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**DEFENSE LOGISTICS  
AGENCY**



# **WARSTOPPER PROGRAM MATERIAL BUFFERS**



## BACKGROUND:

- Warstopper material buffers are established to provide a readiness capability that would allow for an accelerated ramp up of production to support current, wartime, or other military contingency requirements.
- Prior to 2008, material buffers were only established at the point of manufacturing (tactical) but lessons learned from OEF/OIF identified the need for establishing material buffers at the sub-tier supply chain level (strategic) to provide for greater flexibility to support current, wartime, or other contingency military requirements.

## DISCUSSION:

- The selection of the type buffer is dependent on how well the requirement (material specification, shape, form and size, associated risks and product forecast) is known.

| Type             | Buffer Characteristics   | Pros  | Cons   |
|------------------|--|---|--|
| <b>Tactical</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Located at a manufacturer's site</li> <li>• Material is in form required for specific product(s) production</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staged and ready for specific product(s) production</li> <li>• Lowest possible lead-time</li> <li>• Fastest production ramp up to meet surge demand</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less flexibility to move material               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contracting actions required</li> <li>- Acceptance and liability issues</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Reduced product application options</li> <li>• Higher cost to establish over Strategic</li> </ul> |
| <b>Strategic</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Located in sub-tier supply chain</li> <li>• Material is usually not shape, formed or sized for specific product(s)</li> <li>• Typically, set up as a business-to-business sale and not GFM</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater flexibility to allow for               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Use by any manufacturer</li> <li>- Application across a wider number of products</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Potentially lower cost to establish over tactical</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a longer product production ramp up because of the requirement to further process material into specific shapes, forms and size</li> </ul>   |

- The two types of buffers, tactical and strategic,
  - use sales (products or material, respectively) to maintain buffer inventories
  - have the greatest Return on Investment (ROI) when the requirement materializes
  - have exit strategies to recoup some or all of the Warstopper investments
- For readiness, the best approach is the strategic buffer since wartime demand is predicated upon system employed, operating environment and operational tempo.
- The Warstopper strategic material buffer readiness measure business case has a cumulative ROI of approximately 7 to 1.
- Tactical buffers are used by the Supplier upon receipt of a surge designated delivery orders
- Strategic buffers are business-to-business, not Government Furnished Material (GFM). Access is granted based on either
  - (1) When a supplier has been asked to expedite delivery on a defense contract by supplying that information and the DPAS rating; or
  - (2) In rare cases where Government must approve access, the COR approves the access to the buffer