

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/SitePagesR/Home.aspx>. If you have a question or would like to submit content for a future AoP Newsletter, please contact the POCs listed below.

638 SCMG "Road To" Success Using AoP - Ms. Kayci Unsworth, 407 SCMS

638 Supply Chain Management Group (SCMG) members strive to provide excellent support to warfighters with parts on the shelf and contracts in place. Not only is this the 448 Supply Chain Management Wing's (SCMW's) slogan, it is the heartbeat to our business. Adopting the commodity acquisition process as the wing's first "road to" success in our Art of the Possible (AoP) progression was challenging but rewarding. Fine-tuning this process is providing valuable rewards amongst the squadrons in the 638 SCMG. These squadrons strive to master the art of balancing workload with partners in contracting, competition advocate, small business, and screening offices to effectively manage incoming and out-going Work in Progress (WIP), alleviate bottlenecks, and communicate lessons learned in a timely manner.

638 SCMG leaders understand the importance of initiating packages earlier in the fiscal year to provide contracting ample amount of time to award contracts so they set aggressive, early initiation goals to have 80% of all new contracts in contracting by 30 November and 100% new contracts in contracting by 28 February. By employing AoP techniques of gating and sub-gating requirement owner's processes and using visual techniques during wall walks, the team identified and tracked the critical path to sending executable packages to contracting. The AoP techniques applied to our commodity acquisition process provide management the ability to visually identify constraints and apply resources to alleviate bottlenecks earlier in the process.

This seven gate structure, beginning when the requirement is first identified and completed when an executable strategic contract package has been sent to contracting, has assisted squadrons within 638 SCMG measure success to early initiation goals. In FY17, 638 SCMG forecasted 129 new contract efforts with 60 packages submitted to contracting by 30 November falling short of the early initiation goals. By using AoP techniques in FY18, 638 SCMG forecasted 170 new contract efforts with 89 packages submitted to contracting by 30 November. 638 SCMG squadrons increased throughput by adopting AoP techniques with a simple yet understandable wall walk for requirement owners and management. This is only a small taste of the goodness AoP will bring to the table and we are eager to see how the progression will grow as we continue to embrace this journey.

C-5 SPO Requests AoP Training for Team Members

The Art of the Possible Subject Matter Experts (AoP SMEs) received a special request from Col Kevin Sellers, the C-5 SPO chief at Robins AFB, requesting an abbreviated Advanced Level Workshop (ALW) for 29 supervisors from his program office. Col Sellers was first exposed to AoP when he began attending 559 AMXS C-5 wall walks. The AoP team provided one and a half days of AoP training at the Veterans Education Center (VECTR) near Robins AFB on 1-2 March 2018. In addition to standard AoP ALW content, the AoP SMEs and students observed and discussed wall walks from two different areas; the 411 Supply Chain Management Squadron (SCMS) Purchase Instrument (PI) machine and the AFSC/LGS's Special Projects machine. Students learned how to apply AoP in administrative areas and how to set up process machines. Col Sellers reported the C-5 SPO conducted their first wall walk, on Engineering Tech Assistance Request / Tech Data Process machine, on 8 March — just one week since they received the AoP training. They were able to identify constraints and generate actions to mitigate the constraint. The collaboration and transparency proved powerful and absolutely successful. The AoP team received valuable constructive feedback via its course critique process that will be used to improve AoP training. The next ALW will be held at Hill AFB, UT from 10-11 April 2018.

NEWSLETTER POCs

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UPCOMING EVENTS: Advanced Level Workshops

10-11 Apr 18, Hill AFB

12-13 Jun 18, Tinker AFB

30-31 Oct 18, Langley AFB

Senior Leader Course

8-10 Aug 18, Tinker AFB

**HOT! AFSCI 60-101 AND
AFSCH 60-101** have been
published and posted on Air
Force E-Publishing:
<http://www.e-publishing.af.mil/>

AoP FAQs and Misconceptions: **Should AoP process machines be built to the customer requirement?**

AoP is a constraints-based management system designed to achieve previously unimagined levels of performance. The customer requirement is the minimum level of performance required of a process. AoP process machines should be built to a higher, more aggressive, level of performance than the customer requirement. Machines will never out perform their design specifications without heroics. Unanticipated problems inhibit machine performance. Striving to achieve a more aggressive level of performance creates a cushion to buffer against problems that always arise and impact performance. It also creates additional capacity to take on additional work and allow the center to provide its stakeholders more capability.

AoP SharePoint URL:

<https://cs2.eis.af.mil/sites/22197/AoP/SitePagesR/Home.aspx>