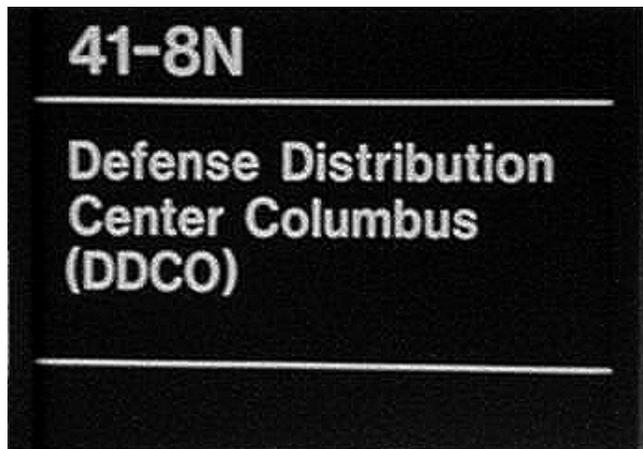


DDCO Transforms its Facilities



Defense Distribution Depot Columbus, Ohio (DDCO) is no stranger to transformation. The 1994 Hammer Award winner for re-inventing government practically specializes in it. Today, making the most of their small workforce is always uppermost in the minds of the staff.

An important current task of the DDCO staff is to re-engineer the buildings and facilities to best serve the small staff. Currently 19 people work at DDCO, this includes the 5-person Continuing Governmental Authority (CGA), DDCO's management team, and the 14-person Most Efficient Organization (MEO), DDCO's distribution workforce.

The DDCO complex, part of the Defense Supply Center Columbus (DSCC) campus, like many federal facilities, is a mixture of older and newer buildings, some of which were built prior to World War II. Lighting fixtures, water service, electrical panels, phone outlets, and security systems differ widely from building to building. This lack of standardization can make just turning on the lights an unnecessary expenditure of time.

Even opening a door at some DDCO warehouses can take up time. The doors on many older warehouses must be opened and closed by pressing and holding a button, this can take up to a full minute, and often requires staff to exit their vehicles to access the buttons. While pressing a button is certainly simple,



DDCO's main warehouse.

and spending a minute or two to get in and out seems like a short period of time, the DDCO 14-member MEO has to cover thousands of square feet several times in a day. Those minutes spent at each door start to add up.

Leading the re-engineering effort at DDCO is Forrest Wonderlen, Distribution Facilities Specialist and a 12-year veteran of the DDCO workforce. "Previously DDCO had no standardized electrical panels, lighting, or security systems," Wonderlen said. "Our new systems will be entirely standardized in every warehouse."



Some of DDCO's bin locations.

"DDCO staff will be able to enter and exit using remote controls similar to household garage door openers," said Wonderlen. "This will also improve security as non-DDCO personnel won't have access to the controls."

"Our lighting and heating systems will also turn off automatically," said Wonderlen. "The DDCO staff is very conscientious about conserving energy and turning off lights, but this will save everyone from having to double check themselves. Additionally, Older doors are being replaced with insulated metal doors to further conserve heat."

"Our staff has to leverage technology whenever possible to improve our performance - we can't throw manpower at problems," said Don Brown, DDCO Director. "We also have to think about future DDCO staff. In time, our workforce will turnover and the standardization will smooth that process as well. Forrest has a huge task but she is doing a fantastic job of managing it."