

Packed with Pride at DDSP

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The outward appearance is similar to many other distribution facilities located throughout Central Pennsylvania; however, this is no ordinary warehouse operation. The Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, PA (DDSP) is DLA's eastern Strategic Distribution Platform. Stored throughout 70 warehouses is an inventory worth \$6.5 billion. DDSP processes an average of more than 600,000 receipts and issues per month and stores over 702,200 stock numbers.

DDSP is a key logistics support base for both Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). Months before the first shots were fired, depot workers shifted into high gear shipping parts and equipment forward in support of deploying forces. Three shifts, seven days a week, the 2,200 workers shipped critical gear such as desert cammies, "hot" boots, shoe track for armored vehicles, Unitized Group Rations (UGRs), pouch bread, combat first aid kits, parachutes, bolts, O-rings, and tires.

As in any Navy ship deployment, the process begins several months in advance of the military service deployment date. When a deployment order is announced, orders for supplies are initiated. DDSP saw this evolve first hand in January 2003. The number of receipts and

issues for the month increased nearly 9 percent over the fiscal year 2002 monthly average. As increases continued, DDSP experienced the highest workload numbers in ten years in March 2003. Because OIF began in March, DDSP expected a decrease in the requisitioning tempo. In April, the number of orders did decrease but remained higher than normal.

An example of how employees have met the challenges of OIF is the Medical Set Assembly Branch, located at DDSP's Mechanicsburg site, which continuously builds a wide variety of medical sets for all military services to be sent worldwide. From March to April 2003, nearly 44,000 individual first aid kits were built – twice the normal production. The first aid kits are similar in structure to a Navy Corpsman's Emergency Response Kit on a ship. Major fieldings are medical kits designed specifically for a function. For example, a trauma kit may have 200 stock numbers in one container and it will be shipped to a battle aid station for establishment or replenishment. Each person has a direct impact in achieving these accomplishments.

DDSP's civilian employees have given record-breaking man-hours to support the troops. Since mid-February, the majority of the Distribution Operations Division

