

DDKS opportune lift program promotes stewardship excellence

By Emily Blubaugh, DDC Public Affairs

Customer engagement and communication have uncovered a process improvement opportunity for the Defense Distribution Depot Kuwait, Southwest Asia. During a conversation among members of the DDKS Transportation Team and its Central Command Deployment and Distribution Operations Air Cell customers, it was discovered that two chartered IL-76 cargo aircraft were regularly departing Kuwait City International Airport, or KCIA, in support of the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle mission in Afghanistan at less than full capacity.

The team immediately made contact with the aerial port contractor at KCIA to inquire about moving DDKS materiel as “opportune” lift on these missions, receiving direct, same-day service

for Kuwait to Afghanistan, as well as avoiding the expense of transportation normally used when moving the cargo commercially on Theater Express flights.

Realizing the potential to capitalize on the empty cargo space, a process was established where the contractor and DDKS established a communications network to identify excess capacity on the next day’s missions. DDKS now delivers high priority air pallets and oversized material on demand, and they are immediately load planned on the IL-76 mission.

“We are always looking for an opportunity for process improvement at DDKS and we do this by continuously engaging our customers and networking with USCENTCOM transportation counterparts to ensure transportation available

assets are used judiciously,” said Carlos Mallari, DDKS chief of transportation.

Since the initiative’s inception in January, DDKS has exploited over 150 pallet positions of unused space, resulting in a cost avoidance of nearly \$755,000 to the Theater Express program.

In his 2010 Commander’s Guidance, Defense Distribution Center commander United States Marine Corps Brig. Gen. Peter Talleri stressed the importance of remaining good stewards of taxpayer monies while supporting the mission. “We must constantly balance performance with cost. Stewardship is an important daily practice that assures storage and distribution services are relevant, affordable, and sustainable over time,” said Talleri.



Defense Distribution Depot Kuwait, Southwest Asia is realizing significant cost avoidance by exploiting excess space on the IL-76 cargo aircraft which regularly flies missions from Kuwait to Afghanistan.