col. Pete Lane, Randy Beltran, Han Sang Tok.

It was 1 a.m. on Aug. 18. At Camp Walker in Daegu, Korea, and all throughout the country of South Korea, the computers were humming, the coffee was brewing and members of United States Forces Korea and Defense Energy Support Center Korea were donning their "battle rattle" and readying their chemical warfare gear. Yes, it was exercise time again in the "Land of the Morning Calm." It was the kick off of exercise Ulchi Freedom Guardian 2009.

Military forces of the Republic of Korea and USFK were engaged in the combined computer-aided exercise Aug.18 – 27. And, DESC Korea and its augmentees were right in the middle of the action.

In this exercise, U.S. forces acted in a supporting role while ROK forces took the lead. This reflects the changes to the operational structure which will take place in 2012 when operational control of the overall defense of the South Korean peninsula will have transferred to the ROK military.

According to the vision and priorities of USFK Commander Army Gen. Walter L. Sharp, the first priority is to "maintain warfighting skill sets through tough, realistic training and theater-level exercises." The second is to "transfer, enhance, and improve our shared U.S. and ROK military capabilities—collaborate and work together in the planning process…in order to seamlessly transfer operational control to the ROK."

UFG '09 worked to accomplish both. DESC Korea's participation fulfilled its primary mission of supporting the warfighter.

Throughout the exercise, DESC Korea provided petroleum and logistics knowledge and capabilities. This enormous mission could not be accomplished without the help of expert augmentation from DESC's headquarters, Pacific region and the Japan and Alaska offices. The six DESC augmentee warriors, specializing in operations, transportation, inventory management and international agreements, underwent a one-week crash course in the Korean operations plan and DESC's role in supporting those war plans. The augmentees were seamlessly incorporated into the DESC Korea permanent party team, and together, simulated integrated materiel management of 122 million gallons of bulk fuel stored at 25 separate defense fuel support points. They also simulated distributing nearly 40 million gallons of clean, dry JP8 aviation fuel by pipeline, rail car, tanker truck and tanker vessel.

"This is the core DESC mission, and the DESC Korea team performed it flawlessly under intense exercise conditions," said DESC Korea Commander Army Lt. Col. Pete Lane. "At the end of the exercise—after all the briefings, simulated explosions, attacks and after action reports—I was extremely proud of the troops and their efforts."

After presiding over an awards ceremony to recognize the achievements of his team, Lane made sure to highlight DESC's accomplishments. "DESC Korea accomplished what it set out to do. We took individuals from all over the DESC world, trained them and formed an effective fighting team that completed its training objectives and provided the warfighter with the type of support only DESC can offer."

Test to spec
DESC lab named world's best

Article and photos by Beth Reece
DLA Public Affairs

Some people consider themselves experts in a particular field, but petroleum lab specialists working at the Defense Energy Support Center Europe and Africa Fuel Lab in Kaiserslautern, Germany, are truly the world's best.

The five-member team has been named number one in the world for accurately testing Jet A1 fuel, which powers aircraft with gas-turbine engines, in the last three annual competitions sponsored by the Institute for Interlaboratory Studies in Spijkenisse, Netherlands. The institute organizes global studies on petroleum products, petrochemicals, consumer products and food. Studies are usually performed on commercially relevant products and involve testing on complete specifications.

"Our team goes up against 70 or more labs. Some of the competitors are highly paid chemists working for [petrochemical giants] ExxonMobil, Chevron and [Royal Dutch] Shell – all professional, commercial companies that most of us have heard about," said Michael Cochran, chief of DESC-E/A's Quality Assurance Division.

DESC-E/A's fuel lab is one of the few where Army petroleum lab specialists can actually test jet fuel, diesel fuel and gasoline, said Army Sgt. 1st Class Barbara Mooney, senior lab technician.

"For soldiers with [this] military occupational specialty, a tour at the DESC laboratory is the crème de la crème," Cochran added. "And I have to say the lab itself has been pretty fortunate to get soldiers who are talented and willing to work whatever hours the mission requires."

The staff tests fuel for military customers throughout Europe, Africa and occasionally the Middle East, checking for such properties as color, density and flashpoint, which indicates how easily the fuel burns. The lower the flashpoint, the more hazardous the fuel is.

Automated equipment makes most tests easy to conduct, Mooney said, but knowing fuel specifications for every customer can be hard.

"The military has one set of specs and NATO customers have another, and lab specialists must know both," she said.

Customers may also bring samples into the lab and ask for them to be tested without knowing exactly what the fuel needs to be checked for.

"They're typically just following a manual or regulation that tells them to get the fuel tested," said Army Sgt. Gilbert Lopez, a lab technician. "In those cases, it's up to us to help them determine exactly what information we need to learn from testing and which tests to conduct."

Ensuring fuel is the proper quality impacts warfighter safety. Weather changes and evaporation can affect the quality of fuel, and while dirt and water may not change its property, they will impact the vehicle in which it's burned, Mooney said.

"Something like this can plug your filters, which will affect the vehicle's overall performance and put passengers in danger," she added. "One of the first things that happen when a plane goes down in a crash is the fuel gets tested. That's how critical fuel quality is."

Cochran's team also offers two-week courses to soldiers deploying to a small lab on Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo. "It's not something we are staffed to do, but it's an additional duty these guys are proud to take on," he said.

Even President Obama relies on the DESC fuel lab when he flies into Germany on Air Force One. During Obama's last visit, Mooney went to the flight line where the plane was secured to collect a fuel sample for testing.

Of course, it was clean, Mooney said.

Axel Spear performs a particulate contamination test as Army Sgt. Gilbert Lopez observes in the award-winning Defense Energy Support Center Europe fuel laboratory in Kaiserslautern, Germany .

DESC Europe and Africa keeps energy flowing

Members of Senegal's 3rd Infantry Battalion Honor Platoon greet U. S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Michael Callan in Kaolack, Senegal, Oct. 30. Callan was meeting with various senior Senegalese military officials to discuss how the United States can assist the African nation with future training operations. Defense Energy Support Center Europe and Africa supplies fuel and services to U.S. forces supporting training exercises in Africa. (Photo by Air Force Maj. Paula Kurtz)

By Susan Declercq Brown
DESC Public Affairs

If Defense Energy Support Center Europe and Africa's commander, Army Col. Steve Walker, traveled the length of the region for which he and his team are responsible, he would travel through 18 time zones, from Greenland to Eastern Russia. In the 104 countries and nearly 56 million square miles the region encompasses, he might encounter as many as 1,900 different languages, 21 major U.S. military installations, 67 U.S. bulk fuel storage and distribution centers and five major fuel pipeline systems to oversee. It's no wonder Walker counts sustainment as one of his command's biggest challenges.

DESC-E/A provides comprehensive energy solutions to U.S. forces in three combatant command areas of responsibility – Europe, Africa and Northern Iraq – ensuring uninterrupted sustainment of the energy requirements in those regions.

In addition to sustaining day-to-day operations in Europe and Africa, an astounding feat in its own right, Walker said, his team partners with DESC Middle East, supporting two major operations outside its area of responsibility—Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. More than 625 million gallons fueled European sustainment in fiscal 2008, 101 million gallons went to Northern Iraq, and 1 million gallons of specialized high-altitude jet fuel and aviation gasoline went to the U.S. Central Command's AOR. DESC-E/A also enables other operations worldwide through fuel supplied to U.S. Transportation Command's airlift and sealift of troops and supplies originating, terminating or transiting through Europe and Africa.

Sustaining operations, extending expertise

"Sustainment in Europe doesn't get a lot of day-to-day press because most eyes are focused on ongoing efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan, but it's a huge challenge," said Walker. In addition to the daily operations of 21 major military facilities and hundreds of smaller installations, the E/A team supported 29 exercises in 16 countries last year.

DESC-E/A meets the challenge with a team of 78 fuels professionals operating from 18 locations in six countries. They're a diverse group, said George Atwood III, DESC-E/A deputy, who said he counts diversity as one of the organization's key strengths. The team currently includes 22 military members from all services, 48 Department of Defense civilians and 12 foreign nationals whose local knowledge and language skills are indispensible, Atwood said. Team members speak seven languages in addition to English.

Managing the team is another major challenge because DESC-E/A anticipates a 70-75 percent turnover in the next two years. "Civilians rotate every three years, and military every two to three, so we've started a process about one year out to look for voluntary replacements to fill billets, then we make announcements, and if that doesn't work, we ask for extensions for employees who would like to stay," said Walker.

Many employees don't have right of return because they hired in from another overseas location or directly after separating from the military, "so we work very hard to help them find placement elsewhere in DESC. We have to manage our rotations very carefully," Atwood explained.

The E/A team is organized into headquarters staff and three divisions; Operations, International Agreements and Quality Assurance. Each strives to extend the organization's expertise and services right where customers require them, Walker explained.

The headquarters is co-located with other Defense Logistics Agency regional offices in and around Kaiserslautern, Germany.

Above: *A technician in a U.S. Army fuels laboratory in Kosovo pours a fuel sample for testing in 2009. The Defense Energy Support Center's Europe and Africa fuels laboratory in Kaiserslautern, Germany, offers two-week courses to soldiers deploying to this small laboratory on Camp Bondsteel. (Photo by Nutan Chada.)*

Liaison officers live and work directly with counterparts at NATO, U.S. European Command, U.S Africa Command, U.S. Air Forces in Europe, U.S. Army Europe, U.S. Naval Forces Europe and the Army's 21st Theater Sustainment Command. They are intimately involved in planning, problem solving and customer support, Walker explained.

"More and more, we find that the services are coming to us for advice and to answer questions and deal with things that they previously took care of themselves," Walker said. "That's true in all energy areas, but especially in bulk petroleum." That kind of synergy is a testament to DESC-E/A's success at extending the enterprise, he explained.

DESC-E/A has recently created a strategic energy analyst to find and develop opportunities in alternative fuels and renewable energies for military services in their region. AF/RE includes biofuels, solar and wind power, hydrogen fuel cells and synthetic fuels.

"Europe is leading the way in these technologies right now," said analyst Chuck Gross. "In fact, just down the road from our offices in Germany is one of the largest renewable energy producers in the world.

"We're working to educate the service components on what DESC can do for them, particularly contracting arrangements that tie into AF/RE initiatives," Gross explained.

A contractor in South Africa provides synthetic fuel to the Air Force's synthetic fuel blend test and certification program. DESC-E/A inspects the facility and the fuel before it is shipped to the U.S.

The 40-person Operations Division, runs a seven-day-a-week Operations Center, including joint-billeted field-grade officers from each service who plan, problem solve, mange daily activities in the region, and participate in exercises and operations throughout the region. Inventory and Transportation Branch tracks and transports products; and a newly created Auditability Branch works closely with defense fuel support points to monitor and resolve fuel accounting issues and ensure the government's multimillion dollar inventory of fuel in the region is properly managed and accounted for.

A team of three in the International Agreements Division negotiates and monitors agreements for exchange of fuel with NATO and other partner nations. They also monitor agreements for use and maintenance of five major fuel pipelines, four regional

Below: *The fuel storage area in Kosovo in 2009. (Photo by Nutan Chada)*

pipelines, and storage facilities, which support all major bases in the region. They manage a $50 million-plus budget to support the pipelines. Since 2004, 11 fuel exchange agreements have been put into place, allowing partner nations to issue fuel to each other without immediate billing and use semi-annual accounting to determine whether the exchanges were equal or whether a nation owes payment for the difference. These FEAs account for 90 percent of all sales to foreign military in Europe. In 2009, DESC signed two new FEAs with the German Ministry of Defense and Polish Navy, enabling the signers to obtain fuel worldwide at each other's distribution sites. The team is currently working to amend agreements concerning pipelines in Turkey and the United Kingdom, as well as FEAs with the Spanish Navy and Air Force.

DESC also manages direct billing purchase arrangements with 40 foreign militaries in Europe and Africa. These allow partner nations to bill foreign military services promptly for fuel dispensed. These agreements accounted for nearly 23 million gallons of fuel in fiscal 2008.

Twenty-two professionals in the Quality Assurance Division are spread between the award-winning petroleum laboratory in Kaiserslautern and northern and southern quality assurance field teams with eight offices in the U.K., Spain, Italy, Turkey, Belgium and Germany. The division was recently reorganized to improve span of control and responsiveness to the warfighter.

"Our QARs [quality assurance representatives] touch our customers and suppliers more than any other team members," Walker said. "They're crucial to strong customer service and quality product."

Walker explained that the operations tempo is most visible in the Quality division, where QARs were travelling 30-40 percent of the time last year, racking up nearly 1,600 travel days to test products, as well as storage and transportation systems, to ensure customers received on-specification fuels. The QARs assure quality on all products procured, shipped, stored or issued to U.S. forces in Europe, Africa, former Soviet bloc, Balkans and Turkey. That includes overseeing testing at Defense Department and commercial labs, and conducting inspections at more than 80 sites in 44 countries where U.S. aircraft and ships procure fuel. Lab personnel processed more than 1,100 samples in 2008, in addition to training service personnel for deployment to Kosovo.

"At any given time, 30 percent of our folks are traveling on missions lasting three to 35 days—more than 260 missions last fiscal year—from Sweden to South Africa and points in between," said DESC-E/A Quality Assurance Manager Mike Cochran.

Optimization and Med sustainment

A major focus for DESC-E/A is the Bulk Fuel Optimization Program. DESC-E/A conducts facility inspections in conjunction with the military services to develop best-fit solutions for the efficient operation and maintenance of petroleum storage and distribution systems. Optimization allowed USAFE to reduce fuels manning at seven of its major installations last year; instead of Air Force technicians, two companies are now contracted to run the fuel storage and distribution facilities. DESC-E/A monitors the programs and educates the services to effectively monitor performance on the contract. The Auditability branch is working with them to smooth out any accounting issues, Atwood said.

"All the Air Force bases have huge bulk storage, so this is a tremendous program we've taken on," Walker explained.

Top right: *A contractor prepares to measure fuel quantity from atop a fuel truck in Kosovo in 2009. (Photo by Nutan Chada)*

Left: *A fuel bladder in Kosovo in 2009. Rows of fuel trucks are lined up at the facility. (Photo by Nutan Chada)*

Right: *Contractors open the hatch atop a fuel truck in Kosovo in 2009. (Photo by Nutan Chada)*

The region is currently working with USAEUR and the Army's Installation Management Command to optimize bulk storage and distribution at some of their bulk facilities and airfields, as well as on-post "retail" sales sites where military vehicles refuel. DESC intends to award contracts by September.

"We're constantly balancing sustainment requirements with infrastructure improvements. That's especially true in the Med this year and next," Walker said. NATO recently completed a review of its southern capabilities, including most of the U.S.'s major naval facilities in the region. Funding has been released to take on pier, pipeline and storage tank restorations in Italy, Greece and Spain. The DESC-E/A team works daily to synchronize sustainment to U.S. forces while facilities are under construction, he said.

Challenges of fueling Africa

Africa presents a whole new challenge – limited infrastructure, shortage of reliable suppliers who can provide fuel in the quantity and quality required, and a growing requirement for fuel, Walker said.

"Africa is going to be a challenge for decades to come," he predicted. "The more exercises we have, the more companies we have coming on board to increase our supplier base."

Though DESC has no one permanently stationed in Africa now, there is a near-daily presence there, Atwood said. Operations officers are there for exercises, and QARs are constantly inspecting and testing fuels.

DESC-E/A oversees one defense fuel support point on the continent – DFSP Djibouti/Camp Lemonier, which transferred to their responsibility in October 2008. The facility is a storage and distribution point for JP8, JetA1 and JP5 jet aviation fuels, and F76 marine diesel. It supports military-to-military training and exercises with 53 countries and is a major supplier for marine interdiction or anti-piracy missions. It is used by many partner nations including those like Japan, which have FEAs with the U.S.

Because of the lack of military bases and fuel infrastructure, DESC relies heavily on Into-plane contracts to meet the demand in Africa. These contracts allow U.S. government aircraft to be refueled at commercial airports and be billed on delivery for the amount of fuel pumped into the tanks. There are currently 23 commercial airports in 20 African nations where U.S. forces can purchase fuel at a standard price and where DESC-E/A QARs have quality oversight. U.S. forces can also purchase marine fuel from ten bunker contracts on the continent; these contracts are similar to the Into-plane contracts. And, DESC's SEA Card Open Market® program enables electronic purchases at 162 more ports.

DESC-E/A makes use of lessons learned in Eastern Europe and its experience in getting fuel to customers in remote locations to help fuel tactical exercises and needs in Africa. For instance, when rains in Kenya washed out portions of a key road, destroying it, DESC quickly found contractors to barge the fuel into a port and use smaller trucks to transport it to the exercise.

DESC officials

Defense Energy Support Center Executive Director Patrick Dulin, center, cuts the ribbon in the inauguration ceremony of the new Qatex Pipeline at Mesaieed Industrial City in Doha, Qatar, Nov. 8. The pipeline, connecting the Defense Fuel Support Point Umm Sa'id to Al-Udeid Air Base, was commissioned in early September. Under the DESC Bulk Facilities 15-year contract, the pipeline provides 1.5 million gallons of JP8 jet fuel to Al-Udeid AB around the clock, seven days a week. The network expansion helps meet the growing needs of the warfighter. Prior to the ceremony, Dulin toured the DFSP facility including docks, product and additive systems, truck loading racks and pipeline pumps/additive injectors.

The NIZ GLOC challenge

"The Northern Iraq Zone Ground Line of Communication through Turkey is one of our most challenging supply chains, both physically and politically," Walker said. Because the fuel is transported through Southeastern Turkey and delivered to Northern Iraq, both EUCOM and CENTCOM are involved in the process. Thus, DESC-E/A becomes responsible for the delivery to three bases in the CENTCOM AOR. DESC's daily coordination with both combatant commands is essential to success, he said.

"Whether feet-on-the-ground in Europe, Africa and the Middle East, negotiating agreements, accounting for product and finances or ensuring fuels for the warfighter meet all quality specifications, the DESC-E/A team is hard at work, 24-7, ensuring the energy keeps flowing to America's vital operations in the region," Walker said.

A Malian boy stops his work to watch an in-coming U. S. CV-22 Osprey carrying Malian and Senegalese troops during a target engagement exercise conducted as part of Exercise Flintlock at a training area near Bamako, Mali, in 2008. Defense Energy Support Center Europe and Africa supplies fuel and services to U.S. forces supporting training exercises in Africa. (Photo by Air Force Capt. Bryan Purtell)

cut ribbon for Qatar pipeline

Cutting the ribbon with Dulin is Nasser Fakhroo, chairman and general manager of Qatex Limited. Other dignitaries include, front row from left, Todd Grubin, country chairman and general manager, Chevron; Al Khalij, country chairman and general manager, Chevron Global Aviation and EAME Vice President; Sheikh Khalid Khalifa Al-Thani, director, Qatex; Abdulla Al-Meer, director, Qatex; Mohamed Al-Baker, director, Qatex, Mesaieed Industrial City; and Mohamed Zubair, director of finance, Chevron. In the second row, from the left, are Air Force Col. Frank Rechner, DESC director of Operations, and several other participants from Qatex Limited and Qatar Petroleum.

