
The United States Army Medical Materiel Agency (USAMMA)

International Logistics Office (ILO)

WHAT IS USAMMA?

USAMMA is a subordinate command of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command (USAMRMC), and is the Department of Defense executive agent for medical, chemical, and biological defense research. MRMC was born in 1994 as a merger of the old U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command, U.S. Army Medical Materiel Agency (USAMMA) and the U.S. Army Health Facility Planning Agency (USAHFPA) into a major subordinate command of U.S. Army Medical Command (MEDCOM). USAMMA is one of 36 tenant organizations on the installation of Fort Detrick, located in the beautifully picturesque mountains of Frederick County, Frederick, Maryland, approximately 60 miles north of Washington, DC.



WHAT ARE USAMMA's RESPONSIBILITIES?



USAMMA is a unique, multifaceted organization responsible for the execution of diverse medical logistics programs. One of these programs is the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) portion of the Security Assistance Program for the sale of Class VIII medical equipment, supplies and services. USAMMA is the principal DOD action agent for the management, administration, and implementation of all US Army Security Assistance Command (USASAC) validated FMS Class VIII cases.

WHAT IS THE USAMMA/ILO?

The mission of the International Logistics Office is to plan, manage, administer, and coordinate the U.S. Army Medical Command Class VIII medical equipment, supplies, and services portion of the Security Assistance Program. USAMMA is the case preparer for medical items and is the sole Army contact for the sale of service unique medical materiel. USAMMA's role in security assistance is to support and implement approved programs in

consonance with U.S. military strategic plans and objectives. As Command Case Manager, this Agency interfaces with foreign governments, security assistance organizations, and other USG agencies to define security assistance requests.

WHAT DOES THE USAMMA/ILO DO?

Recent statistics reflect the Army, as a whole, has approximately 4,700 open FMS cases for an approximate total dollar value of \$48 billion. Comparatively, the USAMMA/ILO, a two-person office, manages 54 active FMS cases for 27 countries worldwide at an approximate value of \$86 million.

USAMMA/ILO FMS cases include the sale of five completely furnished Mobile Army Surgical Hospitals to Saudi Arabia, and Medical Materiel Sets (MMS) and Medical Equipment Sets (MES) to Honduras.

Although we are classified as a minor Implementing Agency (IA), our role in FMS is anything but minor. As a subordinate command of the U.S. Army Medical Command and in coordination with USASAC and the Office of the Army Surgeon General, USAMMA ILO performs the following functions:

1. Prepares and responds to requests for Price and Availability (P&A) data.
2. Coordinates with the Defense Support Center Philadelphia (DSCP) (formerly DPSC) and non-DOD supply sources to identify, process, and manage medical logistical requirements and support.
3. Coordinates as required with DSCP, USASAC, and foreign governments on supply and shipping delays, cancellations, and reports of discrepancy.
4. Determines appropriate articles and services to include the Associated Support Items of Equipment (ASIOE) on cases for medical equipment sets, kits and outfits (SKOs).
5. Coordinates procurement and all other actions required during the execution phase of the program to ensure on-time delivery of all items and services within reasonable expectation of the estimated prices contained on the Letter of Offer and Acceptance (LOA).
6. Coordinates foreign national visits to the U.S. for medical program issues.
7. Determines the Army position for which an application for export license has been received from commercial sources for munitions, services and/or technology.
8. Receives, prepares, submits, and processes country requests to the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) for controlled substances. Maintains current import/export controlled substance certificates issued by DEA. Submits requisitions to DSCP upon receipt of authorization from DEA.

RESOURCES

Subject matter experts on the USAMMA/ILO staff include a Pharmaceutical Consultant to the Commander, who serves as clinical advisor for all vaccines and biologicals. Additionally, the USAMMA/ILO has a multitude of supply support systems available to assist in customer oriented functions such as product identification and utilization.

CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE

A Medical Logistics and Maintenance Assessment Team (MLMAT) recently conducted a logistical assistance visit to Tegucigalpa, Honduras. This team was comprised of medical equipment maintenance personnel and the FMS Country Case Manager from USAMMA ILO. The mission, as defined by the Army Surgeon General and the Honduran Army Officials, was twofold. First, it required a determination of possible deficiencies in education and training of equipment operations and a medical maintenance assessment of existing medical equipment located at the Honduran hospital. Second, an FMS case reconciliation was to be performed, to include contract and/or supply execution support to acquire and expedite delivery of medical equipment and supplies currently on FMS cases.

The subject matter experts assembled through this team assisted the hospital personnel in the identification and prioritizing of existing requirements and recommended alternatives for those items that were unobtainable due to either logistical problems or financial constraints.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

The coast of New Guinea was hit in July 1998, by a 27-foot tidal wave and sustained massive destruction and human loss. The Australian Embassy initiated an urgent request for disaster relief assistance. An Australian medical team was deployed to assess the needs of the region. The casualties had developed gas gangrene and required an antitoxin/serum. The ILO was tasked to locate a supply source and to provide price and availability data. Research revealed that the Food and Drug Administration had not approved the antitoxin (serum) for use in the U.S.; therefore, no CONUS sources existed for this vaccine. Fortunately, a CONUS distributor for a manufacturer in Switzerland was located. However, due to time constraints, the Australian Embassy determined it logistically more advantageous to obtain the serum from commercial sources within that theatre.

NEW INITIATIVES

Anthrax Vaccine. Recently, U.S. Allies and coalition nations have submitted requests for the purchase of Anthrax vaccine through FMS. This materiel is service regulated for asset visibility and/or stock control. The sale of this vaccine through FMS is unique. Therefore, all Letters of Request (LOR) for Anthrax are to be submitted through the normal channels with one additional requirement: Anthrax LORs also must be submitted through the Deputy Director for Strategy and Policy (DDS&P) and Joint Chiefs of Staff (J-5) for authorization and approval. The J-5 will then staff the requests with the Office of Secretary of Defense (OSD), USCENTCOM, Defense Agencies, USASAC and the Department of Army, as Executive Agent for this program. As the reviewing agency, DDS&P will assess the ability to fill the requests and recommend how best to support each request. Currently, there are six cases for the Anthrax vaccine, representing five countries.

CONCLUSION

The USAMMA International Logistics Office is the focal point for all aspects of medical materiel and services for all international customers' request through FMS. Our goal is to effect good cross communication and open dialogue with prior, current, and potential future FMS customers. We have the resources available in the form of either data systems or subject matter experts to ensure that each customer requirement will be fulfilled satisfactorily and continued support is available.

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