



Relief efforts to combat the evolution of DLA

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On June 1, 2006, America's combat logistics support agency, the Defense Logistics Agency, stood up its deployable distribution depot, a deployable and scalable operation tasked, primarily, to receive, store, issue, transship and maintain in-transit visibility for items needed for relief efforts within the continental United States.

Meeting in Texarkana, Texas for the first time in 2006, employees, with logistics and distribution skills, from three different parts of the United States came together - their first task at hand - get to know one another. With the assistance of team-building experts, the multi-



The Defense Logistics Agency established its deployable capability in June 2006.

cultural team built a cohesiveness that today, even with changes in team members, remains evident today.

The first meeting also brought extensive training on the deployable mission and concept of operations, the chain of command, deployment planning, media relations, first aid, assembling and building the deployable campus and use of communications in a deployed environment.

With the basics under their belt, the deployable team performed "Exercise Quick Deliver" in September 2006 in Corpus Christi, Texas. The exercise was executed to validate wholesale distribution concepts following a disaster in the continental United States; with objectives to validate deployment, reception, staging and onward integration and redeployment concepts, conduct assessment team operations, establish a



Texarkana, Texas, Red Cross provided first aid and CPR training to the team as part of the deployable depot's kick-off training.

Contingency operations, A's deployable capability



Reservists prepare cargo for shipment.



A forklift lifts an air pallet off of a delivery truck at Osan Air Base, Korea.

Distribution Tactical Operations Center, perform mission in support of mock disaster relief efforts; and on order, redeploy to home stations and reconstitute for future missions. With lessons learned from the mock exercise, the deployable depot was prepared for future opportunities.

In May 2007, members of the deployable team took their operation overseas for the first time to South Korea where they were part of a limited user evaluation for the Advanced Concept Technology Demonstration sponsored by the Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Advanced Systems and Concepts. Performing Theater Consolidation and Shipping Point operations, the deployable team processed over 140 trucks, eight seavans and almost 140 air pallets equating to more than two million pounds of cargo.

The deployable team headed back to the Pacific Rim to Okinawa, Japan in Spring 2008 for a Joint Military User Assessment. While on site in Okinawa, the team was instrumental in opening up a detachment, now part of DLA Distribution Yokosuka, Japan, to support military customers on the island of Okinawa.

In the fall of 2008, Hurricanes Gustav and Ike hit the Southern Gulf area.

(Continued on page 12.)



DLA

Distribution and its distribution centers provided support to the relief efforts by providing comfort kits, meals and water. Along with them, the deployable team executed its first deployment to the affected region. On Sept. 11 of that year, the team helped the Federal Emergency Management Agency set up a National

Logistics Staging Area at Fort Sam Houston, near San Antonio, Texas. That site was later moved to Sequin, Texas and Beaumont, Texas. As the situation became clearer, the team helped set up additional sites to distribute food, water, ice and other supplies to people in the region.

Ultimately, the team ended up with personnel supporting two sites simultaneously in Texas processing over 4,000 trucks of much needed supplies, including over 30 million meals.

The deployable team maintains readiness through continuous training, exercises, and when called on, assists with distribution center workload surges.



An Australian transport vehicle with the 17th CSS Brigade, Australian Defense Forces, delivering subsistence to the troops in the field, is being managed by the Defense Distribution Expeditionary Depot during Talisman Saber. Photo by: United States Marine Corps Maj. A.J. Chotkowski.

The team went “down under” in the Summer of 2009 to participate in Exercise Talisman Saber. The two-week long exercise was a bilateral command post and field-training exercise designed to maintain a high level of interoperability between U.S. and Australian forces, while also supporting increased flexibility and readiness in order to maintain regional security. This exercise allowed the deployable team to further assess and perfect DLA’s deployable capability outside the continental United States – a concept of increasing interest to DLA’s key customers and stakeholders.

Four years after its initial standup and marking a historical

moment in DLA history, that same deployable capability, now called DLA Distribution Expeditionary, was placed in the heart of contingency operations in Kandahar, Afghanistan. The task -- stand up a distribution capability to receive, store and issue DLA materiel and reduce the reliance on strategic airlift.

