

AROUND THE CLOCK, AROUND THE WORLD

From Vietnam to Desert Storm --

-- from the Cold War to Operation Joint Forge --

-- in peace and war --

-- one Agency has been there to meet the needs of America's warfighters --
Around the Clock, Around the World:

The Defense Logistics Agency.

The survival and success of our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines rely on their having what they need to do their jobs.

Food, clothing, shelter, fuel, parts and supplies -- all have to be delivered exactly where they're needed, when they're needed.

That's DLA's mission. And from its headquarters at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, and locations across the country and around the globe, DLA's logistics professionals have been meeting that challenge for almost 40 years.

DLA's mission began during World War II, with the procurement and management of vast amounts of munitions and supplies.

But the Agency itself was not officially established until 1961, when Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara consolidated several military service supply agencies into one.

Over the next four decades, DLA's mission evolved in response to the changing needs of national defense. Today, the Agency provides our men and women in uniform with all of the food, clothing and medical supplies they rely on --

-- all of the fuel and energy products that keep them warm and mobile --

-- 90 percent of repair parts --

-- and 83 percent of DoD requisitions overall.

DLA also provides critical logistics services to military commanders and Federal agencies --

-- and serves as an outstanding model of what can be achieved in Government by partnering with private industry and adopting the best commercial business practices.

But the real engine of DLA's success is its people - with thousands of dedicated professionals who, by being the best at their business, help make America's military services the best at theirs.

The DLA team is organized into a number of interrelated activities.

One of those is Logistics Operations which manages, purchases and distributes over 30 million transactions involving more than 4 million different consumable items.

It encompasses supply centers, logistics service centers, and a distribution center linked to a network of strategically located depots.

Each supply center has a specific area of expertise. The Center in Columbus, Ohio supports land and sea weapons systems.

The Richmond, Virginia, Center focuses on air, aviation and space systems support.

Defense Supply Center Philadelphia, provides troop support and general commodity items.

And the Defense Energy Support Center helps the military services power not only their facilities but their mobile air, sea and ground platforms as well.

This specialization means that DLA customers always know exactly who to contact for what they need.

Receiving, storing and issuing materiel on this scale is an enormous task. DLA handles it through its worldwide network of depots --

-- all coordinated and managed by the Defense Distribution Center in New Cumberland, Pennsylvania.

In addition to procurement and distribution, the Command provides specialized services that meet specific requirements of the military and Federal Government community.

The Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service manages and disposes of property no longer needed by the military services. Rather than simply discard an asset, DRMS makes every effort to preserve the taxpayers' investment, by finding new uses for that asset within DoD --

-- transferring it to another Federal agency --

-- or donating it to state and local governments or other qualified organizations.

The Defense Logistics Information Service manages much of the logistics data used by the Federal government, including the mammoth Federal Catalog System Database.

And the Defense National Stockpile Center buys, sells, and maintains adequate supplies of materials of strategic importance to the United States and its defense.

With over four decades of success behind it, DLA has accumulated logistical expertise no one else can match. To give American warfighters worldwide the advantage of that expertise, DLA maintains two special units.

DLA Europe provides customer assistance, liaison services, war planning and logistics support to the Commander-In-Chief, European Command, and to the military service commands that comprise EUCOM. DLA Pacific offers the same level of expert support to the Commander-In-Chief, Pacific Command, and the component commands in that region.

Today's military units are leaner, better equipped and able to be deployed at a moment's notice --

-- and they require flexible, responsive logistical support. That's why the Agency created its DLA Contingency Support Teams or DCSTs.

DCSTs are DLA's "Minutemen," arriving onsite anywhere in the world within 24 hours. Each team is custom-tailored to its mission and ready to provide theater commanders with whatever supply support they require.

DCSTs grew out of lessons learned during Desert Storm, and have already proven themselves in military operations in Somalia, Haiti and Bosnia, and in humanitarian missions.

Our E-business activity sees that information is available and communicated accurately. DLA has become a leader in providing its customers with innovative services in these areas.

Its Defense Automation and Production Service offers advanced printing, copying, scanning, imaging, document conversion, CD-ROM publishing, and Web services to the entire DoD.

Its Joint Total Asset Visibility Office is developing the capability to give commanders, planners and other DoD users access to up-to-the-moment data on the identity, location, movement and status of units, personnel, equipment and supplies.

And Its Defense Automatic Addressing System Center at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, is steadily improving DLA's approaches to processing customer requisitions and managing logistics worldwide.

E-business improvement has always been a DLA hallmark, and that trend has accelerated in recent years as the Agency has adopted the best business practices of private industry and forged long-term working partnerships with vendors and manufacturers.

DLA's Prime Vendor program qualifies key vendors for DoD customers. The Prime Vendor program ensures quick direct deliveries and the lowest prices and has revolutionized DLA in just a few years.

E-business -- little more than a buzzword just yesterday -- is at the core of DLA operations today. DoD's Emall website enables supply officers and logisticians to order products online, using credit cards or traditional requisitioning practices.

And the Joint Electronic Commerce Program Office, an organization established between DLA and the Defense Information Systems Agency, is stimulating even wider use of e-commerce throughout DoD by exploring ways to expand the use of electronic catalogs and malls.

Yet an even more dramatic revolution is underway-- inside DLA. The Agency's Business Systems Modernization Program is totally re-engineering DLA's Information Technology environment. The new environment, based on commercial-off-the-shelf products, will allow DLA professionals, partners and customers to share data more quickly and effectively than ever before, improving efficiency and economy at all levels of the supply chain.

Business System Modernization is a major initiative. Yet it is only one building block in DLA's ambitious Strategic Plan for the 21st Century. DLA 21 offers fresh approaches to achieving the Agency's vision of providing the right item --
-- to the right place--
-- at the right time, --
-- and for the right price --
-- every time.

It is a vision that has guided DLA's commitment for 40 years. A vision that demands continual exploration, innovation, and improvement.

We are proud of our mission and our achievements. No other Agency touches the lives of U.S. Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines like we do every day.

It is a privilege to serve them -- Around The Clock, Around The World.