



Phase II analysis of DDC's next-generation distribution network begins

By Stacy L. Umstead, DDC Public Affairs

In 2009, the Defense Distribution Center embarked on a collaboration with SAIC to 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 the analysis is to produce the architecture and a detailed plan of action, to include milestones, creating a next-generation distribution network.

The analysis is being conducted in phases. Phase I of the study was conducted at DDC's Eastern strategic distribution platform, Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, Pa. and included visits to DDSP to observe differences between DDSP operations and standard industry practices. SAIC personnel met with key DDSP managers and front-line personnel to better understand and assess the operations of DoD's largest distribution facility.

SAIC reviewed key areas including warehouse management systems, vendor compliance, facility layout, material handling equipment, standardization, inbound operations, crane operations, walk and pick processing, active bulk, chutes consolidation, outbound operations, small parcel area, transportation and general

administration.

During Phase I, SAIC reviewed DDC's technology and infrastructure and provided recommendation for automated solutions. "The recommendations provided by SAIC are currently being reviewed by DDC key staff," said Scott Rosbaugh, director, DDC Planning and Supply Chain Integration Office. "In addition to automated solutions, we will continue to focus on identifying processes as candidates for continuous process improvement. Those processes will be prioritized based on potential benefit and cost savings."

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

The scope of Phase II is to leverage Phase I DDSP study findings and recommendations, develop follow-on distribution network optimization for DDSP, as well as other DDC distribution

centers, and develop a strategic action plan.

"Phase II will look at our current baseline physical facilities, stocking strategy, vendor management, warehouse process management, transportation strategy and external influencers," said Rosbaugh.

DDC's role in the supply chain has evolved. "The direction DDC is taking focuses on the distribution needs of our customers of the future. Implementing refinements to our strategic network and adopting improved business practices and technologies will be major drivers to DDC's success," said Rosbaugh.



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