In February 2010, the Secretary of Defense approved CENTCOM’s Request for Forces directing DLA to establish expeditionary capability forward in Kandahar. Soon after, plans for personnel, equipment, transportation and construction of the in-country distribution capability began.



Heavy equipment, vehicles, shelter, Nestainers and pallets containing stock materiel for both air and surface modes of shipment were processed and subsequently shipped to the expeditionary unit's destination.

In early May, civilians from distribution centers in New Cumberland, Pa., Texarkana, Texas and Tracy, Calif., prepared for their deployment by attending training sessions at the Unit Deployment Center in Winchester, Va., operated by the Army Corps of Engineers. There, the employees completed pre-deployment certification and theater-specific training, met medical qualification requirements, and received uniforms and equipment.

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The team participated in a Rehearsal of Concept, or ROC, drill along with key senior DLA Distribution leadership. The ROC drill outlined the detailed plans for the incipient distribution capability.

Early May also found the initial liaison element of DLA Distribution Expeditionary deploying to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, ahead of the main body. There, they met with key DLA team members, Army logistics and transportation personnel and contractors who would be key players in providing assistance in moving the air-shipped equipment from Kuwait to Afghanistan. Meetings were also held with enterprise partners, DLA Disposition Services, to identify

and requisition potential supplies which had been turned in by the military, for the arriving team.

In late May, additional Expeditionary liaison officers arrived in Afghanistan to begin the on-site preparations to establish the distribution capability. The team met with North Atlantic Treaty Organization and U.S. military entities involved in Afghanistan operations, observed the contractor's work on the distribution facility site and ultimately welcomed the next three waves of Expeditionary unit team members.

(Continued on next page.)



The team began receiving and taking possession of their equipment moving into Afghanistan via air and truck.

In Mid July, the team made up of 43 highly-skilled civilians had arrived in theater.

The Distribution Operations Center, communications suite and Distribution Standard System, or DSS, support tents were put in place. Container loads of material had been received and processed into stock where it remained in shipping containers serving as warehouses.



In Afghanistan, an expeditionary team member verifies receipt of material.



DLA's expeditionary unit offloads supplies destined for Warfighters in country.

The Expeditionary unit's heavy equipment, material handling equipment, light towers and generators were tested and put into operation. Force protection and life support were put in place for the team.

With stock consisting of over 515 NSNs arranged in location order in seavan containers and labeled with DSS barcodes, 100 percent inventory conducted, the distribution capability became a reality and on July 28, the Expeditionary unit saw its first Materiel Release Order, or MRO, drop. Over 130 MRO's were picked, packed, and released for shipment.

During the course of the next several months, while fulfilling requisitions, the Expeditionary team continued to build the distribution capability from the ground up building portable shelters used for housing, administrative and warehousing requirements.



DLA Distribution Expeditionary erects portable shelters to house personnel, supplies and equipment.

Since the first MRO drop, DLA Distribution expeditionary has processed approximately 4,000 items such as repair parts, kit assemblies, subassemblies, clothing reparable consumable items required for maintenance support of equipment and construction materials in theater supporting primarily United States Army and Marine Corps customers.

“Our expeditionary team hit the ground running in Afghanistan and didn’t stop,” said United States Navy Supply Corps Rear Adm. Tom Traaen, DLA Distribution’s commanding officer. “Their efforts significantly changed the logistics

infrastructure in Afghanistan for the better. This capability became a huge enabler by reducing strategic airlift and providing parts support across the country and has truly made a difference for the Warfighter.”

This distribution capability is part of a long-term plan for a more permanent warehouse in Afghanistan. \$20 million in military construction has already been approved for the warehouse and the contract to perform the mission awarded.

Today, DLA Distribution employees are on the ground preparing

the operation for transition to contractor in early 2011. As the contractor begins full operation, DLA Distribution will have a continuing government activity, or CGA, on site to monitor day-to-day operations.

“This has truly been an evolution for our deployable capability,” said Traaen. What was an idea many years ago designed primarily to support humanitarian relief efforts inside the continental United States, has grown to a capability that strategic planners are strongly considering during operational and war planning phases and looking at DLA to provide.”