

DEFENSE GENERAL SUPPLY CENTER

OVERVIEW

DGSC is responsible for supply management of assigned items and for distribution of these items to the four services worldwide. These functions include cataloguing, forecasting of requirements, procurement, inspection and quality control, warehousing, and distribution of new materiel and the maintenance and overhaul of existing equipment.

DGSC provides to the United States Armed Forces a variety of item categories of a general nature. Major product groups purchased by the Center include: non-powered material handling equipment, rubber fabricated materials, plastic fabricated materials, photographic supplies, measuring instruments, batteries, safety equipment and rescue equipment, food service equipment, electrical equipment including transformers and motors, electrical hardware and supplies, packaging materials, aircraft components and structures, hand-packaged fuels and industrial chemicals. In addition to its responsibilities for procurement and supply of the U.S. Military School System overseas, the Center also supports over 850 weapons systems with the resultant responsibility for the management of nearly 500,000 items of supply.

PROCUREMENT TRENDS

The Commanding Officer and senior staff of DGSC have been extremely enthusiastic about developing Canadian sources of supply and, as a consequence, over 130 Canadian firms are registered as suppliers to the Center. In 1992 alone DGSC participated in three missions to Canada in an effort to increase this supplier base. During these missions, officers of DGSC have been particularly enthusiastic regarding Canadian sources of supply because of the industry's willingness to adapt production to meet the low-run requirements of the Center. In addition, because the Center purchases many items which are not purchased to military specifications, the Center is a particularly attractive procurement agency for Canadian industry.

DGSC is the largest of the Defense Logistics Agency facilities in the United States and has continued to grow as an increased number of items are transferred to DGSC from other Centers which have less procurement staff. Consequently, the Center increases as a market opportunity for Canadian industry as items continue to be transferred. A recent important example of this transfer of responsibility was for items under Federal Stock Classification 1560 (aircraft structural components) and 1680 (aircraft accessories and components, miscellaneous). Under these two categories alone, DGSC manages approximately 50,000 items to support those non-front-line aircraft which are no longer managed by the individual services.

DGSC procurement responsibilities have gradually increased in recent years and average approximately \$850 million (US). However, the forecast for procurement level for FY92 is expected to be approximately \$434 million (US). Of this procurement activity, approximately 20-25 percent is directed to small business under restricted procurement