

Innovative Thinking at DDCT Shortens Process Time

By Danny Kolb, DDCT

We're probably all guilty of it. We do certain tasks the same way day after day without giving it much thought. Why? Well, that's the way we've always done it and it seems to be working just fine. Maybe so, but can it be done a better way? What if . . . ?

That's the question they asked in the Defense Distribution Depot Corpus Christi, TX (DDCT) Receiving Division. What if trucks delivering small parcels, FedEx and the like, backed right up to the conveyor line? The answer, we would save time and increase productivity.

In the past, the delivery truck backed up to the receiving dock, assets were unloaded to a staging area and then placed on the conveyor. Today, the process time is cut in half by having the truck back into the receiving bay where assets are unloaded and placed directly on the conveyor line.



Cutting the process time in half, the small parcel carrier backs right up to the conveyor line to unload the delivery.



Need a lift? DDPW Material Handler Steve Sorgenfrei adjusts the height of one of the new tables at the touch of a button.

DDPW Turns the Tables on Back Injuries

By Jessica Walter-Groft, DDC Command Affairs

Four new lift tables installed at Defense Distribution Depot Puget Sound, WA (DDPW) are preventing back injuries.

The new tables allow employees in DDPW's packaging division to adjust the table's height at the touch of a button. The tables are powered by an electronic motor and can adjust the table's height within a 16 inch range.

Previous versions of lift tables required the user to pump a foot pedal or crank a handle to get the table to the desired height to avoid excessive bending – requirements that slowed the employees' progress and deterred use. "In order to get employees to take the time to use the height adjustment feature, we had to make it as user-friendly as possible," said Steve Thomas, Safety and Occupational Health Specialist at DDPW.

A DDCT Extreme Makeover— PPP&M Edition

By Danny Kolb, DDCT

At Defense Distribution Depot Corpus Christi, TX (DDCT), the value of a multi-functional workforce that can be moved from place to place as required throughout the distribution center has long been a key element of DDCT's mission to provide the finest customer service.

Currently, the DDCT Operations Division Chief maintains two teams that move to areas requiring special attention. One such area is the Packaging, Packing, Preservation and Marking (PPP&M) branch. "Team Versatile" as they have been designated descended on this branch last fall. At that time, the backlog was growing and showing no sign of going anywhere but higher.

Carol Ybarbo and Paula Garcia, along with Team Versatile members Colbert Rittgers, Rudy San Miguel, Roland Marquez, Anthony Ramirez, Gus Farias joined packers, Max Rodriguez, Johnny Contreras, Sr. and Jose Escobedo to take on the awesome

task of doing the equivalent of an extreme makeover – DDCT style.

Ybarbo and Garcia have considerable experience working in partnership with the Corpus Christi Army Depot (CCAD) on a number of "lean" initiatives that have streamlined their work processes and enabled them to simultaneously improve customer service while reducing costs. They used this experience to assess the opportunities for a makeover of the packing branch. Their goal was to streamline the entire operation by eliminating time wasted by duplicated actions.



Extreme Makeover. DDCT's "Team Versatile" reduced backlog in the packing branch by reconfiguring workstations and creating a central staging area.

First, they reconfigured the work floor, moving the virtual "maze" of workstations, hoists, and hose reels into a line against the wall, permitting an improved workflow. Next, they created a central staging area allowing assets to be packed and requiring packing materials to flow freely.

Currently, assets are being brought directly from the racks to an area adjacent to the staging area. From there they are selected to be staged. The goal is the development of a specific workload schedule to coordinate the staging effort based on CCAD's forecast each month of material coming back to DDCT.

Staging the workload in this manner eliminates a number of duplicate steps and makes everything available to the packer when and where it is needed. Additionally, an area was designated for packed assets awaiting movement to other areas. Positioning

air reels overhead as suggested by Team Versatile member Anthony Ramirez has proven to be both a safety improvement and a time saver. "The new hose reels make work easier for everyone and a lot safer," said Ramirez.

Other improvements such as packers working in teams of two and locating the hoist in the packing configuration for use with large bulk items have contributed to the tremendous success of this effort.

"The success of Team Versatile's efforts is tremendous. In just a month's time, the backlog in the packing area has been reduced by nearly 66 percent," praised DDCT Commander LTC Sheila J-McClaney, USA.

The team's ultimate goal is to stage the workload with the proper container and packing material to be packed as soon as it is received, eliminating the need to store the materiel in a bin location.

DDRV Turns Excess Cardboard into Cash

By Jessica Walter-Groft, DDC Command Affairs

Defense Distribution Depot Richmond, VA (DDRV), recently moved nearly 200 tons of cardboard storage boxes out of the Defense Supply Center Richmond (DSCR) waste stream and turned it into cash.

DDRV provided an innovative solution for the removal of excess storage boxes. Instead of spending time and money to have the boxes crushed, DDRV personnel found a local contractor that not only took the cardboard, but also paid to receive it.

DDRV trucked the cardboard to a local facility where it was crushed for recycling and earned more than \$12,000 that was returned to DSCR's Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Fund.

"We were proud to develop this solution for DSCR that not only avoided disposal costs but also earned money for the MWR Fund," said Jerri Taylor, DDRV Commander.

Additional excess boxes were shipped to other Defense Distribution Center (DDC) sites for use. DDRV shipped more than 800 pallets of cardboard boxes to Defense Distribution Depots Jacksonville, FL (DDJF);

Susquehanna, PA (DDSP); Hill, UT (DDHU); and Oklahoma City, OK (DDOO).



DDR employees Julie Harris and Michael Hudson prepare boxes to be recycled.

DDJC Employee Suggestion Wins Award

By Doug Imberi, DDJC Public Affairs

Chapelle Jackson, Defense Distribution Depot San Joaquin, CA (DDJC) Woodworker, displays the commander's coin he received from DDJC Commander, COL Doug Serrano, USA, for making a meaningful change to improve products and services creating value for stakeholders as outlined in the Baldrige Framework, a national quality award program that uses criteria designed to help organizations use a coordinated approach to achieve excellence.

Also receiving coins and \$250 On-the-Spot Awards were Woodworkers Victor Centeno, and Ken Bonnafon (*right*), who fabricated the ramps shown. The ramps were needed to test the feasibility of using wheel risers on DDJC Building 56 to engage truck restraints, which were otherwise inoperable because of the pavement's slope. The wooden ramps provided engineers an opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of permanent risers at the new warehouse. The woodworkers fabricated the ramps on short notice from a simple sketch.

