

DDC opens doors of Theater Consolidation and Shipping Point

DDKS' cross docking operations to further improve DDC's distribution capabilities in Southwest Asia

By Stacy L. Umstead, DDC Command Affairs

The Defense Distribution Center (DDC) officially opened the doors of Defense Distribution Depot Kuwait, Southwest Asia's (DDKS) newest operation, the Theater Consolidation and Shipping Point (TCSP) Feb. 8.

BG Michael J. Lally, USA, Commander of DDC in New Cumberland, Pa., presided over the ceremony.

In March 2005, DLA, in coordination with Coalition Forces Land Component Command (CFLCC) and United States Central Command (CENTCOM), agreed to assume responsibility for a large segment of the existing Theater Distribution Center operations in Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

DDC's TCSP will act as the primary conduit for sustainment material entering the theater, consolidating and segregating shipments (cross docking) from multiple sources and preparing them for onward shipment directly to the customers.

The TCSP will be staffed with a blend of military, civilian and contractor personnel. Logistics firm Kellogg, Brown and Root (KBR) was awarded the operational contract in December and will perform the cross docking operations for the TCSP.

DDKS Commander COL Gloria Blake, USA, will oversee the TCSP operations with LTC Thomas Vaccaro, USA, serving as the TCSP Chief.

DDC's presence in Southwest Asia began with a request from CENTCOM for DLA to provide wholesale distribution support in theater with a goal to improve customer wait time, reduce transportation costs and improve overall readiness.

As a result, DDC stood up a forward site in Bahrain in December 2002 to pre-position items needed during Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. This strategic placement of supplies resulted in the avoidance of more than \$30 million in premium transportation costs for DLA.

In 2003, CENTCOM requested a permanent DLA presence in Kuwait. DDC accomplished this challenge with a phased approach.

The first phase started in May of 2004 and included dedicated truck, Military Air Lines of Communication and surface shipments support from DDC's distribution facility in Germany.

The second phase established an interim contingency contract operation in Kuwait which became operational in September 2004 when DDC established DDKS. It was DDC's 24th distribution facility.

The third phase was a full and open contract competition in

Kuwait. Logistics partners Public Warehousing Company won the competition and currently performs the mission work at DDKS.

Since opening DDKS, DDC's total cost avoidance for air transportation costs is more than \$290 million dollars.

“The DLA and DDC presence in Southwest Asia is improving the military's overall readiness as we continue supporting the War on Terror.”

“When DDKS was activated, we had approximately 7,000 different items that we pre-positioned in support of our customers. Today, DDKS has over 40,000 items in stock. DLA and DDC presence in Southwest Asia is improving the military's overall readiness as we continue supporting the War on Terror,” said BG Lally.

DDC will install the Distribution Standard System (DSS) at the TCSP facility to provide greater visibility of the cargo transiting through the area. BG Lally continued, “The link between DDKS and TCSP will enable DDC to further streamline processes and improve support to our theater customers.”



Cutting the ribbon on the Theater Consolidation and Shipping Point. Left to right: DDC Commander BG Michael J. Lally, USA; LTC Thomas Vaccaro, USA, TCSP Chief; KBR representative LTG (Ret.) Steve Arnold; and DDKS Commander COL Gloria Blake.



The TCSP team with DDC Commander BG Michael J. Lally, USA.