



# DLA Distribution San Joaquin, Calif., and the United States Air Force take pride in partnership

By Annette Silva, DLA Distribution San Joaquin, Calif., Public Affairs

DLA Distribution San Joaquin, Calif., takes pride in its strong working relationship with the 60th Aerial Port Squadron, stationed at Travis Air Force Base, Fairfield, Calif. Cooperation and open communication have proven to be the cornerstones of the relationship's ongoing success. As vital pieces in DLA's global supply chain, both commands are committed to working together in an effort to maximize efficiencies and speed which ultimately give our Warfighters the advantage on the battlefield.

DLA Distribution San Joaquin, Calif.'s, Consolidation and Containerization Point, or CCP, is the western United States hub for the consolidation of material shipped from other DLA distribution centers and commercial vendors headed to Pacific overseas customers. On average, the CCP builds and ships 1,750 air pallets per year. Upon leaving DLA Distribution San Joaquin, Calif., these pallets are trucked to the 60th Aerial Port Squadron to be loaded on various types of aircraft. Communication between the two commands is important because the 463L pallets must be built to specific requirements, depending on the type of aircraft being used for that particular mission.

Not only does the distribution

center build quality pallets for shipment, but it also builds quality relationships with squadron personnel. When new members join the squadron, DLA Distribution San Joaquin, Calif., brings them to the distribution center for a familiarization tour of the CCP operation. This gives personnel the ability to see the operation in person. Furthermore, the CCP team travels to Travis Air Force Base once per quarter to perform quality checks on their own work, making sure the pallets the distribution center assembles are done properly and in accordance with Air Force standards.

"Our relationship is based upon our joint mission employing the Defense Transportation System," said Patrick Blatcher, 60th Aerial Port Squadron transportation operations officer. "Our open line of communication has facilitated a smooth flow of distribution center commodities. We serve each other as genuine customers and effectively communicate our shared interest."

The Shipping Division of the CCP is also being trained to operate a key Air Force mission-planning tool called the Global Air Transportation Execution System, or GATES, reinforcing the positive relationship between the partners. This system provides real-time, in-transit visibility data to the Global



A 463L air pallet is ready for shipment from DLA Distribution San Joaquin, Calif., to Travis Air Force Base.

Transportation Network. The most significant benefit is that it gives shipping personnel the access to track all material moved on Air Force aircraft from the beginning to the end of the mission.

Stephanie Riddle, CCP transportation assistant, is excited for the opportunity to train on the GATES system and looks forward to the tools the system offers which will help her in her job.

"This system [GATES] will streamline the process of shipping from our distribution center to Travis Air Force Base and on to our Warfighters," Riddle said. "It's a great tool for researching open lines and has real-time tracking on all shipments that will ensure we are keeping with our metrics to get the material shipped." Members of the Travis Air Force Base team have volunteered to train the entire CCP team. This positive teamwork is continuously improving support for the Warfighter.