

News Release



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DLA DISTRIBUTION

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DLA Distribution's expeditionary depot deploying to Afghanistan, providing supplies to U.S. military forces

New Cumberland, Pa. – (July 2, 2010) A team of highly-skilled civilians from the Defense Logistics Agency are deploying this week for Afghanistan with a mission to stand up a distribution capability to receive, store and issue materiel needed by U.S. military forces located in country.

The expeditionary depot, a modular, scalable, deployable unit, is designed to improve theater distribution in the early days of a conflict. "For this deployment, the expeditionary team will stand up a distribution facility that will receive, store and issue DLA materiel with the intent of reducing reliance on strategic airlift," said Marc Parsons, director for the Expeditionary Depot.

The expeditionary depot deployment will be the first deployment outside the continental United States in support of contingency operations. "Because of the rough terrain and lack of infrastructure within Afghanistan, having a DLA distribution facility right in country to forward position items will help reduce sustainment airlift and will help the Warfighter utilize air channels for much needed equipment and troop movements," said Parsons.

A 40-person team, made up of employees from distribution centers in New Cumberland, Pa., Texarkana, Texas, and Tracy, Calif., has met all of the training requirements necessary to enter the country. "The team attended an intense training session at the Unit Deployment Center in Winchester, Va., operated by the Army Corps of Engineers," said Paul Plevich, operations and training officer. "There, the personnel received theater-

specific training, had their medical and dental records reviewed and approved, and received uniforms and equipment.”

Deploying personnel are ready for the new challenge and excited for a chance to support the Warfighter on the ground. “We are looking forward to deploying to service the troops,” said one member. “This will be an excellent opportunity to show our talents and abilities, and it’s great that civilians will have an opportunity to work alongside our uniformed military members.”

The expeditionary depot is not only manned with the technical expertise and skills necessary to operate a distribution center, but also comes heavily equipped to perform the operations.

The tactical operations center is the emergency response and communication unit that comes fully equipped with commercial satellite communications, organic generators, tactical furniture and audio and video technology – the same equipment you would find at a standalone distribution facility.

Personnel will also take specialized equipment with them to perform their mission, Millennia Military Vehicles, skid steers, yard mules, heating and air conditioning units, and containment systems are among some of the items.

Deployable warehouses will be key to the operations. These specialized warehouses are set up by the deployers within just four hours and for this mission will be the wholesale operation for the Supply Support Activity (mainly United States Army and Marine Corps customers).

“The warehouses will house repair parts such as kit assemblies, subassemblies, clothing, reparable consumable items required for maintenance support of all equipment as well as construction materials,” said Parsons.

“By positioning our expeditionary depot in country, early estimates are that we will be able to reduce sustainment airlift into Afghanistan by 38 percent,” said DLA Distribution commander, United States Navy Supply Corps Rear Adm. Thomas C. Traaen.

DLA Distribution offers best value supply chain solutions through a broad range of services including storage, distribution, customized kits and specialized packaging as well as transportation support and technology development. Customers include the U.S. Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and other agencies. Headquartered in New Cumberland, Pa., DLA distribution operates a global network of 25 distribution centers that employs nearly 10,000 people worldwide. DLA Distribution is a field activity of the Defense Logistics Agency.

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