

## Technology allows visibility of incoming supplies during natural disaster relief, military contingencies

By Jessica Walter, APR, DDC Command Affairs

Members of the team who will staff the Deployable Distribution Center recently tested a fully mobile active radio frequency identification, or active RFID, system that will show the movement of cargo as it passes through the center.

“We will place the active RFID readers at entry and exit points so we can track materiel coming in and out of the distribution area,” explained Marc Parsons, deputy commander of the Deployable Distribution Center.

As the trucks pass the readers, the data from the RFID tags attached to the cargo is uploaded to the in-transit visibility server so the customers downstream will know when the trucks carrying supplies have left the Deployable Distribution Center.

The readers were tested as part of the Node Management and Deployable Depot concept technology demonstration and limited user evaluation that measured the performance of systems used in the operation of the Deployable Distribution Center.

The Deployable Distribution Center is comprised of a group of personnel and equipment that can deploy rapidly to provide distribution support in the event of a natural disaster or military contingency. It is a component of the Defense Distribution Center which operates 26 other fixed sites around the world.



*Terence Perry, an IT specialist for DLA Information Operations – New Cumberland and member of the Deployable Distribution Center team, completes the assembly of a reader used to access information carried on active radio frequency identification tags attached to trucks carrying cargo.*



*Deployable Distribution Center team member and Information Technology Specialist Terry Wilkinson of DLA Information Operations – New Cumberland, seated, demonstrates the data provided by the active radio frequency identification system to DDC Chief of Staff Army Col. Perry Knight, standing. Knight used active RFID tags in 2001 and was impressed by the progress of RFID technology.*



*The mobile radio frequency identification readers will be used as part of the Deployable Distribution Center to provide near real time visibility of cargo's movement on its way to customers.*