



# DLA's Norfolk, Va. distribution facility plays key role in supporting Operation Pacer Goose 2010

*By Stacy L. Umstead, DLA Distribution Public Affairs*

Defense Logistics Agency's Norfolk Intermodal Hub played a key role in supporting Operation Pacer Goose, the U.S. Space Command's yearly surface sustainment resupply of U.S. Air Force personnel and contractors at Thule Air Force Base, Greenland.

Thule AFB is the U.S. Armed Forces' northernmost installation, located 750 miles north of the Arctic Circle. Resupply for the installation by ship occurs once a year typically in the summer months when the ice around Thule thins enough to be broken up, allowing vessels to pull into port.

Hub employees loaded seven containers and breakbulk cargo loads that are too large or too heavy to use a 40-foot container as a conveyance.

DLA's Norfolk Intermodal Hub has supported this operation since 1997. "In 2009, we processed more than 250, 40-ft. containers, with over 10,000 measurement tons (400,000 cubic feet) of materiel, said Bobby Scarboro, director of IMH's Ship Operations.

The annual operation to resupply Thule began in 1952 using U.S. Navy combatant ships to get the goods to and from the base.

DLA's Distribution facility in Norfolk, Va., has a diverse customer base, including ships - from aircraft carriers to destroyers to submarines - as well as major Navy industrial activities and shore establishments. Increasingly, the organization provides support to local Air Force and Army installations. The organization serves customers worldwide with particular emphasis on Europe, the Caribbean, Central and South America, the Mediterranean, the Indian Ocean, Southwest Asia including Afghanistan and Iraq.

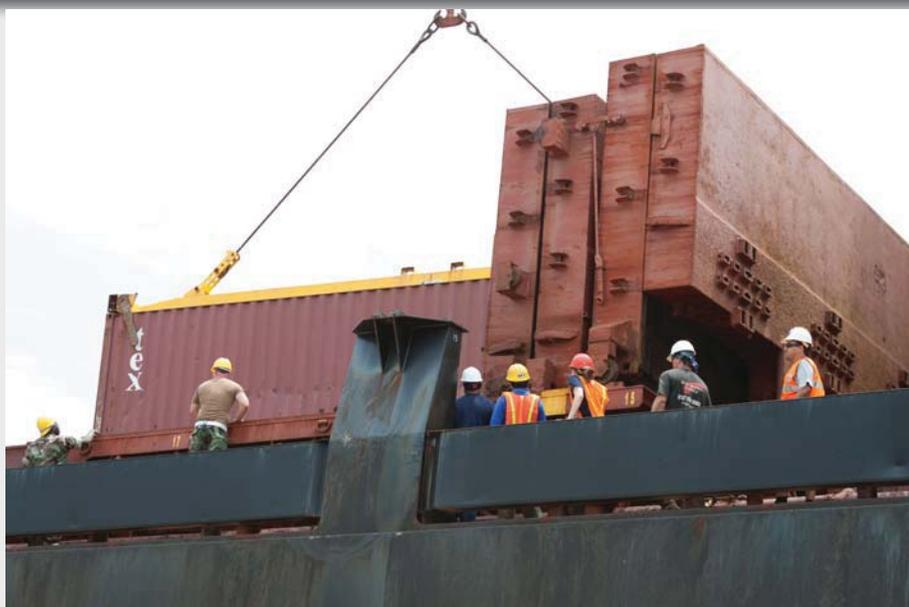
DLA Distribution Norfolk, Va.

The yearly resupply provides the air base with military equipment, vehicles, medical supplies, dry goods, Commissary and Base Exchange supplies, and specialized equipment to handle jobs in ice and snow.

According to Cris Toledo, director of the Norfolk Intermodal Hub, a commercial vessel under charter to the Military Sealift Command docked at Naval Station Norfolk's Pier 8, DLA Distribution Norfolk's ship operation headquarters, where Intermodal



**A team of 48 people loaded the commercial ship bound for Greenland with military equipment, vehicles, medical supplies, food, dry goods, and equipment to handle ice and snow.**



A container is loaded onto commercial vessel under charter to Military Sealift Command for resupply to Thule Air Base Greenland. The annual resupply occurs in the summer months when the ice around Thule thins enough to be broken up, allowing vessels to pull into port.

receives, stores, and issues a variety of material. Material in storage is actively managed to maintain accountability and condition. The center also provides standard packing, specialized storage and hazardous material packing and shipping operations. It also interfaces with direct

vendor-to-customer and local delivery services. In addition, the organization provides special services based on customer needs, such as packing and transshipment of radioactive and level one/

subsafe material. Military operations are not the only recipients of its program of services, as a major stock point for meals ready-to-eat and humanitarian daily rations, DLA Distribution Norfolk, Va., is often called upon to provide humanitarian relief supplies in the United States, the Caribbean, and other countries.



One of four tractors, each weighing approximately 57,000 pounds, is loaded onto a commercial carrier at DLA Distribution Norfolk, Va. The tractors will be used for snow removal at Thule Air Base.



Workers prepare for the loading of four 57,000 lb. tractors during the annual Operation Pacer Goose at DLA Distribution Norfolk, Va. The operation resupplies Thule Air Base, Greenland, the northernmost U.S. military installation, 750 miles north of the Arctic Circle.