

Streamlined system enhances deployability

By Scott Woosley, DDC Command Affairs

The Distribution Standard System, or DSS, provides a tracking capability for the Defense Logistics Agency so both the agency and its customers can keep up on the status of materiel orders and shipments.

During the Node Management and Deployable Depot Advanced Concept Technology Demonstration and limited user evaluation conducted in Korea earlier this year, a streamlined version of DSS was used to speed up the delivery process.

“What we are using is called ‘DSS in a suitcase,’” said Malcolm Wertz, team lead, Information Systems Management. “DSS is typically run through a mainframe, but this version is copied on to a server located on-site.”

According to Wertz, using a server instead of a main frame makes the deployable distribution concept more versatile and easier to deploy anywhere in the world.

The portable version of DSS generally uses only the parts of the system that are required for this kind of operation, however, all of the options are available should the mission of the TCSP be expanded or changed.

Wertz and his team provide support and troubleshoot any problems that may arise. This was the first time the pared down version of the system has been used.

“We had a couple of minor issues when we set the system up,” Wertz said. “Nothing was a show-stopper

though, and the system has done what it’s supposed to do.”

Another characteristic of the version of DSS used for the Theater Consolidation and Shipping Point is the reduced number of screens the workers on the floor of the warehouse have to scroll through. The mission of a TCSP is to trans-ship materiel—materiel comes in, is processed and sent on to its destination. There is no long-term storage involved in the operation.

“The TCSP uses a shortened version of the trans-ship process,” said Denise Meyers, a supply systems analyst deployed to Korea to provide technical support for the evaluation.

According to Meyers and Wertz, there are four major functional areas of DSS that are used at the TCSP—trans-

ship, packing, hazardous packing and transportation, as opposed to 32 that are routinely used at a permanent facility. There are also fewer options under those four functional areas used at a TCSP.

The reduced number of options means that much of the information required by the system is auto-filled, further reducing processing time. “With this streamlined version, I know I don’t have to look up storage location information which means I spend less time processing pallets,” said Walton Evans, a distribution processing worker supervisor for the TCSP. “That means we get the items in and out more efficiently, putting them in the hands of the people that need them as quickly as possible.”



Malcolm Wertz, team lead, Information Systems Management, reviews a Defense Standard System report on his laptop computer. Wertz led a team of system analysts who are providing technical support for the evaluation of the Node Management and Deployable Depot Advanced Concept Technology Demonstration at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea.