



NDTA – “Supporting the Challenge”

SDDC /G-9 Traffic Management Workshop and NDTA Expo

St. Louis, MO

The voice of Defence Transportation

October 17 - 21, 2011

NDTA was pleased to participate in the recent week-long Traffic Management Workshop in St. Louis, Missouri, sponsored by SDDC / G-9 for the benefit of all service branch transporters and their industry partners. MG Kevin Leonard, USA, commander of Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC) welcomed attendees to join hands-on workshops, demonstrations and the NDTA Expo coordinated in support of the event. The Expo period was held on Monday afternoon and included a buffet lunch. MG Leonard performed the ribbon cutting honors, officially opening the Expo Hall. Workshop attendees had the afternoon to make their way through the nearly 50 industry and military/government exhibits to meet service providers, and in some cases put faces with names. They were able to learn more about processes and technologies designed to move personnel, equipment and supplies safely and efficiently. The Traffic Management Workshop | NDTA Expo was held at The Millennium Hotel in downtown St. Louis, conveniently located to Scott Air Force Base and SDDC headquarters.

In opening remarks, MG Leonard spoke at length about the partnership with industry, and expressed his sincere appreciation for the ongoing efforts. He spoke of the significant challenges ahead as the US Army will have to reconstitute after a decade of war; specifically, the now full withdrawal from Iraq alongside the simultaneous support required for Afghanistan, deployment of Special Forces to Africa, news that was announced just after the workshop convened, and other commitments. He emphasized the opportunities for industry in supporting the challenge, as well as supporting the US Embassy in Bagdad with approximately 14,000 State Department employees and support personnel. Additional considerations include some 40,000 vehicles that are in Iraq as well as an untold number of containers. “How do we move forward? Are we doing the right things...in the right way? What are we missing... and, what’s next?” Leonard asked. He spoke about lines of communication in Africa, which are problematic, and indicate that supporting any future operations in Africa may be more difficult than in Iraq and Afghanistan. He encouraged industry partners, who might know how to solve the complex issues in Africa, to join the challenge.

According to Leonard, partnership, which is grounded in trust and accountability, will be pivotal to SDDC’s success.

About SDDC / G9: The G-9 staff section assigned to SDDC is responsible for business and industry relations, and serves as a liaison between the command and its business partners. Over the years, SDDC and its predecessor commands has hosted a long series of educational and training workshops to keep personnel apprised of the most current information in Traffic Management, Freight Movement and Personnel Property. “Supporting the Challenge” represented a revised training format that for the first time in recent history included both service personnel and industry stakeholders.

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NDTA (the National Defense Transportation Association) is a non-profit, non-political educational association committed to fostering partnerships between government, military and industry, and maintaining a strong and efficient global transportation travel and distribution system in support of national security. There are over 9,000 members in the Association, composed of both individual and corporate members. There are over 60 chapters in the United States and overseas in Europe, Asia and the Pacific. The National Headquarters office is located in Alexandria, Va.

