

## DDSP provides the comforts of home for troops overseas

*By Jessica Roman, DDC Public Affairs*

Bound for Afghanistan, planes are leaving Dover Air Force Base with important materials aboard: electrical and plumbing equipment to make life a little more like home for troops overseas. In concert with Defense Logistics Agency Central and Defense Supply Center Philadelphia, Pa., or DSCP, the Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, Pa., or DDSP, is expediting electrical and plumbing equipment which will be installed in relocatable buildings, or RLBs, at seven forward operating bases in Afghanistan.

The Defense Distribution Center, or DDC, and DSCP are coordinating pure pallet builds at the DDSP Consolidation and Containerization Point, or CCP, and three additional vendor sites in order to eliminate the need for pallet break-bulk in theater. When the shipments arrive in Afghanistan, they provide troops with over 300 important pieces for their temporary homes, including everything one might need to install electrical and plumbing equipment in a building. Light switches, wires, plumbing equipment, and other items provide troops with indoor plumbing and electricity.

This is a special mission for DDSP – in part because the items included in these shipments do not have document numbers associated with them. Document numbers are the serial numbers that DDC uses to track and ship materials from their warehouses to customers. This is out of the scope of ordinary business for DDC because normally each item arrives at DDC with a predetermined document number. In this case, DDC must assign the document number to the item because they are not found in DDC's Distribution Standard System.

Both DDC and DDSP employees have worked exceptionally hard during this special project over the entire summer, including holiday weekends.

Barb Huss, team lead for Customer Service, said “DDC has had to find creative ways to work around this issue, because it's necessary to let the Warfighter know what is in each shipment.” Without document numbers assigned to the materials to track the shipment information, as materials come in, DDC must assign a document number and manually receipt each



**Special color-coded plaques are used to identify shipments by Forward Operating Base.**

item prior to validating the pallet for air shipment.

DDC has created spreadsheets to determine what is being delivered to the seven Forward Operating Bases, or FOBs, they support. DDSP builds the air pallets and applies laminated plaques, which are color coded by FOB for easy identification and high visibility for the aerial customer. DDSP then assigns a Transportation Control Number and arranges transportation to the aerial port.

Reginal Sayles, DDSP value stream manager, coordinates with the vendor sites to be sure the vendor is meeting DDC specifications. “We verify the packaging, arrange transportation, communicate labeling requirements, and identify

hazardous material specifications. Our vendors have been extremely responsive to this important mission,” said Sayles.

In addition to electrical and plumbing equipment, DDSP CCP has also processed well kits, which enable the RLB to have clean and safe water. The well kits consist of 64 line items, and have already arrived in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

The project has been broken up into several segments. Bill of Materials, or BOM, one, included 64 air pallets processed at DDSP CCP and forwarded to Charleston Air Force Base, with 138 additional air pallets processed at Charleston Air Force Base. All 202 air pallets were then air lifted from Charleston, S.C. on Unit Line Number flights, or ULNs,

to four FOBs in Afghanistan: Tarin Kowt, Camp Leatherneck, Camp Dwyer, and Kandahar.

BOM two included 134 air pallets lifted on ULN flights out of Charleston, S.C. and 68 air pallets lifted via Military Air Channel flights out of Dover Air Force Base. All of the material in BOM two was initially processed through DDSP CCP. BOM two materials are destined for four FOBs in Afghanistan, including Kandahar, Spin Boldak, Frontonec, and Camp Wolverine.

BOMs three through seven are currently in process, and combined will be larger than BOM two in scope. DDC estimates that 500 air pallets will be built to complete the next five BOMs. Two additional projects beyond BOM seven are currently being planned.

Huss concluded, “DDSP, DDC and DSCP have been providing exceptional service to the Warfighter during this high-priority mission. Within a short timeframe, we are able to have trucks arrive, inventory all of the material, provide quality control, process the material, and build the pallets for shipments. We’re excited to be able to make life a little more comfortable for our troops.”



**An air pallet, destined for Kandahar, Afghanistan, contains electrical and plumbing equipment for relocatable buildings, designed to make troops' lives a little more comfortable.**