

# Inventory management program improves distribution efficiency

*By Scott Woosley, DDC Public Affairs*

A new program being implemented at Defense Distribution Depot Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, is helping the Defense Distribution Center improve the services it provides to its customers—America’s war fighters.

The Joint Regional Inventory Materiel Management program, or JRIMM, has three goals. The first is to minimize the logistics infrastructure in a geographic region by consolidating materiel managed by the Defense Logistics Agency, thus reducing intermediary “touches” of the materiel while it is en route to the customer.

The other two goals are to reduce transportation costs and shorten customer wait time.

“If we reduce the number of times the materiel is handled on its way to the customer, we can realize savings in a number of areas,” said Laura Fritz who managed DDC’s JRIMM program until March when she moved to another organization.

Consolidating the materiel and reducing or eliminating retail stocks means lower costs for storage. This will also help drive down transportation costs, according to Fritz, because establishing a centralized distribution point means fewer trucks are required to deliver the materiel as intermediate storage sites are eliminated.

Phase I of the implementation process began in October 2007. During that first phase, the materiel affected was transferred to DLA, but the military services retained ownership. During Phase II, which began in January 2008, DLA assumed ownership of the materiel that was transferred.

“Eventually, the idea is for DLA to own all of the materiel in the region, establishing one sourcing organization for all the services,” Fritz explained. “That consolidates the process into one streamlined chain.”

The Navy, Air Force and Army are participating in the program, and DDC did extensive coordination prior to implementation to ensure that each service would be able track its materiel.

The Air Force, for example, has a service-specific supply system, so a terminal for their system was established so that information could be entered into their system, ensuring Air Force logisticians could track their items.

The Navy and Army use the Distribution Standard System – the distribution and warehouse management tool used throughout DLA – to track most of their materiel, so their items were included with items DLA already owned.

The ultimate goal for JRIMM, according to Fritz, is to reduce the amount of time DLA’s war-fighting customers have to wait for the items they order.

**DLA'S 4 AREAS OF FOCUS**

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