

DDC - Designing alternatives toward a managed distribution and disposal network

By Stacy L. Umstead, DDC Public Affairs

The Defense Logistics Agency, or DLA, plays a critical and ever-increasing role in providing logistics support and collaborative leadership of the global supply chain for the Department of Defense. As DLA is integral to warfighter readiness, the Defense Distribution Center in New Cumberland, Pa. is integral to ensuring that a full range of distribution services is provided to the warfighter, in a timely, efficient and effective manner.

Logisticians at the DDC are looking at how the DDC can be even more efficient and effective as it moves into the future by embarking on a collaboration with SAIC, an organization that provides technical services supporting war fighting efforts. Together, DDC and SAIC will analyze DDC's distribution network, develop concepts and test model alternatives that will position DDC to meet future global distribution needs.

The overall objective of this analysis is to produce the architecture and a detailed plan of action, to include milestones, for a next-generation distribution network.

"We are seeking new methodologies, tools, and philosophies that could maximize the current distribution

enterprise through the design and development of new processes," said Scott Rosbaugh, director, DDC Planning and Supply Chain Integration Office.

The tenets of such a system are: distributing via one supply chain, encompassing all classes of supply, eliminating duplicative and redundant efforts across the supply chain; strategically positioning materiel within the distribution and disposal networks to meet customer expectations at a lower cost; leveraging commercial best practices of "tiered distribution" and "synchronized and scheduled delivery"; integrating reverse logistics into stock position strategies, providing an agile architecture flexible enough to incorporate near and long term additions to the distribution network. "The overall end state of this analysis is a managed global defense distribution /disposal network," said Rosbaugh.

The analysis will occur in a phased approach with the first phase of study being conducted at DDC's Eastern strategic distribution platform, Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, Pa.

"Currently, we are focusing on identifying processes as candidates for continuous process improvement identifying specific process improvements that 'lean' out existing materiel flows," said

Rosbaugh. "Those processes will be prioritized based on potential benefit and cost savings."

The analysis will also include reviewing infrastructure footprint and proposing modifications to achieve productivity enhancements.

"DDC will also be base lining current work flow and developing a 'to be' construct that focuses on platform efficiencies and innovation," added Rosbaugh.

Review of information technology and researching potential recommendations for automated solutions as well as researching the proper amount of resources will also be a focus during Phase I.

"Leveraging from the findings of the DDSP study in Phase I, DDC will expand upon those findings that have a broader application to other distribution centers during Phase II," said Rosbaugh.

"Our distribution centers receive accolades all of the time for the great work they do in supporting our warfighters, but the DDC mission is continually evolving, and DDC is committed to ensuring that we have the most efficient global distribution and disposal network in place – our current and future warfighters are depending on us." Rosbaugh concluded.

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