



INNOVATOR

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER



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Summer Edition 2020

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Summer Edition Theme

Synchronizing, Sustaining and Safeguarding our Supply Chain

Director's Corner

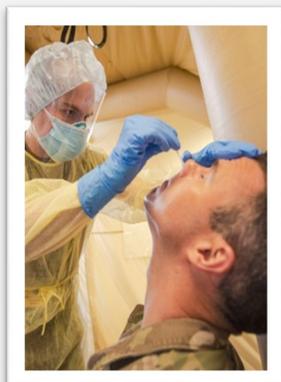
DLA Research and Development (R&D) is focused on innovative and technology solutions in support of DLA's mission to sustain warfighter readiness and lethality by delivering preemptive RDT&E supply chain solutions. With the global pandemic of COVID-19, DLA's Major Subordinate Commands and J-Codes have demonstrated America's supply chain resilience. This issue focuses on some of our supply chain synchronization and sustainment efforts, including R&D's response to COVID-19, and on some of our internal processes that safeguard our financial and budget execution.



David M. Koch
DLA R&D Director

This issue also introduces a modern and intuitive J68 R&D Knowledge Management (KM) portal to empower users through secure information sharing.

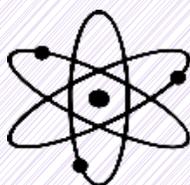
The R&D response to COVID-19 leverages innovative technologies and processes for responding to critical supply chain needs, such as personal protective equipment for our front-line heroes combating the pandemic. In addition to our demonstrated supply chain response to COVID-19, DLA R&D is also investigating broader supply chain risks and leveraging technology to mitigate supply chain challenges. Additionally, R&D is focused on our internal processes by introducing the new KM Portal to provide an online resource for our programs, partnerships, budgeting and execution, and strategic communications. Also of note, R&D successfully participated in an independent annual audit of our financial processes for Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation (RDT&E) funds to ensure that financial execution is transparent, accountable, and in compliance with agency policies and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).



None of these efforts to safeguard our supply chain could have been possible without our many dedicated partners, within DLA and representing small business, Whole of Government, the Military Services and OSD's Joint Acquisition Task Force. Global threats and domestic constraints will continue to test DLA's resilient supply chain, but R&D has proven that innovative capabilities, along with critical partnerships ensures successful synchronization and sustainment of DLA's supply chain in peace and war.

DLA R&D Mission

Premier Innovators for Global Warfighter Mission Readiness



DLA R&D Vision

Develop and deliver new capabilities through applied technologies and innovative solutions to enhance warfighter sustainment

R&D Knowledge Synchronization: Introducing the New J68 R&D Knowledge Management Portal

The R&D Knowledge Management Portal (KMP) is set to capitalize on recent advances in modern technology. Our world is changing and together we can change it for the better by adopting path-breaking tools and technologies that can keep pace with the ever-changing dynamics of knowledge management, data sharing, and collaborative communications. R&D demonstrates commitment towards knowledge sharing across organizations by using available technology within the DLA ecosystem as well as embracing partnership efforts across R&D program portfolios and programmatic initiatives.

The KMP unlocked creative tools showcased during a six-week KMP Training Marathon that covered functionality in our Six Critical Program areas. The training was administered to over 50 government and contracted support team members through DISA's Defense Collaboration Service (DCS) platform, a web-based training tool.

The initial two weeks focused on user adoption of the transition from the classic to modern view, basic navigation, and various roles and permissions. Additionally, the KMP training highlighted our application developers: *Maniphone Sourivong* and *Zubair Ahmed* who maintain the technical and functional skillsets that adheres to J6 SharePoint best practices and styling guidance.

The next four weeks focused on key process policies and procedures on the following Project Management Office (PMO) functional areas: **Program Management, Partnerships, Strategic Communications & Outreach, Budget Execution, and Contract Management**. All participants received training certificates signed by the R&D Director. The KMP Training Team received feedback through user surveys which are included with the permanent placement of all training modules and artifacts on the KMP Training "How-to" page. The KMP Training Marathon ensured the success of the R&D SharePoint transformation and seamless cutover which was completed on July 8th into a user-friendly format which should garner expanded usage by the R&D Team.

Our KMP roadmap will continue with Phase II site enhancements that include content management, archiving previous FY data, and streamlining capabilities. Our goal is to empower you to develop your site for continuous relationship outreach and information sharing. The KMP team will continue to leverage out-of-the-box capabilities, nominal coding, and access to an operational tool set for knowledge management that will enhance user experience and adoption.

