

Going Green in IT

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The new Defense Contract Management Agency Information Technology office space color scheme may be different shades of blue, but this directorate is really undergoing a “green” initiative. When the time arrived to refurbish its office space, DCMA IT became a leader in promoting and applying “green” initiatives.

“The DCMA headquarters IT space was the first to apply ‘green’ initiatives,” said Susan Shaver, IT program manager and Base Realignment and Closure team member. “A few years back, the IT

office at headquarters was remodeled using an open environment approach that incorporated a new style of furniture more conducive to teleworkers. This style fostered open communication among coworkers and operated on the notion that there would be less paper.”

Traditionally, team members worked in cubicles isolated from coworkers. The new office configuration uses open space design and cluster-style furniture that allows for coworkers to share ideas and be more efficient. “Another benefit of the new configuration is it can be used for multiple purposes,” Shaver continued. “This new office space configuration is perfect for employees who telework and come into the office a few days a week. We can also hotel more

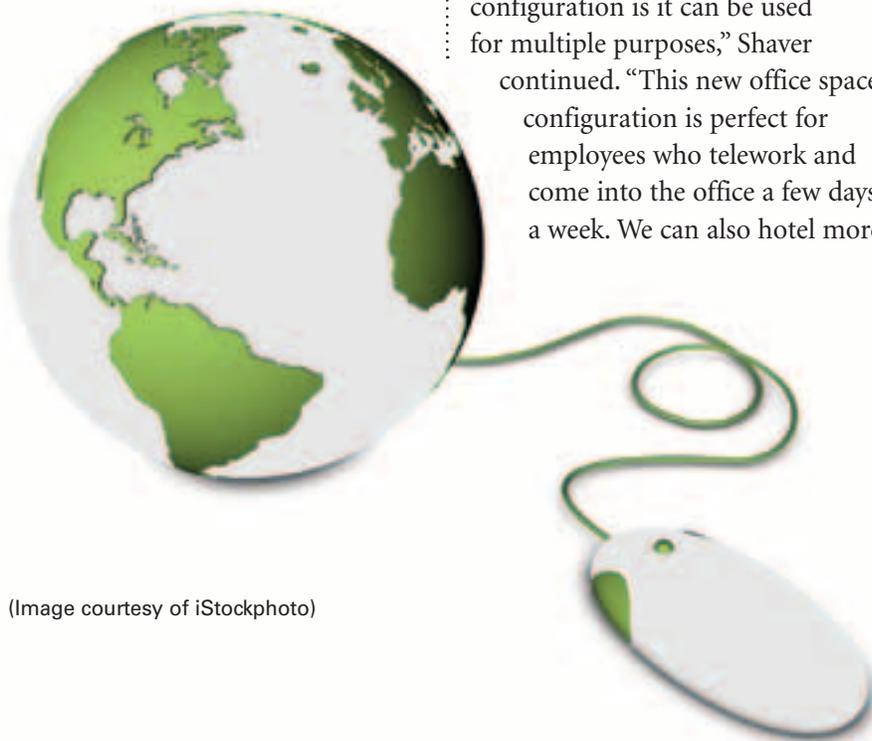


A workstation in DCMA IT's refurbished office space. (Photo courtesy of Ann Jensis-Dale, DCMA Public Affairs)

employees and provide workspace to employees who travel frequently.”

Based on the success of the IT headquarters office reconfiguration, the IT Customer Service Organization applied a similar IT space refurbishment at the Boston IT space located in the Barnes building. “The Boston space was in dire need of new carpet, paint and furniture. With the new IT reorganization coming, we felt it was the perfect time to physically update the space and make it more efficient for conducting business,” Shaver said.

The Boston IT office refurbishment used a “government-to-government” business approach to purchase services and goods. This approach saved time and money and enabled the use of a Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request process that streamlined purchases, allowed funds to be transferred



(Image courtesy of iStockphoto)

quickly for payment and expedited products and services.

“A lot of time was saved because bids did not have to go out to the commercial world [with] all the [associated] paperwork that would be involved. This approach also saved money and supported other federal agencies and their programs,” Shaver stated.

