



# THE LINK

Connecting Suppliers with DLA



Issue 39  
January 2026

## **2026 TKO** **Mark Your Calendars!**

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### **FREE TKO SEMINARS**

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February 20, 2026 (Virtual)  
March 10-11, 2026 (Virtual)  
March 27, 2026 (Virtual)  
April 24, 2026 (Virtual)  
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June 9-10, 2026 (APEX Only)  
July 7-8, 2026 (Virtual)  
September 15-16, 2026 (Virtual)  
November 17-18, 2026 (In-Person)

### **Register at:**

[Outreach Calendar \(dla.mil\)](https://dla.mil/outreach/calendar)

### **Find other Training Opportunities here:**

[DLA SMALL BUSINESS TRAINING](#)

**Find APEX Accelerators' events  
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## **Announcing DLA Weapons Support**

The Defense Logistics Agency announced on October 1, 2025 the stand up of a new major subordinate command dedicated to supplying spare and repair parts to the military services. [DLA Weapons Support](#) integrates the missions of DLA Aviation and DLA Land and Maritime into a single unified command responsible for weapon systems support to the joint force.

In military terms, this supply category is known as Class IX. Initial operating capability for the new MSC began October 1, 2025, and it will operate across the two existing locations at Defense Supply Center Columbus, Ohio, and Defense Supply Center Richmond, Virginia. No facility closures are planned.

DLA Director Army Lt. Gen. Mark Simerly called this an exciting time for DLA, as it rewrites the script on weapon system support.

"Nobody else can do what we do, and we're not going to back down from that mission set," Simerly said, noting the outstanding quality and adaptability of the Class IX team is unrivaled in meeting the needs of the warfighter.

The commanders of the former MSCs – Navy Rear Adm. Julie Treanor at Land and Maritime, and Air Force Brig. Gen. Patrick Launey at Aviation – will share command responsibilities during the one-year transition period.

"We have a unique opportunity to challenge existing norms and make this organization the best it can be," Treanor said. "This unified command will significantly enhance our support in today's highly contested operational environment and enable us to move faster, think smarter, and respond more effectively to evolving warfighter needs."

# Announcing DLA Weapons Support (Cont.)

Echoing Treanor's vision, Launey said the transformation will not only benefit the warfighter but also strengthen the organization's internal cohesion.

"This transformation allows us to re-evaluate how we're structured, how we operate, and how we communicate – always keeping the warfighter, our suppliers, our workforce and the Agency's overall mission in mind," Launey said. "We have amazing teams of logistics professionals who are committed to growing even stronger and more effective as we move out on this campaign together."

Simerly said that when DLA leadership was looking at the agency's organizational structure, it made sense to combine the Class IX spare and repair parts mission under one umbrella, to have "a single command to optimize our level of support, develop standard best practices and prioritize appropriately across the board."

"As the nation's logistics combat support agency, it is vital that DLA evolves in parallel with the everchanging landscape," he said. "Now is the time to accelerate transformation – modernizing DLA to be more adaptive, efficient and resilient."

This change is part of several transformative initiatives to increase effectiveness, enhance support to the warfighter and optimize DLA's workforce. It also directly aligns with the War Secretary's priorities to restore the warrior ethos, rebuild the military and reestablish deterrence.

Simerly emphasized the plan for the new MSC was "integrated by design," reflecting the combined efforts of both the DLA Land and Maritime and DLA Aviation leadership.

An integration team that includes key leaders and support staff from DLA Aviation, DLA Land and Maritime, and DLA Headquarters was assembled to inform the design of the new MSC.

The establishment of DLA Weapons Support is a long-term investment in the future of DLA. The new MSC is designed to be a more efficient, effective and resilient organization capable of meeting the challenges of the future. As stated in its mission statement, DLA Weapons Support will deliver "Weapon Systems readiness and lethality globally to our Warfighters, the Nation, and its partners."

Regular updates to the workforce and the agency's customers will be announced as decisions are finalized and implementation progresses.

Simerly harkened back to the agency's beginnings to drive the point home that DLA is built to change and built to last, and this latest transformation is an evolution of DLA's collective DNA.

"We think the things that made us valuable then, very much hold true now," he said. "We have expanded, and we have contracted over time as we responded to warfighter requirements – constantly changing to meet the needs of those who depend on us."

More information can be found at <https://www.dla.mil/Weapons-Support/>

# Free Expert Training via APEX Accelerator



The Department of Defense (DoD) is offering free, vetted training through the APEX Accelerators program (formerly PTAC) to help businesses understand the government contracting process. Managed by the DoD's Office of Small Business Programs, APEX Accelerators provide the education and resources needed to navigate government procurement.

