

Popular Children's Book Character Pays Visit to DCMA

By David Tucker
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Flat Stanley, a central character in a children's book series dating from 1964, recently visited DCMA Space Sensors and Communications Operations at Raytheon IDS, Tewksbury, Mass.

Thanks to the Internet's Flat Stanley Project, the character is now a globetrotting educational tool in a national reading and writing project for elementary school children. Cole Maggard, a Golden Elementary School student in Etiwanda, Calif., and nephew of Kim Gallagher, program integrator at Raytheon IDS, set the stage for Flat Stanley's DCMA visit.

Answers.com provides the following context behind Flat Stanley's origin: "In the original book by writer Jeff Brown and illustrator Tomi Ungerer, Stanley Lambchop wakes up one morning flattened by his bulletin board. His positive attitude helps him cope with the physical disadvantage and propels him into a series of adventures. Inspired by Flat Stanley's trip to



Flat Stanley performs data analysis with Jay Fiste, DCMA Raytheon IDS engineer. (Photo by Dave Tucker)

California inside an envelope, Canadian educator Dale Hubert created the Flat Stanley Project for his grade-three students, and in 1995, put the project on the World Wide Web.

Classrooms around the world exchange cut-out Flat Stanleys and keep journals as a way for kids to learn about other parts of the world. Over the years Flat Stanley has become a pop culture phenomenon and an educational tool. He has met world leaders, made appearances on television shows such as *The West Wing* and *Jeopardy!*, been aboard the Space Shuttle *Discovery* and made trips all over the globe, including Mount Everest and the Taj Mahal."

While visiting DCMA, Flat Stanley accompanied Army Col. Christopher

Ross, DCMA Space Sensors and Communications Operations commander, during team visits and meetings with program support teams. He also met with group leaders, team leaders and functional specialists throughout Raytheon IDS. The colorful character assisted with many of the day-to-day tasks, such as reviewing the collective bargaining agreement, data collection and analysis and reviewing customer outcomes in a memorandum of agreement.

Flat Stanley returned to California with a wealth of information about DCMA's mission and the daily grind at the contract management office. Maybe one day he will want to return to DCMA as a keystone employee! 