

“Strategically Speaking”

**United States Army Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Barnes, DLA
Distribution Susquehanna, Pennsylvania**

Warfighter Support Enhancement

With the surge of over 30,000 US forces moving into Afghanistan and the nature of the terrain there, it is vitally important to maintain the ability to deliver supplies and equipment to the Warfighter through Aerial Delivery resupply. The Aerial Delivery and Textile Section at DLA Distribution Susquehanna, Pennsylvania is the sole source for Aerial Delivery Equipment being used in Theatre. One of our missions is to pack and maintain war stock contingency parachutes which have been used during resupply missions in Afghanistan. Another is the receipt, storage and shipping of over 2,500 per month of the new low cost parachutes currently being used for resupply missions in Afghanistan. We have seen an enormous increase in the number of parachutes going to Afghanistan. The month of April set a record with 2,700 resupply bundles being dropped there, totaling nearly 6 million pounds of supplies delivered to the warfighter by parachute.



Stewardship Excellence

With a workforce of only eight military and seven civilians, the section packs a big punch. Stocking over 160,000 lines worth over \$500 million, we are responsible for about one fifth of all line items maintained by DLA Distribution Susquehanna, Pennsylvania. It is important that we look for ways to save the organization time and money. The section has initiated several cost saving measures that have been approved. The first initiative is to change the unit of issue on textiles commonly used from yard to roll to reduce shipping and handling costs. The second initiative involves using Condition Code “B” parachutes for contingency stocks. At least 90 percent of all parachutes that are used in Afghanistan are never recovered and reused. Using a less expensive parachute for contingency operations makes sense.

Workforce Development

As the only DoD organization that has civilians packing war stock contingency parachutes, it is important that they be trained and certified to pack all seven of the different cargo parachutes systems in the contingency stock program. Currently two packers are being trained in-house on all the systems that we maintain, instructed by Parachute Riggers assigned here. The actual certification will be conducted in-house by instructors from the US Army Quartermaster Center and School at Fort Lee, Va., and the packers will then be cleared to pack live contingency parachutes. These chutes will be maintained for up to 144 months in C-70 storage until released by the war stock manager for use during worldwide contingency operations.

***United States Army Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Barnes
DLA Distribution Susquehanna, Pennsylvania***

***To read this month’s complete “Strategically Speaking” be sure to visit
DLA Distribution on the web at <http://www.ddc.dla.mil/>.***