

DDC Transition Team establishes online resources for transitioning sites

New Transition Process Model and lessons learned database offer best practices

By Jessica Walter, DDC Command Affairs

The Defense Distribution Center (DDC) Transition Team recently established a Transition Process Model and lessons learned database to assist distribution center employees, commanders and other staff during operational transitions or the start up of new sites.

According to DDC Transition Team Chief Marv Salsman, the team's role is to ensure the timely and effective completion of the actions necessary for transition to a government Most Efficient Organization (MEO) or to a contractor run operation. The Transition Team also provides support during the stand up of new distribution centers and the re-competitions of contract awards after the initial contract period has expired.

"Our goal is to conduct transitions without any impact to the mission, and this new database of lessons learned assists in identifying best practices to ensure the process goes smoothly," said Salsman.



DDC Transition Team Chief Marv Salsman explains the Transition Team's structure and responsibilities at a recent DDC headquarters Lunch & Learn session.

Because the Transition Team serves as the single point of contact for the entire transition process – coordinating everything from personnel actions and equipment and facility transfers to implementing process improvements and providing training – the Transition Process Model and new database have been very beneficial in providing guidance on the dozens of activities involved in transition.

The Transition Process Model, according to Salsman, enables a consistent approach to the transition process and provides a library of the most current information and resources available.

The lessons learned database also provides information to personnel involved in the transition process. "We're always striving to learn from past experiences, so this database is very helpful to us," said Salsman, "but it is also a tool the distribution centers use to see what past transitions have involved and what has worked best to see if there is a practice there that they can apply to their own organizations."

The lessons learned database and Transition Process Model are available to DDC employees on the DDC Intranet under the Logistics Operations page. The lessons learned database includes nearly 70 best practices and lessons learned for transition activities including personnel actions, equipment and mission stock inventories, training, property turn in or disposal, re-warehousing initiatives, and workforce augmentation.

"This is a documentation of our experiences," said Salsman. The database was developed based on the feedback received on each feature of transition from every group involved.

The Transition Team, now part of DDC's Logistics Operations Division, was established in 1999 as part of the A-76 Project Office to coordinate the activities necessary for the transitioning sites.

A-76 is a process mandated by law that requires most of DDC's

distribution centers in the continental United States undergo a public-private competition for the completion of mission work.

DDC currently operates 27 distribution centers around the world. Eighteen of those sites are operated by the government, while the other nine are run by contractors from the private sector.

BSM supports DLA's transformation initiatives

By Lori Spiegel, DDC Command Affairs

Employees at the Defense Distribution Center (DDC) gathered for the June Lunch & Learn to hear about Business Systems Modernization (BSM) and its relationship to the transformation of DLA.

"Most of you have probably already seen these two documents," Stella Starkoski of the BSM Office told the group as she held copies of DLA's Strategic Plan and the agency's Transformation Roadmap. "Taken together, these documents outline DLA's goals, strategies, and objectives as well as the agency's commitment to dramatically improve Warfighter support at a reduced cost through a number of initiatives that are transforming the way DLA conducts business."

Starkoski explained that as the first transformation initiative, BSM has laid the foundation for many of the other initiatives. BSM has resulted in some new terminology and concepts for DLA. One example is that DLA has moved away from managing by commodity or by supply centers. Instead, DLA now manages by supply chains.

BSM has also introduced the notion of "process management" by designating a process owner for each of the five basic core processes of supply chain management (order fulfillment, procurement, financial management, planning, and technology/quality).