

Lean partnership between CCAD and DDCT enhances productivity, efficiency

By Jamey Giddens, CCAD Publicist

Corpus Christi Army Depot (CCAD) Lean Staff has partnered with Defense Distribution Depot Corpus Christi, Texas (DDCT), Lean Core Team by sharing their experiences and expertise on Lean Methodology to reduce cost and provide a quality product to the customer. DDCT began its Lean journey with CCAD facilitating a Value Stream Map (VSM) event in May.

DDCT is embarking on the much heralded Lean journey in order to better improve its culture and performance. The Lean journey is driven by the core values of customer first, respect for people, and continuous improvement. The DDCT Lean journey will focus on improving processes and eliminating waste to ultimately provide CCAD and the Warfighter with the best delivery times possible.

The decision to implement Lean principles was made about a year ago, according to DDCT Commander LTC Timothy Orner, USA.

“Back in August of 2005, we at the distribution center established a number of our annual goals,” said Orner. “Becoming a Lean organization was one of those goals. It nested with our higher headquarters’ goals of embracing Lean for many reasons. The number one goal was to have more efficient, effective processes.”

Orner added that providing better return on investment dollars for the Department of Defense (DOD) and DDCT’s customers—CCAD and the Warfighter—in terms of performance, cost and productivity were also pivotal factors for DDCT when deciding to go Lean.

“What happened the week of May 8 was our initial implementation,” said Rich Alvarado of the Lean Material

Management Office. “DDCT put together a Lean Core Team comprised of 12 people, two from each work area with different backgrounds and experience.”

Alvarado said those 12 individuals were then trained on the fundamentals of Lean before mapping out DDCT’s current state, or how business is being done prior to Lean implementation.

“Areas of opportunity (issues, problems, waste) were discovered and the team developed a Future State Value Stream Map that would improve processes,” said Alvarado.

The team also developed an annual implementation plan revealing their hope to reduce overtime by 17 percent. They also hope to be able to process, maintain and deliver materiel to customers at an accuracy rate of 99 percent, according to Alvarado.

“Lean will provide the education and tools they need to have visibility on how they operate and continue to improve,” said Alvarado.

When asked about his team’s initial response to Lean implementation LTC Orner said he was impressed by how the initiative had positively affected DDCT’s morale.

“One thing I like about Lean is how it drives the culture of an organization,” said Orner. “To see the excitement of my team as they are going through the Lean process feeling empowered, it convinces me that Lean is critical to the lifeblood of this organization.”

CCAD Commander COL Timothy Sassenrath, USA, was on hand to sign the charter officially launching DDCT’s Lean journey May 8, 2006.

“Lean is becoming the way DOD does business worldwide,” said COL Sassenrath, “So I’m glad to see DDCT taking this step now in order to be ahead of the curve.”

DDCT serves as the primary wholesale distribution point for major components to support helicopter repair missions for DOD and foreign military sales customers around the world.

DDCT employees participate in CCAD Lean event

By Polly Charbonneau, DDC Command Affairs

Two Defense Distribution Depot Corpus Christi, Texas (DDCT), team members, Anthony Ramirez and Glenn Rogers, both Distribution Process Workers, participated in a Lean event with DDCT’s largest customer, the Corpus Christi Army Depot, or CCAD.

Lean is a continuous process improvement tool that leads to processes changes enabling organizations to do more with less - less human effort, less equipment, less time and less space, while coming closer to providing customers with exactly what they want, when they want it.



Anthony Ramirez, left, and Glenn Rogers, right, two members of the DDCT Team that participated in a CCAD Lean event.

Lean excellence is defined by the customer.

The CCAD Lean event was a process to reduce man-hours and turn-around time for the CH-47 by 30 percent. CCAD’s mission is to overhaul, repair, modify, retrofit, test and modernize helicopters, engines and components for Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps customers.

Secretary of the Army, the Honorable Francis J. Harvey, attended the Lean event. “He wanted us to understand how important this process was to the