Also at the event, but not pictured, were Air Force Col. Stephen Kephart, DESC director of Mobility Fuels; Bruce Blank, DESC director of Bulk Petroleum; William Hendricks, quality manager of DESC Middle East; Roger Torgeson, quality representative, DESC-ME; Moidutty Mayyeri, Qatex operations manager and liaison officer to DESC; Ann Wilson, contract specialist, DESC-ME; Renu Sharma, regional manager, Product Storage & Government Sales, Chevron; and Bassem Battisha, fuels manager, Chevron. (Compilation graphic courtesy of Qatex Ltd.)

Accountability

DESC Europe and Africa's new role

By Alan Brooks
DESC Europe and Africa

On the first anniversary of its inception, the Defense Energy Support Center Europe and Africa's Inventory Auditability Branch counts its successes and looks back to its roots.

Planning

At a DESC Senior Leadership Offsite a little over two years ago, the Inventory Accountability Working Group was formed to review the current approach to Defense Fuel Support Point reconciliation, management and oversight. After three days of discussions, the group recommended DESC transition to allow its regional commands a more active role in the DFSP reconciliation and management processes. A sub-working group consisting of functional experts from the regions and affected headquarters business units was formed to work out the details and associated timelines to execute this initiative. The sub-working group held numerous meetings to define the segmentation of inventory reconciliation functions and inventory related processes between headquarters and the regions.

Given the enormity of the task of rolling out the new accountability mission to the various regions, a phased implementation plan was agreed upon. To handle this mission, DESC-E/A created the auditability branch within the Operations Division.

Making it happen

The branch concentrated on five main goals. A paramount goal was to improve communication, coordination and customer assistance by having the region act as the single focal point for regional customers. Often customers were receiving contradictory guidance from multiple sources. Providing a single face to the customer alleviated much of the frustration and confusion customers were experiencing.

Another primary goal was to ensure DFSPs complied with DESC policies for timely and accurate processing of inventory transactions into Business Systems Modernization-Energy that facilitated another goal of conducting daily and monthly inventory gain/loss analysis.

The final two goals were to ensure contractor invoices were promptly paid without incurring unnecessary interest penalties and to investigate and resolve excessive gains or losses associated with transfer of fuel between DFSPs.

To accomplish these goals, it was critical DESC-E/A get the word out to customers that the accountability mission had transferred from DESC's DFSP Management office, or DESC-N, to the region. DESC-N sent formal notification to the service control points and to the responsible officers at DFSPs. As a follow-up, new auditability branch employees sent introductory letters to responsible officers and accountants to build rapport and help foster a collaborative working relationship. In addition, DESC-E/A hosted several conferences to actively engage key stakeholders such as United States Air Forces in Europe, U.S. Army Europe, Army Installation Management Command, Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command, and other partners in the new mission. Stakeholders provided feedback on how to improve customer service to them.

A common challenge was clearly defining the auditability mission and the transition from headquarters DESC to regional responsibilities.

"Coming from an Air Force background with limited joint experience, learning the languages of the different services was definitely challenging as well," said Chris Bordelon, an inventory auditability specialist.

Another obstacle in resolving accountability issues was determining "who or what agency was responsible for what inventory action," said Warren Cromie, an inventory auditability specialist. "This was complicated by the lack of information flowing between the three managing agencies/commands. With the Army-owned European DFSP's operational responsibility is divided between three separate agencies; USAREUR, IMCOM and the 21st Theater Sustainment Command. Deciding which agency to seek information from was the real challenge as each agency had a separate priority, mission direction and inventory responsibility role," he explained.

Tallying successes

Over the past year, the DESC-E/A inventory auditability branch has achieved several accomplishments that directly support the decision to de-centralize execution of the inventory accountability function at the region.

An excellent open rapport has been established with all stakeholders that continues to be nurtured.

"Building trust and rapport with our customers is vital to accomplishing our mission in inventory auditability," said Christine King, an inventory auditability specialist. "We must initiate open two-way communication with stakeholders. Once communication has been established, we must provide the correct guidance and assistance to resolving problems. In my experience customers seem to appreciate and gain that level of trust, and are more apt to contact me as soon as problems arise. Our customers also seem more reassured to know there is a DESC representative in the same time zone that they can contact for further assistance, when required."

Initial conferences and communication were directed towards resolution of problems. DESC-E/A is now working collaboratively to address mutual issues such as DFSP maintenance projects that will improve accountability efforts.

The Auditability Branch team of Defense Energy Support Center Europe and Africa gathers in DESC-E/A's headquarters in Kaiserslautern, Germany, in 2009. From the left, they are Christopher Bordelon, Rene Tudon, Darlene Archuleta, Alan Brooks, Warren Cromie and Christine King.

Another eventual success was DFSP compliance with posting daily physical inventory transactions. For accurate inventory accountability a daily inventory is essential. Without daily inventories any meaningful gain/loss analysis between the book inventory and the actual inventory would be extremely difficult.

Other noteworthy successes include the identification of an incorrect tolerance factor in one of the BSM-E inventory applications. The factor affected the monthly reconciliation process and resolution of a more than 200,000-gallon accountability issue related to the closure of a sea terminal and pipeline that supported Incirlik Air Base, Turkey.

Additionally, there were several customer assistance visits to DFSPs in the United Kingdom, Spain, Africa and Germany. These successfully resolved accountability issues related to Post, Camps and Stations quantity determination for commercial fuel deliveries, excessive losses during fuel transfers between DFSPs, and procedural problems related to proper inventory accountability.

"Customers really appreciate personal contact and interest in their work and welcome the chance to talk to a DESC representative in person," observed Don Brown, a former inventory auditability specialist, who conducted several assistance visits, " Customers like the opportunity to discuss DESC policies they need clarified in person. They welcome thoughtful improvement suggestions as well as talk about things they are doing well. I probably can't stress enough that most locations I visited had questions about policies and procedures and really appreciated a chance to ask questions face to face," he continued.

Several problems with automated technologies such as automatic tank gauging and automated fuel service stations were discovered during site visits. Most of the issues were related to initial setup or maintenance problems.

Another major accomplishment was the publication of recommended procedures to verify commercial fuel deliver quantities in Germany. Prior to the corrective procedures, quantities were consistently in conflict with the quantities being recorded by the automatic tank gauging system.

With all of the initial successes the DESC-E/A auditability branch continues to seek out opportunities for improvement and to support the overall DESC team effort to execute DFSP reconciliation, management and oversight within the region.

DESC Alaska rushes support to Indonesian earthquake relief

By Air Force Maj. John Martin
DESC Alaska

The call came into the Defense Energy Support Center Alaska office at 4 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 6, from the DESC Pacific operations officer. Army Lt. Col. Glotfelty explained 13th Air Force, headquartered in Hawaii, was requesting diesel fuel to support relief operations in the wake of the devastating earthquake that had hit Indonesia Sept. 30. Specifically, 6,200 gallons of drummed diesel fuel were needed to run generators that would power expeditionary medical equipment being deployed from Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, to Padang, Indonesia.

The request sounded fairly routine at first. After all, DESC provides ground fuel support to various Department of Defense and other federal missions in Alaska, and DESC Alaska prides itself on maintaining close working relationships with Alaskan suppliers. But, it became anything but routine when I asked how long I had to find a source for the fuel; the answer was 24 hours.

We had to have 112 drums of diesel fuel sourced, palletized, processed through the Elmendorf Cargo Deployment Function, and loaded onto a C-17 cargo aircraft within 24 hours.

It was short notice for sure, but considering the fuel production and distribution capability in Alaska, I knew it was possible.

My first stop after the initial phone call with Glotfelty was to the desk of Jean Bennett, one of DESC Alaska's inventory specialists. She immediately began contacting local fuel suppliers with the request for 112 drums of fuel and got the ball rolling on sourcing. She also contacted Elmendorf's hazardous cargo section and gave them the heads-up that we would need them to process and load 112 drums onto a C-17 the next day.

Within an hour we had talked to local suppliers, and all were willing to assist with any available resources. However, Crowley Petroleum emerged as the only one that could meet the tight timeline to deliver the drummed and palletized fuel to the base Cargo Deployment Function by 2 p.m. the next day. Crowley Petroleum currently provides fuel to DESC Alaska customers through a Post, Camps, and Stations contract, and they also have experience delivering drummed fuel to remote Alaskan villages via air shipment. So, palletizing drums for air cargo was an area of expertise that helped speed their efforts to assist in the mission.

By 6 p.m., two hours after initial notification from DESC Pacific, Crowley Petroleum was busy re-arranging manning and securing a staging area to begin filling drums early the next morning. Additionally, the Elmendorf installation deployment officer was now preparing his workforce and the Elmendorf cargo preparation area to receive and process the drums. Everything was set in motion to meet the mission. Not bad for two hours of work, but there was more to do.

Meanwhile, Glotfelty notified 13th Air Force and confirmed 112 drums would accompany the expeditionary medical equipment on the C-17 mission. Having the fuel arrive with the medical equipment was an important enabler to allow quick set-up of the expeditionary

Barrels of fuel are loaded onto a C-17 Globemaster III from McChord Air Force Base, Wash., at Elmendorf, Alaska, enroute to Padang, Indonesia, Oct. 7. Defense Energy Support Center Alaska contracted for the fuel and coordinated its delivery, packaging and loading in under 24-hours to facilitate U.S. relief efforts to earthquake victims in Indonesia.

Defense Energy Support Center supplier Crowley Petroleum employees palletize drums of diesel fuel for transport to Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, where they will be loaded on an Air Force C-17 cargo plane bringing supplies to victims of the Sept. 30 Indonesian earthquake. The fuel will power generators serving expeditionary medical equipment.

hospital in the disaster area. Even though Crowley Petroleum was willing to provide the fuel on our word and take care of payment later, we put them in contact with Contracting Officer Sandra Shephard that same evening to coordinate an urgent purchase agreement.

The next day began with a quick meeting with Elmendorf's installation deployment officer to coordinate the timing and location of the fuel drum deliveries to the base. We also made contact with staff at the staging area where the drums were being filled and palletized by Crowley Petroleum personnel. Everything was a go, and the first pallets of drums arrived at 1p.m. They were immediately in-processed by members of the 3rd Logistics Readiness Squadron Cargo Deployment Function. The last drum delivery arrived at 4 p.m. After all 112 drums were secured on air transport pallets and loaded onto K-loaders, they were delivered and loaded onto the waiting C-17, where they were secured for flight by airmen of the 3rd LRS.

Mission accomplished—the aircraft departed on time, and we learned the next day that the cargo of expeditionary medical equipment and Alaskan diesel had arrived at the destination.

Reflecting on the events that led to successful mission accomplishment, two words come to mind: teamwork and commitment. Obviously, teamwork is critical to any mission, and this one was no exception. Every person involved in this effort demonstrated superior teamwork to ensure that every detail was taken care of.

Regarding commitment, once the key players understood the short timeline and humanitarian nature of the mission, it was total commitment; from the fuel company stepping up and adjusting their operation to meet the mission, to Elmendorf's cargo deployment team, which worked many overtime hours while also juggling their primary mission. Everyone was committed from the start.

And that's why, when we receive that call out of the blue with an urgent fuels request, we can be sure it's in good hands. In the fuels community, both DoD and commercial, it's one team, one fight!

Pearl Harbor completes interface tank project

By Navy Lt. Curt Butler
FISC Pearl Harbor

Fleet and Industrial Supply Center Pearl Harbor recently completed a comprehensive fuel supply and storage system project. The interface tank project, a joint effort with Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command and local contractors, will enhance efficiency and accountability within the FISC's expansive fuel terminal operation.

The system includes a 210,000-gallon capacity tank located in the FISC fuel storage area. It is controlled and monitored remotely from an off-site command center. The tank incorporates a control scheme known as the automated fuel handling equipment, in which operation is fully automated, including gauging, pressure control and valve manipulation. When done manually, these processes cost valuable man-hours each week that could be otherwise allocated.

The control scheme also incorporates several redundant safety features such as state-of-the-art controllable cameras, independent alarm systems, automatic overfill protection and emergency containment.

"After soliciting feedback from our junior civil servants, a key suggestion resulted in the installation of the proper automation that not only made the job easier but more efficient," said FISC Pearl Harbor Fuels Director Navy Lt. Cmdr. Scott Hedrick, explaining how the idea for the project came about.

In addition to improved efficiency at the interface tank, FISC will be able to better regulate the various fuel types coming from commercial sources in the local economy. Using the interface tank as an intermediate stopping point between commercial vendors and the main fuel storage tanks increases Navy procurement options. In the past, FISC Pearl Harbor was limited to certain vendors for certain types of fuel; some fuel was generated at local refineries and some arrived via commercial tanker. Fuel lines between commercial refineries and the FISC fuel storage area can now be purged of one type of fuel before a different product is sent through the same line. As a result, the quality of the product is not degraded through the mixture of two fuel types. The interface tank system promises to reduce the number of tanker visits per year and increase the availability of additional petroleum products.

This improvement is one more step in FISC Pearl Harbor's continuing effort to maintain readiness and cut unnecessary costs. The command will play an integral role in the October 2010 merger of the Pearl Harbor Naval Station and the adjacent Hickam Air Force Base to form Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. In the Hawaiian region, FISC is the primary provider of the Air Force's jet fuel needs. Streamlining the fuel procurement process will pay dividends as FISC Pearl Harbor continues to shoulder the Pacific's ever-increasing logistical needs.

Fleet and Industrial Supply Center Pearl Harbor teams with Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command and EnGlobal Inc. for a ribbon cutting ceremony outside the recently completed interface tank at the FISC site in Hawaii. They are, from the left, Navy Lt. Cmdr. Scott Hedrick, FISC Pearl Harbor fuel director, Billy Rollins, SPAWAR representative, Navy Capt. Randy Moore, commanding officer of the FISC, Brigan Sitton of contractor EnGlobal, and Greg Yamasaki, the FISC's supervisory engineer. (Navy courtesy photo)

FISC Puget Sound keeps Air Force, Army fueled

By Patrick Del Grosso
FISC Puget Sound

When the Petro Star Refinery in Valdez, Alaska, above, suffered fire damage in December 2008, the Fleet and Industrial Supply Center Puget Sound stepped in at the request of Defense Energy Support Center to help fuel defense missions in Alaska.

A Navy fuel depot in Bremerton, Wash., has been servicing Air Force and Army customers of the Petro Star Refinery since a fire Dec. 31, 2008, forced the facility and the oil port of Valdez, Alaska, to close.

Fleet and Industrial Supply Center Puget Sound's Manchester Fuel Department was asked by Defense Energy Support Center to flex its operational muscle to provide needed fuels to major military customers in Alaska. MFD supports the Pacific Fleet in the Northwest area of operation, but has provided fuel to all branches of the military throughout the region as well as the U.S. Coast Guard.

The Petro Star Refinery, one of four in Alaska, draws North Slope crude oil from the nearby Trans-Alaska Pipeline to make a range of products including aviation fuel, marine diesel, home heating oil and turbine fuel. The bulk of the refinery's output is jet fuel for Anchorage International Airport and several military installations in the state—Elmendorf Air Force Base, Eielson Air Force Base, Fort Richardson and Fort Wainwright.

Two main refinery towers and associated piping were damaged in the fire. Although the company estimated the facility would likely be closed for three weeks, Petro Star Inc. didn't reopen the refinery in Valdez until Nov. 2.

The most recent big pushes of fuel were carried out by MFD Oct. 30 through Nov. 2.

USNS Paul Buck received 235,000 barrels of JP5 Oct. 30 for delivery to Defense Fuel Support Point San Pedro, Calif. The DFSP will distribute the jet fuel to the fleet in California, Arizona and Nevada.

"MFD is supporting San Pedro with JP5 because the refinery in Selby, Calif., cannot currently support JP5 requirements," said MFD director, Lt. Cmdr. Jason Hoftiezer.

MFD received 235,000 barrels of additive-free JP8 from USNS Richard Matthiesen Oct. 31.

"We turned right back around and issued 190,000 barrels of JP8 with Fuel System Icing Inhibitor to Matthiesen. The refinery does not inject JP8 with FSII so MFD completes this essential requirement prior to issue. The ultimate destination for this JP8 fuel is DFSP Anchorage, which supports military bases in and around Alaska," said Hoftiezer.

The fuel movements took approximately 36 hours for the Paul Buck and another 65 hours for Matthiesen.

MDF has had a great year beginning with sweeping the 2008 American Petroleum Institute awards by winning the Navy Bulk Fuel Terminals award, the Fuels Personnel of the Year/Navy Fuel Officer award, and Navy Fuel Civilian award.

"These awards highlight the accomplishments of countless naval petroleum professionals who daily demonstrate their pride, professionalism and support for our warfighters," said Randy Golonka, FISC Puget Sound's executive director.

The MDF is responsible for all DFSP Puget Sound operations including inventory management, quality control, maintenance, repair, and environmental compliance in support of a 234-acre standalone fuel facility.

"During the course of 2008 and 2009, MFD has truly embraced its mission to provide the Department of Defense and other government agencies with top quality products and services in the most effective and efficient manner possible, while maintaining a staunch commitment to the community and the environment," said Hoftiezer.

FISC Puget Sound, one of seven supply centers under Commander, Fleet and Industrial Supply Centers, provides operational logistics, business and support services to fleet, shore and industrial commands of the Navy, Coast Guard, Military Sealift Command and other joint and allied forces. Services include contracting, regional transportation, fuel, material management, household goods movement support, postal and consolidated mail, warehousing, global logistics and husbanding, hazardous material management and integrated logistics support.

Key partnership fuels East Coast

By Sam Whitehead, Colonial Pipeline Company and Bonar Luzey, II, DESC Americas East

The Defense Energy Support Center ships 14.6 million barrels, or about 615 million gallons, of JP8 aviation fuel, JP5 marine aviation fuel, and F76 marine diesel per year on Colonial Pipeline, one of the largest pipeline systems in the world.

On Aug. 6, Army Col. Bill Keyes, commander of DESC Americas, and Bo Luzey, deputy director of DESC Americas East, visited Colonial Pipeline Company's headquarters in Alpharetta, Ga., near Atlanta. Keyes and Luzey met with Colonial executives regarding pipeline shipments and toured the Colonial Pipeline control center, where pipeline operations are monitored and controlled 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The following week, Keyes and Army Lt. Col. Keith Sylvia, commander of DESC Americas East, attended a week-long pipeline operations seminar presented by Colonial Pipeline.

