

DDC Launches Interactive Stock Readiness Training

INVENTORY IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVE—SWARM—REACHING WIDER AUDIENCE

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As part of the Defense Distribution Center's (DDC) Inventory Improvement Initiative, called Swarm, DDC began retraining the workforce in August 2004. The first module will be in the Stock Readiness function and will refresh the employees on the basics of maintaining stock readiness at each of DDC's 24 distribution centers worldwide. The majority of the training will be accomplished via interactive video with some limited requirements to actually travel to the distribution centers to conduct the training.

The two main subjects that will be taught during the Stock Readiness Program trainings are Shelf Life Management and

Care of Supplies in Storage (COSIS).

Proper shelf life management ensures that the Warfighters receive their time-sensitive materiel such as unitized group rations (UGRs), nuclear/chemical protective gear and petroleum, oil and lubricant (POL) products in a usable condition. "All of these items are critical to the well-being of our customers, so they require extensive attention," said Mike Minto, DDC Packaging Specialist.

The COSIS training ensures that the packaging has not deteriorated and that it is packaged exactly to the owner's requirements. DDC Packaging Specialist Terry Seibert explained, "We have

some items in stock that are shipped to all of the services and each service has specific requirements for how they can receive that item. With COSIS, it's our goal to send the right item in the right packaging every time."

DDC doesn't actually own any of the stock that moves through the distribution centers because all the items are purchased by the services or by DLA. "We're the caretakers, so we must ensure that the items are ready for issue," said Seibert.

Employees whose responsibilities include Stock Readiness functions will attend the trainings. "Stock readiness begins in Receiving and

Swarm
A DDC Initiative for
Inventory Improvement

doesn't end until the doors are closed on the truck leaving the Shipping dock," said Seibert, therefore persons from more than one work area will be attending the training.

To limit the impact to mission operations and eliminate travel costs, the three-day training will be transmitted via satellite when feasible. This will allow distribution centers to schedule their employees a few at a time into the six scheduled sessions.



COSIS (Care of Supplies in Storage) ensures that items are packaged according to each customer's specifications. Left, a close up view of an item as it was received from the vendor and as it will be issued to the customer.

Employees at Defense Distribution Depot Jacksonville, FL (DDJF) participate in DDC's Stock Readiness Training via an interactive satellite broadcast.



Dennis Yeager of DDSP's Mechanicsburg site repackages an item that was received in a large wooden crate.