



As part of his quality assurance oversight on heat treat and hardness testing processes, Wayne Low, (right) Defense Contract Management Agency Dallas, reviews completed material processing documentation with a contractor employee. (Photos by Jo Adail Stephenson)

They can take the *heat* — validating heat treat processes

Jo Adail Stephenson | DCMA Public Affairs

When it comes to oversight on heat treat and hardness testing processes, Wayne Low takes the scorching, sweltering Texas summer heat and high heat index in stride as he performs his work in support of both the warfighter and the customer.

Paramount to the Defense Contract

Management Agency Dallas quality assurance representative's work at the contractor site is assurance that heat treat processes are within required parameters because this can affect many items used on multiple ground, air and sea platforms which are critical to operation of systems upon which warfighters depend.

To warfighters, Low, a DCMA employee

for 25 years, said he would like to say, "DCMA is here to assure the material and systems you receive to perform your mission meet or exceed the requirements necessary for you to succeed in that mission."

This contractor is used by multiple defense contractors in the United States to perform metal heat treat processing



Wayne Low, (right) Defense Contract Management Agency Dallas, quality assurance representative, checks the hardness testing being performed by a contractor employee.

Inspecting a sample of the processed metal microstructure under the microscope is one of the ways Wayne Low, Defense Contract Management Agency Dallas, verifies and validates the heat treat processes are within the required parameters.

of material used in the manufacturing of defense products. Heat treat processing is a controlled process used to alter the microstructure of materials such as metals and alloys to impart properties which benefit the working life of components.

“DCMA is involved here because the product is either a critical safety item or a high risk product (affecting quality, cost

and schedule),” he said.

The agency receives delegations to perform oversight on processing performed at this contractor facility. Low inspects, witnesses, verifies and validates heat treat and hardness testing processes. “DCMA acts as the eyes and ears for our customers. Customers (delegators) are informed of quality and schedule issues

affecting the product.”

For Low, it’s all about the end-user. “Our warfighter is dependent on the successful processing of these products. It affects them, the companies that use them and the cities and communities where they are made. If there’s a mistake, it can affect millions.” 

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