

DDC's New Approach to Acquisition Planning

By Jessica Walter-Groft, DDC Command Affairs

The Defense Distribution Center (DDC) will stand up a newly-formed Acquisition Project Office, one of three sections of the DDC Commercial Activities Program Office, that will be the lead entity for coordinating and facilitating all matters relating to re-competitions—a process soon to become more frequent as DDC nears the end of the initial A-76 public-private competitions for mission work.

“This is a major change to the way we do business and it will take acquisition management to the next level by positioning ourselves to be proactive,” said COL Ed Visker, USA, DDC Chief of Staff.

DDC currently operates 26 distribution centers around the world. Nineteen of those sites are operated by government employees, while the other seven are run by contractors from the private sector.

With 12 competitions complete and several more scheduled for announcement this year, nearly all of DDC's distribution centers have already undergone the first round of the A-76 process that determines if it is more cost effective to keep the mission work in-house and completed by federal employees or to award the work to a private company.

Half of the 12 A-76 competitions completed to date have been awarded to contractors for a period of three years with a two-year option. At the end of the contract, it is re-competed, opened up to private industry again. Prior to re-competition, extensive coordination is necessary at DDC

to collect information regarding any changes necessary to the contract.

The process begins 18 to 24 months prior to issuing the solicitation and involves coordination from several divisions with DDC including DDC Logistics Operations, the Contracting Office of Command Support Services, and the General Counsel Office.

The new Acquisition Project Office will work with the other offices within DDC to form an Acquisition Planning Team responsible for meeting requirements of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR), developing contracts prior to issue, and ensuring each office involved is aware of the sticks to contract development timelines.

The new office will also oversee the entire acquisition lifecycle including acquisition planning, defining requirements, market research, contract execution, and performance management.

“We're looking at fundamentally changing the way we work; that a systems approach is applied to managing this work, and that cradle-to-grave acquisition planning is conducted proactively, consistently

and on schedule,” said Twila Gonzales, Director of DDC's Commercial Activities Program Office.

In addition to the Acquisition Project Office, DDC's Commercial Activities Program Office will also be home to two additional sections, one to oversee public-private A-76 competitions (when both government and companies from the private sector compete for the mission work) and another to oversee the training and development of Continuing Government Activities (the group of Federal employees in place to monitor the work at distribution centers that are contractor operated).

The A-76 process has saved more than \$180 million dollars in the last five years.



Commercial Activities Program Office Director Twila Gonzales unveiled the new Distribution Acquisition Project Office to DDC leaders in December.

Stock Positioning Partnership Supports Quick Pace of Modern Military's Movement

By Jessica Walter-Groft, DDC Command Affairs

The Defense Distribution Center (DDC) recently hosted the DLA Stock Positioning Integrated Process Team to discuss updates on distribution initiatives designed to better serve the needs of America's Warfighters.

The team is comprised of representatives from each branch of military service, DLA headquarters, DDC, DLA's Supply Chains (formerly referred to as DLA Inventory Control Points) and DLA's Office of Operations Research and Resource Analysis. The goal of this partnership is to improve customer outcomes in the areas of improved readiness, reduced customer wait time, cost reduction and in creating a more streamlined supply chain.

“We are very fortunate to have team members with a tremendous amount of expertise in stock positioning and distribution management. With their different perspectives and experience, the exchange of information allows us to better understand the needs of our customers,” said Karin Stinson, DDC Logistics Operations Supply Systems Analyst and member of the Stock Positioning Integrated Process Team.

Topics discussed included inventory management initiatives designed to provide optimal customer support as well as the positive impact DDC's new forward sites in Kuwait, Korea and Guam will have on customer readiness.

