

## Survey said: DPMS improving processing time

By Fran Mutschler, DDC Transportation Operations

The results are in!

In April 2006, vendors using the Distribution Planning and Management System (DPMS) for more than six months were randomly selected to participate in a survey. More than 70 percent of the Defense Distribution Center's (DDC) DPMS vendors surveyed reported improvement in order processing time.

Of the 70 percent reporting an improvement, most were able to process at least one day faster and some indicated three or more days faster.

One vendor said that prior to using DPMS, 98 percent of their orders were shipped two days after receiving the order and 100 percent were shipped within eight days after receiving the order. Since implementing DPMS at their site, this vendor ships at least 80 percent the same day as receipt of the order and 100 percent are shipped within two days after receiving the order.

Freehold Manufacturing Assembly Company, located in Little Silver, N.J., said, "Being able to ship in minutes instead of days is wonderful!"

"We are very pleased with these results," said DDC Transportation Operation Chief Rich Hawkins. "We knew DPMS was improving things, but we didn't realize how much until we saw the survey results. DPMS users are getting exactly what we planned with DPMS – faster access to data, faster shipping, and improved accuracy in shipments."

One key to shipping faster is that DPMS allows vendors to access current shipping addresses in seconds. No longer do vendors have to fax or email and wait for a response, Hawkins said.

By reducing the amount of work associated with obtaining addresses and order fulfillment, 61 percent of the vendors surveyed said that their administrative workload has been reduced. Vendors also reported that DPMS eases the process for generating 2-D bar codes on the military shipping labels. In addition to speed and ease of use, vendors reported reductions in

mislabeling and lost packages.

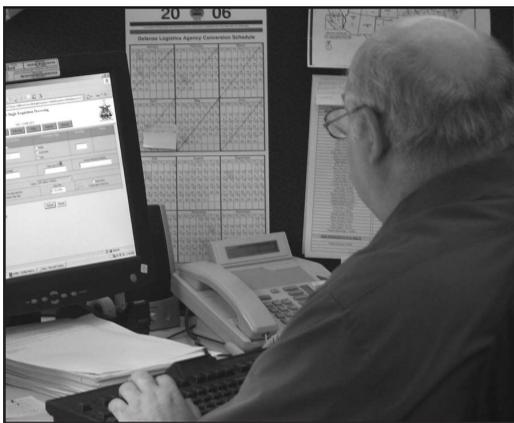
Electronic Transformer Corp., located in Paterson, NJ, wrote "After working as a defense contractor for 25 years, and going through various changes, this is one of the best changes ever made for DLA."

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Carolina Vocational Center, located in Greenville, N.C., said, "We do not have to wait on addresses so we can ship orders faster and get paid sooner."

Caterpillar Inc., located in Morton, Ill., said, "We highly appreciate the assistance of Merle Winnick and Cindy Eslinger [of the DDC Transportation Planning Team] in our operations ... they are very dedicated employees who provide excellent customer service!"

The survey response rate was exceptional, Hawkins said, and the results are an affirmation of the DPMS web initiative objectives.



Meril Winnick, a member of DDC's Transportation Planning Team, ensures vendor material gets to Warfighters faster.

## Number of vendors using online distribution resource climbs to 1,000

By Jessica Walter, DDC Command Affairs

Fewer returned shipments due to improper labeling and getting supplies to the Defense Distribution Center's warfighting customers faster are the primary benefits of DDC's online distribution resource that signed up its 1,000th vendor this week.

Distribution Standard System – Vendor Module, or DSS-VM, is a component of the Distribution Planning and Management System (DPMS). DSS-VM is an on-line system that allows vendors shipping cargo to DDC sites and customers to access up-to-date shipping addresses and print military shipping labels at their locations.

"Our customers are constantly on the move, so having an accurate address on the shipping label is critical," said Rich Hawkins, Chief of DDC's Transportation Division.

Alpha Enterprises Inc. of McLean, Va., was the 1,000th vendor to sign up for DSS-VM.

More information about DSS-VM is available at [www.ddc.dla.mil/dpms](http://www.ddc.dla.mil/dpms).