

appeal is in additional functions such as inventory accuracy and supply management. When future enhancements link this technology to DDC's inventory system, the tags will reduce the chance for human error in the receiving process that is currently completed manually. Some passive RFID tags can also be used to hold information about expiration dates, maintenance schedules and manufacturer's information.

Passive RFID testing is expected to be completed by the end of the year, and DoD expects to have passive RFID rolled out department-wide within the next five years. In the fall, DDC will set in motion an internal plan to implement the passive RFID technology at DDSP and DDJC, with the rest of the distribution centers following on a roll-out schedule over the next two years.



*The printer on the mobile workstation will generate the RFID tag as a paper label containing an antenna and microchip inside.*

## DPMS Increment 1 Granted Milestone C Approval

The Distribution Planning, Management System (DPMS) continues to improve how the Defense Distribution Center (DDC) does business. This increment, referred to as "First Destination," concerns inbound transportation planning and optimization, i.e., shipment of products from vendors to DDC distribution centers or direct to the customer. According to Grace Huston, DPMS Program Manager, "The people, applications, infrastructure, and support are ready. Testing has been extensive and successful; and has ranged from unit and system testing, to end-to-end and stress tests which validated that the DPMS can handle 200,000 shipments a day, every day. This assessment was confirmed when Dave Falvey, DLA Program Executive Officer, granted Milestone C ("Go Live") approval for the first increment of DPMS on May 26th, 2004. "Bottom line: the required capability and functionality for

Increment 1 has been provided, and DPMS continues to be delivered on schedule and within budget" said Huston.

The primary goal of DPMS is a modern, enterprise distribution system that provides DLA with the ability to:

- Optimize first and second destination shipments along with returns to achieve the most effective use of carriers and modes of transportation.
- Collect and access real-time and historical information on the location and movement of materiel, and to act on that information.
- Respond rapidly to crisis.
- Deliver tailored logistics packages.
- Initiate early sustainment directly at the strategic, operational and tactical levels.
- Provide standard documentation to ensure uninterrupted movement from origin to destinations

in CONUS and OCONUS.

- Provide advanced shipping notices to customers, distribution centers, military and commercial ports to ensure rapid, efficient receipt.

More than 156 DLA vendors are already using and reaping the benefits of DPMS, including access to current, up-to-the-minute military shipping addresses; the ability to print shipping documentation—including linear and 2D barcodes—at vendor locations; and access to Materiel Release Order (MRO) Tracker (DLA's Web Based Shipment Tracking System). "Overall, DPMS is improving responsiveness to mission requirements; saving tax payer dollars; enhancing shipment planning and intransit visibility; and improving integration within the supply chain," Huston said. "Best of all, these goals are being realized while customer service is improving."

Even with the success of Increment 1, Huston and her DPMS team have not skipped a beat. Work is well underway on Increment 2 ("Second Destination") which entails transportation planning, optimization, and modeling for shipments outbound from DDC distribution centers. Additionally, preliminary discussions are underway for Increment 3 which involves the integration of DPMS with BSM. A key point to remember according to Huston is that DPMS is complementary to BSM, and both are part of a larger DLA transformation. "DPMS will provide vital information to BSM, which will be particularly useful for planning and for order fulfillment" said Huston. "We're all part of the same DLA team working towards the same goals, and ever cognizant of why we are here—and that is for the Warfighter."