

DDRT Smart Carts

By Marilou Nelson, DDRT Public Affairs



Material Handler Larry Finigan is shown operating the Smart Cart computer in the Receiving Branch at DDRT.

As always, the best utilization of employees and ensuring a safer workplace are two of the top priorities in the Receiving Branch at Defense Distribution Depot Red River (DDRT). Work processes such as utilizing the “smart carts” are just another

example of the better utilization of the scarce resources at DDRT while at the same time, improving safety.

In March of 2004, two completely operational smart carts (portable workstations), were added to the workstations in Building 499 Zone 1 for the purpose of reducing man hours and safety hazards. These smart carts are used for the new procurement receipts as they are offloaded from the small parcel carriers and the bulk items offloaded from the commercial carriers. The steps saved by personnel that previously had to travel between their stationary worksites and the bulk materiel is considerable. Also, previously, a forklift would have handled the material two or three times as well.

“The team at DDRT is constantly looking for ways to improve how we do business,” said DDRT Commander, LTC

Hugh Talley, Jr, USA. “These smart carts save time and reduce safety hazards and they are an excellent example of how the folks at DDRT are working smarter for the Warfighter.”

DDRT employees are currently working out the bugs, hoping to be able to utilize the smart cart out on the hardstand area. Large items that are not brought inside are located there. Employees have to walk a longer distance back and forth from their stationary workstations to work them.

The overall savings due to better utilization of manpower, the safety factor due to less movement of forklifts in the area and the time saved on induction of one day receipts, makes this endeavor a very profitable one for DDRT.

DDSP Fire Department Looks for New Ways to Protect Personnel

By Curt Maxwell, DDSP Firefighter



Firefighter/Paramedic Kelly Andres discusses the uses of Simman with John Richards, an alarm system technician.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week has come and gone for 2004, with the usual blood pressure checks and free literature, but those employees who stopped by the Fire Department’s display at the Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, PA’s (DDSP) Eastern Distribution Center (EDC) were introduced to the newest member of the EMS team. His name is Simman and he is a human patient simulator. Simman can create a learning environment

for the Emergency Medical Technician’s (EMT) paramedics and the general public.

Although the basic intent of training with Simman was to prepare for a possible Weapons of Mass Destruction incident, he can create a learning environment for cardiac and respiratory emergencies, as well as medical situations such as shock, or allergic reactions. Simman can also provide an opportunity to practice those skills that are rare such as tracheotomy’s, or chest decompression, as may occur with a collapsed lung.

The operator of Simman can create a scenario and control the respiratory and cardiac functions including heart rhythm and lung sounds. He can control the blood pressure and has the ability to change the scenario as care (correct or incorrect) is provided. The actions of the provider are logged in a computer system and reviewed



Fire Captain Leonard Rutter takes Police Officer Ron Gunby’s blood pressure during E.M.S. Week at DDSP.

after the training is completed to insure proper care was provided.

According to Fire Chief Gary Brouse, the DDSP Fire Department is taking their emergency medical services to the next level. “By upgrading to Advanced Life Support with paramedics we will be able to increase survivability of the patient substantially,” Brouse said. “The health and well-being of the employees and residents of DDSP is our number one priority.”

For more information about Simman or the DDSP Fire Department, please feel free to contact us at 717-770-6225.