

# Feeding Troops in Groups of Fifty

Imagine packing food for a camping trip, enough for a group of fifty. If it were only for one day it might not be too overwhelming, but how about days on end? The military has been packing food for troops in the field for such a long time, the process has become extremely efficient. An Army Unitized Group Ration Heat and Serve (UGR H&S) is packed into three boxes that contain everything 50 adults need for one meal. A sample dinner menu is rice, chow mien, vegetables, peanut butter and jelly, cake, fruit, coffee, creamer, hot sauce, plus the Unit includes utensils, trays and trash bags.

Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, PA (DDSP) is part of the supply chain providing such UGRs to the Warfighter. Employees working at the Mechanicsburg Troop Issue Operation have been packing and sending such a large quantity of UGRs in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) that in order to met the demand they have had to add one more step into their normal process: building Air Line of Communication (ALOC) Pallets of UGRs in Building 11. The ALOC pallets are

constructed only a few buildings from where the components of each UGR are packed into boxes and placed on skids.

A core team of six employees has been stacking wooden skids of UGRs on 463L Air Pallets, securing them with netting, attaching Radio Frequency (RF) Tags and Automated Manifest System Cards, and loading them into the back of trailers destined for an Air Force Base. One skid holds enough food for 400; 2,400 meals are stacked on an Air Pallet. By building at least 15 Air Pallets a day since May 3, this project alone has supplied 780,000 dinners in just 21 days.

Gary Wevodau, Distribution Facility Specialist, manages the project. "The team operates very efficiently together," said Wevodau. "These are dedicated employees, most of them work more than 40 hours a week, and some additional employees lend a hand on weekends. It is also very helpful to have support with the RF tags and AMS cards from Distribution Operations personnel."



*Jacob Williams is checking netting in the middle of a floor of Air Pallets nearly ready to be loaded for shipping.*



*Dan Michels lifts the pallet into the rear of the trailer and shoves it onto the rollers with the assistance of Mike McCormick and Jim Carvell.*

*This dedicated crew builds ALOC Pallets of UGRs in a correct configuration for any potential sized aircraft: (back row, left to right) Gary Wevodau, Project Manager; Mike McCormick, Preservation Servicer; Dan Michels, Fabric Worker; Stephen Frey, Packer; (front row, left to right) Jim Carvell, Fabric Worker; Barry Boas, Preservation Servicer; Jacob Williams, Packer.*

