

Mapping Activity called on to support extensive map replacement project

By Scott Woosley

Each year tens of thousands of items produced by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency expire and must be replaced.

In the past, the agency used commercial distributors to deliver the replacement materials, primarily maps. Last year, however, the Defense Distribution Mapping Activity, or DDMA, took on the project and successfully processed more than 25,000 materiel release orders and delivered them to military customers around the world.

This year, DDMA took on a similar project and processed more than 34,000 orders and shipped more than 70,000 CDs with electronic versions of maps, navigation charts and other materials.

Normally that many orders represents 10 days of work for DDMA, but the activity was able to complete the entire project in one day.

“We used a lot of Lean tools to set up the most efficient selection process near the packing stations,” said Dave Gambrell, DDMA’s warehouse operations manager. “It took a great deal of planning and liaison with (National Geospatial-

Intelligence Agency) to receive and ship these CDs quickly.”

The Lean method is a process management philosophy that focuses on removing unnecessary steps and improving value to the customer.

According to John Stroup, the DDMA’s deputy commander, the project saved U.S. taxpayers about \$250,000.

The Defense Distribution Mapping Activity is headquartered in Richmond, Va. It is the Defense Logistic Agency’s worldwide wholesale distributor for geospatial products and is networked with nine retail Map Support Offices serving the U.S. Armed Forces in seven countries. DDMA completes more than 1 million customer transactions each year.



Eric Harcum, a supervisor of the Defense Distribution Mapping Activity in Richmond, Va., visually inspects shipping placards on boxes of maps prior to shipping.



Leadership

includes developing employees,

motivating your team, and

providing *direction*