<https://www.apexaccelerators.us/#/>

Some of the key ways APEX Accelerators help businesses are:

- Assistance in completing registration with a wide range of databases necessary for participation in the government marketplace (e.g., DIBBS, SAM, etc.).
- Identify which agencies and offices may need their products or services and how to connect with buying agencies and offices.
- Determine whether they are ready for government opportunities and how to position themselves to succeed.
- Navigate solicitations and potential funding opportunities.
- Receive notifications of government contract opportunities on a regular basis.
- Network with procurement officials, prime contractors, and other businesses.
- Resolve performance issues and prepare for audit, only if the service is needed, after receiving an award.

## LOCATIONS

### FIND AN APEX ACCELERATOR NEAR YOU

Enter your business address, city, or ZIP code in the search box to find the location that serves you.

If you are a Native American business, or if you wish to explore the potential of selling to Tribal governments, we invite you to contact the Native American Accelerator that serves your area. [Click here](#) for the Native American APEX Accelerators map for contact information.

MapSatellite

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# 2026 Training Knowledge & Opportunities Schedule

Find upcoming opportunities to work with DLA through DLA's Small Business Outreach Calendar. Discover matchmaking events, attend classes or connect with other small businesses in similar industries. Details for each event can be found at DLA's [Small Business Outreach Calendar](#).

## 2026 Schedule



01/13/2026 - 01/14/2026	<a href="#">Training Knowledge &amp; Opportunities Seminar (Free)</a>
02/20/2026 - 02/20/2026	<a href="#">The Importance of JCP Certification in Defense Contracting</a>
03/10/2026 - 03/11/2026	<a href="#">Training Knowledge &amp; Opportunities Seminar (Free)</a>
03/27/2026 - 03/27/2026	<a href="#">DLA Packaging Program - Training, Knowledge, and Opportunities (TKO) Webinar (Free)</a>
04/24/2026 - 04/24/2026	<a href="#">Navigating the Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) - TKO Webinar</a>
05/12/2026 - 05/13/2026	<a href="#">Training Knowledge &amp; Opportunities Seminar (Free)</a>
06/9/2026 - 06/10/2026	<a href="#">Training Knowledge &amp; Opportunities Seminar (Free)</a>
07/7/2026 - 07/8/2026	<a href="#">Training Knowledge &amp; Opportunities Seminar (Free)</a>
09/15/2026 - 09/16/2026	<a href="#">Training Knowledge &amp; Opportunities Seminar (Free)</a>
11/17/2026 - 11/18/2026	<a href="#">Training Knowledge &amp; Opportunities Seminar (Free)</a>

## Revised DIBBS User Terms & Conditions

In order to enhance information security, DLA updated the DIBBS user terms and conditions on 10/9/2025. Since that date, all DIBBS registered users are prompted to accept the new terms and conditions the next time they log into the system. Until the new terms and conditions are accepted, DIBBS users will not have their full access privileges. The new terms and conditions can be viewed at:

**DIBBS Super User:** <http://www.dla.mil/Portals/104/Documents/InformationOperations/EBS%20Supplier%20Information/Super%20User%20Terms%20and%20Conditions.pdf?ver=mRUgSfQPrTT8XCq7zG8HoQ%3d%3d>

**DIBBS Subordinate User :** <https://www.dla.mil/Portals/104/Documents/InformationOperations/EBS%20Supplier%20Information/Subordinate%20User%20Terms%20and%20Conditions.pdf?ver=ZftqyAWV95DP7FNaV4gTQw%3d%3d>

# What's In a Name: Joint Certification Program (JCP)?

**What It Is:** The Joint Certification Program Office (JCO) oversees the eligibility process for accessing Export Controlled Data. It manages the submission and approval of Militarily Critical Technical Data (DD2345) forms for U.S. and Canadian vendors seeking access to Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) and Military Services (MIL SVC) controlled data. The JCO handles both standard applications and those requiring DLA Enhanced Validation (DEV).

**A Brief History:** Established in 1985 through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the JCP began as a fully manual process—complete with rubber-stamped signatures and paper-based correspondence. Until our larger technological transformation in 2023, incomplete registrations were returned via traditional mail (or fax), making the process slow and cumbersome.

Today, the program has evolved into a streamlined, web-based system. Upon completion, applicants receive an auto-generated DD2345 form via email. This modernization has significantly enhanced support for DoD and DLA acquisition efforts, enabling secure access to technical data for solicitations, conferences, and scientific research.

