DDDE expects to begin Phase 2 soon, and is anticipating another reduction of 9.6 miles per day of wasted travel between the physical worksite and the Transportation Office. This action should reduce processing time by an additional two days and create a one- stop shop.

As the Lean motto states, "When a problem is discovered, celebrate—you just found an opportunity for improvement."

Leaning DDOO

Training helps teams identify areas for improvement

By Linda Bowers, DDOO

In March, Defense Distribution Depot Oklahoma City, Okla. (DDOO), employees received a week-long training on Lean.

The training began with DDOO leadership learning Lean principles. Nineteen employees were given training for three days with an out-brief to the DDOO Commander, Deputy Commander, Division and Branch Chiefs the following afternoon.

The employees in the training were divided into two teams, one looked at the receiving process and the other studied the maintenance turn-in area.

The groups learned value stream mapping that captures the number of times the item is handled, the distance traveled, whether it is a value added or non-value added action, the wait time of product, and the time employees are waiting in each process.

Additionally, the two groups learned about variability of the process and the need to apply techniques to either eliminate the variability or adapt to various situations.

The teams identified three quick solutions, 16 problem areas that require more research before implementing, and 10 long-term projects.

During the out-brief, employees commented on their new awareness of the importance of their part in the whole process, saying that they now realize that the work they do impacts others down the line and their jobs are much easier to accomplish now that wasted time has been eliminated.

DDOO Employees in Lean training studied the Maintenance Turn-Ins and Receiving areas to identify potential process improvements.

Maintenance Turn-Ins Team (above) back row left to right: Jeremy Solomon, Bonnie Davis, Linda Dickson. Front row left to right: Donnie Wingate, Bill Lee, Jason Larrison, Don Colwell.

Receiving Team (below) back Row left to right: Earnestine McCary, Arnita Alexander, Harold Heck, Becky Hasbell. Front row left to right: Sparky Mendell, Karen Madewill, Rose Trice.