

San Joaquin UGR team sends troops a taste of home for the holidays

By Annette Silva, DLA Distribution San Joaquin, Calif., Public Affairs

Employees of the Unitized Group Ration, or UGR, mission at DLA Distribution San Joaquin, Calif., recently packaged and shipped some upcoming holiday cheer for deployed Warfighters.

The team assembled nearly 8,000 Unitized Group Ration-Express, or UGR-E, holiday modules consisting of turkey, mashed potatoes and all the fixings. The modules, totaling over 142,000 meals, have been shipped to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. These holiday meals will cover the Thanksgiving and Christmas day troop feeding requirements.

The UGR-Express meal is a one-time use, self-contained system that automatically heats once the tab is activated, and feeds 18. The meal, which takes approximately 45 minutes to cook, is heated inside the box and eliminates the need for a field kitchen. These meals include an entrée, vegetable, starch, drink mix, dining trays, utensils, and a trash bag for clean-up.

The UGR team takes pride in assembling the meals that provide the needed subsistence to the Warfighters in the field.

“I assembled the meals as if they were for my own family,” said Sarah Murry-Long, distribution process worker. “Those serving our country deserve to have a quality meal for the holidays.”

DLA Distribution San Joaquin, Calif. is the sole provider of the heat and serve meals that sustain military personnel on worldwide deployments. The UGR uses commercially available foods to provide the highest quality meals to our soldiers in the field.

As a result of the recent troop surge in Afghanistan, DLA Distribution San Joaquin, Calif., has greatly increased production of both the UGR-Express and UGR-Heat and Serve meals. The UGR team now produces roughly 67,000 UGR's per month, totaling well over 1 million meals.



Pictured is Sarah Murry-Long, distribution process worker (left) and Latasha Robinson, distribution process worker (right) de-packing a box of supplies at the Unitized Group Ration area.



The Unitized Group Ration-Express feeds 18 and includes an entrée, vegetable, starch, drink mix, dining trays, utensils, and a trash bag for clean-up.