



## A look at DLA's Kuwait distribution center

Support the Warfighter. This was the concept behind establishing DLA Distribution's forward operating depot in the Central Command Area of Responsibility. DLA Distribution Kuwait, Southwest Asia arose from barren desert in 2004, and is now the third busiest distribution facility in the Defense Logistics Agency's distribution network—ranking only behind DLA Distribution's strategic distribution platforms, the DLA Distribution Susquehanna, Pa., and San Joaquin, Calif.

Fiscal year 2009 was a banner year for the center, processing a record 1.08 million transactions from over 83,000 different line items of available inventory. Transactions this fiscal year are on track for another record —1.3 million.

DLA Distribution Kuwait's Bahrain detachment was one of the first round of sites to transfer from Commander, Fleet and Industrial Supply Center operation to DLA Distribution operation as part of Navy Warehouse Transfer. The Bahrain site transferred from the Fleet and Industrial Supply Center Sigonella, to DLA Distribution Kuwait a little over a year ago. Under the leadership of Marian Crosson, detachment director, this small cross-docking operation increased its capacity and mission scope to become a full service detachment conducting receipt, storage, issue and materiel processing

center functions using DLA's DSS system and inducting DLA owned materiel, this week, in support of Fleet requirements. The team of 13 employees, has had a large impact in a very short time on the Bahrain community through providing mission critical fleet supplies to afloat assets in the CENTCOM AOR.

DLA Distribution Kuwait is unique in many ways—it's not your traditional distribution center. For starters, it is a contractor-owned/contractor-operated facility—the only one in the system. The center is a commercial facility located not on a military installation, but in the heart of the Mina Abdulla industrial area about 30 miles south of Kuwait City.

Next, DLA Distribution Kuwait remains the only depot constructed from scratch to be a DLA distribution center, rather than inheriting facilities by transition from the services and building/modifying to fit the mission. As such, the center enjoys a facility that was designed specifically to do what it does—distribution. Twice expanded, the walled compound encompasses over 104 acres, contains eight climate controlled warehouses approximately 4-acres each in size, one 250,000 sq ft covered plot for storage and six 250,000 sq ft open plots of working space and outside storage.

With these differences come

unique challenges as DLA Distribution Kuwait strives to meet the needs of the most demanding customer in the system—the CENTCOM Warfighter. The organization meets these demands in the same manner as every other distribution facility—though a highly-trained and motivated workforce. Led by United States Army Col. Vern Beatty, DLA Distribution Kuwait commander, and Jerry Brown, deputy commander, a team of 25 government employees serve as the Continuing Government Activity and support staff to provide professional oversight of a contracted workforce. While surveillance of the contract is the primary duty of the CGA, ever-changing customer requirements, the austere location and the unique manner of the business requires extensive interaction with local customers, as well as those in Iraq and Afghanistan to ensure their needs are met.

As with most overseas distribution facilities, diversity in the workforce plays a large role in how the organization does business. The DLA Distribution Kuwait/contractor team represents 18 different countries, with 21 languages spoken and all with the same goal: take care of the customer.

The organization remains successful by listening to its customers and anticipating their needs. Several initiatives have arisen as a result of customer

adaptation to include integration of the Theater Consolidation and Shipping Point from off-site to inside the compound, where they have become the consolidation point for all materials headed north to Iraq.

The Bahrain Landbridge was born; a highly successful program to move materiel over the road from Kuwait to Bahrain, through Saudi Arabia. DLA Distribution Kuwait was able to put key Navy customers on a scheduled service, at a significant savings over air transportation.

A similar initiative was initiated to shift high priority requisitions to Iraq from air to ground and is saving the war effort millions of dollars monthly, with immeasurable differences in customer wait time. Millions more have been saved by coordinating with the aerial port contractors to move DLA Distribution Kuwait-originating material on unused space on chartered aircraft moving Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles to Afghanistan.

“The key is the creative, motivated people we have on

the team, who are continually challenged to use their talent and experience to come up with new and innovative ways to improve service to our customers,” said Brown. “They do not disappoint.”

“CENTCOM, and especially Afghanistan, is a logistical challenge every day, yet our team keeps getting better and better at ensuring the right material gets to the right place, at the right time and at the best value to the American taxpayer,” concluded Brown.

## DLA Distribution Kuwait, Southwest Asia

