

New Ideas Adopted at DDSP

EMPLOYEE SUGGESTIONS SAVE MONEY AND IMPROVE SAFETY

Several Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, PA (DDSP) employees have identified a problem or current situation in a work place, recommended a change or solution, and identified an expected result from the idea. Their ideas were adopted and implemented resulting in cost savings and/or a reduction in possible injury to themselves or other employees. For their suggestion, they were presented with a certificate of appreciation by DDSP Commander, CAPT Robert Ritchie, SC, USN, and a monetary award. The DDSP Employee Suggestion Program Manager is Michael Stevens, (717) 770-8869.

Philip Lebash Suggested EZ Reacher

A safety suggestion made by Philip Lebash to use an extension tool to clear jams from sorters and dumpers in the Packing area has been evaluated and approved for adoption with modification in March. Extension tools, such as the EZ Reacher, are used to aid in retrieving items that are not easily accessible and are used to retrieve small items from tri-walls. EZ Reachers are being utilized in the Mission/CCP sorter areas to retrieve small items that fall onto the netting in back of the sortation chutes. Although it is a safety hazard to use the extension tool near moving automated equipment, the tool does reduce the possibility of injuries caused when bending and stretching over tri-walls to retrieve material, and aids employees who have chronic back problems.



Naomi Davis demonstrates how to use the EZ Reacher.

Glen Cruz Improves Recycling

A suggestion made by Glen Cruz to use tri-walls to collect recyclable packing material has been evaluated and approved for adoption in March. In the Bin Operations area, plastic containers have been used to collect recyclable packing material, wheeled from the work area when full, and the material was dumped into a tri-wall. The suggestion to use a tri-wall at the work area in replace of the plastic containers eliminated the possibility of injury attributed to manually lifting the containers. Additionally, a tri-wall holds three times the volume of a plastic container. The process is safer and more efficient.



Suggestion Award presented to Glen C. Cruz, Distribution Operations.

Dennis Wirfel Improves Access to Sortation Chutes

A safety suggestion made by Dennis Wirfel to fabricate an aluminum-hinged sheet to climb sortation chutes in order to access the trippers on the sorters was adopted in January. In the Containerization and Consolidation Point (CCP) and Mission Sorter area, gull wings drop and release material down designated chutes along the sortation system. Occasionally material falls between the gull wings, lodges against the chain, and knocks the trippers loose at the top of a chute as it is carried along. A loose tripper prohibits the gull wings to drop material at that particular location. Maintenance personnel must climb the approximately 12-foot-high galvanized chutes to

Spreading Easier and More Ergonomic

A safety suggestion made by Charles Gibson to use broadcast and drop spreaders to salt small areas on the installation was evaluated and approved for adoption with modification in February. Ice on and around parking lots, outside break and smoking areas, and between parked trailers is a safety hazard. Salt trucks and other equipment can't salt all small icy areas, which tend to cause injuries from slipping. Gibson's suggestion to use broadcast and drop lawn spreaders to distribute salt was attempted previously but salt clogged the spreaders and the lawn spreaders were too light weight and would not hold traction on ice, however another initiative was tested. Employees at CONUS Outloading used shoulder tote spreaders to spread de-icer in tight areas and around trailers without problems. The 40-pound capacity shoulder tote spreaders are ergonomically sound and lightweight. A quantity of these spreaders has been purchased to provide a safer environment for those who must perform duties in and around the dock areas of the EDC in Outloading, Receiving, and ALOC.

Craig Foose Improves Pallets



Suggestion Award presented to Craig R. Foose, Depot Equipment.

A suggestion made by Craig Foose to replace the plastic robotic tote stacker pallets with a modified wooden pallet system was approved in January. A robotic tote stacker is located in the Mission Sorter area where totes are stacked onto special pallets then distributed by towline throughout the Eastern Distribution Center. The plastic pallet system on which the totes are stacked is prone to break down due to product design, the parts are expensive and require a lot of labor to assemble. The bolt assembly has a tendency to pull through the plastic rails making the pallet unusable, bolts and washers fall out and can wedge in the towline chain causing damage and downtime. Loose bolts on the floor cause tire damage to



Suggestion Award presented to Dennis J. Wirfel, Depot Equipment.

repair the trippers. The suggested aluminum-hinged sheet with an anti-skid surface helps to prevent a safety hazard by providing a more secure footing for maintenance personnel. Metal angled hooks attach to the top of the chute and keep the device stationary.

