

## No E-mail Thursdays giving DDJF CGA something to talk about

*By Stacy L. Umstead, DDC Command Affairs*

How many e-mails do you type just corresponding with your immediate co-workers? While you're checking your "sent" items, let me tell you what Defense Distribution Depot Jacksonville, Fla., is doing...

As part of the Defense Distribution Center's climate culture initiative, and in order to promote personal interaction and communication among the members of the CGA team, DDJF has declared every second Thursday of the month "No E-mail Thursday."

"No E-mail Thursdays was implemented to foster personal communication among the CGA Staff," says Navy Cmdr. Sue Talwar, Commander of DDJF. During the event, the 13 members of the DDJF continuing government activity cannot send e-mails to one another. They must walk over to their teammates' desks and discuss their issue in person.

Members of the CGA have embraced No e-mail Thursdays and even had a little fun with it. "This program is allowing us to get out in the spaces, discuss and resolve issues face to face," indicates Joe DeCristofaro, Distribution Facilities Specialist.

Analyst Yolette Williams says that it's allowing DDJF to get back to the basics of personal communication without the use of computers, No E-mail Thursday places emphasis on basic face-to-face communication. We've lost that through the years due to the ease of use of technology."

The no e-mail rule only applies to exchanges between the CGA Team. Correspondence to the DDC, EG&G logistics partners and DDJF customers continues during the No E-Mail Thursdays as part of routine business.

So what happens if the team violates the policy? "The offender must pay \$1 into the DDJF kitty used to fund monthly special events such as special holiday and birthday celebrations," says Talwar.

"We know when it is no e-mail day, but when the work day begins and we become involved in our work, the e-mails seem to fly out before we remember not to send them," says Maddie Thomas, Transportation Officer. "As soon as the 'send' button is clicked, and the e-mail goes out to another member of the CGA, our memory seems to come back quickly! There goes a dollar into the penalty jar!"



*"No E-Mail Thursdays" has David LaMont and David Friedmann talking.*