"Colonial recognizes and appreciates the important partnership we have with DESC and its role in supplying the fuel needs of the U.S. military," said Tim Felt, Colonial's president and CEO. Colonial feeds five major defense fuel support points: DFSP Selma, N.C.; DFSP Craney Island, Va.; DFSP Yorktown, Va.; DFSP Baltimore, Md.; and DFSP Carteret, N.J. The Colonial system supplies 70 percent of military jet fuel at East Coast bases.

Colonial Pipeline is the world's largest refined liquid products pipeline system and operates as an interstate common carrier, as defined by federal law, and provides transportation services on a non-discriminatory basis. Fifteen to twenty percent of U.S. demand for gasoline, heating oil, military fuels, diesel fuels and jet fuel is transported by Colonial. Total average throughput is 2.4 million barrels, or about 100 million gallons, per day.

Colonial was incorporated in 1962, but the seed was planted for a pipeline to transport oil products from the Gulf Coast to the East Coast during World War II, when German submarines took a fearful toll on water-borne tankers along the U.S. Atlantic Coast.

The system has 5,519 miles of pipeline that stretches from refineries in southeast Texas near Houston, to the New York Harbor. Colonial ships from refineries in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama to marketing terminals located near the major population centers of the Southeast and Eastern seaboards. There are two mainlines, 40 stub, or spur, lines, and approximately 3,000 miles of right of way. Other critical statistics:

- 128 booster stations to move product through the pipeline
- 262 delivery terminals at 78 locations
- 15 tank farms with more than 475 tanks and 35 million barrels capacity
- Average delivery time Houston to New York is 18 days
- 650 employees

Pipelines are the safest and most cost-efficient way to transport large volumes of petroleum products long distances. It costs

As part of a September tour of the Colonial Pipeline Company's control center in Georgia, DESC Americas Commander Army Col. Bill Keyes posed with members of the Colonial Pipeline control center team. Next to Keyes, in uniform, is DESC Americas East Deputy Director Bo Luzey. Standing, from the left, are Colonial's George Shaw, Transportation Services Training and Process coordinator; Buster Brown, Scheduling and Support leader; and Ken Barimo, Control Center leader.

about 2.5 cents per gallon for transport from Houston to New York by pipeline. By barge, the cost would be 4 to 5 cents. By truck, the same 2.5 cents that would carry a gallon of gasoline by pipeline from Houston to New York would only get that gallon of product from Fairfax, Va., to downtown Washington, D.C.

Colonial transports more than 50 different products, 40 of which are different grades of gasoline. The remainder includes home heating oil, fuel for the military, jet fuel for commercial aviation and diesel fuel.

"It was a pleasure having Colonel Keyes, Lieutenant Colonel Sylvia and Mr. Luzey with us," remarked Doug Belden, vice president of Operations at Colonial. "We got to know each other and discussed issues related to DESC pipeline shipments. We look forward to a continuing a great relationship."

Air Force One relies on DESC

Air Force One lands at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, Nov.12, as part of President Barack Obama's travel in Asia. Defense Energy Support Center Pacific quality assurance representatives in Alaska, Japan, Singapore, Beijing and Shanghai, China, and Korea ensured fuel dispensed to the President's aircraft met all specifications for quality and safety. (Photo courtesy of DESC Alaska)

Long-time contractor brings safety to confined spaces

Above: *Lamar Labauve, 1969.*

Below: *Contractor and marine chemist Lamar Labauve tests the fit of a half-mask respirator for Defense Energy Support Center Quality Assurance Representative Mark Firmani, DESC Guam (Singapore), during confined space training in Korea.*

Richard B. Knapp
DESC Japan

For the past 20 years, the Defense Energy Support Center's confined space training has largely rested on the shoulders of one man—Marine Chemist Lamar Labauve of Prairieville, La.

Labauve has a total of 35 years experience as a marine chemist—three years working independently and 32 years at Delta Laboratory and Testing Inc. for which he is CEO. His deep involvement in the field includes sitting on the committee that developed Occupational Safety and Health Administration1910.146; the Permit Required Confined Space Entry Standard established by law in 1993. As a former instructor for the National Fire Protection Agency, he helped develop the first confined space training course offered by NFPA. And, he's been lending his expertise to DESC since being contracted by the DESC Safety Office in the early 1980s to teach a confined space course.

Why is quality confined space training important to DESC?

For a quality assurance representative working in the field, entering a confined space is probably the most dangerous situation encountered. To address that concern, all QARs attend confined space training to become competent in atmospheric testing and monitoring.

Atmospheric hazards account for about two of every three confined space incidents, in three main categories. Oxygen deficiency can result from the rusting of metals, displacement by inert gases, fire, decaying organic matter, or drying paint or coatings. Flammable or combustible gas mixtures can be present, caused by petroleum product remaining in a tank, fresh paint or coatings or naturally occurring gases like methane, hydrogen sulfide or carbon monoxide. Still another atmospheric hazard is toxicity, generated by petroleum product, or the same naturally occurring gases— methane, hydrogen sulfide and carbon monoxide.

QARs are trained to resolve or minimize each hazard. First, the locations of confined spaces that will be entered are identified. They may include cargo compartments, pump rooms, or even valve boxes—areas not designed for human occupancy. Before anyone enters a confined space, a marine chemist or the equivalent tests and certifies the space for safety. Oxygen levels must be approximately 20.8 percent, which is normal in the air. Flammable and combustible levels must be less than 10 percent of the lower explosive limit. And, toxic levels must be less than the permissible exposure limit or threshold limit value. When unsafe conditions are identified, the space is made safe for entry using ventilation or other measures.

A permit is issued to authorize entry. No one should enter an uncertified confined space. Continuous mechanical

ventilation ensures air quality. Periodic testing of the space is made, including by the QAR. Each QAR carries a multi-gas atmospheric meter that measures oxygen, hydrocarbons, hydrogen sulfide, carbon monoxide and the lower explosive limits of flammable gas.

Labauve uses real world examples in his training to drive home the importance of safety.

He relates the incident of a fuel barge explosion at Staten Island, N.Y. Maintenance on a pump ignited the product during a discharge of jet fuel, and the resulting explosion killed two workers. The force of the event threw debris as far as five miles from the barge. Incredibly, a man on deck at the time was blown into the water and survived.

At La Place, La., two customs inspectors and a crew member collapsed after entering the cargo hold of a tanker. They died of oxygen deprivation—reduced oxygen levels were caused by rusting metal surfaces. The atmosphere in the space had not been verified.

In another example, three fatalities occurred in Florida when safety guidelines were sidestepped. No safety watch was maintained at the hatch of the tank they entered. The exit was blocked by electrical cables. Collapsing in a toxic environment, the workers died of oxygen deprivation.

Along with the hard lessons, Labauve shares lighter moments experienced over the years. Training equipment seized at airports by suspicious security personnel. Tense scenes with customs getting in and getting out of the latest training locale. Watching in horror as a student used atmospheric sampling equipment to sample his soft drink instead of air, ruining a $3,000 instrument in seconds. Being interrupted by forces of nature like the recent "super-typhoon" that canceled a day of training in the Pacific.

In addition to the Defense Logistics Agency and DESC, Labauve trains employees of other federal organizations, such as OSHA, NFPA, U.S. Coast Guard and American Bureau of Shipping as well as major refineries and shipbuilders. He has conducted classes for all of DESC's regions of responsibility – the Americas, Europe, the Pacific and the Middle East. He also provides training for DESC on respiratory protection and exposure monitoring.

Labauve's contribution to DESC's Quality mission can't be overstated. First he provides training and guidance, which firms up knowledge of hazards and ensures safe operations. As a result, DESC QARs who perform confined space entry have a strong safety record. In addition, the trainer provides an important connection for QARs across all DESC locations. Through the years, he has shared experiences between offices, helping to build safety into quality procedures.

The iBRiD MX6 is the multi-gas atmospheric meter currently used by DESC. This equipment tests the air for oxygen content, combustible gases and toxic gases to evaluate how safe a space is before entry. Its readings provide a record of exposure for the Quality workforce. Quality assurance representatives in the DESC regions have been using the monitor since October. The equipment, combined with confined space training provided by contractor Lamar Labauve, helps ensure the safety of DESC employees.

Outgoing director answers 13

Susan Declercq Brown
DESC Public Affairs

As Defense Energy Support Center Director Kim Huntley looked forward to his retirement ceremony Jan. 25, after more than 37 years of federal service, he sat down to answer 13 questions for Energy Source.

A long career

Q. You've had a long career in federal service, progressing from a GS-4 to a member of the Senior Executive Service? How did it begin and how did it lead you to DESC? What advice do you have for others?

A. I enlisted in the Navy in 1972 and was assigned to the USS Niagara Falls operating in the Tonkin Gulf and Da Nang Depot, Republic of Vietnam. After three Pacific cruises, I was discharged on a Friday and began work with the Defense Logistics Agency the following Tuesday.

DLA was then called the Defense Supply Agency. I started as a temporary GS-4 accounting technician with the Defense Subsistence Region Pacific, Alameda, Calif., and was converted to a permanent GS-5 supply clerk under the Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act. I competed and moved up in the supply field—item manager and supply systems analyst—becoming a GS-11 supply accountable officer in 1982.

Three years later, I became GS-12 Supply Branch Chief at Defense Subsistence Region Europe—the beginning of 15 years in Germany. I became assistant division chief in 1991and later division chief. We moved from Zweibrucken to Pirmasens, to Mainz Kastel. After a year as acting director of a depot in Germersheim, I became director of Plans and Operations for DLA-Europe, and later deputy commander.

In late 2000, I left to lead the DLA director's staff group until 2003 when I became DLA chief of Customer Operations. I became deputy J4 and became an SES in 2006. In 2007, I was deputy commander of Defense Supply Center Columbus, then deputy commander of Defense Supply Center Richmond in August. In July 2008, I became director of the Defense Energy Support Center.

While my career has been a long climb, I owe most of my success to my willingness to move into different jobs at different locations, to round out my experience. I have always focused on the customer and ensured that whatever I was working on would have a positive impact on our support to them. I shared my ideas with my supervisors and built support for my ideas from the folks who would have to try and implement them. Lastly, there really is no substitute for hard work.

Q. Prior to DESC, what were some personal successes?

A. The first was completing my bachelor's degree while I was working full time for DLA. Later I implemented an automated subsistence system, performed the first A-76 warehouse contracting solutions, and established a DLA forward presence and automated ordering for REFORGER exercises in Europe.

In Europe, I also authored the Class I [subsistence] operations plan for the Balkans and developed and implemented Class I contractors on the battlefield doctrine, and established Class IX [repair parts] critical item lists.

To improve customer service, I established the first DLA-Europe Contingency Support Teams and personally deployed to Rwanda, Egypt, Croatia, Hungary, Bosnia, Macedonia, Albania, Kosovo and Kuwait. I also set up a peacetime forward presence customer support concept with DLA liaison officers and customer service representatives co-located with the customer. Later, I helped implement the Customer Relationship Management program across DLA.

At DSCC, I set up program management teams for Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles and tires; and at DSCR, I established the Lean Six Sigma program to improve process performance.

DLA has always provided plenty of opportunities to make a difference.

DESC

Q. What would you say are DESC's strengths as an organization? What qualities make it successful and poised for future success?

A. DESC has the best procurement team in the Defense Department along with very strong region commands that provide on-location customer support around the globe. Our ability to shape the requirement with the customer and then successfully deliver best value solutions is world class. The continued professional development of our interns and middle managers will ensure we are poised for future growth in alternative fuels and renewable energy

Photo: *Defense Energy Support Center Director Kim Huntley, left, meets with warfighters, DESC region commander and suppliers on a 2008 trip to the Middle East.*

support, and allow us to assume a larger market share of the installation energy support across the federal government. Instilling Lean Six Sigma and CRM into our culture will continue to pay huge dividends for our workforce and customers.

Q. Where is there work yet to be done as an organization?

A. We need to mature our new organizational structure as we assume more links in our supply chain. We must continue to build new talent in the procurement growth areas of installation energy and utility privatization. We have to develop more expertise in retail operations and oversight — and of course there is always work ahead on communication, relationship building, continuous process improvement and expanding our market share. We have only begun the heady task of implementing an enterprise business solution to bring our systems and processes into the 21st Century. Lastly, we need to leverage the commercial aviation industry requirements as we jump start the alternative fuel market suppliers.

Q. What would you say are the most significant accomplishments or achievements during your tenure at DESC?

A. We improved our support to the theater of operations and ensured there was never a mission failure caused by a shortage of fuel. We ensured the supply lines had built in back-up for the wide range of logistics challenges in operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. We provided country-building support by using local contractors and products.

We increased our success at providing alternative fuels and renewable energy solutions and postured ourselves to be the consolidator of requirements to leverage economies of scale and reduce duplication of resources across the federal government. We published the National Implementation Plan for Section 526 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to reduce green house emissions across the federal government.

We emerged as a true leader of all things energy support related. We implemented customer relationship management, Lean Six Sigma, and continued to improve our customer support with higher quality products and services at reduced costs. We assumed the chairman role of the Inter Agency Working Group for Alternative Fuels and made this premier group a poster child for how productive federal government can be when we collaborate and communicate across agencies.

Q. What have been your greatest challenges during your tenure as director?

A. Leading rapid change across the center, and turning the corner on how we can achieve the seemingly impossible instead of devoting resources to arguing why we can't. Another challenge was to convince our customers and stakeholders to allow our plans the time to emerge before discounting them for something else — and convincing the DESC workforce that we could always be better than we are.

Q. What have been your greatest rewards?

A. Our proven success in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, our continuing growth in supply chain integration, and our recognized leadership role in all federal energy solutions.

Q. What do you see in DESC's future?

A. An expanding role in AF/RE, installation energy, utility privatization and supply chain expansion into more retail operations and fuel infrastructure improvement.

Q. Where can DESC make the greatest contribution to the future of defense, national security, independence or environment?

A. We must continue to provide our warfighters with the energy solutions they need to be the best. We can be the nation leaders in fossil fuel independence through our alternative fuels, and promote environmental improvements through renewable energy solutions, conservation techniques, infrastructure improvements and greenhouse gas research and development.

Q. DESC has made great strides in AF/RE due in large part to your focus and tutelage. What is the importance of that? And what is the role of AF/RE in the petroleum arena that is DESC?

A. The importance of AF/RE is that we are the executive agents for all fuel products, and as such, we have no choice but to be the leader and provider of alternative fuels. The renewable energy area is a natural area of support where we are the providers of installation energy. The same advantages we provide the customer by consolidating fuel requirements and consolidating fuel procurement expertise applies to installation energy as well. We are the best energy solution, and there is no need to duplicate or dilute this expertise across other agencies or run the risk of competing with each other from a single supplier. At a minimum, we should be a clearing house of all federal energy requirements.

DLA family

Q. You've been a leader in several areas of DLA. What could the field activites learn from each other?

A. I think we have made great strides in sharing our business processes and successful programs across the DLA family using bi-weekly communications and through Lean Six Sigma. All our business lines and supply chains have a distinct culture and personality which provide us with a healthy and diverse workforce that reflects the diversity of our customers.

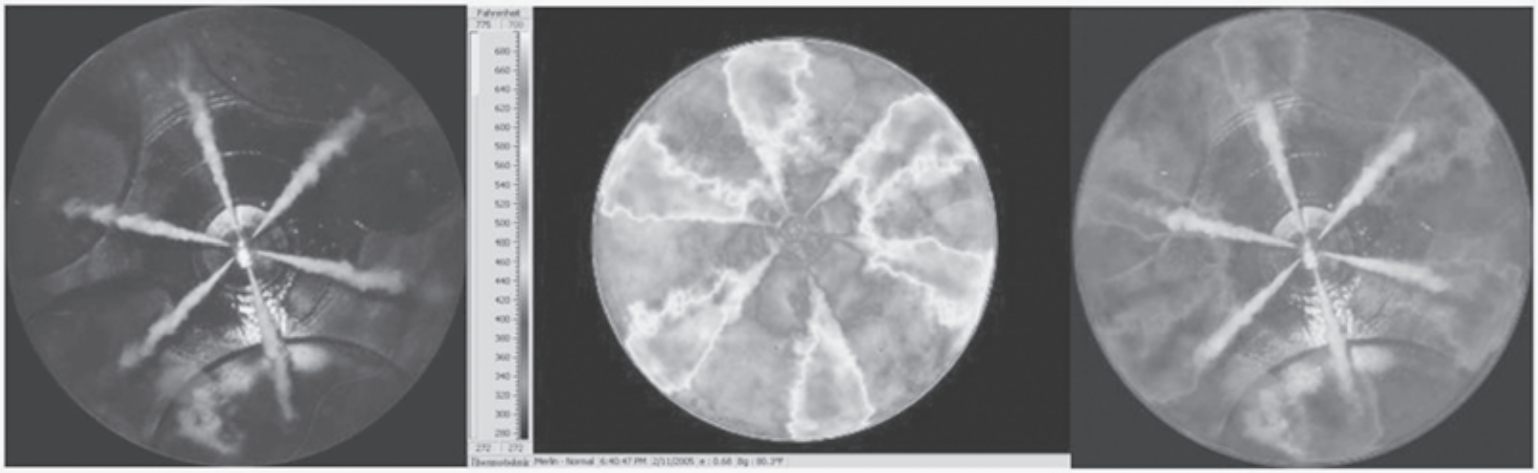
Personal

Q. Where are you headed next?

A. My wonderful wife, Shirley, is an auditor with the Army. We have been separated by assignments over the last few years, and the commutes are killing me. She's been assigned to Germany upon return from deployment to Kuwait – and I'll be heading to Germany to join her. Eventually, I may look for consulting or energy work out of Germany, but for now I'm just going to enjoy sharing the time with Shirley. We spent many years in Germany and love it there, and I can't wait for the new adventure to begin.

Q. As you look back over your career, what do you take away?

A. Every job I've had has been the best job, and the DESC directorship was no exception. I am honored to have my career with the government culminate in having led a terrific group of people doing such important work. I will take away a treasure chest of great memories, an active circle of the world's best friends, and a future so bright you need sunglasses.



Huntley visits Michigan partners

Article and photos by Army Maj. Matthew Arbogast
Defense Energy Support Center

In October, Director of the Defense Energy Support Center Kim Huntley collaborated with key alternative fuels and renewable energy research and development partners in Michigan.

Known as the automotive research and development capital of the world, Michigan is home to the American automaker industry, a high concentration of universities with energy-focused research and development programs and the U.S. Army's Tank and Automotive Research and Development Command.

