



NEWS RELEASE
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DLA Distribution Norfolk supports disadvantaged countries through Project Handclasp

Norfolk, Va. (July 19, 2010) – On Jul. 10, the USS Iwo Jima (LHD 7) departed from DLA Distribution Norfolk, Va., to begin a four-month mission to distribute educational, medical and hygienic supplies to several countries, fulfilling the United States' commitment and support to Latin America and the Caribbean, as part of Continuing Promise 2010, which conducts humanitarian relief and goodwill projects, including Project Handclasp.

DLA Distribution Norfolk, Va., played a significant role in the staging and loading of materiel out of its Intermodal Hub to assist in the annual Project Handclasp humanitarian effort.

The purpose of Project Handclasp is to collect, consolidate and store humanitarian, educational, and goodwill material for transportation on naval vessels and distribution by U.S. Navy and Marine Corps personnel on behalf of American citizens to needy foreign countries. Bobby Scarboro, director of ship operations for DLA Norfolk's Intermodal Hub, coordinated the loading of materiel donated by individuals, service and religious organizations, and American industry, onboard the USS Iwo Jima.

Materiel loaded included 87 pallets of wheelchairs, 51 pallets of medical supplies and 13 pallets of water filters bound for Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Haiti, Columbia, Panama, Guyana and Suriname. The ship's crew will distribute the materiel in conjunction with humanitarian and civic assistance operations in these countries.

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Since the inception of Project Handclasp in 1959, distribution of humanitarian, educational, and goodwill material to disadvantaged people in foreign countries has greatly enhanced perceptions of the United States and the U.S. Navy.

DLA Distribution offers best value supply chain solutions through a broad range of services including storage, distribution, customized kits and specialized packaging as well as transportation support and technology development. Customers include the U.S. Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and other agencies. Headquartered in New Cumberland, Pa., DLA Distribution operates a global network of 25 distribution centers that employ over 10,000 employees worldwide. DLA Distribution is a field activity of the Defense Logistics Agency.

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