

Afghanistan troop surge increases DDJC UGR workload

By Annette Silva, DDJC Public Affairs

As a result of the recent troop surge in Afghanistan, the Unitized Group Ration, or UGR, team at Defense Distribution Depot San Joaquin, Calif., or DDJC, is ramping up production of the UGR-Express and UGR-Heat and Serve meals.

At the request of Defense Logistics Agency Enterprise partners, the Defense Supply Center Philadelphia, DDJC, the sole provider of the UGR meals feeding the Warfighters in the field, will increase the current production requirement from 40 thousand modules to 66.5 thousand per month. This increased workload is in support of the Joint Sustainment Command in Afghanistan, which is requesting 41 thousand UGR-Express, totaling 738 thousand individual meals, and 21 thousand UGR-Heat and Serve, totaling over 1 million individual meals. They are scheduled to arrive in Afghanistan monthly beginning April 2010. An additional 4,500 UGR-Heat and Serve are for peace time operations.

The UGR-Express meal is a one-time use, self-contained system that automatically heats once the tab is activated, and feeds 18. The meal, which takes approximately 45 minutes to cook, is heated inside the box and eliminates the need for a field kitchen. These meals include an entrée, vegetable, starch, drink mix, dining trays, utensils, and a trash bag for clean-up.

The UGR-Heat and Serve meal is contained in three boxes, which feed 50. Preparation of the meal requires a field kitchen. The meal consists of an entrée, side dishes, desserts, drink mixes, condiments, spices and other ingredients along with disposable trays, cups, flatware and trash bags.

The DDJC UGR team is highly motivated to achieve the increased production requirements and takes pride in assembling the meals that provide the needed subsistence to the Warfighters in the field.

Alicia McPeters, DDJC distribution process worker, is ready to take on the challenge of the increased workload.

“The Warfighters are my motivation to get the job done. I am glad we are able to provide for those serving our country in Afghanistan,” McPeters said. “It makes me feel good that we can produce a hot meal for them and get those meals to their destination as required.”



The Unitized Group Ration-Express feeds 18 and includes an entrée, vegetable, starch, drink mix, dining trays, utensils, and a trash bag for clean-up.



The Unitized Group Ration-Heat and Serve requires a field kitchen for preparation and can feed up to 50.



Members of the Defense Distribution Depot San Joaquin, Calif. Unitized Group Rations, or UGR, team assemble UGR-Heat and Serve meals.