

Factory to Foxhole: Improving the Army's Supply Chain

Mark Wang

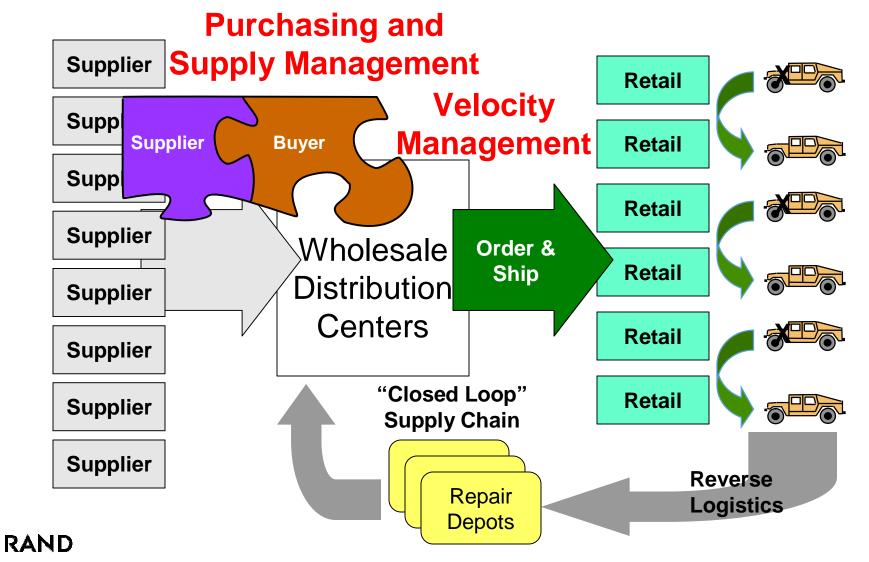
Physical Scientist Military Logistics Program RAND Arroyo Center

September 2006 • NAE Frontiers of Engineering

"For want of a nail the shoe was lost.□ For want of a shoe the horse was lost.□ For want of a horse the rider was lost□ For want of a rider the battle was lost.□ For want of a battle the kingdom was lost.□ And all for the want of a horseshoe nail."

- Benjamin Franklin

Military Supply Chain has Many Elements Similar to Commercial Supply Chains



Military's <u>Mission</u> Dictates a Demand-Responsive Supply Chain

Commercial

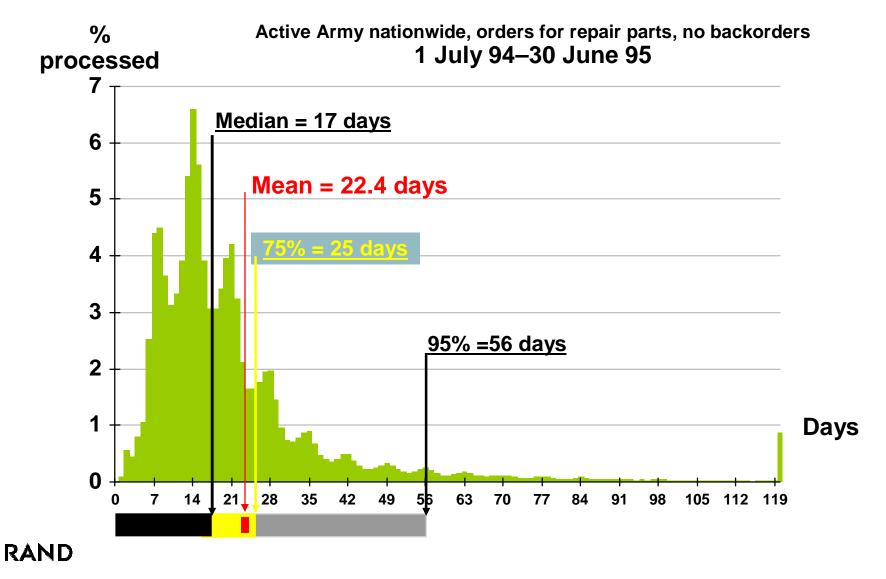
- Physical efficiency
- Lowest possible costs
- Minimize inventory investments
- Maximize capacity utilization
- Actively manage demands to smooth flow
- Mitigate surges, spikes, and unpredictability

