



"Clyde" gets a facelift

By Glenn S. Mellon, DLA Distribution Anniston, Alabama

A long-standing landmark at DLA Distribution Anniston, Ala., has received a facelift. The portal crane used to lift heavy combat vehicles from the train tracks at the depot was manufactured in 1985. "Clyde the Crane," as this piece of equipment is known, was considered state-of-the-art when it was built.

Now, in 2010, after long service to DLA Distribution Anniston and Anniston Army Depot, the facelift is complete. Clyde has undergone crane repairs, modernizations, and upgrades to increase the main hoist capacity and increase the crane life expectancy by more than 20 years.

Prior to the repairs, Clyde had a 75-ton lift capacity and worked on obsolete direct current motors. Clyde's modernization and upgrade included electrical and mechanical portions, which consisted of the conversion of its direct current motors to alternating current motors and upgrading from a 75-ton lift capacity to an 80-ton lift capacity.

There is a trend in the general mechanical



Clyde's repairs included repainting of all structural steel.

industry to move away from the direct current motors and to convert to the alternating current motor because the replacement parts are more accessible for the remainder of its extended life. Clyde's upgrade to an 80-ton lift not only increased the capacity but also allows DLA Distribution Anniston, ANAD, and the Department of Defense greater flexibility with future operations. Clyde also had structural upgrades performed, which consisted of cleaning, preparing, and repainting of all structural steel and the operators cab.

While Clyde underwent the rebuild process, a crawler crane was put in place to handle all operations that Clyde would normally perform. The rebuilding process was both challenging and exciting, and will help to carry DLA Distribution Anniston into the future to continue providing quality service to both the Warfighter and DoD. Clyde was placed back into full service the first week of June 2010.



"Clyde," the newly upgraded crane at DLA Distribution Anniston, Ala., lifts a tank.