Employees with access can reach the R&D KM Portal at: https://dlamil.dps.mil/sites/RD_PlanEx/SitePages/TheLanding.aspx

J68 Landing Page with intuitive links to our "Big Six" Program Management office Pages



Finance Corner

Synchronizing and Safeguarding Resources: Audit Visit Demonstrates Enabling Processes

The DLA Ernst and Young (EY) team is conducting Agency financial reviews of the General Funds appropriated programs, furthering our efforts to safeguard internal funding execution processes. Site Visit 034 was held on 15 June 2020, with J68 providing a Business Process Overview (BPO) and walk through of requested samples to share how RDTE funds are executed (via Military Interdepartmental Purchase Requests (MIPR), Cost plus fixed-fee and Firm Fixed-price type contracts) on the multiple Logistics Research, Manufacturing Technology, and Small Business Innovation Research projects performed annually in support of DLA's mission. The event was successful in large part due to sound internal processes and the finance team's preparation of evidential matter for all samples, reflecting J68 consistently performs in executing RDT&E funds. Additionally, the J68 collective leadership reviewed each sample and communicated to the entire organization the importance of the audit walk through to underscore the need for continued diligence in following Agency policies and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in planning and executing RDT&E funds.



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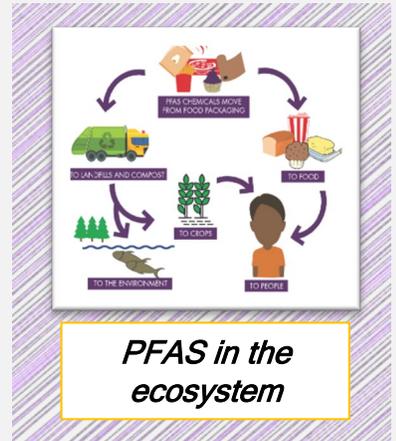
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS: Subsistence Network (SUBNET)

The Subsistence Network (SUBNET) Program conducts Research Development Test and Evaluation (RDT&E) projects that promote synchronizing, sustaining, and safeguarding the subsistence supply chain. As technologies continue to evolve in the DoD environment, safeguarding the supply chain means synchronizing or coordinating with subsistence community stakeholders and striving to sustain strong partnerships. The stakeholders in this case include: the Military Services, Meals, Ready-to-Eat (MRE) Assemblers, Industry and Academia, and other Federal Agencies. As the functional experts for the DLA R&D program, DLA Troop Support Subsistence is essential to the success of the program, and the contracting community at DLA Contract Services Office- Philadelphia are vital to attaining award of R&D contracts.

SUBNET is currently engaged with its stakeholders on various RDT&E projects to improve processes and implement innovative capabilities in an effort to ensure a robust supply chain is safeguarded or maintained. For instance, the SUBNET Program is collaborating with U.S. Army Corp of Engineers Research and Development Center (ERDC) and the University of Oregon to develop a method to extract and analyze potentially dangerous per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) compounds from packaging materials used to assemble MREs. This RDT&E project will aid DLA in responding to National Defense Authorization Act language that requires MRE packaging to be PFAS free.

Additionally, SUBNET has partnered with Vibronyx, a Small Business, on the Modernization and Readiness Analysis of Food Management Systems project. The project is currently focused on research and assessment of the processes, technology and data interactions in TRANSCOM, DLA Distribution, DoD Veterinarian Services, and Subsistence Prime Vendors to determine if some of the current manual processes can be automated to add predictability and visibility in the supply chain.

Another noteworthy project is the Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) - SUBNET project with partner, AAPlasma and Drexel University. This innovative project is working to combat COVID-19 through rapid disinfection of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) with Cold Plasma Fog, which became a SBIR Phase II project as a result of the current project with AAPlasma that seeks to extend the shelf-life of fresh fruit and vegetables through the same cold plasma fog technology.



DLA stocked the USNS Comfort and USNS Mercy with more than \$14 million in protective equipment, pharmaceuticals, medical supplies, fuel, food and repair parts.

The DLA HQ Veterinarian Advisor from HQ DLA J34 serves as a Senior Advisor to the SUBNET program. Outgoing Veterinarian Advisor, COL Brian Kim will truly be missed for his unwavering support and expertise. In September 2020, the new DLA Veterinarian Advisor, COL Anthony Bostick joins the SUBNET team and he brings with him 25 years of DoD Public Health experience. We welcome him to the SUBNET team!

Important to the success of the SUBNET program is the partnership with all stakeholders involved in R&D projects from the receipt of white papers for evaluation to the end of the project when the project transitions to DLA Troop Support Subsistence, Military Services or its Industry partners. Most importantly, collaborating with the team at DLA Troop Support Subsistence, DCSO-P, and DLA R&D Finance helps to synchronize and sustain short-term and long-term SUBNET RDT&E.



SUBNET Fun Fact

MREs must be capable of withstanding parachute drops from 1,250 ft. & non-parachute drops of 100 ft.



