

According to MSgt Brooks, DDAG will post a scoreboard outside the break room that shows the progress of each employee's training as well as the performance metrics of each division.

The tour also included a trip to a state-of-the-art warehouse run by an automated crane where employees used forklifts with on-board computers that tell them exactly what pallets of beer to pick up, where to find them, and which truck to load it on.

"It was fascinating to see robots moving independently, safely and accurately around the warehouse without interruption," said MSgt Brooks.

"No, the tour did not conclude with free samples," confirmed MSgt Brooks.

Project recovers forgotten parts, saves millions

By Jacqueline Boucher, Tobyhanna Army Depot Public Affairs

Tom Becker knew he had struck gold when he realized systems stored in Warehouse 5 of Defense Distribution Depot Tobyhanna, Pa. (DDTP), could be dismantled, refurbished, repaired or reissued into the supply system.

The breakdown and reuse of dormant warehouse items stored by DDTP sparked a clean up effort that generated a total stock recovery worth more than \$15 million.

Becker's discovery will make parts available for systems needing repair, put serviceable assets into the inventory, free warehouse space and generate additional workload for Tobyhanna Army Depot (TYAD).

Becker is a quality assurance specialist in TYAD's Communications Directorate, Logistics and Readiness Center at the Communications-Electronics Life Cycle Management Command (C-E LCMC). His organization owns the assets that are being returned to valuable service, either as components or an entire system. He is heading a team effort to reduce dormant stock stored on the installation.

"Most items found in the warehouse aren't usable as is," he said, "I'm breaking down the items to use specific

components in different areas."

By working with DDTP, systems and components have been recouped from dormant stock to support weapons or other systems. Parts for many of the 15- to 30-year-old systems aren't manufactured anymore, and this process produces components to keep them operational. DDTP stores the majority of the TYAD's dormant or excess material in the warehouse, including items no longer needed or with no funded repair programs.

"The project returns good useable materiel that can support the Warfighter," said John Heuberger, DDTP Deputy Commander. "The idea generated savings because we didn't have to find a vendor or pay start up costs for manufacturing or remanufacturing the components."

Heuberger is hoping more people will realize the benefits of this program and start disposing of their dormant stock. He explained that disassembling and retrieving reusable components to put

back into the maintenance and supply systems is a more cost effective and efficient way to do business. All the stock is in good condition and well kept, just considered dormant or excess.

Tobyhanna Army Depot is the Defense Department's largest center for the repair, overhaul and fabrication of a wide variety of electronics systems and components, from tactical field radios to the ground terminals for the defense satellite communications network. Tobyhanna's missions support all branches of the Armed Forces.

About 4,400 personnel are employed at Tobyhanna, which is located in the Pocono Mountains of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Tobyhanna Army Depot is part of the C-E LCMC. Headquartered at Fort Monmouth, N.J., C-E LCMC's mission is to research, develop, acquire, field and sustain communications, command, control computer, intelligence, electronic warfare and sensors capabilities for the Armed Forces.



A team of individuals have been disassembling and retrieving reusable components from dormant stock to put back into the maintenance and supply systems. The project has grown into a multi-million dollar stock recovery effort within a few weeks. (Photo by Steve Grzedzinski)