SUBJECT: Release of Version 4, Lead Materiel Integrator Decision Support Tool (LMI DST)

DATE: 15 June 2013

Several years ago, Army materiel stakeholders began working through the complexities of the LMI approach to Army materiel distribution/redistribution. A key subcomponent of the effort has been the development of a collaborative, web-based environment that enables stakeholders to match available Army resources against validated, prioritized requirements far in advance with accuracy and transparency. From these deliberations, the LMI DST was developed.

On 15 December 2011, LOGSA released version 1 of the LMI DST, which was exclusively for the use of Army Sustainment Command. In June 2012, LOGSA released version 2, which made DST accessible to all ACOMs and featured an improved workflow. Then in December 2012, version 3 was released, adding the ability to track the execution of sourcing decisions and calculate second destination costs. On 14 June, LOGSA releases Version 4; this adds a Distribution/Turn-In Module, E-mail messaging, Notifications, near real-time Asset Detail Visibility, Execution Tracking Metrics and an Auto-Sourcing Course of Action capability.

With this new version, LOGSA continues to expand the LMI DST’s capabilities with those necessary for Army-wide use. After this release, LOGSA will shift focus to enhancing existing capabilities and improving the application’s performance.

It is an exciting time to be an Army Logistician. Together, we are systematically automating and integrating Army distribution/redistribution processes and ushering in an age of greater transparency, collaboration, efficiency and cost savings.

I am available for any questions you may have concerning the LMI DST. Please contact me directly at (256) 955-9006.

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Appendix 1 – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
Appendix 2 – Procedure for Submitting Requests for Information (RFI), Engineer Change Package (ECP), or New Software Requirements
Appendix 1   Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q1. How does the DST work? What does it do?
A. The DST contains a powerful Sourcing Engine that compares all the Army's resources (i.e., "Supply") with all the Army's validated, prioritized requirements (i.e., "Demand"). Through the application of Army policy and leadership directives, DST recommends efficient materiel sourcing solutions. The LMI then vets these Proposed Sourcing Decisions with all the Army's materiel stakeholders via DST. The DST then tracks each approved action from initiation to completion.

Q2. What is the scope of DST?
A. DST manages Army materiel distribution/redistribution in three dimensions: units, items, and time. The DST examines all Army units at the AA level-of-detail and all items at the Line Item Number (LIN) level-of-detail, and it projects two years (24 months) into the future. Eventually, the granularity of detail can be refined in all three of these areas. For example, although DST is currently limited to Army units, it can be later expanded to include units of other services or coalition forces. Although the DST looks out two years at present, this view can be eventually pushed out to three, four, or five years for planning purposes.

Q3. What are the DST’s current capabilities?
A. With the release of Version 4 on 15 Jun 13, DST now has the following capabilities:
   - Identify equipment shortages based on comparing authorizations to EOH.
   - Visualize Supply and Demand for two years.
   - Sourcing engine capable of creating Proposed Sourcing Decisions (PSD) based on Army Equipment Sourcing Strategy.
   - Proposed Sourcing Decision vetting capability.
   - Robust reports, including the Unit Distribution View and Execution Tracker Metrics.
   - Execution tracking of the Proposed Sourcing Decision.
   - Auto-Sourcing Course of Action Analysis capability, which provides users the ability to create plans for “what if?” scenarios.
   - Distribution/Turn-in Module that automates disposition instructions and turn-in directives.
   - Display DA G8 COMPO allocations from AE2S.
   - Automatic email notification capability, which enables users to build & upload a form letter/template, attach PSDs, and automatically email to a users custom email distribution list, which can be managed within the tool.
   - Inform DST users of actions requiring their attention through notification messages posted on the main menu of DST.
   - Allow users a more detailed and current view of asset visibility by way of an asset detail drilldown capability that is updated daily.

Q4. What additional major capabilities will LMI DST have in the future?
The following additional major requirements will be evaluated for future inclusion to LMI DST
   - Integration of the Materiel Demand Module via the ARFORGEN Synch Tool (AST). For LMI to make sound sourcing decisions, it is essential that they are able to visualize both Army equipment supply and prioritized demand in one location. This is currently a data gap.
   - Derivative Level UICs- LOGSA is evaluating the requirement to provide sourcing capabilities to the derivative level. Alternatives will be evaluated in order to provide the capability to create
Proposed Sourcing Decisions to the derivative level without negatively impacting application performance.

Q5. How has auto-sourcing changed with Version 4?
A. The Auto-Sourcing module now provides an excursion capability for key strategic planners. This capability allows users to run multiple Courses of Action at once. Auto-sources can be tailored to create Proposed Sourcing Decisions (PSD), Temporary COA Sourcing Decisions (CSD), or be run without creating PSDs. The purpose of the COA capability is to allow users to change parameters and view the results. Auto-Source runs that create either PSDs or CSDs queue in order and are run one at a time. These auto-sources lock out other users from sourcing LINs included in the auto-source and they remain locked until the auto-source completes.

Additional enhancements include the capability to auto-source to either aim point or authorization. Planners can also set the auto-source start date to up to 180 days in the future.

Q6. What features does the Asset Visibility capability provide?
A. The Asset Visibility Drilldown capability provides a drill down at the UIC/LIN level from the Unit Distribution View, Manual Source screen, and the Supply Viewer, as well as a separate Asset Vis screen. The purpose of this capability is to provide a view of assets to the DUIC level, to include PBIC and TAC. This data is updated daily.