<u>Military</u>

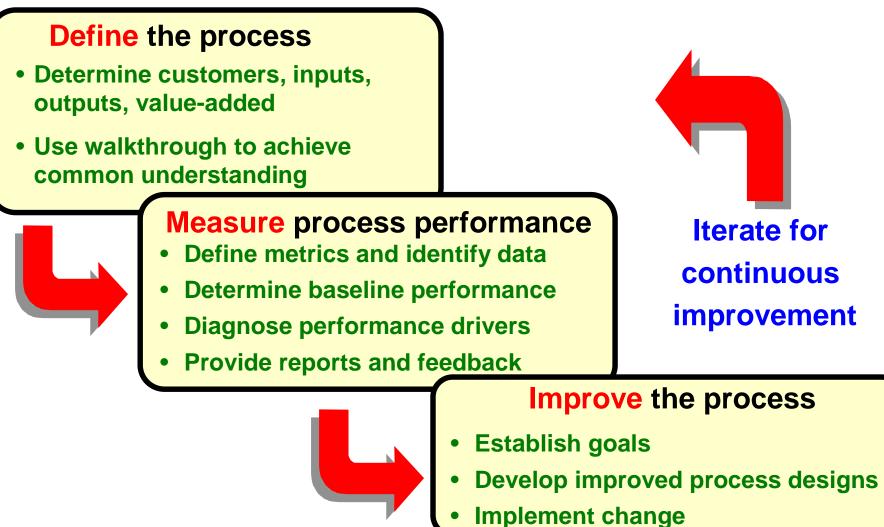
- Responsiveness, adaptability
- Surge capability
- Deployability
- Uncertain demands
- Highly specialized, solesource parts
- Reverse logistics, "closed loop" for reparables

RAND

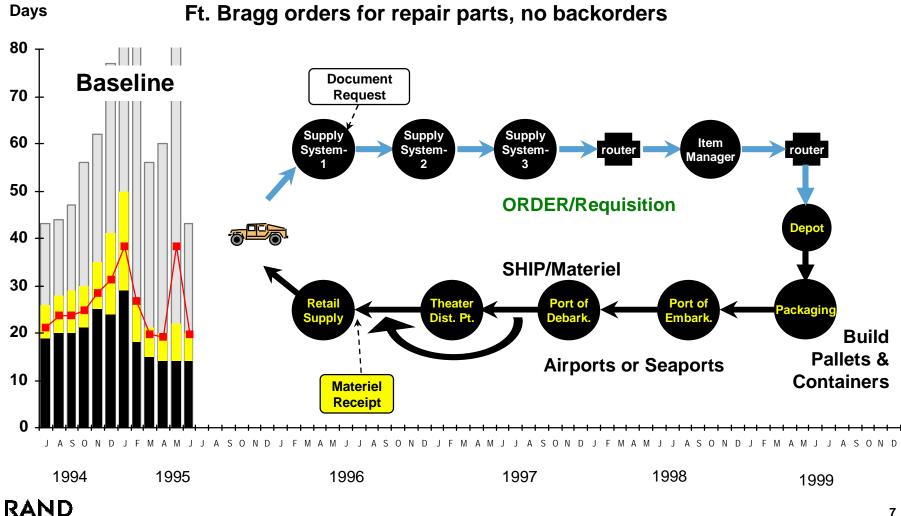
In 1994-1995, Army Order and Ship Times had a Long and Variable Distribution



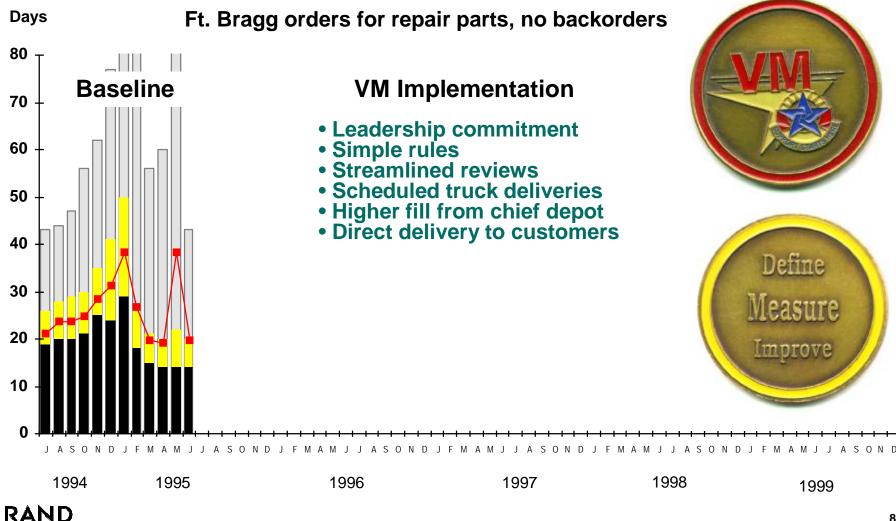
The Define-Measure-Improve Methodology Leads to Continuous Improvement



