

whole and seeing the floor-space aspect as a means to solve the problem.

Wood said the solution also improves safety because it reduces the number of mules and forklifts operating in the area.

“It was a fantastic idea,” Heuberger said. “Nobody was thinking of physically combining the locations of our processes in the way Nathan described. We’re capitalizing on both organizations’ ability to provide best support to the war fighter.

“We had a really good team,” Heuberger added. “When we had the meetings, everybody participated, the union input was great. DDTP has participated in other Lean events, but this one had the most impact for us.”

“This team had the right mix of discipline, experience and creative thinking to objectively focus on the problem, avoid any parochialism and develop an ‘out of the box’ solution,” Moran said. “The presence of John Heuberger as the team leader and Michael Henry reinforced the importance and commitment to resolving this issue.”

For his efforts, Thomas received a DDTP Commander’s Coin.

DDYJ aims to enhance work environment

By Jonathan R. Lontoc, DDYJ Public Affairs

Following the establishment of the Defense Distribution Depot Yokosuka, Japan, Climate/Culture Improvement Team last year, DDYJ continues to raise the bar with the formation of the DDYJ Climate/Culture Advisory Group.

In August 2006, the improvement team was chartered to find what was needed to improve the climate and culture of the command. They generated, developed, and presented an actionable plan to implement improvements over the next two years and beyond.

The advisory group picks up where the improvement team left off. Their



Members of the DDYJ Climate/Culture Advisory Group discuss improvement objectives. Left to right, Petty Officer First Class Alan Florez, Mai Yamada, Michiyo Aoyama, Masatoshi Takano, Hideki Furuyama, and Tanya Maclay. Not pictured: Shigehiro Honda.

mission is to assist the command in designing the culture and climate improvement roadmap. “There was a tremendous amount of hard work done by the improvement team to capture recommendations for how to make our organization healthier, and we want to build on that foundation,” says Navy Cmdr. Will Clarke, commander of DDYJ.

Based on the team’s recommendations, the advisory group will develop a proposed strategy for making improvements and interface with the DDYJ’s executive board to determine what actions they will take.

“Past experience has shown us that

it takes an initial time investment to get things off the ground,” said Clarke.

“We are in the process of building a plan of action with milestones. It will be posted for everyone to see,” said Tanya Maclay, DDYJ’s training coordinator. “We are also looking at implementing an employee handbook, customer directory handbook, and customer handbook.”

Dubbed the “Magnificent Seven,” DDYJ personnel await the contributions of the group and look forward to an environment that will serve to make work even more productive and rewarding.



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