Q7. What is the purpose of Notifications?
A. When a user logs into LMI DST, the homepage provides four notification boxes in order to quickly identify actions that may need attention. The notification boxes include PSDs open for vetting, PSDs awaiting approval, PSDs approved for execution, and PSDs not open for vetting.

Q8. What is the purpose of the Email Capability?
A. LMI DST provides the capability to email directives for Lateral Transfer and Turn-in Proposed Sourcing Decisions. Those using LMI DST’s email capability to email directives can create and edit email lists and include anyone with a .mil or .gov email address. The email capability also provides the ability to develop a template for the directive memo.

Q9. What is the purpose of Distribution/Turn-In Module?
A. The Distribution/Turn-In (DTI) Module provides the capability to nominate items for turn-in and use the DST collaborative environment to vet decisions. A turn-in Proposed Sourcing Decision is created when the item is nominated. DTI provides the capability to change the PSD Type to Lateral Transfer and enter the receiving unit’s UIC if a need for the equipment is identified during vetting. DTI also provides the capability to identify a supply pool (at the UIC/RIC and LIN/NIIN level) and visualize UICs to source. This capability improves sourcing by allowing bulk sourcing decisions and sourcing above authorization and to units without authorizations, where necessary.

Q10. What is the purpose of Execution Tracking Metrics?
A. This capability allows users to track actions in the next 30, 60, 90 days (up to 365 days out) as well as 365 days in the past to quickly determine if units are complying with directives.

Q11. What changes have been made concerning Second Destination Transportation estimates?
A. Version 3 of LMI DST included a CONUS ground SDT estimate at the NIIN level. Version 4 adds two additional estimates- a Sea Rate and an Air Rate. These estimates are based on twelve months of historical data.
Q12. **What changes have been made to the Friction LIN Report?**
A. The Friction LIN Report has been modified to categorize equipment by supply pool to visualize total Army inventory. Unserviceable assets at the Stock Record Account level have been included for visibility purposes.

Q13. **TRAIN Site**
A. ASC and LOGSA personnel provide DST training in a separate training environment. This allows users the opportunity to learn how to optimize results in the various modules. In an effort to standardize training, LOGSA will limit equipment data sets in this training environment and refresh these data sets on a weekly basis. This will allow trainers to build more stable lesson plans, ensuring all students are exposed to the complete set of capabilities that are tied to their particular DST roles.

Q14. **What are the minimum CPU requirements for LMI DST?**
A. The minimum CPU requirements are:
   - Processor: 2.66 GHZ
   - Memory: 2 GB
   - Hard Drive: 150 GB
   - 128 MB Video Card
   - Silverlight needs to be loaded to the CPU

Q15. **Will LMI DST support the increased number of users following the Version 4 release?**
A. Prior to the DST v4 release, LOGSA conducted vigorous load testing to ensure DST will continue to perform as expected, given the expected increase of users in the next few months. If there are significant surges of users in DST at the same time, slower than normal performance may occur.

Load testing results showed that within the Sourcing Module test environment, with up to 300 users navigating to a screen concurrently, the screen returns in less than 8 seconds with 94% success and within one minute with 99.7% success. With up to 300 users, general reports (Brigade-sized or smaller) returned data in less than a minute with 99% success. Auto-sourcing and COA jobs will run one-at-a-time, and subsequent requests will queue until the job at hand completes. The times below were observed in the test environment. Actual results in production may vary.

The following times were observed for auto-source / COA jobs to complete in the test environment:
   - All Army/1 LIN Average time to complete: 11 minutes 18 seconds
   - BDE/All LINs Average time to complete: 16 minutes 17 seconds
   - BDE/1 LIN Average time to complete: 3 minutes 52 seconds
   - ACOM/ASCC/DRU / All LINs:
     - FORSCOM: 6 hours
     - NGB: 7 hours
     - USARC: 4.5 hours
     - TRADOC: 1 hour
     - USARCENT: 35 min
     - USAREUR: 1.5 hours
     - USARPAC: 1.5 hours
     - USARSO: 45 minutes
     - IMCOM: 45 minutes
     - INSCOM: 40 minutes

Due to limitations with the load testing software, the Execution Tracking module was not load tested in the test environment. It will be load tested in the Training environment after 15 June.
Appendix 2  Procedure for Submitting Requests for Information (RFI), Engineer Change Proposal (ECP), or New Software Requirements

Prior to release, LOGSA conducted extensive testing of every aspect of DST functionality. In the process, evaluators identified the issues listed in Appendix 2. Our developers will continue to track each issue until it is resolved or mitigated.

If users should discover any other inconsistencies in the DST, LOGSA requests immediate notification using the following process:

1. Take a screenshot (CONTROL + ALT + PRINT SCREEN) of the issue you have identified. Paste the screenshot into a PowerPoint file and save it to your hard drive.

2. Email the PowerPoint attachment and a description of the issue you encountered to usarmy.redstone.logsa.mbx.help-desk@mail.mil. Ensure a point-of-contact, telephone number and Email address are included.

As the LMI Executing Agent, Army Sustainment Command has been delegated responsibility for gathering new requirements for the LMI DST from Army materiel stakeholders. If your Command would like to propose that a requirement be added to the AMC Requirement Document (or propose that an existing requirement be amended), please direct your request to Army Sustainment Command at usarmy.RIA.asc.mbx.dmc-dst@mail.mil.