



# GDLS ensures on-time fielding of Iraqi Army tanks

Jo Adail Stephenson | DCMA Public Affairs

**Tanks are on schedule to be completed and delivered later this year to the Iraqi Army. This**

would not have been possible without the Defense Contract Management Agency – General Dynamics Land Systems. DCMA-GDLS is helping the U.S. deliver on its commitment to modernize the Iraqi Army by providing oversight on a contract ensuring M1A1 Abrams tanks are produced and delivered on time.

DCMA-GDLS performs contract management/administration, industrial surveillance, product quality assurance, vehicle test and acceptance, and transportation services for the Iraqi tank contract, which procures M1A1 tanks to be produced at the Joint Systems

Manufacturing Center in Lima, Ohio. JSMC is a government-owned, contractor-operated heavy manufacturing facility owned by the U.S. Army TACOM Life Cycle Management Command, operated by GDLS and managed by DCMA-GDLS on behalf of TACOM LCMC.

Production planning began in 2008 when the Iraqi government signed the letter of agreement. Contract discussions and plant facilitation for the program began in early 2009. The initial long lead material contract was signed in March 2009, and actual production began in February 2010.

DCMA-GDLS QA representatives inspect and accept the tanks on behalf of the U.S. government. Then the tanks are

shipped to the deprocessing site in Iraq to be prepared for hand-off to the Iraqi Army.

“The DCMA-GDLS team responded to an urgent request by the Office of the Secretary of Defense to help resolve critical transportation and security requirements impacting the first delivery of M1A1 tanks, ensuring on-time fielding to the Iraqi Army,” Wade McVey, DCMA-GDLS deputy director, said.

DCMA transportation and security personnel were instrumental in ensuring the tanks destined for Iraq were delivered on time.

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*Defense Contract Management Agency – General Dynamics Land Systems personnel answer questions from Iraqi delegation members during their acceptance inspection demonstration at the Joint Systems Manufacturing Center in Lima, Ohio, where M1A1 Abrams tanks are being produced for the Iraqi Army. (Photos by Brian M. Hahn, DCMA-GDLS)*

locations, safeguarding and protecting the interest of our national security in support of our warfighters and foreign customers,” McVey said. “Due to the efforts of the DCMA-GDLS team, this program is on schedule with deliveries in accordance with all regulatory requirements.”

### **Iraqi delegation witnesses DCMA oversight**

Late last year, a delegation of representatives from the Iraqi Ministry of Defense observed firsthand how DCMA-GDLS personnel were performing QA inspection and product acceptance on these tanks.

“This visit reinforced the U.S. commitment to modernizing the Iraqi Army to ensure they will be capable of providing their own internal defense,” said McVey. “DCMA-GDLS is very proud to be a part of that mission and strives to ensure every combat system leaving this plant is the very best possible system that can be put into the warfighter’s hands, whether U.S. or ally.”

The visit to JSMC came about when the Abrams Program Office asked DCMA-

**“Defense Contract Management Agency transportation and security personnel play a vital role in the successful execution of the delivery of the Abrams tanks to both foreign and domestic locations.”**

— Army Lt. Col. Don Hurst, DCMA – Northern Iraq commander

GDLS if they would be willing to host several Iraqi Army representatives and give them a demonstration of how DCMA personnel inspect their tanks. DCMA-GDLS not only performs contract management for the Abrams but also manages installation on behalf of TACOM LCMC.

“It made sense for us to host the visitors. The visit was specifically focused on observing the QA inspection and product acceptance DCMA-GDLS performs,” McVey said.

During the visit, the Iraqi representatives were provided overview presentations on the facility, the Iraqi tank program and DCMA’s responsibilities from contract administration through end-item acceptance of the M1 tanks they will receive.

Following the presentations, they received a plant tour, including the M1 Abrams assembly lines, vehicle test and acceptance process and final preparation and shipping. After the tour concluded,

the delegation received an opportunity to perform a modified end-item final inspection on several of their tanks with DCMA-GDLS personnel.

“The delegation members were very appreciative of the chance to see their own vehicles during this time as they were to provide a report back to the Minister of Defense on the quality of their vehicles upon their return home,” McVey said.

“The visit’s result allowed Iraqi Army personnel to go back to Iraq with positive information that the vehicles DCMA-GDLS is producing for them are high-quality items and are built to the same specifications as U.S. tanks. The visit went extremely well; they appreciated the experience and opportunity,” McVey said.

Since the original notification of the Infrastructure Modernization, DCMA-GDLS has had four other Iraqi delegation visits, including the Iraqi ambassador to the United Nations in August 2009. ©



*Iraqi Ministry of Defense representatives perform a modified end-item final inspection with Defense Contract Management Agency – General Dynamics Land Systems personnel. Last year, the delegation visited the Joint Systems Manufacturing Center in Lima, Ohio, where DCMA-GDLS personnel perform quality assurance inspection and product acceptance on M1A1 Abrams tanks their government is procuring.*