**Basic vs. DEV Registration:** To access DLA's Export Controlled Technical Data via cFolders, vendors must be registered with both the Defense Internet Bid Board System (DIBBS) and the DLA Enhanced Validation (DEV) certification. Solicitation packages will specify whether DEV registration is required—so it's essential to carefully follow the instructions provided in each solicitation.

- **Prerequisite for DEV - DD2345 Registration:** Before applying for DEV certification, vendors must hold an active DD2345 registration. That's right — DD2345 is a mandatory first step. Without it, DEV registration cannot proceed.
- **Submitting a DEV Application:**
  - When submitting a DLA Enhanced Validation (DEV) request:
  - Include a copy of your *active* DD2345 form with the application
  - Ensure your Joint Certification Program (JCP) registration is *current* and *valid*
  - *Applications missing an active DD2345 will be rejected.*

## When to Register:

*Before applying to the JCP, vendors must:*

- Be registered in the System for Award Management (SAM)
- Possess a valid Commercial and Government Entity (CAGE/NCAGE) code
- Complete a cybersecurity self-assessment per NIST SP 800-171
- Review and complete the Introduction to Proper Handling of Export Controlled Technical Data training

## Additional Registrations That May be Necessary

- Directorate of Defense Trade Controls (DDTC): If your products are listed on the United States Munitions List (USML)
- Commerce Control List (CCL): If your items fall under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of Commerce's Commerce Control List

**Where to Register:** Ready to begin? Visit the official JCP website to access the registration site and learn more about the process: <https://www.dla.mil/Logistics-Operations/Services/JCP/#joint-certification-program-jcp-office>

# Packaging and Marking Discrepancies

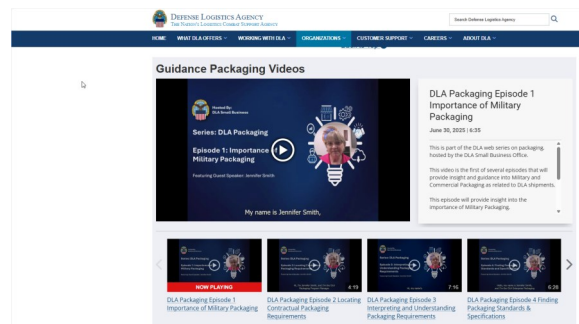
Packaging, palletization, and marking/labeling discrepancies cause a considerable delay in payment of invoices, goods receipt and delay the availability of material to the Warfighter. In 2018, DLA began automatically notifying suppliers of materiel arriving with packaging and/or marking that is not contractually compliant. As part of a Continuous Process Improvement (CPI) initiative, an enhanced notification letter includes links to a series of informational videos that provide a representation of what 'right' looks like.

Common errors addressed in the short videos are:

- Unit/intermediate and exterior item [identification markings](#)
- [Military shipping labels](#) – proper addressing in the Vendor Shipping Module (VSM)
- [Packaging](#) – preparation for delivery and packaging requirements
- [Pallet types](#) – types of pallets used by DLA, correct use and preparation
- [Shelf life](#) – how to handle materiel with a shelf life like batteries or tires

The DLA Packaging website, <https://www.dla.mil/Logistics-Operations/Packaging/>, is the authoritative source for all DLA packaging related information. Along with a DLA Packaging and Marking Guide, Packaging FAQs, and many other packaging and marking related topics, full length educational videos along with Web Shorts are available for the following topics, and many others such as;

- Vendor Shipping Requirements
- Packaging Requirements
- Unit Pack Marking Requirements
- Care and Remediation of Electrostatic Discharge Sensitive (ESDS) Items
- Importance of Military Packaging
- Locating Contractual Packaging Requirements
- Interpreting and Understanding Packaging Requirements
- Finding Packaging Standards and Specifications
- Military Methods of Preservation



Questions on the Vendor Notification Letter or for DLA Packaging can be submitted to [DLA\\_PKG\\_SR@dla.mil](mailto:DLA_PKG_SR@dla.mil).

## Weapons Support (Columbus) Supply Chain - “Hot” Items List

**Do you have parts on hand? Government surplus? Manufacturers’ overruns?**

DLA Weapons Support (Columbus) has posted a list of items that are urgently needed at: [Selling to DLA Weapons Support \(Columbus\)](#).

We are looking for readily available and usable material. We are asking our industry partners to review this list and let us know if you have surplus, manufacturers’ overruns, or residual inventory. The intent is to update this list monthly so please check back regularly.

Please submit inquiries to [FL.AvailMat@dla.mil](mailto:FL.AvailMat@dla.mil).

