

DPMS Mobilizing DDC Workforce

The Defense Distribution Center's (DDC) Distribution Planning & Management System (DPMS) held a "Mobilization Day Workshop" on September 10, 2003 to update DDC key staff and DPMS team members about the program status, management procedures, and current work plan. Representatives from Defense Supply Centers Columbus, Philadelphia and Richmond were also in attendance.

DPMS is an innovative program that will provide DLA with real-time access to information on the location and movement of material across the enterprise, DLA Distribution Centers, and vendor locations alike, and the ability to act on that information for planning and management purposes. DPMS will provide shipment optimization, load planning and routing, in-transit visibility, automated preparation of transportation documents including the Military Shipping Label, as well as tracking vendor and carrier performance.

The Mobilization Day involved three major components including a program status update and all the actions taken to

date; a review of the program management plan, risk management plan and communication plan; and a review of the updated program work plan. "It's important that everyone in the DPMS process have a common understanding of the program structure," said Grace Huston, DPMS Program Manager. "We've been very lucky so far - everyone at DDC and DLA has been tremendously involved and supportive - we want that to continue throughout the development of DPMS."

A risk and issue assessment plan has been built into the development of DPMS, Huston said. "This will allow everyone involved, from staff to customers, to raise and address issues."

Ultimately, Huston said, DPMS will be fully integrated with DLA's Business Systems Modernization (BSM) tools. This integration will provide even greater planning accuracy and easier order modification when real world challenges demand change.

DPMS Introduced to Future System Users

The Distribution Planning & Management System (DPMS) End Users Kickoff was held on November 17, 2003, to give an overview of DPMS to Transportation Specialists from the DDC Logistics Operations staff who will be the primary users of the system. Grace Huston, DDC DPMS Program Manager, welcomed the participants and emphasized that their "combined expertise and insights will be instrumental to the success of DPMS which will result in considerable benefits for the DDC, for DLA, and, ultimately, for the warfighters we are here to serve."

In addition to the Logistics Operations Transportation Specialists and DPMS Program Managers, representatives from BearingPoint were also on hand. BearingPoint, the External Service Provider, will be assisting with the training, communications, functional analysis, software configuration and other services as needed with the implementation of DPMS.

Annie Gensler, DPMS Program Management Office, provided an overview of the DPMS program, and Lee Hill, BearingPoint DPMS Program Manager, provided an overview of the training aspects of DPMS, which will be scenario-based with real life examples in interactive workshops. "This is an exciting time for all of us - we're literally at the leading edge of the application of the DPMS solution, and my entire team is looking forward to working with and learning from you," said Mr. Hill.

DPMS is a Modern Distribution Planning and Management System within DLA that enables the DLA/DDC 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 stock positioning. The advantages of DPMS include in-transit visibility of vendor shipments to customers and distribution centers, standard documentation that will expedite movement to customers, and lower transportation costs due to greater consolidation of shipments.



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