



Stock positioning team transfers to DLA headquarters

By Jessica Roman, DLA Distribution Public Affairs

As part of an organizational realignment and to expand the stock positioning mission across the supply chain, DLA Distribution's Stock Positioning division has transferred to DLA headquarters. Twelve government employees and ten Vangent contractors are now part of DLA Materiel Policy, Process, and Assessment Division, J-33. The employee's duty station will remain at the DLA Susquehanna, Pa., installation, as DLA Stock Positioning Office – New Cumberland.

The transfer will help align core planning functions with DLA's strategic intent and the evolution of the stock positioning mission. As part of DLA director United States Navy Supply Corps Vice Adm. Alan S. Thompson's 2010 Director's Guidance, DLA is working to design the future of distribution and reverse logistics capability, including integrating reverse logistics into the stock positioning strategy.

"This transfer will allow stock positioning to be more integrated into the DLA enterprise," said Karin Stinson, chief of the DLA Stock Positioning Office – New Cumberland. "As a result, DLA Distribution will be able to focus more on the core mission of the receipt, storing, and issuing of materiel."

The stock positioning mission will be refocused at the enterprise level, and the focus will be expanded across the supply chains.

"We are very pleased to have the former DLA Distribution Stock Positioning Division functionally transfer to the DLA HQ Materiel Process, and Assessment Division (J-33). We have always valued the quality and professionalism of the work that they provided the Agency in our collective support to the greater Department of Defense logistics process," said Steve St. John, J-33 division chief. "They have played, and they will continue to play a pivotal role in communicating and linking the traditional supply functional community with the traditional distribution functional community."

Throughout their tenure at DLA Distribution, the Stock Positioning team positively affected distribution in many ways.

A new way of approaching stock replenishments was developed that changes how DLA looks at the replenishment strategy, with a focus on both demand in accordance with DLA Enterprise business rules and transportation cost drivers. The new Economic Movement Quantity model typically results in less stock being placed forward and a balance between handling costs and the costs to hold an item.

For example, in some instances, it may be more cost effective to move heavy items than small binnable items.

The Stock Positioning team has also helped to fulfill the need for Mine Resistant Ambush Protection, or MRAP, vehicle parts. As Army MRAP vehicles were deployed for support to Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, responsibility for the repair parts moved to DLA. "The Stock Positioning team was instrumental in the initial supply chain actions to ensure parts were available at DLA Distribution Kuwait for Warfighter support," said Stinson.

The driving force behind the success of the Marine Corps Logistical Command and DLA Materiel Transfer Agreement, the Stock Positioning team set up and executed materiel movement in phases, transferring approximately \$28 million in DLA managed, Marine Corps owned, materiel.

In the recent transition from Standard Automated Materiel Management System to the Enterprise Business System (utilizing SAP and Manugistics), the Stock Positioning team helped to develop the crucial Demand Month End process, which reset the system based on the most recent demand histories, allowing for the appropriate replenishment

quantities based on customer demand.

The Stock Positioning team also developed the DLA global stock positioning strategy of customer alignment and review, utilizing the interfacing systems of SAP, Manugistics, and Cargo Routing Identifier File logic. Customer alignment strategies also included realignments in support of the Base Realignment and Closure, or BRAC, law directives. The results of these reviews and analysis helped to maximize worldwide customer support and improved DLA performance.

An integral part in the stand up of several DLA Distribution depots, the Stock Positioning team conducted in-depth analysis and provided recommendations based on each unique scenario for appropriate DLA stock to be positioned. “This evolved into a Planned Stock List based on customer demand and site capabilities and capacities, providing a systematic way to recommend items to be placed forward,” said Stinson.

Through customer input, the Stock Positioning team developed and gained approval to allow for readiness driven “exceptions”

for items needed at outside the continental United States depots that are not normally stocked there.

The Stock Positioning team has been instrumental in the BRAC process. A scenario developed by the team was adopted by the DLA Enterprise, and the team coordinated all data and exclusions with the DLA supply chains. All stock for DLA and service-owned items have been documented and promulgated, and are scheduled through the Stock Positioning team.

“Their efforts in executing the stock positioning strategy and providing analytical support to the distribution process has ensured our continued success in BRAC, and will help orchestrate other Agency stock positioning initiatives,” said St. John. “We look forward to this functional realignment to help create the needed synergies across this evolving environment.”

The Stock Positioning team’s role is far-reaching, in that it has played a part in conjunction with many missions across DLA Distribution. Many mission-unique requests are received, providing the team to play a vital role in many important projects, including customer pay,

support to Industrial Prime Vendor plants, Joint Regional Inventory Materiel Management, National Inventory Management System, George Washington, Sea Wolf, AJ2 Returns, and Aviation Fasteners.

The stock positioning team provides analytical support to improve established distribution processes for global stock positioning planning and network optimization, while considering emerging technology and commercial business practices. Working with each Service, the team helps to determine the best placement of materiel for DLA and Service-owned stock, including materiel transfers from commercial warehouses, returns, and new items.



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