

DDC sites will be first to come under new freight management program

By Jessica Walter, APR, DDC Public Affairs

Eighteen Defense Distribution Center sites will be the first to reap the benefits of the Defense Transportation Coordination Initiative, or DTICI, which came online earlier this year.

The purpose of the initiative is to offer a centralized, uniform and consistent approach to Department of Defense freight movements in the continental United States by establishing one single-touch transportation coordinator.

A business case analysis conducted by U.S. Transportation Command indicated that DTICI will save a significant amount of taxpayer dollars spent on the movement of supplies stateside, according to Mike Nowaczyk, chief of DDC's Transition Branch of the Logistics Operations Division.

Using load consolidation, shipment planning, cross docking operations, routing services and other optimization methods, the initiative is expected to improve reliability and predictability of shipments across the DOD network.

Shipping requests will be sent to the new single-touch coordinator via a transaction over DDC's transportation and warehousing system that will allow the coordinator to find carriers to pick up the shipments.

This new system of processing shipping requests replaces telephone calls to each carrier to check availability.

"The coordinator can then use the data from the transactions to optimize all the requests for service from multiple DOD shippers by merging the shipping requests from one or more military activities to plan a more efficient load and route plan," explained Nowaczyk.

The coordinator will fulfill the requests using internal resources and by subcontracting work to other commercial carriers.

Increased efficiencies realized through DTICI will also allow improved visibility of the cargo moving through the supply chain. For DDC's customers, this will mean a higher degree of predictability for the delivery of supplies.

Nowaczyk expects the transition to be transparent to DDC's military customers and to have a limited impact on DDC's distribution centers.

DTICI will be rolled out over time in three phases. The first phase has begun with the first of DDC's sites preparing for the transition. Phase one will include all 18 of DDC's stateside distribution centers.

Phase two will incorporate DOD shipping activities near the distribution centers including select aerial ports and other DOD shippers.

By the conclusion of the final phase, 67 military shipping activities within the continental U.S. will be serviced by the single DTICI coordinator. Additional contract options could allow up to 260 sites to take part in the initiative.

According to Nowaczyk, some categories of freight are excluded from DTICI including military unit moves, sensitive or classified shipments, bulk and missile fuels, as well as arms, ammunition and explosives.

The DTICI contract was awarded to Menlo Worldwide Government Services, LLC of San Mateo, Calif., by the U.S. Transportation Command.



Eighteen Defense Distribution Center sites will be the first to reap the benefits of the Defense Transportation Coordination Initiative. DTICI provides a centralized approach to Department of Defense freight movements in the continental United States by establishing a single transportation coordinator.