

Distribution Planning and Management System— Visibility, Velocity, Value



Currently the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) lacks an enterprise-wide distribution tool, which means limited visibility and control of vendor shipments. Today there are manual processes and interfaces with vendors, limited advance shipping notice, and limited vendor shipping and carrier performance data.



The Defense Distribution Center (DDC), lead center for distribution for DLA, is spearheading a revolution in distribution. The Distribution Planning and Management System (**DPMS**) is a modern system that enables DDC to better manage the movement of products from vendors and distribution centers to customers. **DPMS** will also enable DDC to better engineer reverse logistics, resulting in greater coordination and visibility of stock and stock positioning.

Grace Huston, DDC Program manager for **DPMS** said “**DPMS** will combine the optimization capabilities of the commercial-off-the-shelf software and the existing capabilities of DLA’s Distribution Standard System (DSS). **DPMS** will provide a global enterprise-level distribution capability to analyze data from a global perspective and to integrate shipments of material for maximum effectiveness. It’s an exciting step forward for DDC and DLA.”

The DSS, DDC’s warehouse management system, already load plans, prepares shipment documentation, and interfaces with billing systems. **DPMS** will provide an enterprise look at shipments across DDC’s 22 worldwide distribution centers for greater optimization, and provide the capability to cross-dock and document carrier performance.

DPMS consists of five phases of implementation, beginning with first destination shipments (shipments from vendors directly

to customers). This will address the ongoing challenges of in-transit visibility, shipment delays due to inadequate documentation, the lack of advanced shipping notices. It will also reduce transportation costs.

DPMS will also provide real-time access for all addresses including ships, foreign military sales (FMS), and mobile units and provide rapid payment to commercial carriers and document transportation costs through interface with DDC’s billing system.

DPMS will lower DLA transportation costs by optimizing shipments and allow for greater consolidation through cross-docking, multiple pick-up, and multiple drop-offs.

DPMS will also provide standard documentation such as 2 D bar-coded Military Shipping Labels (MSLs), Bills of Lading, and export documentation that will expedite movement to customers as well as document carrier performance and delivery to customers. For movement from customers back to the DDC’s distribution centers (reverse logistics), **DPMS** will provide intransit visibility and the ability to reroute material and reduce transportation costs.

What’s in it for vendors?

- Real time access to military addresses
- Automated processing
- Automated proof of shipment
- Information to tie contractual performance to the timeliness of shipments
- Automated historical data instead of manual tracking
- Automated transportation cost tracking
- Overall better customer support

