

DDMA completes second year in Lean with implementation of DDC System

By Ken Hodge, Lean Champion

Recently, Defense Distribution Mapping Activity leadership met for its second annual review since implementing the DDC System, known as “Lean,” in 2009. During the review, many improvements associated with the implementation of the system were discussed, as well as plans for enhancement in 2010.

Multiple accomplishments from throughout the past year were highlighted including the expansion of small batch processing throughout the warehouse areas, to include the annual “Big Bang,” which resulted in approximately 35,000 high priority requisitions processed in one day. Additionally, the Lean projects resulted in a 70% improvement in selection lines per hour over previous improvements in 2008.

Other accomplishments included a shipping package carryover rate that was reduced by 67%, and a reallocation of 20% of the workforce into projects and training in 2009. DDMA commander United States Navy Supply Corps Capt. John Palmer said, “The second year of the DDC System allowed us to improve upon our first year’s gains in outbound processes, standardize and establish foundations for our inbound processes, and break ground on data collection for classified processes.”

One of the stronger DDC System projects for Lean at DDMA was a

Continuous Improvement event to redesign the highest traffic area of DDMA—the receiving, packing and shipping hub. A cross-functional team worked through the seven-step problem solving process to develop a streamlined layout of the warehouse bay. “The new hub layout will permit an increase of 200 locations for fast movers in our main processing bay where we are 70 percent more efficient than when we pull material from other storage bays. We will also have better traffic flow,” said Palmer.

DDMA set some ambitious goals for DDC System implementation in 2010, including the completion of Phases I through III in the Classified Processing Center and Inbound Value Streams, completing Phase I for the Support Value Stream, and the implementation of the redesigned DDMA hub. DDMA also set goals to complete Foundation and Continuous Improvement Events internally, and improve layered check act boards, performance reports, progress

centers, and workforce allocation tools.

DDMA will begin managing continuous improvement requirements and develop an annual plan for 2011. Captain Palmer remarked that DDMA’s focus on continuous improvement and whole team involvement should make for a very productive year for Lean.

DDMA is one of DDC’s 25 depots and is DLA’s worldwide wholesale and retail distributor for geospatial products. DDMA is networked with nine retail Map Support Offices serving United States Armed Forces, allies, and civilian agencies in seven countries. DDMA and its nine MSOs typically execute one million transactions per year with a worldwide workforce of only 155 civilian and military personnel. DDMA is headquartered in Richmond, Va., and is collocated with Mapping Customer Operations, Defense Supply Center Richmond, Va.’s item managers for geospatial products.



DDMA team uses its Lean skills during “Big Bang” — a 35,000 Materiel Release Order custom distribution for National Geospatial Intelligence Agency. Through Big Bang, NGA no longer requires a commercial contractor to perform its annual distribution, saving over \$250,000.