



# DLA Distribution Europe ground test PoP to significantly reduce customer wait time in theater

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Recently, an “all truck” ground movement from DLA Distribution Europe in Germersheim, Germany, into Afghanistan was launched as a Proof of Principle, or PoP, to potentially halve the time ground shipments currently take to transit Europe to Afghanistan via the Northern Distribution Network. The PoP was the first of two tests to determine a more viable route through the NDN.

With a total transit time of 45 days, the first PoP exceeded current ground travel transit times by 50 percent. Use of the improved route has the potential to add to the enterprise’s capability of delivering equipment and supplies to Warfighters and will significantly improve logistics into the Afghan theater.

The Afghanistan PoP consists of two trucks with four containers containing over 15,000 board ft. of lumber and approximately

90 Hesco barriers. The PoP route includes Austria, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, and finally Afghanistan, for approximately 5,100 miles in total. Additionally, trucks are carrying a satellite tracking device to maintain visibility of the movement of shipments- another recently added capability at DLA Distribution Europe.

To date, DLA Distribution Europe has shipped over 19,000 containers into Iraq and Afghanistan via the NDN, which was established

in 2008 as a means to overcome the challenges of transporting materials into Afghanistan’s rugged terrain. Currently, NDN routes are averaging over 90 days transit time.

“Coordination and teamwork from DLA Europe and Africa, DLA Distribution, United States Transportation Command, and European Command made this route test a reality. Together we are constantly seeking efficiencies in providing timely, best value support to the Warfighter,” said DLA Distribution Europe deputy commander Brian Burkholder.



DLA Distribution Europe workers load a container for the first of two ground route tests to determine a more viable route through the NDN.