

# Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, Pennsylvania

**Team ingenuity wins DDSP-CT the DLA Scissors Award**

## Electronic Tracing Improves Service

Warehousing Division V West, DDSP-CT Troop Issue, has been unitizing Tray Ration (T-Ration) and Bulk Ration (B-Ration) meals since the program's inception in the middle 1980's. DDSP unitizes 50 percent of the annual T-Ration requirement, while Defense Distribution Depot San Joaquin, California (DDJC) unitizes the other 50 percent. Defense Distribution Depot Memphis, Tennessee (DDMT) unitized B-Rations until its closure when the entire mission was transferred back to DDSP.

Three DDSP employees automated a process to protect our troops more quickly against recalls of defective ration components. By creating the capability to identify and have visibility of all ration components and end items, they met the criteria of the Defense Logistics Agency Scissors Award. Team members - Gregory Palese, Robert Pontius, and Marilee Cavrich - were nominated and won the Scissors Award on December 7, 1999.

Throughout the history of the T-Ration and B-Ration Unitization mission, and the more recent Unitized Group Rations (UGR) Unitization mission, traceability of components and products has been a labor intensive, manual process. Traceability is required to ensure that wholesome products are provided to the soldier. In case of a manufacturer's recall or ALLFOODACT (U.S. Army Veterinary Corp Recall), product could be traced and consumption prevented. Several vendors, as well as DLA programmers, looked at automating this process but could not develop anything that would directly link with the Distribution Standard System (DSS).

The team developed spreadsheets of all menus, identifying all components within a particular meal. When the meal is unitized all information including Date of Pack (DOP), manufacturer lot number, stock number, nomenclature, contract number, and quantity are entered into the spreadsheet.



*General Doornink, DDC Commander, presents the DLA Scissors Award to DDSP Warehousing Division V - West. Pictured left to right: DDSP Commander CAPT Kenney, Robert Pontius, BG Doornink, Gregory Palese, Marilee Cavrich, DDSP-C Division Chief Andy Leitzel*

When the build is completed the Depot staff assigns their own lot number to the new item and receipts the quantity in DSS. After all annotations have been made and necessary updates are posted, the completed spreadsheet is electronically transmitted to the appropriate item manager at the Defense Supply Center Philadelphia (DSCP). Records produced by this process are electronically maintained and stored on backup disks.

The next phase of this endeavor was to provide the DSCP item managers access to DSS and train them in using DSS along with the completed spreadsheets. This group developed a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) providing guidance for the item managers to access and retrieve all needed information. The DSCP item manager is the first point of contact when manufacturers recall products or when customers or the US Army Veterinary Corp identify deficient product and submit an ALLFOODACT. The item manager can then, through DSS, identify on-hand inventory at the depots and freeze those assets, determine to whom material has been shipped, and notify those impacted customers.

Under the previous system, this process could have taken

**In fiscal year 1999,  
DDSP-CT unitized:  
2,820 pallets of Tray Rations,  
providing 1,218,240 soldier meals;  
8,211 pallets of Unitized Group Rations,  
providing 3,284,400 soldier meals;  
10,512 pallets of B-Rations  
providing 2,102,400 soldier meals.**

days and numerous man-hours by combing through volumes of manual records. During that part of the process, there was a high risk that soldiers could consume food products that may be unwholesome. The new procedure now takes only hours and sometimes minutes thereby reducing the risk to soldiers.

The team coordinated all of their efforts with key personnel at DSCP and trained the item managers, on location, in DSS and the SOP. Also, included in this process were veterinary personnel at DDSP and the DSCP. This endeavor, applauded by DSCP, was well received. Requests were made to the

Defense Distribution Center (DDC) to implement the same procedure at DDJC, allowing the DDC and DSCP to have one recognized traceability program for the unitization of Tray Rations, B-Rations and Unitized Group Rations.

The above mentioned employees are to be commended for their ingenuity and steadfastness in developing this traceability program. The confidence and needs of the customer were paramount to any other concerns. Implementing an electronic tracing process increased customer confidence that food rations are wholesome and fit for consumption. Customer service improved by reducing research time and improving the speed of communication.

# DDSP Captures Environmental Programs Award for DoD

Each year the Secretary of Defense honors installations, teams, and individuals for outstanding work in DoD environmental programs. They present 17 environmental security awards within six categories, including: Natural Resources Conservation, Cultural Resources Management, Environmental Quality, Pollution Prevention, Recycling and Environmental Cleanup.

Since 1962, the Department of Defense (DoD) has recognized outstanding work in the conservation of natural resources. These resources are managed in such a way as to support the military mission, protect our national heritage, and promote quality of life. In addition, DoD recognizes outstanding work in the management of cultural resources by protecting historic buildings, archeological sites, and Native American items and sites, as the department supports the military mission.

Recognition of work to control air, water, land and noise pollution began in 1973 with the Environmental Quality Award and continued with the institution of the Pollution Prevention Award in 1993. This award recognizes outstanding work to reduce pollution at the source by reducing the use of hazardous materials and conserving raw materials, energy, and water.

In 1994, the department began recognizing efforts to avoid landfill use and associated costs, and to create new products from recycled materials. Also begun in 1994 was the recognition of superior environmental cleanup efforts. Award criteria focus on acceleration of cleanup efforts, the use of innovative technologies and developing partnerships. All of these techniques are used to remove threats to human health and the environment caused by past operations on DoD lands.

Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna Pennsylvania's recycling



See Environmental, Page 19