

mission of the Army,” Ramirez said.

The first day of the event was an overview of Lean processes to include the six S’s of Lean, value stream mapping, spaghetti charts, five Why’s, continuous flow, Six Sigma, and just-in-time processes.

The group then brainstormed possible areas of opportunity. Once possible opportunities were identified, the group broke into teams to discuss and prioritize the areas of opportunity in an effort to identify and categorize value added proposals.

“We definitely feel that the Lean applications mentioned above can be of great value to DDCT,” said Ramirez. “The key processes within Lean are identifying ‘waste’ from the customer perspective and then determining how to eliminate it. Waste can be anything that is not considered a value-added process or service or even our way of doing business.

“Once waste has been identified in the Current State, we can then work towards formulating new processes in an effort to reach a Future State that encompasses the entire system” Ramirez said.

“My initial reaction to the Lean event is that it will greatly improve productivity and overall proficiency in the accomplishment of our mission,” Rogers said.

“I believe that we at DDCT have much to benefit from Lean initiatives and incorporating them into our way of doing business can only lead to achieving our overall goal in taking care of our customers and will ultimately lead to success in our mission to support the Warfighter,” Ramirez said.

DDDE hosts Lean training

By Tina Tucker and Brian Burkholder, DDDE

The Defense Distribution Depot Europe (DDDE), in Gernersheim, Germany, hosted a recent five-day Lean Training event that included 17 DDDE employees, six employees of DDSI (Sigonella, Italy), and two U.S. military members of the Defense Distribution Mapping Activity (DDMA) collocated with DDDE in Gernersheim.

LTC Lance Koenig, USA, DDDE Commander, hosted the on-site training after an initial introduction to Lean principles presented at the 2005 DDC Orientation for New Commanders.

LTC Koenig and DDDE Deputy Commander Charles Austin echoed identical comments when asked what the benefit of this training has been to the organization, saying, “The ability of the instructors to walk around and assess some of our real-world situations, develop processes to help us eliminate redundancies within our current processes, and then provide our employees with Lean methods and application concepts in restructuring some of our processes has proven to be invaluable.”

New processes and initiatives have begun to take place at DDDE since the training event. One such change has been in the containerization process for trans-shipments to Iraq and Afghanistan. DDDE evaluated the process flows being used at its containerization yard layout and has developed a two-phase process to restructure the worksite.

In the initial phase, two high-tech remote frequency Automate Data Processing (ADP) systems have been established at the specific work location, and by introducing new advance loading configurations, DDDE managers have observed a reduction in the number of containers needing customs exceptions, saving 14 days on selected shipments. Although the Phase 1 initiative is not yet complete, great benefits in processing times are already being noticed.

An evaluation of what used to be an eight-step vehicle load order process shows a trimming down by four steps, reducing the processing time from six days to three days, and saving approximately 17 miles of travel distance per day. The reconfiguration of the staging area has eliminated multiple handling of packaged containers and has considerably reduced processing time.



DDDE, located in Gernersheim, Germany, hosted a 5-day Lean Training event.