



# DLA Strategic Materials

DLA Strategic Materials – a field activity of DLA Acquisition (J7) – is responsible for the stewardship of strategic and critical materials in the United States National Defense Stockpile, or NDS. An early form of the NDS was created just before World War II with the mission to acquire and store metals, minerals and agricultural supplies. The stockpile of materials was intended to decrease dependence upon foreign sources of supply during national emergency.

DLA Strategic Materials stores 21 commodities with a current market value of over \$1.2 billion

at 10 locations in the U.S. Commodities range from base metals such as zinc, cobalt, and chromium to the more precious metals such as platinum and iridium.

The “stockpile” joined DLA in 1988 after spending nearly 40 years under the umbrellas of the General Services Administration and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The Secretary of Defense was designated “Stockpile Manager” by executive order, who in turn delegated responsibility for the stockpile to the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition,

Technology and Logistics, AT&L. Continuing down the chain of command, the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Logistics and Material Readiness, or L&MR, performs policy oversight and DLA Strategic Materials operates the stockpile.

In response to

congressional concerns about the identification and availability of strategic and critical materials important to national defense interests, USD (AT&L) sent a report to

congressional committees on Apr. 24, 2009.

## QUICK FACTS:

- **Items: 21 commodities**
- **Inventory: \$1.2 billion**
- **Employees: Approximately 90**

The AT&L report concluded that (1) the NDS should be reconfigured to enable the Nation to more quickly adapt to current world market conditions and ensure the future availability of materials required for defense and national security needs, and (2) the current policy to dispose of materials in the NDS could be modified to reflect the realities of today's global marketplace.

Conclusions included in the report were drawn from recommendations made by the DoD Strategic and Critical Materials Working Group that was established by AT&L and chaired by the Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Industrial Policy.

A reconfiguration implementation plan was sent to Congress in August 2010 and a legislative proposal is planned for 2011 to introduce modifications needed to the Strategic and Critical Materials Stock Piling Act of 1939.

DLA Strategic Materials currently employs approximately 90 people working at three staffed depots and the DLA Headquarters complex located at Fort Belvoir, Va.

