

DDC Trains the Safety Trainers

By Polly Charbonneau, DDC Command Affairs

The Defense Distribution Center (DDC) Safety division sponsored a distance-learning course for supervisors on Presentation and Training Skills geared toward delivery of safety training and briefings for workers. The course was open to all DDC distribution centers using the Satellite Training Center and was broadcast January 21 and again on January 28.

The course instructor, Deborah Wood, provided techniques, concepts, and tools to help participants excel in training others. Participants learned the fundamentals of presentation, and techniques to improve audience interaction and interest, how to use visual aids, and helpful tips on answering questions.

"Safety is something our employees have to talk about all the time," said Dave Mack, DDC's Safety Officer. "We want them to be comfortable when making safety presentations.

"Our employees know safety," Mack said, "but they don't necessarily know how best to organize their information so that their audience can absorb it. This training brings recognized presentation skills to the people who teach and discuss our most important goal, a safe workplace."

More than half of DDC's 26 distribution centers participated in the training.



Instructor Deborah Wood provides tips for supervisors on training their employees.

DDRV Workforce Recognizes Jerri Taylor as DDRV Director of the Year for 2004

By Stacy Umstead, DDC Command Affairs

At a recent town hall meeting at Defense Distribution Depot Richmond, Virginia (DDRV), the DDRV workforce turned the tables a bit. While most town hall meetings allow a venue for the Commander or Director to formally recognize employees for "a job well done," the employees of DDRV have reversed it. On January 27, Jerri Taylor, DDRV's Director, was presented the first "DDRV Director of the Year" award for 2004.

The plaque, which was presented by George Owens, DDRV's Most Efficient Organization (MEO) Site Manager, and Tim Radford, DDRV's Deputy Commander, was a surprise to Taylor. "Ms. Taylor was taken aback by the gesture, but it was just a small token of our appreciation for all she has done for us at DDRV and the support she provides daily," said Owens.

Taylor, who has been DDRV's Director since April 9, 2004, has made significant and noticeable changes, not only with workload and production, but by providing a positive working environment. "Ms. Taylor brings great energy and compassion that is felt and understood by her workforce and has caused a very positive transformation at DDRV," said Radford.

Taylor has thrown herself into every aspect of DDRV. With her ability to conceptualize and plan ahead, Taylor has demonstrated to her employees how to accomplish difficult goals including inventory improvements and safety initiatives. Guy Simmons, DDRV Safety Officer said, "Jerri has taken a very involved approach with

the employees here at DDRV." Taylor, who makes safety a number one priority, regularly attends the monthly safety monitor meetings. "Jerri demands a lot but has won the support from the workforce to accomplish the mission," said Simmons.

Upon arriving at DDRV, the Depot had been in the "red" in workload performance. With Taylor's vast experience in distribution and logistics, that has changed. With ten months of continuously being in the "green," the employees are working even harder to maintain their "greenness." Locally, DDRV is now known as the "Green Machine".

Throughout the depot you will find green mints lying around, and being passed out at meetings. "Everyone wants to know if we are "in the green," said Radford, "Ms. Taylor continually promotes being green."

Not only are DDRV working together, they're playing together, too. That is the other element that Taylor has brought out in the workforce. DDRV has organized their own intramural basketball team, in keeping with the "green" theme, "The Fighting Green Team of DDRV" made their debut on February 10th against a local reserve unit. The team was introduced at the Town Hall by Taylor. "There was a lot of enthusiasm and encouragement from the employees, and there's some discussion about cheerleaders and a pigeon mascot," said Radford, "But, that's another story to be told later!"

Taylor and the DDRV workforce continue to prove that IT IS EASY BEING GREEN!

Congratulation and Thank You Jerri, from all of your employees at DDRV!



On behalf of DDRV's employees, George Owens presents Jerri Taylor with the DDRV Director of the Year Award for 2004.