

Long-Distance Meetings Help Improve Teaming

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Far-reaching, geographically dispersed teams hold special challenges for supervisors and team members alike.

Regular team communication is limited to infrequent teleconferences or even less frequent team meetings. This can result in remotely located employees feeling less than valued. Sharing experiences and ideas is an important force multiplier, allowing us to utilize best practices without the need to recreate a tool or method — not to mention that getting the team together does wonders for morale.

The recent offerings of online Adobe Connect® and Breeze® meetings piqued our curiosity. If these programs could be incorporated into the contract management office's current telecommunications technology, the office could reach out to

touch all of our folks regardless of their locations. Two tests were conducted to prove this concept of operations.

The first test conducted was to include the remotely located employees, including those with Verizon-enabled laptops, in a commander's call and fraud training session broadcast by video teleconference. The call-in number was set up with VTC, enabling all to hear as if on VTC — a great improvement. Next, the office set up an Adobe Connect® session, which was presented through VTC, allowing the remote users to log in and actually see the VTC PowerPoint® presentation live. The feedback from the field declared the session a resounding success.

The second session was a six-site VTC meeting scheduled with the call-in number through VTC. The office discovered it was limited to 15 call-ins when connecting through a VTC; however, it got the remote folks to share, where

possible. Once again, the office was able to bring remote folks into the VTC to view the PowerPoint® presentation live from around the country. All who participated provided positive feedback of the Adobe Connect application.

This tool is valuable when connecting multiple locations for computer-based presentations/demonstrations and has resulted in the remote folks feeling more like part of the team. It is expected this application will be utilized on a regular basis.

For details, visit <http://guidebook.dcma.mil/38/dc09-239Connect.doc>. 

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