



Expeditionary Depot Operations:

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The changing threat requires that logistics be flexible, mobile, integrated, compatible, and precise in targeting support to the point of need. ~ OSD Strategic Logistics Plan

The concept of tailored logistics often becomes lost among similar ideas such as focused logistics, sense and respond logistics, and precision logistics. By definition, tailored logistics is flexible and precise as it seeks to deliver exactly what is desired without encumbering the customer with unnecessary labor or inventory costs.

Tailored logistics is an adaptation enabled by the technology and transportation innovations of the past twenty years. The Defense Logistics Agency created its own version of tailored logistics in the form of their Expeditionary Logistics concept; the product of this is the Deployable Distribution Expeditionary Depot, or DDED. Its truly joint theater distribution capabilities differentiate the Expeditionary Depot from other logistics support units.

The Expeditionary Depot is designed to improve theater distribution in the opening days of a conflict, a period in which materiel historically arrives faster than it can be processed. DDED has a trained, experienced, and deployable force capable of early

entry in a theater of operations to perform the cargo receipt, sort, and ship functions for multi-consignee air pallets and sea containers. DLA-managed and/or Service-owned stocks are then positioned for delivery by theater transportation assets, preventing the development of massive backlogs at the aerial and surface ports of debarkation.

The Expeditionary Depot has deployed twice to real-world scenarios. In 2007, in Okinawa, Japan, its personnel were essential to the establishment of DDYJ-O, the new 40,000 sq. ft. detachment of Defense Distribution Depot Yokosuka, Japan. In only two weeks, the DDED managed to receive and stow an inventory of over 8,000 stock-numbered items



DLA's Tailored Logistics Force

while inserting DDYJ-O into the existing Okinawa distribution pipeline. In 2008, the DDED was in Texas and Louisiana to support relief operations during Hurricanes Ike, Gustav, and Hanna; the partnership and integration with the Federal Emergency Management Agency was so completely successful that the DDED director was placed in charge of an Incident Support Base. DDED personnel processed over 4,000 tractor-trailers that delivered 7.0 million Meals, Ready-To-Eat and commercial meals; two million gallons of bottled water; and a million pounds of ice.

Tailoring occurs when a combatant commander requests the provisioning of specific logistics functions. Because the Expeditionary Depot is modular, scalable, and joint in its task organization, it provides theater materiel distribution and wholesale/retail inventory support across the full range of contingency operations.

The Expeditionary Depot consists of two main components: a Theater Consolidation and Shipping Point and a Forward Deployed Warehouse. These are accompanied by a command and control element and a satellite communications suite. The organization is staffed with a trained workforce of emergency/essential personnel assigned to three distribution centers (San Joaquin, Calif; Red River, Texas; and Susquehanna, Pa.), and is supplemented by contract labor



DDC's Expeditionary Depot provides theater materiel distribution and wholesale/retail inventory support.

and military support, active and reserve, depending on the specific tailoring required. DDED is designed to support troop levels of up to 120,000 personnel.

The Expeditionary Depot comes equipped with a deployable distribution operations center, or DOC. It is intended as an emergency response communication unit and comes equipped with commercial satellite communications, Internet Protocol and wireless phones. The DOC is temperature-controlled and can be configured in numerous ways depending upon location. It deploys with organic power generation, tactical furniture, video projectors and screens, and a crew cab tow vehicle. The entire system can be assembled in less than four

hours; however, communications are often operational within ten minutes.

When a tailored logistics solution is required, the Expeditionary Depot is poised to respond. It operates 24/7 in a deployed environment; it supports the full range of distribution functions, including shipping, receiving, cross docking, storage, inventory management, and transportation/traffic visibility; and it can reach back into the DLA enterprise for any core competencies necessary to achieve a solution for any customer. The Expeditionary Depot continues to evolve as a capability in service of our country's interests at home and abroad, supporting both warfighting and disaster relief scenarios.