J68 R&D Provides Supply Chain Solutions to Combat COVID-19

DLA's Joint Additive Manufacturing Model Exchange (JAMMEX) Tool improves supply chain readiness and expands manufacturing industry response to COVID-19

The R&D Additive Manufacturing Program (with collaboration from the Military Service, Industry and Whole of Government) has developed a capability to consolidate the Defense Department's technical data into packages for advanced manufacturing. Though still in development by DLA in conjunction with the National Institutes of Health and the military services, JAMMEX lets users download and print models from a multi-source platform. Users can access, download, and print critical models for items such as face shields and surgical masks.

The DLA SUBNET and Small Business Innovation Program (SBIP) are leveraging an innovative technology to provide Cold Plasma Treatment for Rapid Disinfection of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to help reduce supply chain burden

"The machine, about the size of a large microwave oven, is utilizing a cold plasma fog technology. It has been shown to be able to oxidize or to kill viruses and pathogens from personal protective equipment."

*David Koch, on Federal News Radio
June 5, 2020*

The SUBNET/SBIP effort is working to combat COVID-19 through novel technology developed by AAPlasma and Drexel University that uses cold plasma fog to provide rapid disinfection of PPEs. AAPlasma and its design partner NextFab will validate 100 systems in hospitals and in the food industry after they gain approval from the FDA through an Emergency Use Authorization. This Cold Plasma OXYSTRIKE™ bioburden reduction systems aids in disinfecting PPE (masks, gowns, head covers, etc.) for re-use after 20-cycles. In development are small PPE disinfection systems capable of "between-patient" disinfection within 20 minutes.

R&D's Technology Accelerator Team prototype PPE Efforts

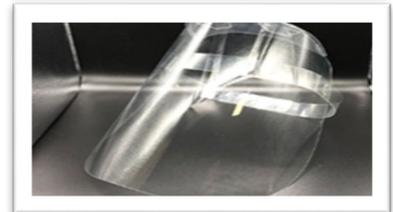
The Technology Accelerator has two separate efforts to deliver personal protective equipment ("PPE"): first, to use rapid manufacturing methods to design and create items on a just-in-time basis; and second, to work directly with experienced mask manufacturers to make certified N95 respirators that are specifically-tailored for DoD end users.

Rapid Manufacturing. The team made 11,000 face shields for NYC first responders. We also made 34 face shields for DDSP (DLA Susquehanna) to keep the DLA depot operational. Both designs were laser cut, but we have the ability to make parts using a number of processes: CNC machining, injection molding, additive manufacturing.

N95s. The team is working with two companies to create various novel N95s.

Three notable points:

1. DoD-Focused Design. Prototype respirators are uniquely tailored for the warfighter: comfortable, compatible with headgear, allow for warfighter mobility. These designs attach to the user's face with a medical adhesive rather than the usual head-straps.
2. U.S. Companies & Materials. Untapped domestic production capacity, in contrast to most N95s, which either rely on imported filtration media or pull on common, dwindling domestic materials.
3. Cost at Scale. The flat style with no straps, fewer components, and less assembly drastically lowers cost.



DLA R&D's supply chain solutions provide support for COVID's front line heroes

For additional information, please visit our COVID Resource Center at https://dlamil.dps.mil/sites/RD_PlanEx/SitePages/ResourceCenter.aspx

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Hails & Farewells

Hails (Welcome)

RADM Michelle Skubic, USN
COL Anthony Bostick,
CDR James P. Zakar, USN
John McMath
Rodney Dickerson (August)

DLA Director

DLA Veterinarian Advisor

J68 R&D Deputy

J68 Funds Holders

J68 Resource Manager

Farewell (Thank you!)

LTG Darryl Williams, USA
COL Brian Kim

Paul Henry

Karen Cotton Peterkin



Army Col. Brian Kim, senior veterinary advisor, demonstrates the heater in a "meal, ready to eat" field ration at a lunch-and-learn event at DLA headquarters



Defense Logistics Agency Director Army Lt. Gen. Darrell Williams addresses attendees at the Defense Manufacturing Conference, Dec. 3, 2019

DLA Partnership Highlight: J6 Strategic Communications Team

Through a collaborative partnership with DLA J6 Strategic Communications, the J68 R&D Strategic Communications team is bringing increased visibility and awareness to the many projects and initiatives DLA R&D is pursuing in support of the warfighters. Strategic Communications efforts include articles for internal and external media, social media, briefings, media engagements, photos, event planning, and much more.



Sara Moore, J68 Strategic Communications liaison

J68's Strategic Communication efforts are a vital part of the overall J6 communication mission to prompt organizational level action in line with Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) and J6 priorities, moving the agency forward deliberately and collectively. J68 is a key partner in getting the right message to the right audience at the right time for the right effect.

Upcoming Events



August

25-26 Aug: NDIA DLA Land & Maritime Supplier Conference

September

1-3 Sept: R&D Biannual Offsite

14-16 Sept: AFA Air, Space & Cyber Tech Expo

22-24 Sept: Modern Day Marine

30 Sept: End of FY20

November

18 Nov: R&D Industry/Collider Day