Huntley's first stop was to TARDEC in order to explore the Army's recent developments in alternative energy research. TARDEC's testing facility in Warren is a state-of-the-art facility and home to the most advanced research in force-projection technology and ground vehicle power and mobility. Much of this research includes testing alternative fuels and innovative energy projects. Recent technological developments in Warren are showing great promise in decreasing the overall demand for energy on the battlefield.

One of the most eye-catching technologies on display at TARDEC is the JP8 fuel cell development with potential use in the M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank. Instead of running the M1A1 idle at approximately 13 gallons of JP8 per hour, this technology reduces the JP8 consumption rate to 1.5 gallons per hour by transferring power generation to hydrogen fuel cells during static operations. TARDEC is also testing silicon-based power electronics, hybrid energy storage, the hybrid electric reconfigurable movable integration testbed, or HERMIT, and various other alternative fuels testing.

Patsy Muzzell, from TARDEC, coordinated a tour of the facility and various projects. Next was a highly beneficial collaboration session between Huntley and TARDEC's Executive Director of Engineering Magid Athnasios. Army Col. Phillip VonHoltz, head of the Army Petroleum Center, and Shawn Walsh, director of Army Energy Policy, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations and Environment, accompanied Huntley and provided valuable insights.

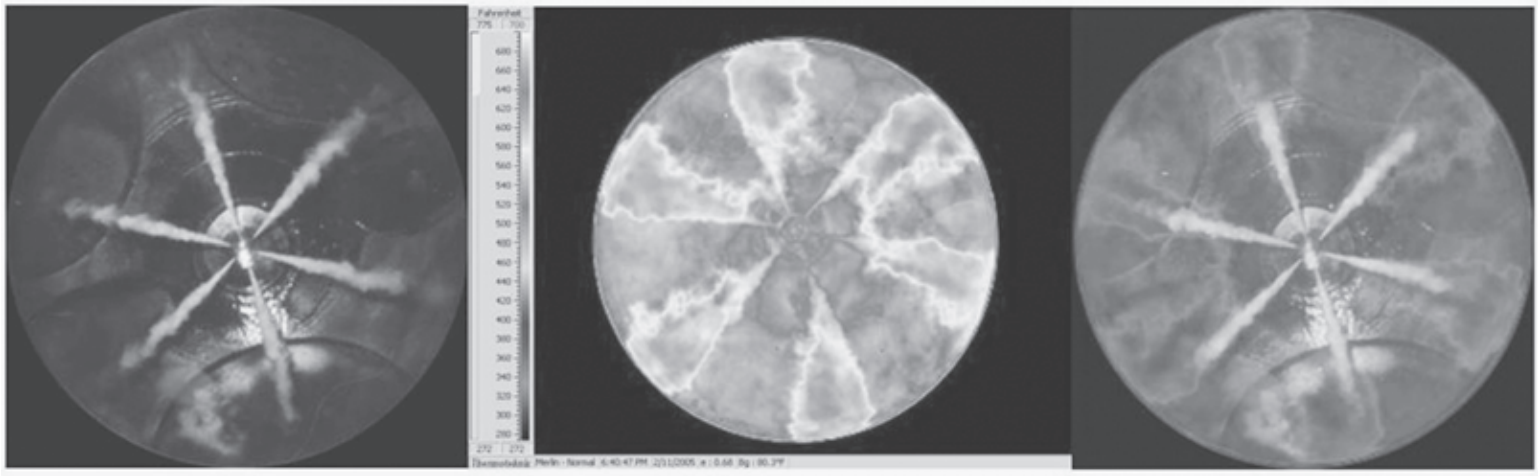
The back end of the trip included a stop at Michigan State University. The biofuels group at MSU was recently awarded a DESC contract to produce, characterize and test novel biofuel components made from renewable resources. The team, led by Associate Dean of Research Leo Kempel, will combine biological production and chemical/catalytic synthesis to produce promising biofuel components, characterize their physical properties, simulate their combustion behavior and test their performance in laboratory power plants.

The development will take place in two stages:

- Blending of biofuel components with existing JP8 fuel in quantities ranging from one to 20 percent.
- Taking key steps toward identifying promising components and blends to achieve JP8 equality.

To finish the research, MSU will partner with MBI International, which will scale-up bio-based technologies and conduct an evaluation procedure called de-risking. This methodology is a unique, cradle-to-grave look at new bio-based technologies to truly identify all associated advantages and risks with full scale development. MBI, led by President and Chief Executive Officer Bobby Bringi, will take MSU's initial research and thoroughly evaluate the potential development of advanced biofuel for military application. MBI will serve as an honest broker and help bring the research from the lab to pilot stage, with a fair and balanced research approach.

The testing plan, professionalism and productive working relationships among the MSU faculty and MBI were all very impressive, Huntley said. The strength of the partnership was clear, and the phased lab-to-pilot research approach shows promise that MSU will succeed in producing large batches of JP8-equivalent biofuels.



At left, *and repeated above, is a series of images recorded in an operational engine at Michigan State University's research bio-fuels test facility. MSU has the capability to record images with visible/ scattered light, left image; infra-red, center image; and to combine these images, as in the right image. (Graphic courtesy of Michigan State University)*

Middle right, *Defense Energy Support Center and U.S. Army representatives attend a briefing at the U.S. Army Tank and Automotive Research and Development Command's Warren, Mich., facility in October. From the left are Paul Skalny, director of the National Automotive Center; Kim Huntley, DESC director; Magid Athnasios, executive director of Engineering for TARDEC; Shawn Walsh, director of Army Energy Policy, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations and Environment; and Army Col. Phillip VonHoltz, commander of Army Petroleum Center.*

Bottom right: *Defense Energy Support Center Director Kim Huntley, second from right, and Director of Army Energy Policy Shawn Walsh, far right, receive an update on the Army Tank and Automotive Research and Development Command's hydrogen fuel cell technology and potential energy benefits with the M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank during an October visit to TARDEC in Michigan.*

MILCON P-444 breaks ground

Strategic sizing: a bulk fuels

Navy Lt. Cmdr. Dave Roddy
FISC Norfolk

It is difficult to imagine just how the largest fuel terminal in the continental United States could ever get busier, but that's just what's happening at Defense Fuel Support Point Craney Island, Va. A new military construction project recently broke ground on site.

Moving more than 54 million gallons of fuel every month for a diverse set of customers keeps the Craney Island facility busy enough. To facilitate moving all that fuel to more than 130 ships— including 23 submarines, 50 Military Sealift Command ships, five carrier strike groups, and five expeditionary strike groups—the DFSP also safely stores more than 56 million gallons of fuel.

Military Construction Project P-444 broke ground at the Craney Island fuels facility Oct. 20. This project will replace 19 bulk fuel tanks that have been in service for more than 90 years with six new, state-of-the-art fuel storage tanks. The project is scheduled for completion in 2012.

Evolutionary footprint reduction

The ever-shrinking footprint of fuel storage at Craney Island continues to be an evolutionary process. The concept of attaining maximum operational efficiency has long been the standard at Fleet and Industrial Supply Center Norfolk, parent unit to the DFSP. P-444 highlights the FISC Norfolk Fuel department's resolve for continuous process improvement.

From 1918, when the original 20 above-ground storage tanks were constructed, until today, Craney Island has met varying fleet requirements with ever-evolving operational capability through innovative and efficient resource usage.

P-444 is fully aligned with Shore Vision 2035—a commander, Naval Installations Commander-integrated Navy Enterprise solution. The project is part of an overall strategy to ensure maximum return while reducing total operating cost.

Planning

A team made up of representatives from the FISC, Naval Operational Logistics Support Center-Petroleum and Defense Energy Support Center has been planning this project for nearly a decade. Initial planning began in 2000. Project design started in 2002, and the project was programmed to start in 2007. Several delays, including funding constraints and other project prioritization, put the design phase on hold. Following reprogramming, the design phase began anew in 2008, and was completed that December. The $40-million project was awarded through Naval Facilities Mid-Atlantic in late July to Mid-Eastern Builders, Inc. of Chesapeake, Va.

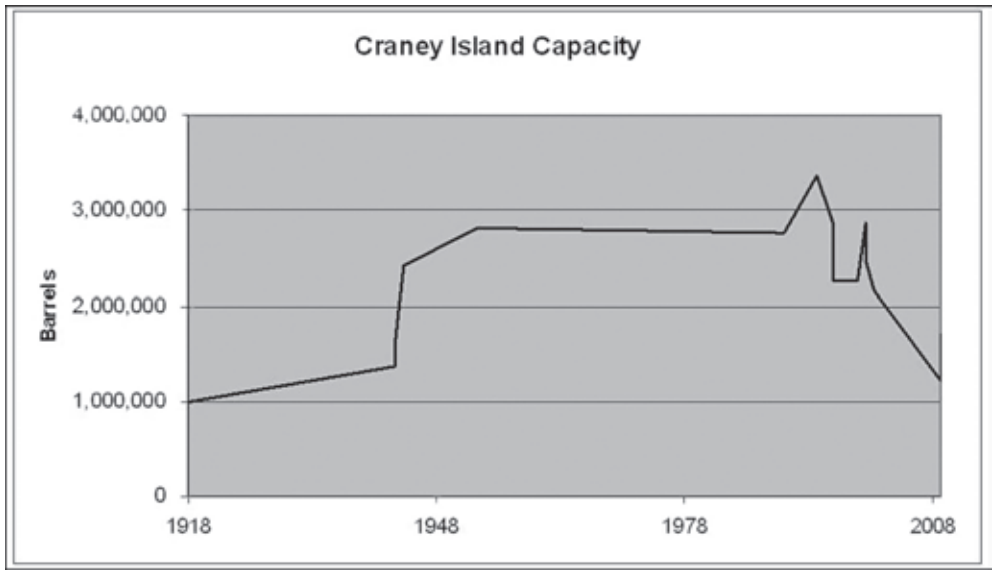
Complexity

In a project of this magnitude, many interwoven elements add to the intricacy. Issues such as ecology, security, efficiency, operational sustainment and other concurrent projects require tight coordination with all stakeholders and are vital to safe and effective project execution.

One requirement is for DFSP Craney Island to sustain its high-tempo operating capacity throughout the entire duration of the project. Critical sequencing of the construction phases was configured to minimally impact customer needs and requirements.

"Throughout the different phases of the project, a major challenge will be to insure there is no impact to our customers. System outages will be required due to construction," said Lex Leland, the FISC Norfolk facility engineer at Craney Island. "Our challenge is that daily operations have to be sustained, and good coordination is needed to limit any disruptions. Our regional fuel

Stakeholders break ground Oct. 20 on Military Construction Project P-444, a bulk fuel tank replacement project at Defense Fuel Support Point Craney Island, Va. (Photo by Bob Anderson)



department staff will be continuously working closely with [construction contractor] MEB to ensure support to the fleet is not affected."

To add to the complexity, at the onset of P-444, there are other major site-wide construction projects underway. Virginia Natural Gas is installing a 24-inch natural gas pipeline, and the City of Portsmouth is finishing up on a water main reroute right through the footprint of P-444.

Great leadership and teamwork, coupled with constant and effective communication, will be essential to the success of this complex project.

Summary

The $40-million MILCON investment will ensure DFSP Craney Island maintains its strategic importance to the fleet while protecting the delicate ecological balance of operating a bulk fuel oil storage facility. Additional benefits include extending fuel facility life expectancy, reduced operating expenses, and increased safety. Once the project is complete, DFSP Craney Island will have lost approximately 600,000 barrels of storage capacity.

This loss will not affect mission accomplishment, but will result in a leaner, efficient focus on operations.

"This project brings 100 years of engineering design and safety innovation onto Craney Island," said Vern Stella, an LB&B Associates employee and Craney Island's assistant site superintendent, "and brings us out of the 20th Century, into the 21st Century."

Supporting Chief of Naval Operations guidance through aligning with the Naval Supply strategic focus area of alignment and Fleet and Industrial Supply Center Command key strategic goal of business processes, FISC Norfolk remains committed to delivering current readiness and future capability through supply chain management.

FISC Norfolk will continue to offer customers the right capabilities, at the right time, in the right places for the right price.

The real payoff for P-444 will be increased operational capability to the warfighter—where the focus belongs.

Historical perspective adds insight

By Bill Campbell
DFSP Craney Island

As the old tanks are demolished to make way for the new ones, history will be made. But the history of the Craney Island east-group tanks goes further than that.

Craney Island has had a prominent place in U.S. military history since the Revolutionary War. The modern history of the Craney Island Fuel Terminal started in the early 20th century when construction was started on the original twenty 50,000-barrel storage tanks. At that time, Craney Island was under the control of the War Shipping Board. The tank construction was completed, and the tanks were placed in service storing black oil to support the Navy fleet in Norfolk, Va.

The tanks remained in service until 1930 when the government removed the black oil and leased the tanks to the Publicker Alcohol Company of Philadelphia for the storage of molasses. The tanks stored molasses until 1938 when the Navy acquired the property.

Under Navy management, the tanks changed product several times while supporting the fleet through WW II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. The tanks are still in service today, storing F76 marine diesel fuel in support of fleet operations.

Defense Energy Support Center Americas representatives served as parade marshals in the Houston 2009 Veterans Day Parade. From the left are Air Force Capt. Scott Thomas, Kristy Herman, Frank Wright, Bo Luzey, Scott Artrip and Army Capt. Jason Hill. In front are Roger Sudtelgte and his wife Della.

DESC Americas salutes heroes

By Bonar Luzey II
DESC Americas East

On Wednesday, Nov. 11, sunny skies and mild temperatures set the stage for perfect parade weather and a rewarding experience for two groups of volunteers from the Defense Energy Support Center Americas team. Nine team members volunteered as parade marshals in the annual Houston Salutes American Heroes Veterans Day Parade. Meanwhile, on the other side of town, Army Col. Bill Keyes and Air Force Lt. Col. Keith Sylvia participated in a Veterans Day celebration at a senior/assisted living community in the Woodlands, Texas.

The City of Houston Veterans Day ceremony began with a moment of silence on the steps of City Hall followed by the 11th hour ceremony in memory of the WWI signing of the Armistice. The largest Veterans Day parade ever in Houston followed with more than 130 entries and thousands of participants and onlookers crowding downtown.

This year's theme was "Answering the Call to Defend Freedom." Houston Mayor Bill White challenged the nation, saying, "Let us resolve to treat our returning vets as VIPs, and renew our commitment to those who returned from Vietnam, Korea and other conflicts. There should never be a forgotten war, or a forgotten veteran. And let us reach out to the families of those now deployed, and express in deeds rather than just words the thanks of a grateful nation."

DESC Americas' parade marshals were Frank Wright, Bo Luzey, Scott Artrip, Air Force Capt. Scott Thomas, Army Capt. Jason Hill, Kristy Herman and Roger Sudtelgte whose wife Della also was a marshal.

The Veterans Day celebration at The Forum at the Woodlands was attended by more than 100 veterans from WW II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War, and their friends and families. The veterans represented the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and Women's Army Corps. Distinguished guests included retired Brig. Gen. Jack Embrey and a World War II prisoner of war.

After a moving rendition of "America the Beautiful," DESC Americas Commander Keyes presented a video portraying U.S. Army soldiers in action. After answering questions, Keyes and DESC Americas East Commander Sylvia provided commentary on pictures they took in Iraq and Afghanistan. After thanking each veteran and the families for their dedicated service, Keyes presented the veterans with his commander's coins. Sylvia presented his commander's coin to the most junior veteran in the room.

In a Veterans Day speech at Arlington National Cemetery in the 1960s, President John F. Kennedy reminded us of freedom's price. "For our part, we shall achieve… peace only with patience and perseverance and courage—the patience and perseverance necessary to work with allies of diverse interests but common goals, the courage necessary over a long period of time to overcome an adversary skilled in the arts of harassment and obstruction. There is no way to maintain the frontiers of freedom without cost and commitment and risk…. No man who witnessed the tragedies of the last war, no man who can imagine the unimaginable possibilities of the next war, can advocate war out of irritability or frustration or impatience. But let no nation confuse our perseverance and patience with fear of war or unwillingness to meet our responsibilities."

This year on Veterans Day, DESC Americas East Deputy Director Luzey said, "Today we took the opportunity to honor the sacrifice of those who served and the daily sacrifice of those members of our armed services who continue the valiant fight in one of our nation's longest wars."

QLLEX '10 planning begins

By Air Force Capt. Scott R. Thomas
DESC Americas East

Defense Energy Support Center Americas representatives participated in the initial planning conference for Quartermaster Liquid Logistics Exercise 2010 in Atlanta Sept. 25-27.

"DESC Americas is poised to support the transfer of command and control of the exercise and to assist in the planning and execution of a successful exercise," said DESC Americas Commander Army Col. Bill Keyes.

The 165th Quartermaster Group, Fort Belvoir, Va., is the new lead petroleum and water group for the annual exercise. QLLEX 2010 will be the first exercise with the 165th QM GP in the lead.

The exercise brings together U.S. Army Reserve units across the nation to focus on training the reserve petroleum and water logistics force. A joint effort of DESC Americas and Army reserves, QLLEX calls on the reserve forces to execute real-world missions for customers in DESC's Americas region.

The planning conference begins a year-long effort to synchronize the forces that will participate in the exercise to hone their skills in supporting the warfighter. Army reservists will use tanker trucks and fuel system supply points to provide petroleum delivery to Army, Navy, Marine and Air Force customers. DESC Americas, the Army Petroleum Center and the 165th QM GP will spend the next year working together in a key partnership to ensure the success of the exercise. Distribution, accountability and quality assurance planning will be key factors in their efforts.

DESC Americas inventory accountants and inventory managers will support the exercise from their offices in Houston and San Pedro, Calif. DESC Americas quality assurance representatives located throughout the country will inspect Army tanker trucks and mobile petroleum labs to successfully execute the mission and provide on-specification fuel to the customer.

A key indicator for the exercise is the seamless delivery of fuel to the customers who perform their daily mission. Instead of commercial companies, soldiers will make these mission critical deliveries. Mission success is executing QLLEX so customers see no difference in their operations and soldiers get hands-on technical training on various aspects of their wartime mission.

Keyes attended the initial planning conference with Commander of DESC Americas East Army Lt. Col. Keith Sylvia and a small supporting staff.

The next planning conference for QLLEX 2010 is scheduled for Jan. 15-17 in Houston. DESC Americas will be there, building deeper partnerships with the Army Reserve and increasing the readiness of soldiers who will deploy in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

The Defense Energy Support Center Americas team joined the planning conference for exercise QLLEX 2010 in September. Team members, from the left, are Air Force Capt. Scott Thomas, Marlin Ingram, Army Lt. Col. Keith Sylvia, Army Col. Bill Keyes, Dave DeHoag, Army Master Sgt. Pete Martinez and Mike Koury.

