

# Employee Suggestion Program (continued)

## DDSP AWARDS \$3,000 TO MICHEAL NELSON FOR ELECTROMAGNETIC LIFT BRAKES SUGGESTION

By Sherre Mitten-Bell, DDSP Public Affairs



Micheal Nelson

Micheal Nelson, Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, Pennsylvania (DDSP) Door Systems Repairer, was awarded \$3,000 for his suggestion to the DDSP Employee Suggestion Program to replace the electromechanical lift brakes on the Raymond hybrid cranes with electromagnetic lift brakes in a ceremony held September 25, 2002. The award was presented by CAPT Robert Ritchie, SC, USN, DDSP Commander.

Nelson's suggestion affected the electromechanical system, which required high maintenance, including an extensive and laborious monthly inspection and annual rebuild procedure. Additionally, the electromechanical lift brake system was unreliable, prone to malfunction because of binding and overheating from this type of application. This caused the crane to disengage and enter a controlled descent in spite of intensive efforts to solve the problem.

Since being installed, the electromagnetic system has proven to be much more reliable. No malfunction or mishap has been associated with the new brake system. Also, the preventative maintenance inspection has been reduced to only one minimal effort task and is performed on a semiannual basis.

The suggestion required several years to test and implement, but was worth it. It has produced significant intangible and

tangible benefits; the tangible benefits include the reduced cost of annual maintenance, which is equivalent to one man-year. Those who operate the Raymond hybrid cranes have a greater sense of security when performing their duty, and that is priceless.

"I am very proud of Mike and the entire DDSP workforce," said CAPT Ritchie. "We are a great team that is committed to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of DDSP, the safety environment for the DDSP work force and ultimately improving customer service."

The DDSP Employee Suggestion Program Manager is Mike Stevens and he can be contacted at 770-8869 if you have a suggestion. Suggestion forms are also available throughout DDSP and from your supervisor.

A suggestion identifies a way to improve operations, efficiency or effectiveness, recommends a solution and then follows through on how to implement the solution.

To be considered for an award, a suggestion must: identify an improvement in the quality of operations, a cost reduction opportunity, or an improvement in the timeliness of service delivery that results in a tangible or intangible benefit to the U.S. Government; be adopted in whole or in part for implementation; be in writing and come from a federal employee.



Brake improved by Michael Nelson, DDSP.



Group left to right: *Ernie Whitehouse, DDC Financial Policy, Mike Stevens, DDSP Suggestion Program Manager, Brenda Smith, DDC Suggestion Program Manager, Ken Blouch, DDSP Automated Systems Maintenance Branch Chief, John Caley, Suggestion Award Participant, CAPT Robert Ritchie, SC, USN, DDSP Commander, Micheal Nelson, Suggestion Award Participant, CAPT Chris McKelvey, SC, USN, DDC Chief of Staff.*