DCMA IT worked with UNICOR-Federal Prison Industries, Inc. to establish a new workstation model for the telework concept environment and provide a streamlined workspace configuration that promotes teaming between coworkers. UNICOR-Federal Prison Industries was selected to supply the majority of the new workstations, chairs, conference tables and other office furnishings.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs was selected for the remodeling effort and provided services for carpet installation, painting, construction and electrical projects. According to DCMA IT, both contractors were choices that made sense for the Boston refurbishment project.

“UNICOR was able to provide us with quality office products for the best price. The VA was the common sense choice for this project because they provided top-notch services at low cost and helped our country’s veterans at the same time,” Shaver added. Recently, DCMA Deputy Director Jim Russell met with the Veterans



DCMA employees in the new, green DCMA IT office space. From left: Mike Williams, DCMA CIO; Jim Russell, DCMA Deputy Director; Susan Kelly, ITCSSO director of executive and management services; and Susan Shaver, IT program manager and Base Realignment and Closure team member. (DCMA photo by Dianne Ryder)

Construction, Inc. team that was part of the Boston refurbishment effort. “This is how we need to approach these efforts ... this makes total sense,” Russell remarked.

These types of projects also received approval from Susan Kelly, ITCSSO director of executive and management services, especially when sensible practices are part

of the preplanning and not an afterthought. “These are sensible and practical solutions and need to be incorporated into the remote worker plan,” Kelly said. “Team cluster work centers can boost employee morale and save taxpayer dollars.”

“Green” economic practices also were used toward driving the

Boston refurbishment project. For example, if a file cabinet was still in good working condition, it was painted and reused instead of replaced. A shared business center was created to cut down on supplies, equipment and space. Portable partitions, multipurpose conference tables and whiteboards were purchased for multiple, shared purposes, offering more flexibility in the office configuration and cutting down on the amount of material used.

DCMA IT leaders also took going “green” one step further by promoting telework as a viable option for their employees. The benefits of telework for an organization and individual are less energy-consuming, as it reduces the number of cars on the road as well as real estate and overhead costs. DCMA CIO Mike Williams is supportive of such initiatives, as they help support a more mobile workforce and entice people to join or remain at DCMA. “By providing a great work environment, we can increase employee satisfaction and hope to retain our talented employees,” Williams remarked. “Also, we can attract and accommodate a mobile workforce by providing the environment they need to succeed.”

Currently, DCMA IT is sharing lessons learned from its refurbishment projects with DCMA BRAC so that the Fort Lee relocation can enjoy similar “green” success. 

Keeping It Green – Recycling Computers

Ever wonder what happens to all those computers and hardware that are no longer used by businesses and individuals? I know I put mine back in the box and up in the attic. Hey, I may be able to sell it on eBay someday as a collector’s item.

A better and more efficient use for older computers and hardware is donating them to less-fortunate families. Ruth Stanley, a property manager assigned to Defense Contract Management Agency Aircraft Integrated Maintenance Office, Melbourne, Fla., is ensuring that Brevard County, Fla., families and children have an opportunity to own a refurbished computer through her volunteer efforts with “Computers 4 Kidz.”

According to Stanley, Brevard County businesses and individuals upgrade their computer equipment every few years and are left with outdated systems and hardware. “Computers 4 Kidz” picks up, refurbishes and properly licenses donated computer equipment. “Many of these kids and their families can’t afford computers and only have computer access at school,” said Stanley. “Having educational resources, computers, at home contributes to higher academic performance in school.”

For more information please contact Ted Hackler at (321) 278-7235.

— By Ann Jensis-Dale



The “Computers 4 Kidz” service picks up, refurbishes and properly licenses donated computer equipment. From left: Ted Hackler, Brevard County, Fla., director, “Computers 4 Kidz”; Nick Barnes, volunteer, computer programmer; Tony Piero, volunteer, computer technician; Gene Nelson, volunteer, computer technician; Ruth Stanley, DCMA property management specialist; Ed Quillian, retired DCMA quality assurance specialist.