U.S. Army conducts pipeline pigging on Okinawa

By Richard B. Knapp
DESC Japan

In petroleum logistics, accountability can take on many forms. In the case of real world missions like operating fixed petroleum pipeline systems, being accountable goes beyond number crunching and having quantities of moved product within allowable limits. Accountability means a responsibility for providing uninterrupted supply of product.

Back in the 20th Century, the U.S. Army performed pipeline operations at locations around the globe. Army personnel in Europe operated a section of the Central Europe Pipeline System from what is now Zweibruecken, Germany, to Huttenheim, Germany. Also in Europe, there was the Donges-Metz Pipeline System,which was built after World War II. This largest Army pipeline ran from the seacoast at Donges, France, to the French-German border near Metz, France. There was the Trans-Korea Pipeline running from Pohang north to Uijongbu near the demilitarized zone. Alaska had two Army-controlled pipelines. One ran from Haines northwest to Fairbanks; the other started at Portage and almost immediately ran through a mountainside tunnel circuiting west to Anchorage.

Today, the only remaining Army-operated fixed petroleum pipeline is located on the island of Okinawa, Japan. It is operated by the 505th Quartermaster Battalion under the motto "Proud to Pump!" The Army's inland petroleum distribution mission there supports U.S. Department of Defense military services on the island. The pipeline supplies JP8 jet aviation fuel to the U.S. Air Force, JP5 marine aviation fuel to Marine Corps Air Station Futenma and F76 marine diesel fuel to U.S. Navy forces. In the past, the pipeline has also moved JP4 jet aviation fuel, gasoline and other products to customers.

The mostly underground pipe in Okinawa totals 78 miles and connects five bulk petroleum tank farms. There is an additional tank farm and vessel discharge site separate from the pipeline, bringing the total storage capacity to just under 50 million gallons of fuel. The system includes two off-shore discharge facilities, two deep-sea fuel piers, six tank truck fill stands and a base petroleum laboratory. Operating the pipeline is a workforce of active duty military, Department of the Army civilians and Japanese local nationals.

A pipeline scrubber pig is wheeled into position before the August pigging operation begins.

The 505th QB is responsible for making sure the pipeline supplies product today and far into the future. The original underground pipe was constructed in the 1950s. It remains in use today as a result of careful operations and programmed maintenance over the years. One key to good pipeline maintenance is to periodically "pig" the pipeline.

Pigging is the process of launching an object called a pig through a pipeline. The device is pushed through the pipeline using the product flow. There are several theories to explain the origin of the name pig. Some believe the name comes from the squealing sound the pig makes while traveling through the pipeline. Others propose that PIG is an acronym for pipeline inspection gauge. Pigging performs four main functions: cleaning, gauging, determining pipeline

The pipeline inspection pig is launched as the pigging operation begins the final phase.

A scrubber pig launched by contractors Weston Solutions and 3P starts the 505th Quartermaster Battalion's pigging operations on Okinawa in August.

geometry and inspection.

In August, a series of pigs were used to inspect the 505th QB's pipeline as part of a DESC funded sustainment, restoration and modernization project. The project was executed by Weston Solutions Inc. and 3P Services Inc. under contract with the Naval Facilities Engineering Service Center.

The following sequence was followed over several days, and later repeated on different sections of the pipeline system.

First, contractors launched a cleaning pig from the Tengan booster pump station back to a submarine pipeline used to receive product from ocean tankers. The pig was deployed in a bi-directional operation to clean the pipe. To protect product quality, skid-mounted filter separators were installed, and in-line strainers were used to remove and collect freed sediment and scale.

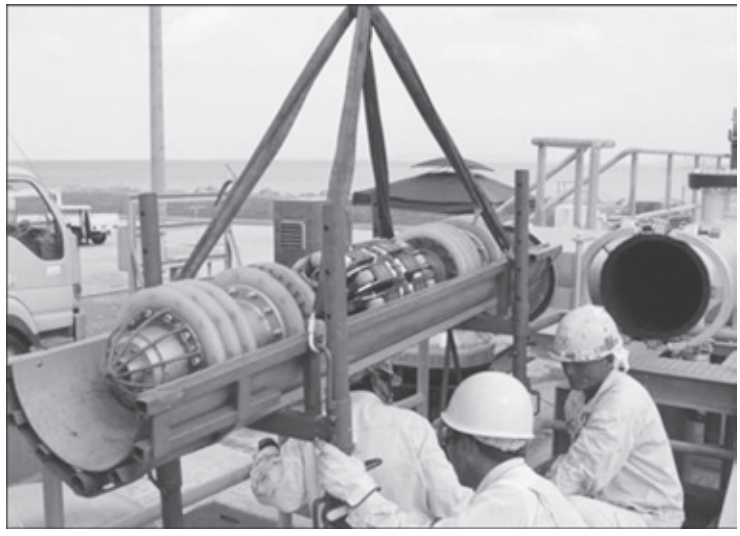
The next step was to deploy a gauge pig. The gauge pig made a single pass through the line to identify any potential obstructions. Its completed journey ensured diagnostic pigs would fit through the entire length of pipeline without interruption.

Once the gauge pig completed its journey, a geometry pig was sent through the pipeline to validate internal geometry. This pig used high-resolution and multi-channel geometric imagery to identify and record dents, ovalities and other abnormalities.

The last step was inspection using a deployed magnetic flux leakage pig. Magnetic flux leakage is a technology used to create a high-resolution record of pipeline wall thickness. In the hands of a skilled technician, the instrument can determine internal and external metal loss. Sources of metal damage include corrosion and other factors like scratches from construction equipment or stress fractures from ground shifting.

The inspection project is still ongoing. When complete, follow-on repair and maintenance work will be scheduled to correct all deficiencies and ensure the pipeline is ready to meet its mission for years to come.

The distinctive unit insignia of the 505th Quartermaster Battalion represents the unit's mission. The colors used in the insignia have special significance: buff and light blue are traditionally associated with Quartermaster units. Black alludes to oil and the unit's primary mission--supply and operation of the petroleum pipeline in Okinawa. The chevronels represent support and connote movement of the fuel. The key refers to supply. The bow bears a stylized chrysanthemum, adapted from the Imperial Seal of Japan, and signifies the unit's location.



The pipeline inspection pig is recovered at the end of the pigging operation.

Kunkel named next commander

By Dianne Ryder
DLA Strategic Communications

Defense Logistics Agency Chief of Staff Navy Rear Adm. Kurt Kunkel has been named the next commander of the Defense Energy Support Center.

DLA Director Navy Vice Adm. Alan Thompson announced in an e-mail to senior agency officials Jan. 4 that Kunkel will replace Kim Huntley, DESC's director since June 2008, who is scheduled to retire Jan. 25.

In his role as DESC commander, Kunkel will be responsible for providing the Department of Defense and other government agencies with comprehensive energy solutions and ensuring continuous worldwide energy support to America's warfighters.

A native of Warner Robins, Ga., Kunkel graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md., in 1982, receiving a Bachelor of Science (with Merit) in Oceanography. He earned a Master of Science in Financial Management from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, Calif., in 1992. He is a graduate of the U.S. Naval War College, Newport, R.I., the Joint Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Va., and completed the Columbia University Graduate School of Business Senior Executive Program.

Prior to becoming DLA's chief of staff, Kunkel served as the deputy director for Operational Logistics, director of Logistics (J4), on the Joint Staff.

Site aids interagency collaboration

By Chris Goulait
DESC Public Affairs

The Department of Defense and other federal agencies in the energy industry have a new tool to use in the pursuit of innovative energy solutions. A new Interagency Working Group Web site improves collaboration between members.

With this resource available, there is an opportunity to work on energy goals more effectively. IAWG Chairman and DESC Director, Kim Huntley, said, "With subjects as vital to our nation's energy posture as alternative fuels and renewable energy, the resources we use to find solutions must be as capable and efficient as our members. The IAWG Web site is that resource."

The IAWG's purpose is to foster communication. With the creation of the IAWG Web site, a central hub now exists for communication and sharing information. Members are able to share their expertise directly on the Web site, use the discussion forums to make comments or pose a question, or visit the websites of participating organizations and find a point of contact through registered user profiles.

As work continues to achieve energy goals, the IAWG remains an essential communication effort. Now that another channel of communication has opened, the IAWG is closer to finding new energy solutions in the fields of alternative fuels and renewable energy, said Huntley. For additional information, visit the IAWG Web site at https://afre.desc.dla.mil.

Banner for the new Web site, which facilitates interagency collaboration.

DESC 2010 Worldwide Energy Conference details available

By Chris Goulait
DESC Public Affairs

The Defense Energy Support Center will host its annual Worldwide Energy Conference May 10 – 12 at the Gaylord National Hotel and Conference Center in National Harbor, Md. The conference agenda and directions to the hotel along with other information are available on the DESC Web site.

For industry professionals, organization representatives, political stakeholders, Department of Defense colleagues and subject matter experts, the conference is a unique opportunity to meet peers in the industry and learn about new advancements in the energy field. Workshops will cover a wide variety of energy-related topics, such as alternative fuel and renewable energy initiatives, contracting issues and a session on how DESC is sustaining its energy focus.

Other conference events include a trade show, an alternative energy panel discussion, military service-specific breakouts and sessions on how to do business with DESC and DoD.

"A highlight of this year's conference is the expansion of alternative fuel and renewable energy initiatives, while continuing the growth of energy solutions supporting the warfighter and customer requirements," according to DESC Director Kim Huntley. "The Worldwide Energy Conference is an invaluable forum that brings together key energy stakeholders to work toward our mutual energy goals."

For registration or additional inquiries, contact the DESC public affairs office at (703)-767-5042, DESCpublicaffairs@dla.mil, or visit the DESC Web site at http://www.desc.dla.mil.

AUSA conference

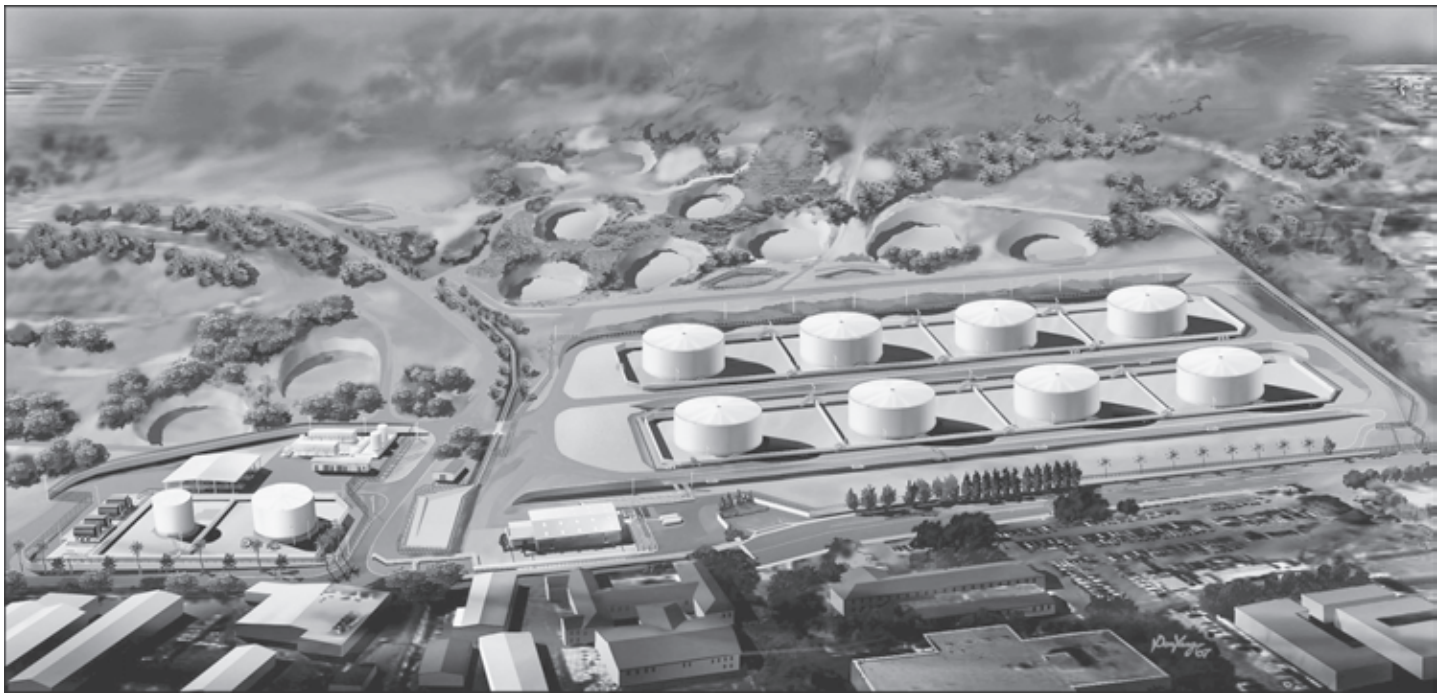
By Randy Beltran
DESC Executive Agent Office

The Defense Energy Support Center joined forces with the Army Petroleum Center to host a booth showcasing DESC and APC services and products at this year's Association of the United States Army Conference at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C., Oct. 5 - 7.

AUSA, held each October, is the largest landpower exposition and professional development forum in North America. Each year, more than 30,000 attendees, including senior leaders from the Army, Department of Defense and Congress view more than 500 industry and military exhibits at the event. The three-day event includes informative presentations, panel discussions on pertinent military and national security subjects, workshops and AUSA business meetings. Professional development forums are held throughout the three days for soldiers, non-commissioned officers, Army family members and industry executives.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Army Secretary John McHugh addressed this year's opening session. Other speakers included Army Chief of Staff Gen. George Casey and Commander of the U. S. Central Command Army Gen. David Petraeus.

Staffing the Defense Energy Support Center/Army Petroleum Center booth at the Association of the United States Army convention in October are, from the left, Elaine Stober, DESC customer outreach analyst, Jeff Wetherbee, Army Petroleum Center, Eric Jensen, DESC career management analyst, and Gary Parson, APC facilities distribution specialist.



Old makes way for new

By Stephen L. Frey
FISC San Diego

As La Playa Fuel Depot forges into its second century of continuous operation, there is the distinct hustle and din of laborers and heavy equipment tearing down the old infrastructure and erecting a new facility. Over the next three to four years, a new tank farm, truck loading rack, lube oil storage, fuel reclamation and control center will be built on the old footprint.

What is today known as the Fleet and Induatrial Suppy Center Fuel Department on Naval Base Point Loma, Calif., was essentially created by the stroke of a pen on Sept. 24, 1901, when Acting Secretary of War Elihu Root transferred, by order of President Theodore Roosevelt, 360 acres of the Fort Rosecrans Military Reservation to the Department of Navy for use as a coaling station.

The La Playa Coaling Station opened its coal bins for business in 1904. In 1924, when the demand for coal stopped and oil burning fuel became the norm, the facility's name changed to Navy Fuel Depot, a fuel supply point for Navy ships. In 1947, the Fuel Depot was disestablished as an independent activity, and its mission and tasks were assumed by the Navy Supply Depot, later called the Navy Supply Center. It is now known as FISC Dan Diego.

The new fuel storage facility at Point Loma is being built to meet the Navy's 21st Century operational requirements. The tanks will be multi-product tanks, which can be used for today's fuels and those of tomorrow. The cut-and-cover tanks will be closed when the new tanks and infrastructure become operational. The number of tanks will shrink from fifty-four to twenty-two.

The existing fuels infrastructure was put into service between 1917 and 1954, long before environmental safeguards and protective measures such as leak detection were available. Over the years, the facility has been upgraded to include such systems. However, despite the upgrades, the facility has experienced fuel releases from leaking tanks and damaged piping and is now involved in an ongoing effort to clean up and remediate past releases. Clean up activities and tank closures are in full compliance with the oversight of San Diego County, Department of Environmental Health, City of San Diego and Regional Water Quality Control Board.

This modernization project is long overdue. Throughout the '80s and '90s, millions of dollars were invested in trying to keep the depot's infrastructure operational and in compliance with existing regulations. Roadways were resurfaced, leak detection systems were installed, an oily-water wastewater treatment plant was built, a fuel oil reclamation plant was constructed to recycle ballast oil and reclaim contaminated petroleum products, the fire protection system was upgraded, the fuel pier was renovated and new piping was installed. But, despite these sizable investments, the existing tanks exceeded their expected operational life by more than forty years.

The new facility has been designed to replicate existing inventory requirements but reduce the current footprint of 200 acres to little more than 50 acres.

It is hard to believe that the first assortment of riveted fuel oil storage tanks with seventy plus years of service are only now being retired from service. Tank 63, built in 1939, was the first tank to be demolished. All the remaining bulk storage tanks will be torn down over the next several months and years, making way for a

Opposite page: *An artist's rendition of the planned new fuel supply storage center at the La Playa Fuel Depot on Naval Base Point Loma, Calif.*

Left: *Tank 63 is rased to make way for new facilities at the La Playa Fuel Depot.*

Below: *Quarters A, on the La Playa Fuel Depot on Naval Base Point Loma, Calif., is demolished Aug. 17 as part of a construction project to improve fuel storage capabilities and reduce the facility footprint. Quarters A was originally built for the fuels officer and was later home to the commanding officer of Fleet and Industrial Supply Center San Diego.*

modern facility.

Quarters A, was the next structure to go. Originally built in 1908 as the fuel officer's residence, it finally gave way to the wrecking ball on Aug. 17. It was the last of six living quarters built in the late 1920s to house the military contingent assigned to the fuel depot. The other houses, Quarters C-F, were demolished in 1988 when Rosecrans Street. was widened to accommodate the traffic associated with relocation of other fleet assets to the south end of Naval Base Point Loma.

Quarters A was left standing because it was well off the road and because it was assigned to the commanding officer of the Fleet and Industrial Supply Center. It was last occupied in 2002. Most of the building's history was preserved for the State Historic Preservation Office. Geologists combed the site, and a full archaeological review and evaluation were completed to ensure all relics were preserved.

The footprint of Quarters A will now be the site of the new fuel reclamation plant, lube oil storage and truck loading rack facilities.

Replacing the existing facility eliminates high maintenance costs, operational inefficiencies associated with trying to keep an antiquated fuel facility operational, and the potential for catastrophic fuel releases. Although the existing facility is operating in full compliance with all environmental and operational regulations and permits, modernization is needed to ensure that the facility provides reliable service in a cost effective and environmentally protective manner well into the future.

