

Lean and green at DDC's Barstow depot

By Emily Blubaugh, DDC Public Affairs

The Defense Distribution Depot Barstow, Calif., is supporting the Warfighter, protecting the environment, and saving money- all in one mission. Green initiatives at the depot, which include the installation of solar lights and use of Segways, are improving efficiencies and saving money, resulting in a great impact to the depot's Warfighting customers.

In FY08, DDBC purchased four Segway Personal Scooters as an efficient way to transport employees around the installation. The Segways are ideally suited for quick deliveries, particularly due to their ability to maneuver into tight areas and warehouse buildings.

"These vehicles are a perfect solution and great alternative for DDBC because they use less energy, cover more ground than walking, and create fewer emissions than gas-powered vehicles," said DDBC deputy director Revonda Parker.

Additionally, they are much more cost effective than motor vehicles. Operating at a cost of only 12 cents per day, the battery-powered vehicles have no maintenance costs, aside from ensuring the tires are properly inflated at all times.

Another major green initiative resulting in sizable cost avoidance, DDBC's solar lights have proven so efficient that the depot recently installed 50 additional lights to supplement the existing 75 installed in 2008.

The lighting, designed to improve security around DDBC's outdoor tactical vehicle and equipment storage, boasts numerous benefits.

With a cost avoidance of over \$5,500 dollars a year in electricity costs over the next 20 years, the initiative is associated with a potential cost avoidance of approximately \$110,000.

Additionally, upon initial installation DDBC realized a cost avoidance of over \$200,000 as a result of not needing to trench, dig, wire, obtain permits, or conduct environmental impact studies, as traditional lighting would require. The lights also carry a 25-year warranty, resulting in little to no maintenance costs.

"DDBC wants to remain a good steward of all its resources, and because we have been able to do so while improving support to the Warfighter, these initiatives have proven invaluable," said Parker.

DDBC is made up of distribution facilities at two locations eight miles apart, Nebo and Yermo Annex. Headquarters, administration, central receiving, shipping, storage and support facilities are located at Nebo. Most of the outdoor storage is located at the Yermo Annex. The center receives, stores, and ships supplies to military customers located in the U.S. and the Pacific Theater of Operations as well as around the world.

With a hot, dry desert climate, Barstow is an ideal location for outdoor storage for large tactical vehicles and equipment. Among the major items stored outside are Tracked and Wheeled Vehicles, boats, ship's propellers, shafts, anchors and radar units.

DDBC is capable of accommodating inside storage requirements for a wide variety of commodities. Major items currently provided inside storage at DDBC are



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electronic parts and components, radioactive material, clothing and textiles, replacement parts of military equipment, engines and transmissions, shafts, reduction gears, and wire cable

DDBC also operates a container manufacturing section that is proficient in the design and construction of lumber, plywood, fiberboard and special purpose containers for shipment or storage. Containers may be custom constructed to meet customer requirements and in compliance with Federal, Military and International specifications.