DCMA FAQs

January 2018

Q: What is the Defense Contract Management Agency?
A: DCMA is a Department of Defense combat support agency responsible for ensuring the integrity of contractual processes and providing a broad range of contract-procurement management services for America's warfighters. The agency's team of professionals ensures that federal acquisition programs, supplies and services are delivered on time, within cost and meet performance requirements.

Q: What does DCMA do?
A: DCMA is the Department of Defense component that works directly with defense suppliers to ensure that DOD, federal and allied government supplies and services are delivered on time, at projected cost and meet all performance requirements. DCMA professionals serve as information brokers and in-plant representatives for military, federal and allied government buying agencies — both during the initial stages of the acquisition cycle and throughout the terms of the resulting contracts. As such, DCMA directly contributes to the military readiness of the United States and its allies and helps preserve the nation's freedom.

Before a contract is awarded for any product or service, DCMA provides advice and information to help construct effective solicitations, identify potential risks, select the most capable contractors and write contracts that meet the needs of the customers in DOD, federal and allied government agencies.

After a contract award, DCMA monitors contractors' performance and management systems to ensure that cost, product performance and delivery schedules are in compliance with the terms and conditions of the contracts.

Q: Where is DCMA located?
A: DCMA is headquartered on Fort Lee, Va. The headquarters building, Herbert Homer Hall, was dedicated on Sept. 15, 2011. There are also 47 contract management offices responsible for work performed at more than 1,000 locations worldwide.

Q: How is DCMA structured?
A: DCMA is geographically aligned into regions — East, Central, West and International. This geographic alignment enables the agency to deliver consistent, tactical results and decision-quality information across the acquisition enterprise.

Q: Who works for DCMA?
A: Approximately 11,500 civilian and 530 military professionals in plants throughout the United States and in 26 countries around the world carry out DCMA's mission — to provide customer-focused acquisition support and contract management services to ensure worldwide warfighter readiness, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. DCMA's professionals serve as information brokers for military buying agencies both during the acquisition cycle and throughout the life of the contract.

Q: Who are DCMA's customers?
A: DCMA's customers include DOD, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Army, Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force, as well as non-DOD clients such as the Coast Guard, NASA and the Department of Homeland Security.

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Q: Where does DCMA fit into defense?
A: DCMA is under DOD's Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics. The USD(AT&L) is the principal staff assistant and advisor to both the Secretary of Defense and the Deputy Secretary of Defense for all matters concerning acquisition, technology and logistics.

Q: When was DCMA established?
A: DCMA began as a Defense Logistics Agency organization called the Defense Contract Management Command and performed all contract administration services for the DOD. On March 27, 2000, the DOD renamed DCMC as the DCMA and established it independently from DLA. DOD Directive 5105.64, signed Sept. 27, 2000, formally established DCMA's purpose and mission and, except for specific exceptions detailed in the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement, required all DOD contract administration functions to be delegated to DCMA.