The new control tower will be manned around the clock, seven days a week, and will sit at the approach to the fuel pier so control tower operators will have a clear, uninterrupted view of ship's movements and fueling operations. The control tower, with its vast array of technology and fuel handling gear, is the heart and soul of all fuel-related evolutions. Operators are charged with managing and controlling each fueling event. Administrative offices will be attached to the new tower.

As this old Navy Fuel Depot moves into its second century as a fueling station, additional monies are being invested in a concerted effort to honor its historical past, protect a fragile ecological balance, maintain its strategic importance to the fleet and provide its employees with the latest technology and most up-to-date infrastructure. This project allows the "old La Playa Coaling Station" to remain a robust and productive supply activity well into the foreseeable future.

Lean and Green

FISC Norfolk recycles oil for reuse

Navy Lt. Cmdr. Dave Roddy
FISC Norfolk

Today's economic and regulatory environment demands leaner and greener operations. Challenges arise as we strive to impart economic and environmental efficiencies into one of the most solid logistics supply chain streams around—the Department of Defense petroleum supply chain.

One program that has been lean and green from as far back as the 1950s is the Craney Island oil recycling and re-use program. Located in Portsmouth, Va., Defense Fuel Support Point Craney Island is home to the largest fuel reclamation operation in the Department of Defense. Although the program has been in place for over 50 years, this is no static program. Over the past five years, Craney Island's thriving operation has enjoyed a 71 percent growth in sales of their premier reclaimed product—Fuel Oil, Reclaimed.

Greener

Environmental stewardship is an essential factor to take into account with every issue we deal with today. As we move ahead with greening our petroleum supply chain with innovative drop-in solutions such as biomass fuels, it is easy to lose sight of highly-successful green processes that have long been in place.

By taking petroleum products destined for disposal and converting them into a usable product, Craney Island's oil recycling and re-use program reduces the waste stream significantly. In a 1996 Environmental Protection Agency study involving a similar operation, it was determined that by establishing a formal oil marketing campaign, a Navy base could potentially reduce its industrial waste stream by 80,000 pounds.

Craney Island's regional fuel operation partners with various organizations to ensure environmental compliance. Environmental oversight is provided in concert between Naval Facilities, Mid-Atlantic Regional Environmental and Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. Teamwork and cooperation are hallmarks of this combined effort to assure a clean environment.

Leaner

Recycling and reusing oil is financially rewarding as well. In 2008, FOR sales of 1.7 million gallons generated a flow of 1.78 million dollars directly back into the Defense Logistics Agency working capital fund. These regenerated dollars ultimately result in enhanced support for the warfighter. Conversely, had this product been sold to commercial vendors for disposal rather than returned to the DoD supply chain, DoD would have lost more than one million dollars in potential revenue.

Many stakeholders are involved in, and benefit from this program. For example, in 2008, approximately 1.6 million gallons of recovered oil was recycled from regional Navy sites. As a result, NAVFAC Utilities used 1.7 million gallons of FOR, saving approximately $600,000 in oil purchasing costs. Recycling oily waste also results in an annual disposal cost avoidance of approximately $500,000. System maintenance costs less than $25,000 per year.

The regional process

The program recycles and reuses oily waste water and waste oil from ship and shore activities. Used and off-specification petroleum products are brought into Craney Island from many different sources and locations in the Mid-Atlantic area. Oily waste from ships is pumped from Naval Station Norfolk piers into the Public Works Center oil recovery system, where it joins other used petroleum products, including used automobile oil from vehicle maintenance shops, in holding tanks. It is then pumped through a pipeline from Naval Station Norfolk to the PWC Water Treatment Plant at Craney Island, where the oil and water are separated.

DFSP Craney Island also receives oily waste and off-specification product from ships berthed pierside

These settling tanks, at Defense Fuel Support Point Craney Island, Va., hold reclaimed fuel oil, called FOR. Sales for the DFSP's FOR have increased by more than 70 percent in the last five years. (Photo by Dale Devorss)

Above: *Lab supervisor William "Jack" Jackson tests reclaimed fuel oil at Defense Fuel Support Point Craney Island, Va., as Navy Lt. Konrad Krupa, fuel intern at Fleet Industrial Supply Center Norkfolk, observes. (Photo by Navy Lt. Cmdr. Dave Roddy)*

at Craney Island. Finally, a nominal amount of waste oil recovered from on-site remediation projects provides another input.

This multi-stream product is sampled and tested prior to being placed in a settling tank. William "Jack" Jackson oversees all FOR testing at FISC Norfolk's fuel labs, and brings a wealth of experience to the process.

"Since starting work at Craney Island in 1972, I have tested FOR at least 500-600 times," Jackson said. "Not a drop of FOR is issued to our customers unless it meets every specification."

As the product ages in the settling tank, water and other impurities drop out as a function of time and temperature. Heat accelerates the process. The product is sampled and tested periodically until meeting the FOR specification. Once the product meets proper fuel specifications, it is stored in Craney Island storage tanks until purchased by a customer, such as PWC Utilities. The FOR is then transported to Naval Station Norfolk via one of Craney Island's organic YON fuel barges, where it is burned at a steam plant for power generation.

The Product

The FOR specification is approved for use by the Department of the Navy and is available for use by all departments and agencies of the DoD. FOR is a product of a mixture of a variety of oils, and is subject to regulation by 40 CFR 266, Sub-part E. FOR can be used as a substitute for ASTM D 396 either directly or as a blend in stationary fuel-burning furnaces for heating buildings, for the generation of steam, or other purposes.

Bottom line

The Craney Island oil recycling program provides a viable, proven energy solution which saves taxpayer dollars while reducing impact on the environment. This unique program ultimately drives the goal which every program under the Naval Supply Systems Command shares: enhanced delivery of logistics support to the Navy's operational forces.

Thompson highlights DLA's environmental stewardship role

DESC also serves as an information clearinghouse to the services so that, as each of the military services rapidly moves forward, we can share the insight that we are gaining from working with the other services.

-- Vice Adm. Alan Thompson Director, Defense Logistics Agency

By Dennis Gauci
DLA Public Affairs

The Defense Logistics Agency is a "critical enabler" of the Defense Department's green initiatives, DLA Director Navy Vice Adm. Alan Thompson said Nov. 19 during a panel discussion.

Hosted by Government Executive magazine as part of a leadership breakfast series, the panel brought together senior DoD and military service executives to discuss the department's drive for environmental sustainability.

"When you look at the full spectrum of support DLA provides to the armed forces, other agencies and coalition allies, we have a number of touch points in the area of environmental stewardship and going green," Thompson said.

Of the $38 billion dollars of fiscal 2009 sales, $18 billion was for energy and fuel.

"We are working with each of the military services in a very integrated way to facilitate the rapid progress of green alternatives," Thompson said.

He noted that that DLA's Defense Energy Support Center, the field activity responsible for bulk petroleum and energy solutions, performs a valuable role for DoD because it can quickly award research and development and other contracts for alternative fuel and renewable energy solutions.

"DESC also serves as an information clearinghouse to the services so that, as each of the military services rapidly moves forward, we can share the insight that we are gaining from working with the other services," Thompson said.

To support the Navy's 2016 goal of globally sailing a green strike fleet, including nuclear vessels and ships powered by biofuel, DESC in September awarded an $8.5 million contract to a company to derive oil from algae to produce marine diesel fuel. DESC also awarded a contract to another company to produce fuel from camelina feedstock, a type of broadleaf plant.

Helping the Air Force meet its goal to receive 50 percent of its domestic aviation fuel from alternative domestic sources, DESC issued two contracts to companies to procure renewable jet fuel using two different biomass oil feedstocks. Over the past three years, DESC also awarded contracts to companies to produce synthetic fuels to support the Air Force's testing and certification program.

Thompson said he believes the efforts of the military services and the emphasis by DoD to use alternative energy "are going to serve as a catalyst for the entire global economy."

The director noted that another important DLA mission in support of DoD's green program is reverse logistics, the reutilization and disposal of material and equipment no longer needed.

"This has a significant environmental dimension as we try to remove items that can be reutilized and recycled, and therefore keep them out of the waste stream, Thompson

Below, Defense Logistics Agency Director Navy Vice Adm. Alan Thompson receives a briefing on Contingency Operating Base Speicher's landfill operations in November from DLA reservists Army Sgt 1st Class Robert Rodriguez and Air Force Tech. Sgt. Karoline Diaz.

said. "There is also a very significant environmental impact role as we are the processors of hazardous waste for the armed forces. We want to make sure that we're fully compliant with legal standards but also use this role as an opportunity to move forward in the reuse of these materials and products in a way that is environmentally conscious."

Turning to DLA's role in Iraq, Thompson noted that the agency is heavily focused on supporting the drawdown of U.S. forces and that a big part of DLA's role is the reuse of equipment using a structured process.

"We [the military] try to consume the product first. Next we look at transfers to other DoD entities that may have a requirement. We also look at transfers to Iraqi security forces. And finally, we dispose of material that is no longer needed," he said.

Thompson said that DLA wants to return operating bases "in a condition much better than we found them."

During the past three years, DLA has removed more than 550 million pounds of scrap from Iraq, nearly half within the last year, and has shredded nearly 4o million pounds of worn out tires.

Thompson said that on a trip to the region in February, he visited a DLA disposal operation in Kuwait where he saw a "pile of tires that was so large you could see it from space."

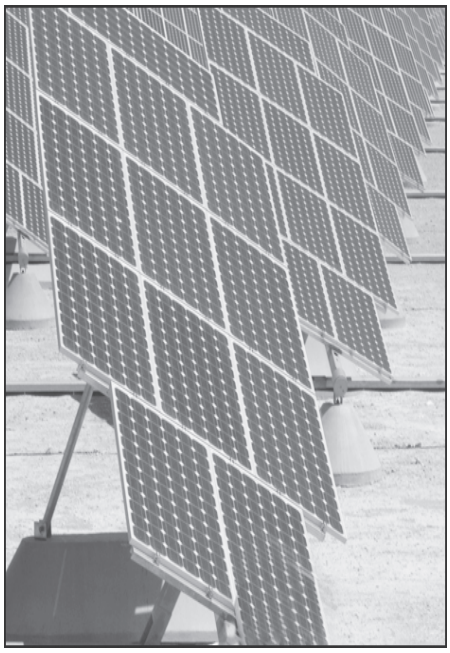
"It is no longer there," he added.

He said he knows of countless anecdotes of "some very motivated Americans doing great work in Iraq." He recalled meeting Army Sgt. 1st Class Robert Rodriguez and Air Force Tech. Sgt. Karoline Diaz, two DLA reservists working in a landfill inherited from the Iraqis while visiting Contingency Operating Base Speicher on a trip to Southwest Asia last week.

"They were cleaning it up, culling out all of the things that shouldn't be in there," he said of the mountains of trash the two noncommissioned officers started out with.

He said their "level of enthusiasm and focus on the mission" were inspiring.

"It's an example of what we're doing around the world to support good environmental stewardship," Thompson said.



Solar array saves Air

By Christen N. McCluney
Defense Media Activity
Special to American Forces Press Service

A solar-energy array at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., is saving money for the Air Force and decreasing the service's reliance on fossil fuels.

"The military, perhaps better than anyone, is bound and determined to be good stewards of the incredible natural resources we have in this country," said Air Force Col. Dave Belote, commander of the 99th Air Base Wing at Nellis, in an Oct. 8 interview on the Pentagon Channel podcast "Armed with Science: Research and Applications for the Modern Military."

The solar array, which debuted as North America's largest renewable venture in December 2007, is composed of more than 72,000 solar panels containing 6 million solar cells, and represents an enormous step toward energy efficiency, Belote said. It supplies 28 percent of the base's power, saving about $83,000 a month and 24,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions a year, the colonel said. "It's really an exciting thing to be a part of," he added.

The photovoltaic system uses some of the same technology pioneered in the mid-

Thompson visits Afghanistan

By Public Affairs team
DLA Strategic Communications

Defense Logistics Agency Director Navy Vice Adm. Alan Thompson got a firsthand look at how the agency is providing support to warfighters – including repair parts for Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles – in Afghanistan during a visit there in November.

In a Nov. 10-11 visit to Kandahar Air Field, the coalition military force's largest base in southern Afghanistan, and nearby Camp Leatherneck, which houses the headquarters for 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, Thompson got an overview of how DLA is supporting warfighters at the tip of the spear.

Air Force Brig. Gen. Scott Chambers, commander of Defense Supply Center Philadelphia, and Army Brig. Gen. Thomas Richardson, commander of Defense Supply Center Columbus, Ohio, accompanied Thompson to Afghanistan.

During the visit, the DLA leaders met with members of DLA Support Team-Afghanistan and units the agency supports, including the Army's 143rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command in Kandahar and 2nd MEB at Leatherneck.

A significant area of DLA support involves managing spare parts for the family of MRAP vehicles, including the brand-new all-terrain variant known as M-ATV. So far, 42 of the vehicles have arrived in Afghanistan out of the 6,600 ordered earlier this year.

An MRAP support team deployed from DSCC in October to help ensure swift delivery of spare parts for the M-ATV and earlier MRAP variants.

Managing the wide array of parts needed for the different MRAP variants can provided a challenge for local supply experts, but the presence of the MRAP surge team has increased MRAP readiness by 10 percent. Warfighters in this region are now enjoying readiness rates in the high 90s in part due to this team's support, officials told Thompson during his visit.

Since they arrived, team members have visited most forward operating bases in the Regional Command East and Regional Command South areas of responsibility, Jeff Gamber, a retired Marine who is now a DSCC civilian deployed to Afghanistan with the MRAP team, told Thompson and the other DLA leaders.

"We are participating in all warfighter MRAP forums, and we're identifying and expediting critical parts and…assisting in resolving frustrated parts at all supply hubs," he said. "Frustrated" is a logistical term to describe parts that are inbound but delivery has been delayed.

"DLA's surge team has positively impacted readiness," Army Brig. Gen. Daniel Schultz, commander of the 143rd, told Thompson and the other DLA officials. The mission of Schultz' unit includes managing and sustaining equipment and supplies at the theater level of operations.

While he was at Camp Leatherneck, Thompson also visited a troop billeting area under construction that will use DLA-provided housing units known as "relocatable buildings," commonly called RLBs.

During 2009, DSCP has received orders for 17,730 RLBs, which would house roughly 35,000 service members.

Thompson told the DLA team members he met with that their efforts are appreciated by the service members they are there

Force energy, money

1960s by the Bell Corp. It produces power only while the sun is shining. "We are peak producing at about noon to 1 p.m.," Belote said.

The array's solar panels are produced and supplied by four companies, the colonel said, and officials have been keeping data on which are most effective. Data-collecting devices on the grid report real-time system performance information to each of the four companies and the main corporation. That information has led one of the companies to start creating a more energy-efficient bifacial solar panel after seeing the added efficiency was worth the cost.

The panels are located in an industrial portion of the base and are designed to absorb and convert sunlight, as opposed to reflecting it, so they do not interfere with the base's flying mission, Belote said. Of the 140 acres of land used for the array, 33 acres are a capped-off landfill. "We couldn't have done anything else with it," he said, "and saved millions of dollars in environmental clean-up and made use of land that would not be used at all otherwise."

In its two years of operation, the array has posed no problems, the colonel said.

"One of the most pleasant surprises about this array and this climate has been the virtual total lack of maintenance," he said. Solar panels usually present a challenge, he noted, because they need to be kept clean. "As soot and grime coat the panels, efficiency drops off pretty quickly," he explained. But because of the desert climate, the panels at Nellis have yet to require cleaning.

"Because the [Defense Department] trumpets the fact that it knows it is the nation's largest consumer of energy, and the Air Force within [DoD] is the largest consumer of energy, we are all about finding ways to stop spending money on fossil fuels," he said. "We would like to use clean, renewable projects anywhere possible."

helping.

"It's incredible the positive feedback I'm getting from senior leaders across the board," he said at the conclusion of his visit.

The admiral explained that he started the visit looking for areas the agency can improve on.

"But warfighter leaders have nothing but good things to say about the support they receive from DLA," he said.

Defense Logistics Agency Director Navy Vice Adm. Alan Thompson, left, and a Marine captain from 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade review progress on a troop billeting area being built with DLA-provided housing units known as "relocatable buildings," commonly called RLBs, at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Nov. 11.

Naval Research Lab looks to sea, sun for energy solutions

By Bob Freeman, Navy Office of the Oceanographer
Special to American Forces Press Service

The services could more effectively power unmanned vehicles, underwater monitoring sensors, ships and aircraft if Naval Research Laboratory scientists achieve their goals of harnessing solar and sea power to fuel the military for years to come, a top NRL scientist said.

A worldwide peak of fuel production is expected in five to 15 years, and increased demand will likely create large swings in price and availability," Barry Spargo, head of NRL's chemical dynamics and diagnostics branch, said in an Oct. 14 interview on Pentagon Web Radio's audio Web cast "Armed with Science: Research and Applications for the Modern Military."

"The bottom line is that we need to develop alternative power and energy because conservation and efficiency alone will fall short of meeting future needs," he explained.

The quest for alternative fuel technologies is a top priority for the Navy, Spargo said, adding that energy research at NRL is diverse, allowing them to bring together a wide array of disciplines to address unique problems confronting alternate energy research.

"We're conducting research in a number of areas that look really promising; however it's unlikely that a single research area will solve the energy problems that we are facing," Spargo said. "NRL is currently investing in synthetic fuel production at sea, enhancing fuel energy density, exploration of methane hydrates in the ocean, energy harvesting from the sea, fuel cells and batteries, power electronics and superconductors, and inertial fusion.

"Each of these research areas has significant challenges," he added, "but certainly promising potential to help solve some of the Navy and [Defense Department's] future power and energy needs for force mobility."

One area of research that NRL is pursuing is the feasibility of sea-based production of hydrocarbon fuels. According to Spargo, the goal is to produce fuel in the same location where it is being consumed, specifically to support surface ships and aircraft operations from carriers at sea.

"This would give battle groups independence from fleet oilers which provide refueling needs," Spargo explained. It also would cushion naval forces from future fuel shortfalls, he added, providing energy independence to the Navy.

Fuel synthesis would be accomplished by a catalytic conversion of hydrogen produced directly from sea water by the electrolysis of water and carbon dioxide. "It's a complex process, but we believe that emerging scientific technology supports the development of synthetic logistic fuels," he noted.

The bottom line is that we need to develop alternative power and energy because conservation and efficiency alone will fall short of meeting future needs.

-- Barry Spargo
Naval Research Laboratory

"There are significant research and technological challenges, but the potential payoff is really high," he added.

Spargo noted that producing energy from sea water would be carbon dioxide neutral, thus not adding to the world's carbon footprint. "This technology would be a great candidate for dual use in the civilian sector if it actually comes to fruition," he said.

Spargo described another promising avenue of research that is investigating the potential for tapping the thermal energy stored in tropical waters.

