



Art of the Possible

Newsletter

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AIR FORCE SUSTAINMENT CENTER

The AoP Newsletter is a monthly bulletin to communicate the latest enterprise AoP activities to the AFSC workforce. It provides updates on significant AoP institutionalization and implementation activities and tools. More detailed information is available on the AFSC AoP SharePoint site at <https://cs2.eis.af.mil/sites/22197/aop/default.aspx>. If you have a question or would like to submit content for a future AoP Newsletter, please contact the POCs listed below.

Workforce Perspective-Belinda Woods AFSC/DPD

If you were to hear someone mention the motto “just do it,” what would come to your mind? Unless you’ve been sequestered on a remote island somewhere for the last 29 years, you would most likely think Nike shoes/sportswear, right? And Nike certainly hopes you would since they have spent millions of dollars over the years for that advertising campaign. In the last couple of weeks though, the phrase has taken on a new connotation for me.

I have had the privilege of working with the AoP implementation team over the past year as we worked to develop training, guidance, and a support network for AFSC organizations. Some of you have been managing with AoP for several years and understand it well. Others of you have been to some level of training. Still others may have heard the terminology but do not have a clear idea of what it means. As much as I have learned over the last year, there is still a lot I do not know about the detailed methodologies of science of throughput, drum-buffer-rope, etc. What I do know is you can get started implementing the basics of AoP without fully understanding all the elements. The most helpful and important step you can take is to “just do it.” There is a lot to know about constraints based management but not understanding all of it is not a show stopper. I know this because we have learned it first hand in the past couple of weeks as we have built a process machine for one of our mission essential tasks and guess what? We did it without knowing all the details!

So here is the simple truth that will give you all you need to get started on implementing AoP: 1. Determine one organizational mission essential task to focus on (we chose officer promotion boards). 2. Establish flow by identifying the steps that add value in producing the end item and group like steps/tasks (AoP calls these groupings “gates”). 3. Establish where the Work In Process (WIP) is within your gates. 4. Identify the constraints or roadblocks that prevent your process from running efficiently. 5. Resolve or (if the only answer) determine how to manage the constraint. 6. Repeat steps 4 and 5. That’s it! Utilize these steps to manage your process and you will be surprised at the things you will learn about how the process works well.....and how it can work better. Contact your AoP SME with questions or for really great input on improving your process. So, stop thinking you don't know how and take Nike's recommendation...just do it!

NEWSLETTER POCs

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Upcoming Events:

Advanced Level

Workshops

31 Jan-1 Feb 18, Robins AFB

10-11 Apr 18, Tinker AFB

26-27 Jun 18, Hill AFB

Oct 18, Langley AFB

AoP FAQs and Misconceptions:

What is the difference between WIP and Queue? The terms WIP and queue are fundamental to AoP. WIP is everything in the machine including queue. Queue is what is waiting in front of a gate. Queue is both good and bad. It is bad that you have excess WIP but queue indicates a deliberate process to control WIP, which is good.

Please note the AoP SharePoint URL has changed:
<https://cs2.eis.af.mil/sites/22197/aop/default.aspx>