

DDJC—The Distribution Solution

By Doug Imberi, DDJC Public Affairs

Defense Distribution Center San Joaquin, California (DDJC) is the Department of Defense's (DoD) gateway to the western U.S. and Pacific theater of operations for military supplies. Located in northern California, 60 miles east of San Francisco, in the agriculturally rich San Joaquin Valley and situated amid a network of Interstate freeways, an hour's drive from three major airports and two deep-water ports, DDJC lies at a major transportation crossroads. Several major businesses have discovered the benefits of locating distribution centers in the area. Daimler Chrysler, Nestle, Costco, Safeway Supermarkets and scores of other huge corporations have found the area well suited for the distribution business.

DDJC's storage capacity is immense with multiple warehouses on hundreds of acres of land that is divided between two sites 14 miles apart. The Tracy site houses more than two-dozen immense warehouses spread over 448 acres and it is the hub for distribution operations. Adjacent to the distribution complex, DDJC also has a huge annex of agricultural land where a local rancher who leases the property grows walnut trees and row crops.

The Sharpe site is nearly double the acreage of Tracy and contains several warehouses of DDJC stock. Sharpe has become a major industrial complex housing several tenant organizations. The Army Air Force Exchange Service Western Distribution Center is located at Sharpe. Also located there are Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office operations and the northern California offices of the Defense Contract Management Agency. In the near future the General Services Administration will move their Western Distribution Center to Sharpe.

DDJC along with Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, Pennsylvania (DDSP) are two of the Defense Distribution Center's (DDC) Strategic Distribution Platforms (SDPs). The San Joaquin Center is strategically positioned to provide worldwide distribution support, especially for those customers located in the western U.S. and Pacific Theater of Operations. As an SDP, DDJC handles the complete inventory of stocks owned and managed by the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) along with thousands of service owned and managed items—nearly one million different items. Additionally, San Joaquin provides resupply support to forward positioned DDC distribution centers in Yokosuka, Japan and Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

"The effective performance of our mission is critical to the readiness of U.S. Armed Forces in our area of responsibility," said COL Edward Visker, USA, DDJC Commander.

DDJC operations are centered around a distribution hub which houses small, fast-moving bin items and includes the receiving and packing of smaller items, the freight terminal, and the less-than-truckload (LTL) processing area. The bin storage area was recently renovated with a second tier of bins to maximize utilization of the warehouse cube. This project allowed bin storage in one warehouse to increase from more than 50,000 locations to more than 400,000 locations. This



*Robert Lopez,
Packer*

highly mechanized warehouse with mile after mile of conveyor is connected to two other warehouses via overhead conveyors to multiply capabilities.

"When I first arrived at DDJC I shared four things that I believe with the workforce," said COL Visker. "First, the mission of DDJC is vital to the readiness of our forces. Second, change to progress is good. Third, everyone has a contribution to make. Fourth, to be great as an organization, you have to be great everyday. Now after a year in command, I still hold these beliefs and I couldn't be more proud of this organization and their reinforcement of these beliefs."



*Ronnie Phillips,
Material Handler*

Unitized Group Rations

One of the unique missions at DDJC is the Unitized Group Ration (UGR). Previously known as 'Tray Pack' due to the main course which comes in a tray, this assembly line operation produces a heat-and-serve meal using commercially available foods to build breakfast and dinner meals for troops in the field.

The UGR is designed to simplify and streamline the field feeding process by integrating the components of heat-and-serve rations with quickly prepared, brand name commercial



*Donald Reed,
Packer*

in Alaska, Hawaii, Japan, Korea, Okinawa and several other locations in the Pacific get their supplies from the Consolidation and Containerization Point (CCP) at DDJC. Whether the supplies are a high priority, requiring air shipment, or routine items going surface via container ship, the CCP provides the distribution service.

Items are not just stuffed in a van or stacked on air pallets. The CCP provides value added transshipment services that includes customized sortation and packaging that is tailored to the customers needs.

“Our CCP operation is the epitome of tailored customer support,” said COL Visker. “We package and configure our loads in synch with our customers’ requirements.”

Material shipped through the CCP comes from a variety of sources. Approximately 50 percent of shipments are received from other DDC distribution centers and commercial vendors. The other 50 percent originate from DDJC mission stock.

products. It combines everything needed to provide 50 meals in one unit.

Commercial items such as sauces and mixes are used to reduce preparation time in the field. Inside the UGRs is a main course, large cafeteria size cans of vegetables, desserts, and fruit. These items change according to the 14 dinner and 7 breakfast menus. In addition, each module will contain a bottle of hot sauce, a powdered drink, coffee, paper trays and cups, dining packets with plastic utensils, napkins, salt and pepper.

The ingredients to build the modules come in by the truckload everyday. An assembly line starts with a carton-making machine and ends with a pallet full of meals covered in stretch wrap. In between are a whole lot of steps with people adding cans, bottles and little packages of the ingredients that make a complete meal.



*Cheryl O'Brien,
Forklift Operator
Leader*

*George Rubio,
Auto Mechanic*



The CCP also handles service members household goods who are moving in and out of the Pacific Theater. Household goods do not stay at DDJC longer than seven days—they go into a commercial storage location or the owner’s next duty station shortly after arrival.

CCP facilities include a tilt-tray sortation unit with several dozen pack stations. Small, incoming parcels are processed at 12 packing stations. Two medium bulk receipt stations handle larger items and there are 5 stations for unpacking. Six hydraulic packing pits raise and lower air pallets as they are loaded with a customer’s order.

CCP transportation processes are continuously being examined to reduce Customer Wait Time (CWT) and costs. Since starting Direct Booking last year, the CCP reduced CWT by nearly two days. Direct Booking allows transportation assistants to use web-based technology in accessing ocean carrier databases to schedule surface vans that will ship on the next available sailing date.

The Consolidation and Containerization Point

Another unique mission performed at DDJC is the freight forwarding operation, supporting customers outside the continental U.S (OCONUS). More than 4,000 military customers



*Angie Villanueva,
Packer*

Hazardous Branch

During a recent in-depth inspection, a special, private-sector team gave the DDJC Hazardous Branch outstanding marks on safety. Special note was awarded to the radiological section, calling it a model for other facilities and recognizing DDJC teammates for their strong commitment to safety.

All of DDJC's mission stocks that are flammable, corrosive, oxidizers, radioactive, aerosol, compressed gas, or any of the other criteria that make it hazardous, are located in one warehouse aptly named the Hazardous Branch. Safety features include air exchangers that pull air from the warehouse and pump in fresh air. A ventilation system contains smoke and vapor detectors that will sound alarms in the warehouse and fire department, should it detect leaks. Each section is wired into an intercom system for use in case of emergencies. Additionally, each section is bermed and has drains that can contain spills in special holding tanks.

"This is truly a world-class operation," said COL Visker. "Our Hazardous Branch receives kudos from visitors and regulatory inspectors alike."

Progress Intelligently Planned

The DDJC business plan, TELESIS 21, is the key long-term effort that is guiding DDJC toward its vision — to become the DoD distribution center of excellence that exceeds all performance and customer expectations.

"Telesis is my favorite word," said COL Visker. "It means progress intelligently planned and I see that as key to shaping DDJC for the future." The plan is structured around DDJC's mission, vision and values. It is a cooperative product developed by DDJC senior leadership to ensure all of DDJC is working together toward the same ultimate goal.



Tim Kobler, Police Officer