"The energy stored in tropical waters is 300 times that of the world energy consumption. This makes the ocean the largest solar collector on Earth," he noted.

The energy stored in tropical waters is 300 times that of the world energy consumption. This makes the ocean the largest solar collector on Earth.

-- Barry Spargo
Naval Research Laboratory

Ocean thermal energy conversion is a potentially efficient method to convert the energy stored in tropical oceans into electricity.

"You take the surface water, which is about 80 degrees Fahrenheit, and [use it to] heat a working liquid, something like propylene, which has a vapor point below 80 degrees," Spargo ex-

plained. "That converts the propylene liquid into a gas which drives a turbine that produces electricity. We then bring cold water up from about 3,000 feet below the surface, cool that vapor back into liquid and essentially create a cyclic process."

Taking a more direct approach to harnessing the energy of the sun, the lab is working on flexible photovoltaic panels about four times as efficient as current solar panels. According to Spargo, the panels can be easily folded and transported, or even integrated into materials like tents and uniform covers to provide a local power source in support of expeditionary forces.

"Additionally, NRL has prototyped a photovoltaic coating that can be sprayed on surfaces, like a rock, to create on-the-fly energy sources," he said. "You can imagine a small force spraying a rock and using it to generate electricity to power some device that they are using in the field."

A more unusual approach to energy production is the use of certain marine microorganisms that consume carbon dioxide in the ocean and convert it into energy that can be harvested. "As part of their biochemistry, these organisms produce electricity," he explained.

NRL has developed a number of devices that use microorganisms to power small sensors, like bottom-moored acoustic hydrophones for monitoring ship traffic, Spargo said.

"If we can produce enough energy with these devices, they could also power unmanned underwater vehicles, or at least provide a docking station where they could regenerate their batteries using electricity produced by these microbes," he said.

The lab has expended considerable research and development into developing hydrogen fuel cells as an energy source, Spargo said. "Fuel cells are used to create electricity, and they do this by converting hydrogen and oxygen into water," he explained.

Hydrogen fuel cells can deliver about twice the efficiency of a conventional combustion engine and when used to fuel unmanned aerial vehicles, or UAVs, they can support heavier payloads than the earlier battery-powered models.

A recent test of the prototype Ion Tiger UAV, powered exclusively by a hydrogen fuel cell, sustained continuous flight for 23 hours and 17 minutes.

"Also, they can operate in stealth because they're not a combustion engine, which has a considerable heat signature, as well as a noise signature," he said.

Spargo also described efforts to harvest methane hydrates from the sea floor. "They have the potential of being double the amount of recoverable and nonrecoverable fossil fuels," he said.

Spargo admitted that there are many challenges to harvesting methane hydrates, including locating them and accessing them at such great depths, but it would be worth the effort.

"If we're able to actually extract these from the ocean floor, there's a potential to meet our national natural gas needs for about a hundred years," he said.

"Energy research is a key priority for the Navy and, for that matter, all of us," Spargo said. "I'm certain there are many exciting discoveries ahead that will help us achieve this goal of energy independence, as well as being good stewards of the environment as we operate and live in it," he said.

Air Force plan targets energy

American Forces Press Service

The Air Force has rolled out a new plan to reduce energy consumption and incorporate energy considerations into all phases of its practices, officials announced Dec. 9.

The Air Force is the federal government's largest consumer of energy.

The plan serves as the framework for communicating Air Force energy goals and further expands a culture shift in which airmen make energy a consideration in everything they do, officials said.

"Integrating energy considerations into Air Force operations is not new," said Debra Walker, currently performing the duties of the assistant secretary of the Air Force for installations, logistics and environment. "While we have recently developed overarching policy guidance, the Air Force Energy Plan provides us with a foundational, comprehensive plan from which to execute programs."

The plan is written in plain English and explains installation energy requirements, goals and targets, Walker said. "But these requirements, goals and targets," she added, "are part of a larger plan that includes acquisition and technology, changing the culture and how we train and indoctrinate people about considering energy in their duties and other matters. It also strongly considers aviation operations."

Air Force Col. Suzanne Johnson, chief of Policy and Planning, worked on the plan for more than two years. The final product comprises the core document and appendices that cover aviation operations, infrastructure and acquisition.

The desired effect, officials said, will be achieved through a three-part strategy that can be applied to any functional area. The strategy involves reducing demand, increasing supply through alternative and renewable types of energy, and changing the culture.

"We are proud of the energy initiatives already implemented by the Air Force," Walker said. "But this gets an actual, institutionalized, long-range energy plan into 2035. Otherwise, we have no unity of purpose, no unity of effort."

DeBruler named DESC Employee of the Quarter, 4th Qtr

By Susan Declercq Brown
DESC Public Affairs

Julie DeBruler, a career management specialist in Manpower and Workforce Analysis Office's Manpower Performance Analysis Team, is the Defense Energy Support Center's Employee of the Quarter for the fourth quarter.

"Ms. DeBruler's performance has been exceptional, and her selection is well deserved," said DESC Director Kim Huntley in announcing the award.

DeBruler expertly managed National Security Personnel System functions for more than 400 employees, in eight pay pools, dispersed throughout DESC, said Darcy Hall, director of Manpower and Workforce Analysis, when she nominated DeBruler. She lauded DeBruler for her dedication and willingness to frequently work evenings and weekends to ensure the success of the NSPS implementation.

DeBruler said it was challenging to keep up with the constantly evolving NSPS. "Each phase of the NSPS cycle has brought changes to policy and new challenges. It's critical to continually monitor NSPS changes, clarify ambiguity, anticipate new requirements, and clearly communicate guidance to the workforce," she said.

DeBruler, developed and implemented the NSPS records management process to centrally maintain performance management records. This will ease the records management burden for commands and ensure that all records are maintained and accessible—even when employees move throughout the organization.

DeBruler, who began her career with DESC as a contractor with Petroleum Management Consultants in 2007 and entered civil service in 2008, also worked to educate employees about the NSPS. She implemented the agencywide NSPS Communication Plan that incorporates a multi-media approach to communicating the NSPS program and results for managers, supervisors and employees.

"She worked tirelessly to answer NSPS inquiries and help employees better understand the process," said Hall. She met every deadline and suspense, and usually the task was completed well in advance of the deadline, she continued.

Hall said DeBruler always maintains strong relationships with other NSPS subject matter experts throughout the enterprise and across DoD to draw upon lessons learned and continually improve processes and procedures.

DeBruler also volunteered to serve as a Pay Pool Advisor for a regional pay pool in addition to her regular duties during her busiest time. She developed the Pay Pool Panel member guide, which is a consolidated source containing NSPS policy and procedure guidance for pay pool officials. Many officials have said the guide is very helpful and will be extremely useful during the pay pool deliberations, Hall said.

This quarter's winner was also active in analyzing the impact the DESC realignment would have on personnel issues. She provided recommendations to align the timeline with NSPS key dates. This coordination streamlined the transition and eliminated additional NSPS actions that would have otherwise been required.

She worked with DESC financial analysts to ensure accuracy in adding or deleting cost centers. To keep lines of communication open during the realignment process, she analyzed the impact on non-NSPS employees to report to Union officials.

Hall said DeBruler received numerous accolades from representatives of Defense Logistics Agency Personnel directorate, DESC managers and supervisors: "Ms. DeBruler's positive attitude and total commitment to mission inspired others and served as a role

She worked tirelessly to answer NSPS inquiries and help employees better understand the process. -- Darcy Hall Director of Manpower and Workforce Analysis

Julie DeBruler, career management specialist and Employee of the Quarter

model to emulate." "The most dedicated and professional employee in DESC."

Debruler said she found her NSPS work very rewarding. "I love the challenge of working on a new program, and I'm fortunate to work with a great group of dedicated professionals. It is extremely rewarding to help managers and employees achieve a more thorough understanding of NSPS and to provide guidance and assistance throughout the cycle," she explained. DeBruler added it was rewarding to see DESC supervisors working hard to ensure the process was fair and equitable for their employees.

Volunteering to attend the NSPS Pay Setting Demo course in Columbus, Oho, she provided valuable input from a customer's point of view. The course was a result of a Lean Six Sigma event in which she had participated and coordinated with the DLA Training Center.

DeBruler said participating in the mock pay pool exercise in March 2008, and serving multiple pay pools during the previous NSPS cycle, helped provide valuable lessons for the most recent cycle. She is disappointed the NSPS is being repealed. "Many people worked very hard to make the program functional and effective here....Fortunately, many positive results have come out of the system," she said. DeBruler feels employees now have a better understanding of expected performance and their job objectives are more closely aligned to the mission.

DeBruler thanked NSPS Performance Review Authority Patrick Dulin, her supervisors, DESC leadership and "many professionals working toward the same goal" for enabling her to succeed. "Without my supporting NSPS team member, Stephanie Lehman, we would not have achieved our program objectives," she added.

Outside the workplace, DeBruler is an avid runner. Recently she completed the Army Ten Mile, finishing in the top 20 percent of the field. She is also active at her children's schools and volunteers with their cross-country track team.

Don’t fade to black

Retiree ‘burns candle at both ends’

By Susan Declercq Brown
DESC Public Affairs

“Every morning when I arrived at my office at Defense Energy Support Center Pacific, I looked out my window while drinking my first cup, of my first pot, of coffee and watched the sun rise over the USS Arizona memorial where WWII began, and I would look slightly to the left, or north, where the USS Missouri is moored, to where the instruments of surrender were signed on her decks, ending WWII. For a U.S. naval officer, in command, and me being a history buff, to start each day with such a view was truly a dream come true.” So Navy Capt. Ronald Black recalled the culminating command of his 25-year career in the U.S. Navy. “It was my honor and privilege to command DESC Pacific.”

It was a balmy 80 degrees in Honolulu, Hawaii, headquarters to DESC Pacific, on Pearl Harbor Day, as Black retired. Unfortunately for the attendees, that’s not where the ceremony took place. At Fort Belvoir, Va., where friends and family of the career supply officer gathered to wish him both “hail” and “farewell” on Dec. 7, it felt like 32 degrees.

After pointing out the difference in climates between the two possible sites for the day’s ceremony, Defense Logistics Agency Director Navy Vice Adm. Alan Thompson quipped as he officiated the ceremony, “Thank you very much, Ron!”

Defense Energy Support Center Pacific Commander Navy Capt. Ronald Black, right, receives the Legion of Merit from Defense Logistics Agency Director Navy Vice Adm. Alan Thompson on the occasion of the captain’s retirement Dec. 7 at Fort Belvoir, Va.

Thompson went on to truly thank Black for the significant role he played in the history of the Navy, the nation and world in the 25 years since he first entered the Navy in 1985—and for his rare expertise in fuels and his leadership, vision and mentorship.

Thompson pointed out that though the Navy was surely losing a fine officer, DLA and DESC were not. That’s because prior to the retirement ceremony, Black and his wife Kathy relocated to Bahrain, where he is now serving in a civilian capacity as deputy director of DESC Middle East.

Calling Black “a selfless, honorable officer … representing the highest values of our nation, DESC Director Kim Huntley expressed great pleasure in Black’s decision to consider serving the DESC team after retirement.

As DESC Pacific commander from July 2007 to December 2009, responsible for supplying more than 7 billion gallons of petroleum products to Department of Defense operations and other federal government organizations in a region encompassing 16 time zones and 52 percent of the Earth’s surface, Black was lauded by Thompson for performing an enormous mission without ever missing a beat.

“In addition to providing fuel to our military, the DESC Pacific theater supports humanitarian relief operations, and it has had its share of natural disasters during Ron’s watch. These placed additional pressures on the DESC supply chain, and Ron and his staff handled each one with the world class support only DLA can give,” Thompson praised.

Recounting Black’s actions to build up fuel support capabilities in Guam, Huntley said, “Ron was truly visionary to anticipate future requirements and ensure DESC was properly situated to support growing operations in the future.”

During his tenure, Black commissioned and oversaw a study of all the fuel requirements and fuel infrastructure and facilities in the U.S. Pacific Command area of responsibility to determine how construction and repair dollars would best be spent to continue to provide uninterrupted support to future operations.

“Many of those facilities were inherited from foreign nations 50, 60 even 100 years ago,” Thompson said. “Ron spearheaded the effort, addressing some great risks, frankly, in fuel storage and looking toward the future of where to store fuel stock to support future readiness in the Pacific – and where to enhance or build new facilities.”

“It was no surprise,” Huntley said, “that the study came back pointing to the need to buildup storage facilities and services on Guam. Ron had been right on the money in pushing to grow DESC Pacific by adding a sub-regional office in Guam.”

Black was also lauded for successfully leading a staff scattered

Defense Energy Support Center Pacific Commander Navy Capt. Ronald Black, far right, and his family gathered at Fort Belvoir, Va., Dec. 7, to celebrate the captain's retirement after 25 years of service. From the left are daughter-in-law Louise Black with her daughters Nora and Lucy, son Petty Officer 3rd Class Ron Black Jr., daughter Navy Lt. Kristi Kratovil and her husband Navy Lt. Carr Kratovil, wife Kathy Black and the captain. Daughter Navy Airman Kelli Black was unable to attend.

from Japan to Alaska, and providing his special brand of leadership and mentorship.

"It's not often in 2 ½ years in command position that you can get so much underway that you will have a visual impact for the next 50 years," Thompson declared, "but his tenure – marching through what he worked on and left – will have a lasting legacy."

Black said he was inspired to join the Navy by President Ronald Reagan. Commissioned an ensign in 1985, he went immediately to the Navy Supply Corps School for training. His subsequent career spanned every combatant command area of responsibility—both coasts of the United States, South America, Africa, Europe, Asia, and now the Middle East—and 12 homes.

Serving at sea as supply officer of the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower aircraft carrier and the USS Dace nuclear submarine, and as the assistant supply officer aboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt aircraft carrier, and stores officer aboard a submarine tender, Black accomplished a goal Thompson said is rare. Black is qualified as a supply officer in three key areas of the Navy's mission: naval aviation, submarine, and surface warfare.

On shore, Black served as fuels director of Defense Fuel Support Point Molate, in Richmond, Calif., and served three assignments in DLA: deputy director for Customer and Weapons Support in Defense Supply Center Richmond; DESC Pacific director, and now DESC Middle East deputy director.

He holds a master's degrees in petroleum management and also in national security and strategic studies, and a bachelor's degree in business management. Black is a graduate of the Joint Forces Staff College and Command Leadership School and Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management Advanced Executive Program.

Black received the Legion of Merit in recognition of his distinctive accomplishments culminating in a distinguished career. His other decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Meritorious Service Medal with one gold star and five Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals.

Black was presented with a flag flown over the sub-regional offices in Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, Korea and Japan, as well as over the memorials of the USS Arizona and USS Utah in Pearl Harbor and over the historic WWII battlefield on Iwo Jima. It was a gift from his DESC Pacific deputy and sub-regional commanders.

Black spoke of Bahrain as the capstone to his career, "But Pearl Harbor is special," he declared." Especially DESC Pacific and the people who man it."

Looking back over the highlights of his career, Black said, "I fancy myself an idea man….In a career like mine, it really does take a tremendous amount of support to make things happen, and I really was, and am, an idea man. As those who supported me will attest, it is very difficult to keep up with me because I can think things up faster than most folks can do the work.

"But, then that magical moment happens when the organization gets traction and we surge forward, or I run out of ideas and they catch up," he continued. "But, whichever it is, it has the same effect – success and results in mission accomplishment."

The captain also related the story of Maj. Andrew Rowan who carried a critical message to insurgent leader Garcia during the Spanish American War, turning the tide in favor of the Americans. Rowan became an example of unquestioning

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Don't fade to black

commitment to mission, perseverance and dedication. Black said he spent his career delivering "the message to Garcia" and recommended the approach to mission.

"For me, it is really surreal to be standing before you today, as I still think of myself as just beginning, and there is so much to do," he declared.

Black, whose three children have all followed him into the Navy, said he had one Navy tradition to pay homage to before he finally moved on—relieving the watch. He explained sailors cannot leave their watch station onboard ship until they are properly relieved by a qualified watch stander. As his final act before retiring from the Navy, Black invited son Petty Officer 3rd Class Ron Black, daughter Lt. Kristi Kratovil and her husband Lt. Carr Kratovil, to step forward. Black's youngest daughter couldn't attend the ceremony as she was in survival training in preparation for assignment to a P3 squadron. Black said all his children are ready to "stand watch."

"We are ready to relieve you."

"I am ready to be relieved."

"We relieve you," the next generation replied as they saluted.

"I stand relieved. Carry on."

Then donning sunglasses, the new watch standers marched away, returning with a sea chest shadow box for their dad.

Black recognized Gen. Douglas MacArthur's statement that "Old soldiers never die, they just fade away," but said he preferred the lyrics of Neil Young: "It is better to burn out than fade away."

"I will be burning the candle at both ends for some time to come," he vowed.

DESC team wins

By Susan Lowe
DESC Public Affairs

The Defense Energy Support Center Kuwait team earned the Military to Military Collaboration of the Year award during the 6th Annual Defense Logistics 2009 awards ceremony Dec. 2 at the Marriott Crystal Gateway in Arlington, Va.

The award, established to promote significant contributions to military logistics, acknowledges Department of Defense teams that support interoperability and the warfighter through joint initiatives, programs and processes.

"The DESC Kuwait team is a prime example of how our DESC employees are willing to collaborate in order to meet the goals we've set," said Kim Huntley, director of DESC. "This team, like so many other teams at DESC, is 100 percent committed to supporting the warfighter. The accomplishments and impact to the mission of our Kuwait team are inspiring."

DESC Kuwait is a sub-regional division of the DESC Middle East office and is charged with supporting bulk fuels requirements of DoD operations in Kuwait and Operation Iraqi Freedom. The team is responsible for ensuring that the fuel required by U.S. Central Command is met. They accomplish this by managing two fuel supply lines into Iraq from Kuwait and Jordan.

DESC Kuwait Commander Air Force Maj. Ryan Bakazan said, "The DESC Kuwait team epitomized the joint force integration concept. We met this challenge without fail, ensuring fuel inventory levels in Iraq were in GREEN status each and every day of 2009." GREEN status indicates fuel inventory levels were at least 75 percent or above the levels set for each region.

Obstacles encountered by the team include arranging security escorts needed to get the fuel tankers to forward operating sites, as well as limited availability of fuel tankers with trained drivers to transport the fuel. Regional weather can also present challenges to the team's mission, such as intense sand storms, which can threaten to shut down the operation for hours or days at a time.

The warfighter, operating under DESC Kuwait support, never had to alter or curtail the mission because of fuel constraints, Bakazan emphasized. "Nothing is more important and rewarding to me than knowing we alleviated what once was a huge concern for the warfighter."

