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Analysis of the Marine Corps Supply Management Unit's Internal Operations and Effect on the Warfighter

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Abstract

- The primary mission of the Marine Corps' Supply Management Unit (SMU) is to act as the intermediate supply activity by providing requisitioning support between the wholesale and consumer levels of supply within the established Marine Corps supply chain. The SMU stockpiles supplies close to the warfighter in order to decrease requisitioning cycle time and, in essence, has become a natural bottleneck between the wholesale and consumer levels of supply. The speed at which the SMU can effectively fulfill and ship a requisition has a direct impact on the supply, maintenance, and sustainability levels of its supported units.
- This project centers on determining and analyzing the internal processes of the SMU's requisition management cycle and its distribution capabilities in order to identify potential areas of improvement. The objectives of this project include an analysis of current SMU requisitioning procedures and protocols, the Marine Corps continuous process improvement program, and the incentives within the logistics contracts supporting SMU operations.

Methods

- The information gathered for this report came through emails, conference calls, and two off-site visits at MCB CPEN and CLNC. The individuals providing the requisite details included the CPEN SMU Process Reform officer in charge (OIC), CPEN MAGTF Materiel Distribution Center (MMDC) OIC, the CPEN MMDC operations officer (OPSO), the CPEN Regional Contracting Office (RCO) deputy contracting officer (KO), the CLNC SMU OIC, the CLNC RCO deputy contracting officer, and the CLNC SMU OPSO.
- The data, details, and perspectives gained lent themselves to a side-by-side comparison of the two SMUs given the following limitations: different operational constraints, distinct organizational structures, and unique geographic locations. However, this project was not a direct comparison. The data allowed for identification of variations in practices, and the analysis of these variations offered actionable recommendations for stakeholders. This project evaluated an SMU SOP, four Supply Procedures Notices (SPNs), eight years of CPEN CPI records, and three separate contracts associated with SMU distribution support.

Results

- With the employment of a combination of the supply point and unit distribution methods within a pull style replenishment system, both the CPEN and CLNC SMUs leverage their current supply capabilities to positively affect the warfighter.
- The combination of these methods coupled with the implementation of an SOP, SPNs, a Process Reform Section currently managing and executing the USMC CPI program, and contracted logistical support enables both SMUs to accomplish their mission as intermediate supply activities through the ideals of flexibility and efficiency.
- Both SMUs stand to gain efficiencies in their respective supply chains through the conclusions and recommendations outlined in this project.



Camp Pendleton
Supply Management Unit



United States Marine Corps Continuous
Process Improvement



Camp Lejeune
Supply Management Unit