

“Strategically Speaking”

Donnie Wright, material examiner and identifier work leader, DLA Distribution Anniston, Ala.

Warfighter Support Enhancement

The mission of DLA Distribution Anniston’s “S” Division is to efficiently and effectively perform receipt selection, preservation, packaging, packing, and storage, which includes hazardous and radioactive material, re-warehousing, container assembly and manufacture, unit and set assembly, disassembly and manufacture, made to order kitting, and standard order kitting and supporting parts with intra-depot movement material. Our general focus is the continuous and prompt advancement of assets, ensuring that all material is identified, receipted, and stored in a timely manner in order for it to be readily available to our main customers, the Warfighter.



Workforce development

At DLA Distribution Anniston, Ala., the Command Office holds all leadership to the highest of standards. My supervisor and I were personally tasked with developing a plan to alleviate the backlog and create a sustainment process. To meet our goals, we received assistance from an outside source in addition to our general knowledge to help streamline the process. Once we were able to train everyone on the new processes and standards, we were able to significantly decrease our backlog.

Customer engagement

As the work leader, dealing with a diverse group of people is a mainstay. My daily interactions include truck drivers, warehouse workers, the Inventory Branch, and other entities. I am the point of contact that provides feedback to customer complaints that deal with shortages, overages, shipment of wrong material, and maintenance production. My overall goal as a leader is to ensure that the customers are taken care of diligently and their issues resolved.

Continuous process improvement

Using the motto that “nothing is perfect,” I try to encourage the workforce to think of different ways to improve their processes. We have been trying to streamline what we do to help decrease how many times we handle material that we receive. We have set up processes to make it easier for the worker to examine and identify the material. Prior to minor adjustments, workers were handling material four to five times more than necessary. This helped to free up valuable time and alleviate non-productive actions. We continue to encourage everyone to break down all processes by steps and try to eliminate any redundant movements.

If the material does not reach the servicemen and women correctly, we are jeopardizing the lives and well being of all that are associated with that item. Knowing that my part is just as valuable as others to the troops makes waking up every day to come to work special.

Donnie Wright
DLA Distribution Anniston, Ala.

***To read this month’s complete “Strategically Speaking,” be sure to visit
DLA Distribution on the web at <http://www.ddc.dla.mil/>.***