

DDC and DAPS host EProcurement Roadshow

By Emily Blubaugh, DDC Public Affairs

On Oct. 26 the Defense Distribution Center, or DDC, and Document Automation and Production Service participated in an “EProcurement Sponsorship Roadshow,” which served to introduce leadership to EProcurement, and explain how the new initiative will move the Defense Logistics Agency, or DLA, forward by transferring all primary-level field activities to the same contract writing system.

DDC commander United States Marine Corps Brig. Gen. Peter Talleri opened the Roadshow with a few remarks to set the stage prior to the presentation. “There are two important points I need to make clear. First, as you all know, EProcurement is coming and it’s coming fast! Secondly, and most importantly, this initiative has the full backing and support of the DLA director VADM Al Thompson, as well as DDC senior leadership and myself,” Talleri said.

Talleri went on to explain how the expansion of DLA and DDC’s business profile will support future mission requirements, to include Base

Realignment and Closure, Joint Contingency Acquisition Support Office, and forward contingency operations to provide the best possible support to the Warfighter.

“I am confident that EProcurement will not only allow DDC the ability to handle more complex acquisitions, it will be the key enabler to DDC and DLA meeting their future acquisition needs,” said Talleri.

Talleri closed his remarks with the reminder that although there can be unforeseen issues when migrating to any new and unfamiliar system, success lies

in employee sponsorship of the program and its unique and essential functionality, and the promise that DDC command will help to champion this message throughout DDC.

“You have to get in front of leadership and the folks who do the hard work and explain the positives to them,” Talleri said. “I do suspect there are some challenges ahead, and, as your leader, I am committed to staying dialed in because I am positive this is going to make a significant difference in how DLA does business.”

Taking the stage to discuss



Defense Distribution Center commander United States Marine Corps Brig. Gen. Peter Talleri opens the EProcurement Sponsorship Roadshow.

employee understanding and impact of the new EProcurement system, Acquisition Operations Director Gene Surmacz began by announcing that “The bottom line is that active support is required by DDC management and supervisors for a successful implementation of EProcurement.”

Surmacz described the positive impact the system will bring to employees, saying “Before the acquisition process could be cumbersome due to using multiple systems and applications. With one contract writing system, there will no longer be the systems issues experienced in the past.”

One of the system’s many efficiencies includes streamlined document generation, a clause logic management system, automated awards processing, records management, and project and milestone planning and tracking-features that were previously maintained in several different systems and interfaces.

“We are here today because we are looking to you, the employees, to champion this change within the acquisition community. Change this big only comes about by users realizing all the efficiencies this initiative will bring, and how those efficiencies are instrumental to the continuous process improvements critical to improving support to the Warfighter. We cannot remain stagnant in our processes,” said Surmacz.

Other presenters at the Roadshow included Erica Hartman, DDC

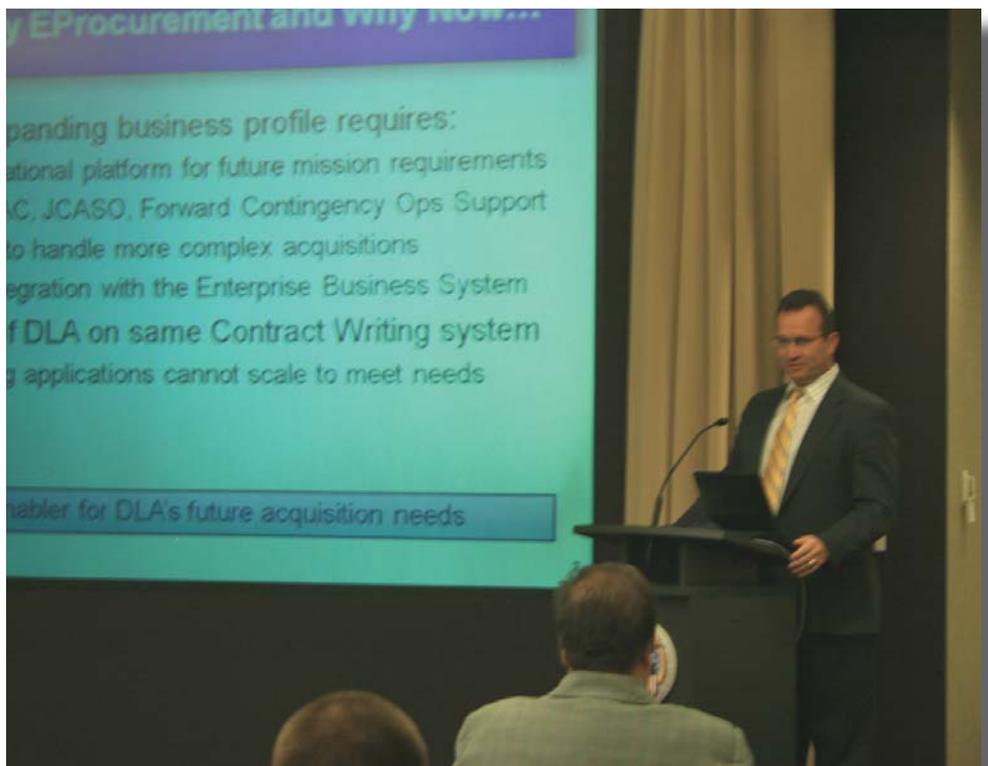
EProcurement site lead, Ken Decker, EProcurement Human Performance team lead, John Lingrel, DAPS site lead and Charley McNelley, DAPS Chief of Contracting, who explained the support network that will be available to employees, ensuring a smooth transition and successful implementation of EProcurement when it is rolled-out to select users in March 2010.

The Change Network, a hierarchy of sponsors, supervisors and change agents who foster sponsorship, with its purpose of raising the visibility of anticipated changes and build support ahead of the actual change.

Decker described how essential it will be for open communication between the Change Network

and users to occur, saying that delivering and distributing messages from the EProcurement team members to end users and other relevant audiences is critical, and, conversely, it is equally important for users to engage the Change Network in understanding and distribution of communications per the communication plan. This will ensure efficient and consistent messaging is delivered for EProcurement.

The Roadshow wrapped up with an overview of required instructor-led and computer-based training new users must take, as well as the deployment schedule, which aims to have the system fully deployed to all 7,500 future users by Nov. 2010.



During the EProcurement Sponsorship Roadshow, Defense Distribution Center, or DDC, Acquisition Operations director Gene Surmacz announced that “active support is required by DDC management and supervisors for a successful implementation of EProcurement.”