The DESC Kuwait team was one of two DESC teams nominated for the award. The other nominated team included members from DESC's Bulk Fuels and Quality/Technical Business Units who work jointly with the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Navy's alternative fuels teams.

The team collaborated to support the certification and increased use of alternative aviation fuels. Significant team accomplishments, highlighted in the nomination package, included efforts and joint collaboration on alternative aviation fuels like Fischer-Tropsch, which is a 50/50 blend of derived synthetic aviation fuel and petroleum and a hydrotreated renewable jet fuel, which is an alternative fuel derived from camelina oil and tallow. The team also supports the Department of Defense's goals of increasing energy security through the reduction of petroleum consumption and enhanced use of domestic resources, the reduction of green house gas emissions, and the establishment of a larger fuel supply base that would fulfill consumption needs.

"It's essential that DESC continues to partner with the military services and

military collaboration award

industry in order to find alternative fuel sources that will lessen our dependence on foreign oil," said Huntley. "Fischer-Tropsch synthetic fuel blends and hydrotreated renewable jet fuels are a great beginning; my congratulations to our team for being a part of this significant effort and for their nomination. They are helping to build the foundation for a strong domestically-based alternative fuels market, which will enhance U.S. security and provide environmental benefits worldwide."

The award ceremony was hosted by IBM, Cisco Systems and Rockwell Collins. There were five award categories including Best Logistics Strategy, Performance Based LogisticsBL Implementation of the Year, Logistician of the Year, Technology Implementation of the Year and Military to Military Collaboration of the Year.

"The recognition of our teams' efforts and contributions to the warfighter are well deserved and earned," said Huntley. "These teams, as well as many other teams throughout our organization, are doing an outstanding job bringing together our joint partners and working toward mutual goals. We are proud of them."

The Defense Energy Support Center Kuwait team poses outside its office to celebrate earning the Military to Military Collaboration of the Year award during the 6th Annual Defense Logistics 2009 awards ceremony in Crystal City, Va., Dec. 2. The team was also named the Defense Logistics Agency's Best Small Team at the 42nd Annual Employee Recognition Program ceremony Dec. 10. From the left are Army Sgt. 1st Class Ezio Giallorenzo, inventory manager, Michael Crutcher, logistics manager, Annette McDonald, quality assurance representative, DESC Kuwait Commander Air Force Maj. Ryan Bakazan, Lee Green, inventory manager, and Senior Chief Petty Officer Edward Porras, inventory manager.

Brooks retires after 21 years

Army Sgt. 1st Class Darrell Brooks displays a shadow box with Defense Energy Support Center Director Kim Huntley Oct. 9. Huntley officiated a retirement ceremony at Fort Belvoir, Va., honoring Brooks' more than 21 years of service to his nation.

The sergeant's last three years of service were as the non-commissioned officer-in-charge of the DESC Operations Center on Fort Belvoir. As NCO, he handled many FEMA-related real world events and exercises, including Hurricane Gustav and the Kentucky ice storms. During his career, Brooks served at five stateside duty locations and six overseas locations. His military education included the Primary Leadership Development Course and Petroleum Quality Assurance Course. Brooks deployed several times during his tenure, including tours in Iraq and Kuwait.

His military decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation medal with nine devices, Army Achievement medal with seven devices and the Combat Action Badge. Brooks officially retired Nov. 30 and is working as a civilian logistics management specialist in the DESC Operations Center.

20 years of Naval service honored

By Terry Shawn
DESC Public Affairs

Navy Cmdr. Tracy A. Keenan, chief of Supply Chain Operations, Defense Energy Support Center, receives her certificate of retirement from Rear Adm. Mark F. Heinrich, commanding officer, Fleet and Industrial Supply Center San Diego, Calif., at a retirement ceremony at Fort Belvoir, Va., Dec. 11. The Arizona native was commissioned in 1989 after earning a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from the University of Arizona. She also holds a master's degree in logistics operations research from the Naval Postgraduate School.

For DESC, Keenan oversaw 70 military and civilian logistics professionals who provided terminal operations support, inventory, storage and distribution management and overall optimization for more than 600 defense fuel support points worldwide in support of the Department of Defense's bulk petroleum supply chain.

Along with earlier shore assignments in Jacksonville, Fla., Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, Adak, Alaska and Patuxent River, Md., Keenan served aboard the USS Simon Lake and the USS Williamette. Onboard the Williamette, she completed an Arabian Gulf deployment in support of Operation Southern Watch, and the ship was awarded the Navy Blue "E" for excellence in logistics management..

Heinrich called Keenan "a kind and generous officer whose quiet, unpretentious manner belies the depth of her convictions and passions. She's successfully balanced her role as a devoted naval officer and beloved mother and wife, and her life is driven by purpose." He said the country, the Navy, DLA and the Department of Defense are better places because Keenan chose to serve.

Fort Belvoir employees relax

Article and photos by Terry Shawn
DESC Public Affairs

Through the decorated lobby of the Fort Belvoir Officers Club passed more than 300 Defense Energy Support Center employees, friends and guests, on their way to the annual DESC Holiday Festival Dec. 10. DESC Director Kim Huntley, scheduled to retire Jan. 25, thanked everyone for their hard work and urged them to relax and enjoy the camaraderie.

Guests dined on flounder, chicken and beef tips accompanied by mixed greens, red bliss garlic mashed potatoes, and finished their meal with decorated cakes and pies.

Then, the fun began in earnest. Planned festivities by the Customer/Command Support organizers of this year's event included a spirited scavenger hunt, group karaoke, singing classic Christmas carols and several door prizes.

Many participants dove into the holiday spirit by cheerfully participating in karaoke carols. The award for the most enthusiastic table of revelers went to Crystal McKensie's table for singing and performing a rousing rendition of "Feliz Navidad." The table of talented troubadours was made up of DESC Energy Installation coworkers Jezabel Aviles, contracting officer, and contract specialists Latonya Beach, Joanie Brickhill, Renee Brown and Bryan Simmons. They were joined by James Harkless, contract specialist, Direct Delivery Fuels, and James Dennis, contracting officer, Installation Energy. The group's performance earned them the Spirit Award.

Throughout the afternoon, Army Col. Karen Jennings, master of ceremonies, took to the podium, reached into the over-sized Christmas stocking and selected a lucky recipient for one of the many door prizes. Door prize winners were: Brenda White, a branch chief in Energy Enterprise; Chris Poston, assistant counsel in DESC Office of Counsel; and Jay Greeley, a branch chief in Financial Operations.

Michael Broderick, director of DESC Energy Convergence, learned his organization's name had been pulled from the stocking as the organizers for next year's festival.

Navy Lt. Cmdr. Rob Mazzarella, deputy division chief of Direct Delivery Fuels, races to find a Virginia driver's license, hair comb and photograph to win the scavenger hunt's $25 prize.

Tinovia Unruh and Gary Rouette, logistics analysts for Retail Integration, don their finest seasonal headwear to attend the holiday party at the Fort Belvoir, Va., officer's club Dec. 10.

Susan McKaig, director of Internal Review stands with Customer/Command Support's Bertha Lopez, Susan Turner and Debbie Bowling at the Fort Belvoir, Va., officer's club Dec. 10.

Contract specialists recognized for excellence

By Terry Shawn
DESC Public Affairs

The director of Defense Logistics Agency awarded seven DLA Small Business awards in a ceremony at Fort Belvoir, Va., Nov. 5. Three Defense Energy Support Center contract specialists were recognized for excellence in assisting small businesses.

Vice Adm. Alan Thompson presented Monica Fass, DESC's Bulk Petroleum, with the award for Excellence in Assisting Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses. Candy Cross, DESC's Direct Delivery, received the award for Excellence in Assisting Small Disadvantaged Businesses and Dorothy Gheen, Direct Delivery, received the award for Excellence in Assisting Women-Owned Small Businesses.

Thompson emphasized the importance of the awardees' efforts and the role small business plays in the economic recovery. Calling it the "bedrock of the U.S. economy," he said small business serves as a catalyst for job creation. "Today we recognize some DLA insiders for the great work they've done over the last year in the small business domain," he said.

"All members of the DESC team take pride in ... the hard work and service these individuals have performed. Their efforts ensure that small businesses have the opportunity to be included in the procurement process and support the energy requirements of our customers. Their work is invaluable to our mission," DESC Executive Director Patrick Dulin said.

DESC's Office of Small Business Programs strives to meet the objectives outlined by the Department of Defense, DLA and the Small Business Act. The categories consist of small business, small disadvantaged business, service-disabled veteran-owned small business, historically underutilized business zone small business, women-owned small business programs, historically Black colleges and universities and other minority institutions.

Lula Manley, associate director of DESC's Small Business office, said Fass has been instrumental in setting aside for small businesses government-owned contractor-operated locations in the domestic program. "As a result, four of the domestic GOCO locations were set-aside and awarded to these businesses with values ranging from $1.6 million to $2 million each, for a combined value of $6.5 million. Now each region has its own separate competitive set-aside procurement in the GOCO program for SDVOSB," she said.

Manley lauded Cross's service saying, "Candy worked extensively with the Small Business office to increase the number of 8(a) Business Development Program nominees from two to eight, which was a 400 percent increase from the previous contract cycle in Customer Organized Group 6." The purpose of the 8(a) BD program is to help eligible small disadvantaged business concerns compete in the American economy through business development.

Gheen was instrumental in removing barriers for women-owned small businesses in order for them to compete in the 2007-2008 acquisition of petroleum products under COG 3, said Manley. "Dottie awarded four new small businesses long-term contracts, two of which were women-owned small businesses and 14 modifications, three of which were WOSB, to existing long-term contracts totaling nearly $28 million

Defense Logistics Agency Director Vice Adm. Alan Thompson joins, from the left, Lula Manley, associate director of Defense Energy Support Center's Office of Small Business Programs, and the three DESC award winners, Contract Specialists Dorothy Gheen, Direct Delivery, Monica Fass, Bulk Petroleum, and Candy Cross, Direct Delivery. On the right are DESC Executive Director Patrick Dulin and Peg Meehan, director of DLA's Office of Small Business Programs.

Manley retires after 33 years

Kim Huntley, Defense Energy Support Center director, presents Lula Manley with a plaque recognizing her 33 years of dedicated federal service at a ceremony at Fort Belvoir, Va., Dec. 15. Manley officially retired Jan. 3.

By Susan Lowe
DESC Public Affairs

After 33 years of federal service, Lula Manley, director of the Small Business Program Office, was honored in a retirement ceremony Dec. 15. Twenty-seven of those years were with the Defense Energy Support Center.

Starting with DESC in February 1984, Manley said she hit the ground running. She read the Federal Acquisition Regulation from cover to cover and then read the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation because she realized it was important to know what would be expected of her. After getting a handle on her responsibilities, she begged her supervisors to put her to work. They finally did, she said, and she hasn't let up since then.

DESC Director Kim Huntley hosted the ceremony at the Fort Belvoir, Va., officers' club.

Huntley thanked Manley for her years of service. He praised her for taking care of so many small businesses throughout the country and for giving them a fair chance to compete for government work. Huntley told the group of approximately 100 attendees that by meeting the agency's small business goals, Manley enabled those small businesses to put money back into the economy and the local communities, thereby making this nation a better place for all of us.

In addition to her loyal service, he continued, "There's not a single day she won't greet you with a smile and a positive attitude. There is no substitute for that; either you have it or you don't—and Lula's got it." Huntley said it was a privilege to work with Manley and that he, suppliers, customers and the DESC family would miss her dearly.

Manley assured Huntley she had trained her staff well, and they would be willing and able to fill her shoes. She thanked the legal office for their support throughout the years, saying they must have thought she considered herself a lawyer the way she questioned their decisions in some matters. Manley gratefully acknowledged a few of her former supervisors for their leadership, the DLA Small Business team for all their support and her "DESC family" for supporting her throughout her career.

"It's been a pleasure. Words just can't express how I feel at this moment," Manley said. "I can retire with a clean heart; I have helped people as much as I can; I've given you the information, and now it's your turn to take the information and move forward and help someone else."

Manley's husband of 34 years, Lee, was by her side along with 11 other family members. She thanked her husband for his support, and Huntley presented a certificate of appreciation for the many selfless contributions Lee made to his wife's career.

Manley received the Distinguished Career Service Medal, a retirement certificate and plaque and a Silver Letter. DLA Small Business presented her with a plaque recognizing her contributions to the small business program.

for various commercial products including diesel, ethanol, biodiesel, gasoline and heating fuel." She added Gheen "played a key role in awarding 3.8 percent of all emergency fuel buys to WOSB, more than twice the goal of 1.9 percent established for DESC in fiscal 2008."

"All three of the awardees are deserving of their recognition. The efforts they exerted in promoting small business participation in DESC acquisitions were exemplary. These contract specialists stepped up to the plate and made a difference," Manley said.

DLA honors three DESC employees, team

By Terry Shawn
DESC Public Affairs

Three individual employees and a team from the Defense Energy Support Center received awards at the Defense Logistics Agency's 42nd Annual Employee Recognition Program awards ceremony at Fort Belvoir, Va., Dec. 10.

DLA Director Vice Adm. Alan Thompson, who presided over the event held in the auditorium of the Andrew T. McNamara Complex, recognized individual recipients and team members who excelled at meeting the warfighters' needs.

"We're recognizing the best of the best this afternoon," said Thompson. "DLA's workforce is filled with talented and dedicated individuals who individually and collectively make DLA the warfighter –focused, globally-responsive supply chain leader that I believe we are." Thompson praised the recipients saying, "They're innovative, they are thought leaders, extremely dedicated, with a wide variety of experience across all of the elements of the logistics domain."

Among the honored recipients in the category of Ten Outstanding DLA Personnel of the Year were Air Force Tech. Sgt. Matthew Whitman, quality assurance representative, Americas East; Clancy Duncan, operations office, DESC-Europe, and Kevin Epstein, logistics management specialist, DESC Bulk Petroleum. Winner of DLA Small Team of the Year was DESC Middle East Kuwait, commanded by Air Force Maj. Ryan N. Bakazan at Camp Arifan, Kuwait.

Whitman

Whitman was praised by his supervisors for his performance and is credited with having "…verified the receipt and issue of more than 80 million gallons of fuel, ensuring critical sustainment stocks were readily available to the warfighter." The Joint Contracting Command-Iraq also recognizing Whitman's abilities, requesting him by name to assist with the development of procedures for fuel movement under the Iraqi Transportation Network Initiative. "His efforts were critical in helping the Iraqis establish their own fuel transportation supply chain and distribution network…," wrote the recommending official, Quality Manager Scott Artrip, DESC Americas.

Duncan

Duncan was lauded for his "remarkable capacity to flex to the combatant commander's requirements in northern Iraq." Duncan ensured more than 16,500 trucks delivered more than 100 million gallons of fuel to U.S. forces on the ground in Northern Iraq. Duncan "…has superbly represented DESC Europe and Africa while conducting extensive coordination with multiple staffs and host nation authorities to ensure our forces obtained outstanding petroleum support," according to his nomination package.

"All of our missions require a great amount of teamwork, and I am fortunate to be among the hard working professionals in DESC Europe and our Joint Logistics Operations Center who challenge every person to do their part and drive our missions to success daily," Duncan said.

Epstein

Epstein was cited for establishing a benchmark in fiscal 2008 by negotiating more than $35 million in fuel support across three combatant commands, which was vital to advancing the Global War on Terror, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Epstein's nomination noted that his "inherent commitment to customer requirements became the driving factor behind DESC concluding agreements with the United Kingdom Defence Fuel Group, the Turkish Ministry of National Defense and the Italian Ministry of Defense."

Epstein said, "This is a testament to what happens when leaders assemble great teams and provide the tools, encouragement and support for their teams to do the best they can for an organization. I don't know of any Department of Defense organization more supportive of its employees than DLA."

DESC Kuwait team

Bakazan said while he is proud of the team winning this award, he was "even prouder knowing that our collective efforts ensured the fuel picture in Iraq remained in the GREEN status every single day of 2009. Knowing that the warfighter had the fuel to take the fight to the enemy wherever needed is what DESC is all about," Bakazan said. GREEN status is achieved when ample supplies of fuel are on hand.

The team from DESC-Middle East Kuwait is composed of Army Sgt. 1st Class Ezio Giallorenzo, inventory manager, Michael Crutcher, logistics manager, Annette McDonald, quality assurance representative, DESC Kuwait Commander Air Force Maj. Ryan Bakazan, Lee Green, inventory manager, and Senior Chief Petty Officer Edward Porras, inventory manager.

"Our small six person team is a blend of Army and Navy reservists, an active duty Air Force officer, and the three most committed Department of Defense civilians I have ever worked with. The award confirms the importance of the contributions everyone brings to the fight no matter if they are active duty, reserve or civilian," Bakazan said.

DESC's Defense Logistics Agency 42nd Annual Recognition Award winners

Air Force Tech. Sgt. Matthew Whitman, center, a quality assurance representative for Americas East, shakes hands with Defense Logistics Agency's Command Sgt. Maj. David Roman after receiving his Ten Outstanding DLA Personnel of the Year award as DLA Director Navy Vice Adm. Alan Thompson and DESC Director Kim Huntley look on.

The Defense Energy Support Center Kuwait team poses outside its office to celebrate being named the Defense Logistics Agency's Best Small Team at the 42nd Annual Employee Recognition Program ceremony Dec. 10. The team also earned the Military to Military Collaboration of the Year award during the 6th Annual Defense Logistics 2009 awards ceremony Dec. 2. From the left are Army Sgt. 1st Class Ezio Giallorenzo, inventory manager, Michael Crutcher, logistics manager, Annette McDonald, quality assurance representative, DESC Kuwait Commander Air Force Maj. Ryan Bakazan, Lee Green, inventory manager, and Senior Chief Petty Officer Edward Porras, inventory manager.

Clancy Duncan, an operations officer in DESC Europe, displays his Ten Outstanding DLA Personnel of the Year award with Defense Logistics Agency Director Navy Vice Adm. Alan Thompson, left, and Defense Energy Support Center Director Kim Huntley.

Kevin Epstein, logistics management specialist, DESC Bulk Petroleum, displays his Ten Outstanding DLA Personnel of the Year award with Defense Logistics Agency Director Navy Vice Adm. Alan Thompson, left, and Defense Energy Support Center Director Kim Huntley.

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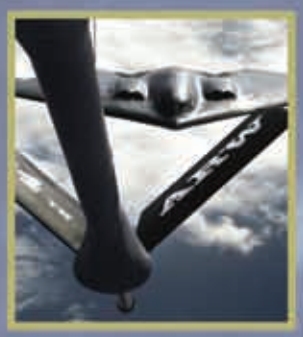

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