

# DDC Leaping into the Future of Distribution with DPMS

By Polly Charbonneau, DDC Command Affairs

The next giant step forward in distribution management is at hand . . . the Distribution Planning, Management System (DPMS) is revolutionizing how the Defense Distribution Center (DDC) does business and the best is yet to come.

For the first time ever, DDC and a DLA vendor, Techni-Tool of Worcester, PA, worked together to implement DPMS for shipments handled under FOB Origin Contracts (Government controls the shipment and pays freight charges). DPMS currently provides DLA vendors with up-to-date military addresses, prints Military Shipping Labels (MSL), provides intransit visibility (ITV), arranges carrier pick-up, accepts carrier tracking numbers, pays carriers through PowerTrack, and calculates carriers' freight charges. DPMS has the capability of selecting the least expensive carrier for FOB Origin shipments so DoD can realize a transportation cost savings.

## What is DPMS?

DPMS is a distribution planning and management tool for DDC. It is a web-based shipping tool for the vendor and an enterprise-wide distribution system for DLA that provides efficient movement of materiel to the Warfighter directly from vendors and distribution centers.

Today, DDC controls second destination transportation (material from the depots to the customer). DPMS is bringing DDC control of first destination transportation (vendor to depot and/or vendor to customer). This is exactly what happened with the Techni-Tool shipment. Through a secure, web-based program, Techni-Tool was able to get online to process their DLA shipments and secure the best value transportation.

"With a few clicks on a computer keyboard, Techni-Tool was able to notify DLA that their product was ready for processing. DPMS provided a correct address, printed a standard military shipping label at their site, and readied their product for pick-up by the best value transportation option," said Pat Kuntz, DDC Logistics Support Division Chief.

DPMS is a tool that is providing DDC better visibility of the DLA owned and managed material that moves from the vendor/manufacturer. Vendors have contracts that have been in place for long periods of time and customer addresses may be obsolete, causing cargo to be delayed.

With DPMS, DDC can now direct the shipments to the proper location, generate bar coded military shipping labels using personal computers (PCs), and know exactly what material is moving through the supply chain. All of this will provide

tremendous cost savings by providing real time addressing, automated proof of shipment, and dramatically more efficient planning.



Using DPMS, DLA Vendor Techni-Tool was able to produce shipping labels. Left: UPS shipping label. Right: Military shipping label.

Vendors benefit dramatically too. DPMS provides efficiencies to more easily meet contract delivery dates, the ability to print shipping documentation at the vendor's location, and access to Materiel Release Order (MRO) Tracker (DLA's Web Based Shipment Tracking System) among other benefits. DDC plans to offer DPMS to more than 1,700 DLA vendors who account for 95 percent of DLA contract shipments.

DPMS eliminates the manual shipping documentation process, which can cause shipping delays. Additionally, automated shipping document retrieval will practically end manual shipment research while providing MSLs that are compliant with all military standards. Vendors will also be able to produce commercial bills of lading (CBL), transportation control movement documents (TCMD) at their sites, and schedule carrier pick-up.

These automated processes will also provide advance carrier tracking numbers before pick-up as well as automated mode of shipment selection and automated freight charge calculation. Almost all of which are done manually today by DLA's vendors.

"For DDC and DDC's customers, this automation and improved labeling will reduce the amount of frustrated freight - which is time and labor-intensive to resolve," Kuntz said. Additionally, the benefit from improved intransit visibility (ITV), receipt data

at ports and Containerization and Consolidation Points (CCP), and enhanced security.

“Standardized shipping labels will have tremendous impact on material/shipment processing and improve intransit visibility,”

said Kuntz. “The earlier we are able to identify a shipment, the earlier we are able to provide customer tracking information.

The entire distribution process will be more efficient while obtaining control of DLA shipments.

## DDC Participates in BSM/DPMS Stand Down

The Defense Distribution Center (DDC) held a stand down for Business Systems Modernization (BSM) and the Distribution Planning and Management System (DPMS) on April 19, 2004. DPMS topics of discussion included a program update, Second Destination Modeling, the relationship to Hub & Spoke, vendor roll-out and Enterprise Transportation Office, and potential DPMS operational and process considerations. For BSM, topics included additional functionality included in future releases; the roll-out strategy; the program schedule; new jobs planned for Release 2; a Battle Dress Uniform (BDU) distribution network discussion; and updates on Business Warehouse, IDOCs, Distribution Standard System (DSS) and BSM integration, and Defense Integrated Subsistence Management System (DISMS). Additionally, briefings were provided on DDC efforts associated with Customer Relationship Management (CRM), and the Army’s Logistics Modernization Program (LMP).

“BSM has made significant progress and had considerable impacts on DLA and DDC,” said John Gula, DDC BSM Deputy Director. “BSM has done much to improve coordination and integration throughout the whole Agency. This “One DLA” approach is essential if we are to continue to provide the same outstanding support and service to our Warfighters through our transformation.

“DPMS is also in an exciting phase,” said Gula. “DPMS will enable the entire DLA enterprise to better manage the movement of products from vendors and distribution centers to customers

as well as reverse logistics, resulting in greater coordination, visibility and precise stock positioning. Currently, 1st destination optimization and end-to-end testing are underway and the roll-out of DPMS to DLA vendors continues.”

During the stand down, DDC Deputy Commander, Phyllis C. Campbell, SES, presented the DDC BSM team with a Certificate of Appreciation from VADM Keith Lippert, SC, USN, DLA Director.

“Like you, I am committed to making BSM work,” said Campbell. “We see your commitment day in and day out with the outstanding job you do, and that the entire DDC workforce does, in supporting DLA, DoD, and ultimately the individual Warfighter. You have raised the bar for BSM throughout DLA. Thank you and I ask for the same continued commitment as we undertake these next steps in BSM; as well as in DPMS, CRM, and additional aspects of this enterprise transformation journey.

“So, on behalf of all of the DDC workforce involved in the various efforts that will collectively transform DLA and enable the Agency to retain its position as a world-class, premier provider of logistics services, please accept the Director’s Certificate of Appreciation for dedicated service to DLA’s enterprise transformation,” Campbell said. “As the certificate states, your commitment and energy have been the keys to the successful implementation of the new processes and technology. Your contributions have been instrumental in support of America’s Warfighters.”



*The DDC BSM team received a Certificate of Appreciation from VADM Keith Lippert, SC, USN, DLA Director.*



*DDC personnel including DDC Deputy Commander Phyllis Campbell, SES attended the BSM/DPMS stand down.*