

DLA Distribution Susquehanna, Pa., builds a solid customer relationship and partnership with the United States Air Force

By Sherre Mitten-Bell, DLA Distribution Susquehanna, Pa., Public Affairs

At DLA Distribution Susquehanna, Pa., the United States Air Force is a key link in the distribution pipeline. DLA's largest distribution center works closely with the Air Force to ship supplies to both the Warfighter in Theater, and the Air Force customer closer to home.

"As an end product recipient, the Air Force represents a relatively low percentage when compared to requisitions received from the Army or Navy," said United States Air Force Maj. Cochanna Rush, DLA Distribution Susquehanna Pa.'s, distribution operations officer. "However, as a distribution partner and the next step in the DLA supply chain, the Air Force receives and forwards nearly all of the air pallets built by the DLA Distribution Susquehanna, Pa., Consolidation and Containerization Point."

The Air Force orders and receives United States Air Force stock along with DLA-owned material from DLA Distribution Susquehanna, Pa., which is responsible for managing over 906,000 different stock numbers. Currently, the Air Force Materiel Command owns about \$110 million worth of stock, consisting of parts unique to the Air Force that is stored within DLA Distribution Susquehanna, Pa.'s, \$13.5 billion inventory. In fiscal year 2010, 687,000 of the 6.4 million requisitions filled by DLA Distribution Susquehanna, Pa.,

were for Air Force customers.

DLA and Air Force commodities are selected, packed, and shipped to Air Force bases and aerial ports located both stateside and around the world. Stateside, DLA's scheduled dedicated truck delivery service makes 22 total stops per week to the air bases at Eglin, Tinker, and Warner Robins, as well as the aerial ports at Dover, Charleston and McGuire. To help supply personnel abroad, the Air Force benefits from DLA Distribution Susquehanna, Pa.'s, CCP operation which sends material on air pallets to DLA Theater Consolidation Points to be further distributed to Air Force units located in the United Kingdom and Germany. Concurrently, several dozen sea containers are loaded and shipped monthly with supplies for these same units.

DLA Distribution Susquehanna, Pa., works very closely with the Air Force as an integral partner in the distribution supply chain for delivering air freight processed from the its CCP Air Line of Communication, or ALOC, operations. The relationship is longstanding: 463L air pallets have been built in New Cumberland, Pa., for nearly four decades. In fiscal year 2010 alone, over 27,000, representing 96 percent of all the pallets built, were loaded in roller-bed trucks and sent to the Air Force to fly them into Theater.

Strategic planning and loading initiatives benefit both the CCP-ALOC and the United States Air Force. Daily contact through software applications provides advanced visibility of volume and weights of 463L air pallets to be delivered to air bases at Dover, McGuire, Charleston, and the Norfolk Air Terminal from DLA Distribution Susquehanna, Pa. In the last few years, the exchange of communication has expanded whereas CCP-ALOC receives Flight Schedule Plans in advance from aerial ports to include types of aircraft, destinations and departure schedules to better synchronize the flow of materiel.

DLA Distribution Susquehanna, Pa., then organizes build plans to support filling the planes based on those schedules. When pallets are built to coincide with airlift schedules and delivery to the aerial port is just in time, the Air Force and the entire supply chain benefit from optimization of staging space on the flight line, more predictable flights with fewer flight cancellations and ultimately improved customer wait time for needed materiel.

"For DLA Distribution Susquehanna, Pa., the interactive preplanning allows managers and pallet builders to effectively focus on specific customer lanes to accurately provide the right material to the right place, at the right time," says Rush.