

Defense Distribution Center to Further Enhance Distribution Capabilities in Middle East

By Jessica Walter, DDC Command Affairs

The Defense Distribution Center (DDC) will add another capability to their list of distribution services when they assume the functions of a Theater Consolidation and Shipping Point (TCSP) in Kuwait later this year.

DDC already established a forward distribution site there nearly a year ago—Defense Distribution Depot Kuwait, Southwest Asia (DDKS), and will soon handle the shipping and consolidation work at the nearby Theater Distribution Center (TDC) currently operated by the Coalition Forces Land Component Command (CFLCC) in Camp Arifjan.

While the DDKS operation is responsible for the receipt, storage and issue of material needed for Warfighters in the region, the TDC acts a routing point for sustainment shipments headed for the war fighting customers throughout Kuwait and Iraq.

The new organization will be a detachment of DDKS and will be known as the Theater Consolidation and Shipping Point (TCSP).

“The TCSP will serve as the primary conduit for sustainment shipments transiting through Kuwait to Iraq,” explained DDC logistics and joint planning officer LTC Clay Newton, USA.

The goal of the TCSP is to keep cargo moving so it reaches the Warfighter as quickly as possible. “The TCSP is a combination of DDC’s typical distribution center and the CCP (containerization and consolidation point) function we have at our strategic distribution platforms in Pa. and Calif.,” said DDC Commander BG Mike Lilly, USA.

Cargo will typically spend less than 24 hours at the facility. The shipments arrive and are rapidly sorted by destination before being configured and loaded to the specific requirements of the Warfighter.

“The primary items considered when configuring the loads is destination, security risks and mode of transportation,” said LTC Newton.

Common methods of transportation for the shipments to customers in the region are ground convoy and a variety of intratheater aircraft.

DDKS Commander COL Gloria Blake, USA, has established a close relationship with area distribution planners who map the movement of cargo throughout the theater.

She meets daily with logisticians from CFLCC and representatives from U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) to determine customer requirements and the best way to support the customers in the region.

By communicating with these commands, she is able to increase the efficiency of her operation by eliminating redundancy.

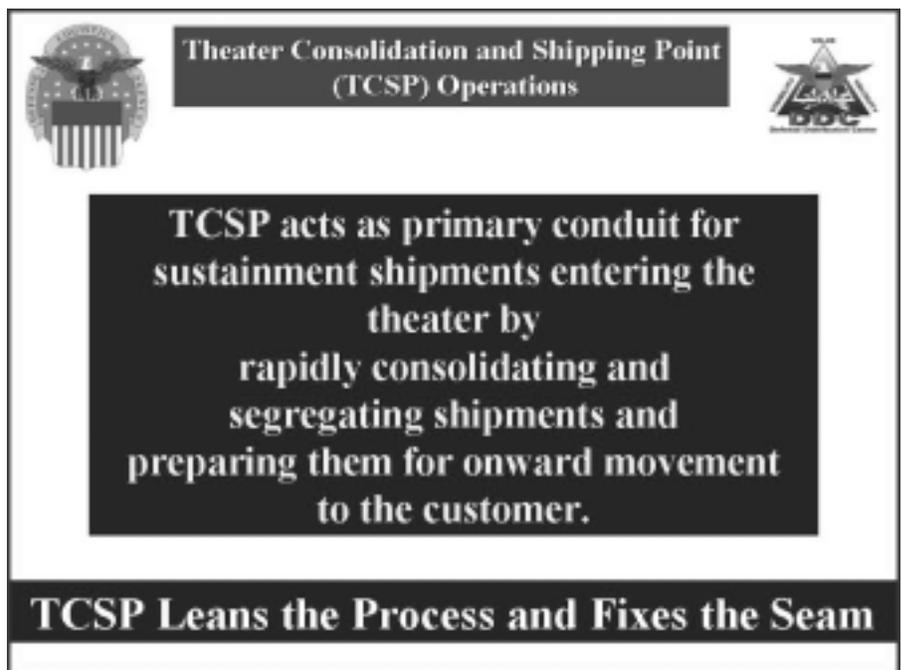
COL Blake’s operation has been very busy since it was established. In just under a year, DDKS has already filled more than 300,000 orders for the 17,731 items on their shelves - all highly demanded supplies like barrier material, concertina wire, lumber, water chlorination kits, insect repellent and body armor.

By placing these items closer to the customer in anticipation of the orders, DDC has significantly reduced the amount of time the customer waits to receive the order as well as the cost of transporting the items overseas from the continental U.S.

Under current operations, DDKS fills each order as it comes in, then sends shipments moving by surface into Iraq to the TDC where they are prepared for movement directly to the customer. By assuming the consolidation and shipping operation and leveraging DLA and DDC core competencies, it is expected that DDKS will reduce distribution processing times and improve in-transit visibility of supplies moving to the Warfighter.

“With both organizations under the same structure, we have the opportunity to quicken the distribution process and better serve the Warfighters,” noted LTC Newton.

The TCSP will be operated by a private sector company under contract with the government. The contractor’s work will be overseen by government employees.



Theater Consolidation and Shipping Point (TCSP) Operations

TCSP acts as primary conduit for sustainment shipments entering the theater by rapidly consolidating and segregating shipments and preparing them for onward movement to the customer.

TCSP Leans the Process and Fixes the Seam