

Back to School!

DDC/DDSP EMPLOYEES BEGIN NEXT CLASS IN THE BUSINESS LOGISTICS CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

By Stacy L. Umstead, DDC Command Affairs Office

Employees of Defense Distribution Center (DDC) and Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, Pennsylvania (DDSP) are back to the grind as the next class of the Business Logistics Certificate Program is underway. Supply Chain Management is the fourth in a series of six accredited classes brought to the DDC through partnership with Penn State University.

A total of 48 students spend either Tuesday or Thursday night listening to the instruction of Mr. Merrick Shook, of Penn State University. Mr. Shook brings a wealth of knowledge to the course - he's spent 30 years with IBM! Prior to his retirement from IBM, Merrick served as IBM's National Distribution Operations Manager. After retirement, Merrick worked for eight years with AMP/Tyco Electronics as the Manager for Traffic Operations. Merrick's philosophy is, "Don't bore folks with 'death by slides' when they've already worked eight hours prior to coming to the class! I want to bring a commercial perspective to the course so that students may take it back to work with them and apply to their everyday business, and I want the students to have fun!"



Merrick Shook, Penn State University.

The DDC and Mr. Shook are fully committed to presenting students with a quality course. Mr. Shook recently spent a day with key DDC staff receiving briefings on initiatives such as Stock Positioning, Strategic Distribution Management, and Business Systems Modernization (BSM). Mr. Shook was then provided an in-depth tour of the operations of DDSP's Eastern Distribution Center (EDC).



Student and DDC staff member Annie Melphis briefs the class.

The students are excited to be back. Annie Melphis, Business Systems Modernization (BSM) Office states, "I like Mr. Shook's teaching techniques. He brings realism and personal experience into the class. I'm particularly interested in hearing the guest speakers he has lined up."

The Supply Chain Management Course addresses the nature of supply chain management and logistics management with emphasis on the management of inventory and facilities in the supply chain. Students are divided into teams. Each team is assigned chapters to read, case questions to answer, and is required to write an essay for hand in to the instructor. The teams then present their chapter to the rest of the class. Individually, students are required to write an essay on Supply Chain Management/Logistics Management and present to the class sometime throughout the four-month semester. And...yes, like any other class — there will be a test! Three of them to be exact!

The DDC Business Logistics Certificate Program is customized to meet the specific needs of DDC, as well as, the academic criteria established by Penn State. The program consists of an in-depth series of business and logistics courses, including several soft-skill courses, which will take approximately 24 months to complete.

The Business Logistics Certificate Program is a DDC initiative intended not only to increase individual employees' skills and knowledge in the field of business and logistics, but to further enhance the skills of the overall DDC organization and to prepare for tomorrow's challenges.