

DDSP A-76 commercial activities competition results announced

The Defense Logistics Agency announced in January that selected installation services support functions at Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, Pa., would continue to be performed by government workers.

The performance decision was made after a detailed study indicated it was more cost effective to retain the base operations there rather than contract them out to the private sector. The federal workers currently performing the base operations functions at DDSP redesigned and reduced the workforce, and competed as a government Most Efficient Organization. This decision will streamline operations and reduce costs at the installation. It does not affect the distribution center's mission of providing materiel to America's military forces.

The functions competed included facilities maintenance and repair; utilities systems operation, maintenance and repair; grounds maintenance and repair; equipment maintenance and repair; mail services; refuse, recycling, and hazardous material/hazardous waste services; and family housing.

This announcement culminates 22 months of public/private competition using the guidelines of Office of Management and Budget Circular A-76, "Performance of Commercial Activities." The A-76 competition process in OMB Circular A-76 establishes federal policy for deciding whether to retain recurring, commercial-like activities within the government, or contract them out to a private sector source. The guidance tells how to compare performance and cost related information to arrive at the best overall value for the taxpayer.

"I am convinced that DLA's competitive sourcing process results in the best structure to perform operations in support of America's war fighters" said Army

Maj. Gen. Bennie E. Williams, Director of Logistics Operations and Readiness, DLA. "The comprehensive A-76 process produces a more efficient and effective operation."

"This has been the culmination of months of hard work, critical analysis and extremely hard decisions, said DDSP Commanding Officer Navy Capt. James Naber. "Through it all, DDSP employees have continued to provide world-class support to our customers. This decision recognizes DDSP's Installation Services as the Most Efficient Organization in this competition and will allow us to retain our Civil Service workforce."

He continued, "Our operations have been restructured and business processes adapted to accommodate this new

organization and we feel confident in our ability to maintain the same high standards of performance to which our customers have become accustomed. My immediate emphasis is for the well being of DDSP employees and we will work together to ensure a smooth transition for our people."

DDSP is under the direct oversight of Defense Distribution Center. It is the eastern DLA Strategic Distribution Platform, with facilities at New Cumberland and Mechanicsburg, providing military and commercial repair parts, clothing and textiles, medical supplies and industrial and electronic components to military customers throughout the United States and the world.

Continued praise for CGA training team

By Jessica Walter, APR, DDC Command Affairs

The Defense Distribution Center Continuing Government Activity Training Team wrapped up a refresher training for the CGA at Defense Distribution Depot Barstow, Calif. in November.

"My CGA has had nothing but glowing praise for the instructors and the training they have received," said DDBC Director Andrew Konrady. "Since over 60 percent of my CGA has been on board less than a year, this training is an invaluable tool in performing the proper oversight functions of a CGA. I cannot say enough about the consultants from DDC Acquisition Management that presented this training."

DDBC was one of the first distribution centers to undergo the A-76 process, a competition that determines the best value for the taxpayer by examining the benefits of retaining mission work in-house or contracting the work out to a private sector source.

The CGA is a small group of government employees that remains in place to oversee the work of the performing activity.

The training team presented the DDBC CGA with an elephant-shaped statuette to symbolize the lesson in John Godfrey Saxe's poem "The Blind Man and the Elephant." The poem stresses the importance of gaining perspective by trying to see an issue from all sides.



CGA Training Team (from left to right): Annie Meeks, Chad Meeks, and James Norris.