

U-2 Cart Speeds Paperwork Process For Unitizers

By Doug Imberi, DDJC Public Affairs

Mobile technology has evolved to the next phase for packers and warehouse workers. Currently 92 “Herbies” are in operation at Defense Distribution Depot San Joaquin, California (DDJC). These portable carts carry Distribution Standard System (DSS) technology to include computers, label printers, laser jet printers – for reports and packing lists, scanners, monitors and antennas to where the work is in the warehouse. These carts are pushed by hand and are programmed to operate only in the warehouse in which they are located.

The DDJC Technology Division, in conjunction with the Automated Material Handling Systems Branch, designed a prototype using an electric cart that contains all the equipment found on the Herbies. This cart can be driven to any of the warehouses for use.

Currently the prototype is being used by the Unitizing Crew, which travels from warehouse to warehouse preparing large, single shipments that weigh over 6,000 pounds or total more than 800 cubic inches.



Packers Angie Villanueva (left) and Ruth Chomas (right) figure they cut about 30 minutes off each shipment they work with the U-2 cart. The name of the cart comes from the “U” in unitizing and 2 because it holds two passengers.

“It is convenient,” said packer Angie Villanueva. “It saves a lot of walking and we don’t have to hunt for a work station. It is right there when we need it.”

She estimates it speeds the paperwork process by at least 30 minutes every time they use it.

Direct Booking Team Named DLA’s Best

TRANSPORTATION DIVISION EARNS BACK-TO-BACK HONORS

By Doug Imberi, DDJC Public Affairs

Defense Distribution Depot San Joaquin’s (DDJC) Direct Booking Team was named the best Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Team for 2002. The team consists of members representing the Shipment Planning and Consolidation and Containerization Branches of the Transportation Division who book transportation on ocean going carriers for shipments to customers in the Pacific. This is the second year in a row the Transportation Division has won The DLA Team Award.

Through Direct Booking, DDJC can access a web-based system and book passage on specific ships sailing. Through Direct Booking, customer wait time was significantly reduced. Prior to Direct Booking, it could take from several hours to several days just to book a shipment. Since the start of Direct Booking, delays at DDJC and at the port where encountered have been reduced.

The Direct Booking Team met with several carriers to preview the web-based technology and provide input for improvements. Thus DDJC was able to encourage the carriers to incorporate the best features from a users perspective into the final product.



The DDJC Direct Booking Team shown from left to right:
Front Row – *Hank Silva, Maxine Roland, Ella Fuertis, Tom Ewart.*
Second Row – *Yolanda Rodriguez, Diana Escobar, Rosemary Martinez.*
Third Row – *Roberta Hensley, COL Edward Visker, Dennis Barnum, Ronald Johnston.*
Fourth Row – *Shirley Burnside, Andrew Villa, Richard Cox, Benjamin*

Placencia. Fifth Row – *Edward Willey, Filley Parker, Billy Carmichael, Robert Osborn.*

In March 2001, DDJC began using the Direct Booking tools and by December 2002, 93 percent of the container shipments from DDJC were going via Direct Booking. As a result, customer wait time for customers in the Pacific went from 48 days in 2000, to 37 days in 2002.