

SSgt Weaver-Serving America Twice

By Jessica Walter-Groft, DDC Command Affairs

Q: What can making doughnuts teach us about productivity?

A: That working together as a team can increase output.

As a volunteer for Junior Achievement, Defenses Distribution Center (DDC) Military Personnel Non-Commissioned Officer Staff Sergeant (SSgt) Michelle Weaver, USAF, educates elementary school students about business and economics by using fun, interesting lessons.

SSgt Weaver recently began her second year with Junior Achievement by demonstrating the Junior Achievement doughnut exercise to the second grade class at Fishing Creek Elementary School. "This lesson allows the students to see the difference in production when only one person is doing the whole process versus the productivity of working as a team and creating an assembly line," said SSgt Weaver.

Weaver sees her role as a Junior Achievement volunteer as showing the students how they can impact the economy both as consumers and business people, but the students usually have something else on their minds when they meet her. "They see the uniform, and their jaws just drop," she said.

"They usually ask me if I'm in the Army, and when they find out that I am in the Air Force, they ask me if I fly a plane." With a smile, SSgt Weaver points out that "not everyone in the Air Force flies a plane."

After the questions were out of the way, SSgt Weaver separated the class into two teams-unit production and assembly production. The teams then had two minutes to punch out the paper doughnuts, flavor, and place other ingredients on the doughnuts. The unit production team did this individually while the

SSgt Weaver begins the Junior Achievement lesson by distributing paper doughnuts to the class.



assembly production team created an assembly line to complete the process.

After completing the exercise, the students were rewarded with real doughnuts donated by the local Donut Connection shop that also donated other materials for the lesson.

For SSgt Weaver, the rewards of being a Junior Achievement volunteer are in realizing how she has impacted the students' futures. "When I see their eyes and I can tell that they've learned something from me that they will hold on to for a long time-what a fabulous feeling of accomplishment."

Before teaching the lesson to the class, SSgt Weaver completed training with Junior Achievement. Junior Achievement also provides volunteers with lesson plans and materials. To learn more about Junior Achievement, visit www.ja.org.

DDJC Public Safety Officials Honored by American Legion

American Legion Post 172 in Tracy, CA held a special dinner to honor public safety officials from the surrounding area during the annual Law and Order Night.

The honorees included Dennis Ming, a battalion chief in the Defense Distribution Depot San Joaquin, CA (DDJC) Fire Department and Ralph Smith, a DDJC police officer.

DDJC Fire Chief Terrance Wyler credits Ming with acquiring much of the department's equipment used on the hazardous materials response trailer. He

characterized Ming as a "go-to guy." Ming recently retired after serving 33 years with the fire department.

Smith is a Navy veteran and former Modesto police officer. Since joining the DDJC Police Department last May, Smith has done considerable work developing a training program.

Each received a plaque in a special presentation. The guest speaker at the event was the Chairman of the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors, Leroy Ornellas.

Dennis Ming



Ralph Smith