DDMA unveils new logo

New logo illustrates DDMA's worldwide customersupport

By Jessica Walter, DDC Command Affairs

Defense Distribution Mapping Activity (DDMA) unveiled a new logo that illustrates the organization's commitment to providing world-class mapping support to customers around the globe.

The new design was revealed at a ceremony honoring DDMA employees for their superior safety record. DDMA has met safety goals for the last three years and had no incidents resulting in lost time during fiscal year 2005.

"That commitment to operating safely is something to celebrate and recognize," said CDR John Pearson, SC, USN, DDMA Commander.

To acknowledge the DDMA employees' outstanding accomplishment, DDMA awarded each employee a long sleeved denim shirt embroidered with the new logo and "Safety Award" written beneath.

Commanding Officer of DDMA, CDR John Pearson, SC, USN, with Supply Technician Rosa Crenshaw and Material Handler Gregory Macklin wearing the new denim shirts awarded to employees for their outstanding safety record.

Specialized packaging ensures safe delivery of HAZMAT, pharmaceuticals

By Jessica Walter, DDC Command Affairs

During a recent Defense Distribution Center (DDC) Lunch & Learn session, DDC's Material Processing Support Team gave an update on the specialized requirements for shipping hazardous materials like acids and flammable liquids as well as chilled pharmaceuticals like the flu vaccine, blood test kits and rabies immune globulin.

Cold Chain Management

The Cold Chain Management Program, funded by Defense Supply Center Philadelphia (DSCP), is designed to keep chilled pharmaceuticals at the appropriate temperature during transportation to the customer.

Packaging Specialists Linda McCarthy and Mike Minto, Material Processing Support Team Lead Jan James.

Items included in the program include vaccines for the flu, typhoid and yellow fever as well as blood test kits, rabies immune globulin and insulin for diabetics.

Each of these items must be stored and shipped under very carefully controlled temperatures. If the temperature gets too high or too low, the vaccine will be compromised.

"The program is called 'cold chain management,' but freezing is our worst enemy," explained DDC Packaging Specialist Mike Minto.

He added, "If we don't ensure they are packaged properly, the troops are at risk of getting a compromised vaccine."

To be sure the temperature is maintained during transportation, packaging personnel at DDC sites use insulated containers and

DDC Packaging Specialist Mike Minto explains how insulated boxes and gel packs are used to regulate the temperature of vaccines during transportation.

chemical gel packs along with a TempTale 4 temperature monitor.

"Every package that enters the DOD pipeline has a TempTale 4," said Minto.

The monitor records the temperature from the time the package is closed to the time it is received by the customer.

Because the outside temperature has a great effect on the contents inside the package, the TempTale 4 keeps a record that indicates if the temperature of the contents of the package was ever outside the acceptable range to ensure the viability of the items inside.

A neon orange label is affixed to each package containing the chilled items. The label indicates where and when the items were packaged and to what packaging protocol, as well as when the items need to be placed in refrigeration next.

Due to the stringent packaging and storage requirement s in the cold chain management program, none of the more than 1.5 million doses of the flu vaccine were lost during the 2004-2005 flu season, a remarkable accomplishment considering

nearly half of the world's supply of the flu vaccine had to be destroyed after being contaminated at the lab in England where the vaccine was made.

"This very important success reflects the effectiveness of the program and the dedication of employees at Defense Distribution Depots Susquehanna, Pa.; Norfolk, Va.; Jacksonville, Fla.; Puget Sound, Wash.; Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; and Yokosuka, Japan where the vaccines are handled," said Minto.

Performance Oriented Packaging

The Performance Oriented Packaging (POP) program ensures that packages carrying hazardous material such as chemicals, batteries and flammable gases are safeguarded against the normal rigor of transportation.

Temperature monitors are used on each shipment to record the temperature of the contents from the time the box is closed until it is received by the customer.

"The standards mimic what the packages encounter during transportation and the tests are agreed upon by all the United Nations countries," said DDC Packaging Specialist Linda McCarthy.

The types of packages used include drums, wooden crates and fiberboard boxes. During testing, containers must endure several tests including a drop test, a stack test, a vibration test and a leak proof test to be sure that they can endure common transportation conditions like the vibration of rough roads, air pressure changes on planes, water damage caused by rain and the occasional accidental drop.

"After the package passes the tests, only then are distribution personnel authorized to apply the appropriate markings and ship the item," explained McCarthy.

McCarthy and her team also assist Department of Defense (DOD) customers worldwide with POP-related issues and provide regular POP training to DDC and DOD personnel.

For more information on the Cold Chain Management and Performance Oriented Packaging programs, visit www.ddc.dla.mil/pop.

Real Time Solutions

A three-member team discussed the benefits of DPMS at the monthly Lunch & Learn

By Lori Spiegel, DDC Command Affairs

Over 80 employees attended the monthly Lunch & Learn on July 18 at the DDC Conference Center. The topic, Distribution Planning and Management System (DPMS), is "an initiative which has a great impact on the efficiency of the DLA supply chain," according to DPMS Program Manager Lois Gabela.

"DPMS is an enterprise-wide distribution planning and management tool that will enable improved processes and optimization resulting in increased in-transit visibility and greater coordination among DLA and its customers, carriers, and vendors," said Gabela.

"The objective is to provide the capability within DLA to improve customer wait time and delivery time by developing, streamlining, implementing, and continuously improving DLA's global distribution planning and management," concluded Gabela.

In 2.4 years with an investment of $41.7 million, a return of on investment of $12.79 could be obtained with the implementation of DPMS. The benefits could exceed over $600 million by FY 16.

Along with the savings comes efficiency. "With DPMS comes the opportunity to optimize transportation, providing better service for the warfighter.," said Gabela. With more than $400 million dollars expended for freight charges, and over 9 million shipments requested by customers across 19 of DDC's 26 distribution centers, the use of a streamlined system is crucial.

Two of five increments of the DPMS program have been completed and are ready for implementation. Increment 1, First Destination Optimization, was completed in May 2004. During this phase, a vendor module was created for DDC to communicate shipment order information to the vendors.

General Supply Specialist Fran Mutschler discussed the Vendor Web Module, which features an electronic data interchange providing shipment information. The system also accommodates manual entry of data by the vendor. Military Shipping Label, Bill of Lading, and Custom documentation are just a few of the document printing capabilities of the module.

"It allows for immediate vendor access whereas to the shipments that are posted automatically and virtually eliminates calls assistance from to the help desk," said Mutschler. "Additionally this allows us to take advantage of cost savings through government-negotiated rates when the government manages the transportation."

To support the launch of DPMS, the Implementation Team was created to provide marketing and training for DLA vendors. "The number of vendors has increased to over 600 in just the last year," said Mutschler. "In addition, the shipments processed in DPMS have increased to over 55, 000 a month.

BearingPoint Program Manager Lee Hill stated, "The challenge of serving the customer can be difficult in such situations where the customer's delivery address moves with the Warfighter."

Increment II, 2nd Destination is designed to understand the opportunities and create alternatives to implement changes at the depot that lead to shipment consolidation and transportation optimization.

"The modeling capabilities provide the DDC 2nd destination implementation team with optimization service improvement and cost reduction alternatives. Modeling scenarios can be developed to incorporate 2nd destination material movements from all depots as recently as the prior business day. This "near real time" planning is used as operational improvements are