

Innovative Thinking at DDCT Shortens Process Time

By Danny Kolb, DDCT

We're probably all guilty of it. We do certain tasks the same way day after day without giving it much thought. Why? Well, that's the way we've always done it and it seems to be working just fine. Maybe so, but can it be done a better way? What if . . . ?

That's the question they asked in the Defense Distribution Depot Corpus Christi, TX (DDCT) Receiving Division. What if trucks delivering small parcels, FedEx and the like, backed right up to the conveyor line? The answer, we would save time and increase productivity.

In the past, the delivery truck backed up to the receiving dock, assets were unloaded to a staging area and then placed on the conveyor. Today, the process time is cut in half by having the truck back into the receiving bay where assets are unloaded and placed directly on the conveyor line.



Cutting the process time in half, the small parcel carrier backs right up to the conveyor line to unload the delivery.



Need a lift? DDPW Material Handler Steve Sorgenfrei adjusts the height of one of the new tables at the touch of a button.

DDPW Turns the Tables on Back Injuries

By Jessica Walter-Groft, DDC Command Affairs

Four new lift tables installed at Defense Distribution Depot Puget Sound, WA (DDPW) are preventing back injuries.

The new tables allow employees in DDPW's packaging division to adjust the table's height at the touch of a button. The tables are powered by an electronic motor and can adjust the table's height within a 16 inch range.

Previous versions of lift tables required the user to pump a foot pedal or crank a handle to get the table to the desired height to avoid excessive bending – requirements that slowed the employees' progress and deterred use. "In order to get employees to take the time to use the height adjustment feature, we had to make it as user-friendly as possible," said Steve Thomas, Safety and Occupational Health Specialist at DDPW.

A DDCT Extreme Makeover— PPP&M Edition

By Danny Kolb, DDCT

At Defense Distribution Depot Corpus Christi, TX (DDCT), the value of a multi-functional workforce that can be moved from place to place as required throughout the distribution center has long been a key element of DDCT's mission to provide the finest customer service.

Currently, the DDCT Operations Division Chief maintains two teams that move to areas requiring special attention. One such area is the Packaging, Packing, Preservation and Marking (PPP&M) branch. "Team Versatile" as they have been designated descended on this branch last fall. At that time, the backlog was growing and showing no sign of going anywhere but higher.

Carol Ybarbo and Paula Garcia, along with Team Versatile members Colbert Rittgers, Rudy San Miguel, Roland Marquez, Anthony Ramirez, Gus Farias joined packers, Max Rodriguez, Johnny Contreras, Sr. and Jose Escobedo to take on the awesome

task of doing the equivalent of an extreme makeover – DDCT style.

Ybarbo and Garcia have considerable experience working in partnership with the Corpus Christi Army Depot (CCAD) on a number of "lean" initiatives that have streamlined their work processes and enabled them to simultaneously improve customer service while reducing costs. They used this experience to assess the opportunities for a makeover of the packing branch. Their goal was to streamline the entire operation by eliminating time wasted by duplicated actions.



Extreme Makeover. DDCT's "Team Versatile" reduced backlog in the packing branch by reconfiguring workstations and creating a central staging area.

First, they reconfigured the work floor, moving the virtual "maze" of workstations, hoists, and hose reels into a line against the wall, permitting an improved workflow. Next, they created a central staging area allowing assets to be packed and requiring packing materials to flow freely.

Currently, assets are being brought directly from the racks to an area adjacent to the staging area. From there they are selected to be staged. The goal is the development of a specific workload schedule to coordinate the staging effort based on CCAD's forecast each month of material coming back to DDCT.

Staging the workload in this manner eliminates a number of duplicate steps and makes everything available to the packer when and where it is needed. Additionally, an area was designated for packed assets awaiting movement to other areas. Positioning