Charles Gibson Makes Salt



The sheet is temporarily placed along the right side of the sortation chute, allowing Wirfel and coworkers to safely walk up the chute to repair the trippers at the top.



Dennis Wirfel demonstrates how the hinged sheet is folded for easy handling.

material handling equipment. The new pallet system is less costly to build, repair, and replace while proving to be more reliable. As each of the plastic pallet systems break, the top section is being mounted to a modified wooden pallet with fixed wood screws. The wood base provides a sturdy platform for the stacked totes.



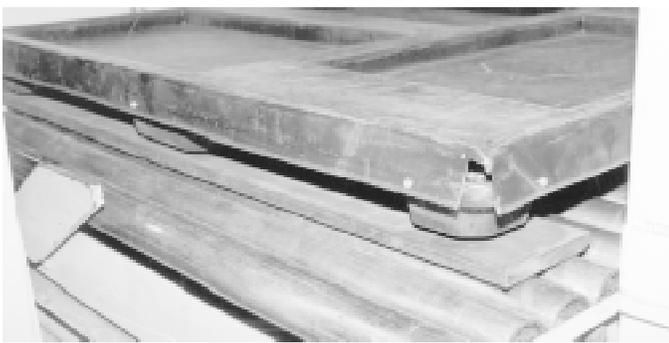
Tote has been pushed from the conveyor onto an inspection lane but gets hung up on the rollers.



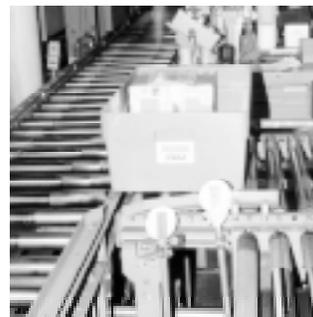
The plastic pallet system breaks easily and is expensive to repair.



Suggestion Award presented to Leonard J. Seigle, Distribution Operations.



A pallet system has the bottom section is replaced with a modified wooden pallet making it stronger.

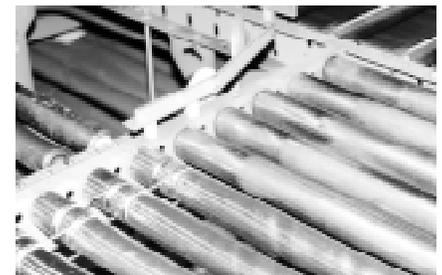


A section of power rollers are installed to assist the totes down the inspection lane.



A pallet system transports stacked totes to where they are needed throughout the EDC on an automatic guided vehicle.

Leonard Seigle is working at on of 13 inspection lanes in the Receipt and Inspection area of the EDC.



Leonard Seigle Improves Inspection Lanes

A suggestion made by Leonard Seigle to modify conveyor lines in the Receipt and Inspection area by providing gravity incline to inspection lanes was evaluated and approved for adoption with modification in February. In the Receipt and Inspection area, totes carrying material are pushed from a conveyor onto slightly pitched inspection lanes. Once pushed off the conveyor, the totes tend to hang at the beginning of the lane causing an electronic eye to produce a false signal indicating the lane is full. This false indication causes additional

totes designated for that lane to continue around the conveyor loop, re-circulating and creating material backlogs affecting not just the Receiving function but Storage and Inventory as well. Seigle's suggestion to increase the gravity inclines was tested and did not provide a complete solution, however it produced another initiative. A section of power rollers and electric components triggered by a diverted tote were installed in an inspection lane. The rollers push the tote out of the range of the electronic eye. The power rollers eliminated the problem and are being installed in all 13-inspection lanes.