



COMMUNICATOR

News for DCMA Professionals

Say it Ain't So!

Dear Editor:

We keep hearing that performance-based management is critical to helping DCMA serve its customers in a constrained fiscal environment. We also hear that future personnel and budget allocations may well be based, in large measure, upon the metrics that we attain with PBM. Why did DCMA decide to implement PBM when nearly all of the military services and [the Department of Defense] — our primary customers — are implementing Lean/Six Sigma? Are the two similar? Are they compatible? Is it likely that we will get down the path of implementing PBM only to find ourselves directed by DoD to implement Lean/Six Sigma? I'm concerned that I am investing a lot of my labor in a lost cause that is going to go away and, like many other programs we've been obliged to undertake in the past, we'll dump it midstream for the fad du jour. Tell me it isn't so!

Name Withheld by Request

The two methodologies are complementary. PBM can be thought of as a framework for ensuring the activities we perform are integral parts of strategies we've designed to satisfy our commitments to our customers. It's not a quality improvement program like Lean/Six Sigma. What PBM gives us is the assurance that the customers have validated what's important to them and that what we will do to help them achieve their outcomes is on target — what we have termed "performance commitments" under our PBM methodology. Lean/Six Sigma is an evolution of Total Quality Management and, as such, is similar to many other quality improvement approaches that employ common analytical tools and methods and the logical steps in a process improvement approach. While Lean/Six Sigma focuses on making your own processes more efficient and effective, we're concentrating on our contractors' processes because they are the primary factor in determining whether our customers get the right item, at the right time and price.

Fort Lee or Bust?

Dear Editor:

It is my understanding that DCMA's move to Fort Lee [Virginia] may be delayed because the facility into which we are supposed to move cannot be renovated on schedule. In fact, I understand that if everything goes perfectly with the renovation of our new home, we may still bump up against the deadline that Congress has imposed for us to be all moved in there. Is there a possibility that the move could be turned off because we can't get into our new home on schedule? I don't want to buy property in the Petersburg area — so that I can move with the agency — if it turns out that we're not going to end up going there. If we couldn't meet the schedule, what would happen? Would we stay here? Could we end up at Fort Belvoir? Would Congress waive the date but make us go anyway?

Concerned at Headquarters

DCMA's Headquarters and International and Special Programs Divisions were scheduled to move in July 2010 based on the original plan. Due to a change in construction scheduling, the move has been rescheduled for the summer of 2011, and, yes, we will be close to bumping up against the September 2011 deadline. We have been assured, however, that this will not affect the decision of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission, approved by Congress and the president, to move these DCMA offices to Fort Lee. In order for DCMA Headquarters and the two divisions to remain at Metro Park in Alexandria, Va., or relocate to Fort Belvoir, Va., Congress would have to approve an amendment to the 2005 BRAC legislation. There is nothing to indicate that such an action would ever win approval. We will continue with our planning to move these offices, as required by law, by the BRAC deadline.

Communicator welcomes feedback and unsolicited articles about DCMA programs, policies and personnel. Articles may be reprinted if credit is given to *Communicator* magazine and the author. Address correspondence to:
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