

DTCI changes to be minimal for distribution workers, customers

By Jessica Walter, APR, DDC Public Affairs

In a presentation to Defense Distribution Center headquarters employees earlier this year, Dave Nicola of DDC's Transition Team reported that changes resulting from the new Defense Transportation Coordination Initiative will have minimal impact to distribution process workers at DDC sites as well as DDC's military customers.

"A noticeable change is that the [DDC distribution] site's transportation coordinator wouldn't schedule the carrier, it would be scheduled by Menlo," explained Nicola.

Menlo Worldwide Government Services of San Mateo, Calif., was awarded the DTCI contract by the U.S. Transportation Command in August 2007.

Under DTCI, Menlo will become the single one-touch transportation provider for many Department of Defense shipments including supplies, equipment and personnel.

Using load consolidation, shipment planning, cross docking operations, routing services and other methods, DTCI is expected to improve efficiency, reliability and predictability of shipments across DOD.

For transportation planners and customer support personnel across DDC's network of distribution centers, DTCI will simplify the process of researching the status of shipments en route to DDC's military customers.

"If you're tracking a shipment, instead of calling the carrier that picked it up, you would call Menlo or track the shipment on Menlo's website," said Jan James, DDC's contracting officer's representative for DTCI.

Transportation contracts currently in place will be phased out over time, Nicola said. The schedule for DDC's dedicated truck program that ships routine deliveries to stateside military bases will not change, he added.

For workers on the distribution floor, Nicola explained, the specifications for packing and shipment may change, but the information will be listed in DDC's distribution and warehouse management tool, the Distribution Standard System.

According to James, Menlo will be responsible for choosing the mode of transportation – including air, truckload, less-than-truckload, roller bed, or dedicated truck. Menlo will select the carrier and the mode based on the origins, destinations and space available for the freight requests all across the network.

DTCI will be rolled out in three phases, with DDC's 18 stateside distribution centers coming under DTCI in the first phase that began in March. The next phases incorporate additional Department of Defense shippers. Full implementation is expected in late 2009 and could potentially include up to 260 shipping locations.



The Defense Transportation Coordination Initiative provides a centralized approach to Department of Defense freight movements in the continental United States by establishing a single transportation coordination.