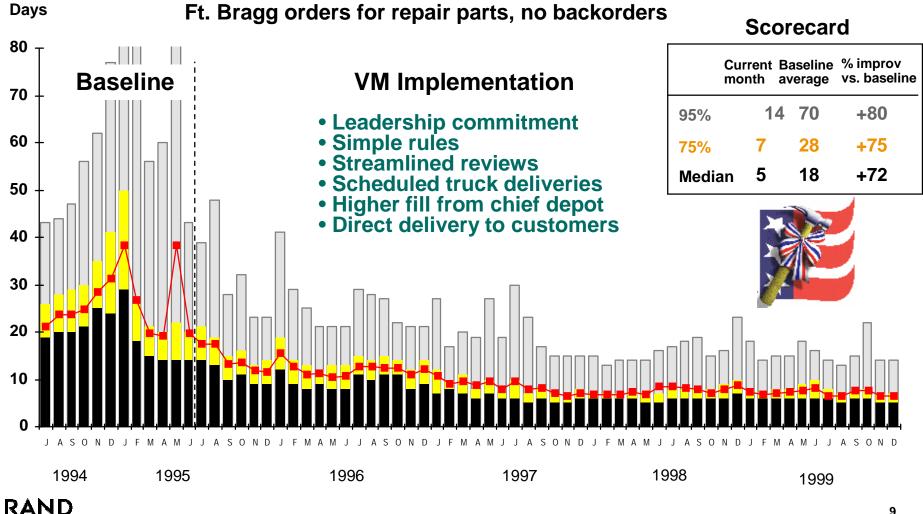
Delays Were in All Segments of the Process, and Times Varied Month to Month



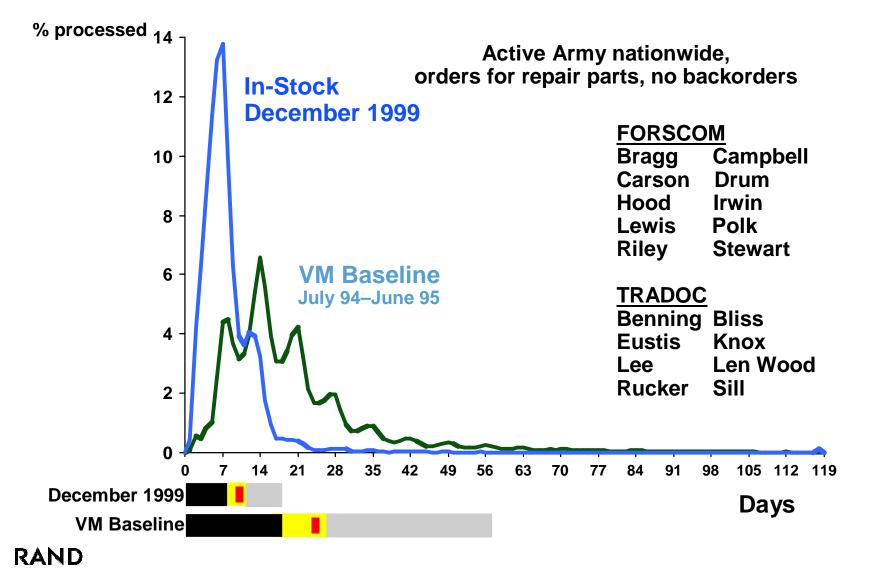
Many Process Improvements Contributed to **Reduced Order and Ship Times**



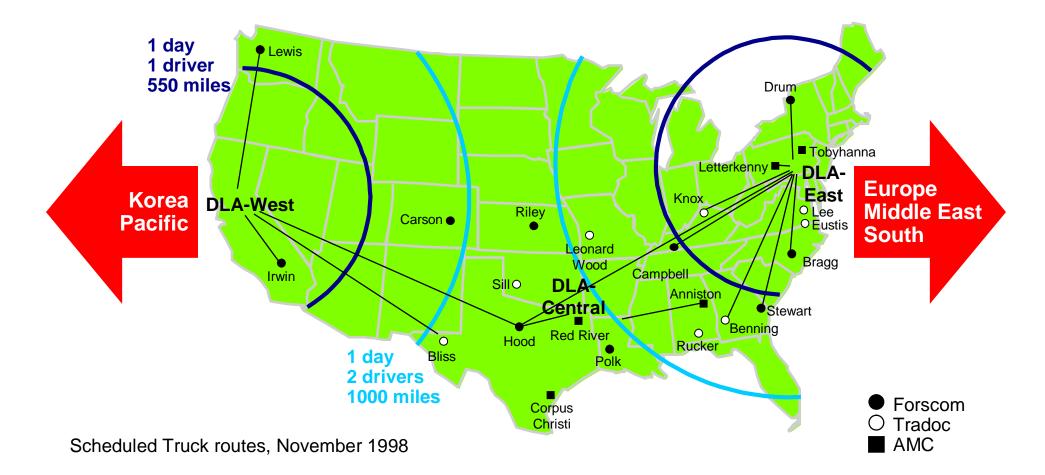
At FORSCOM Installations, Order and Ship **Time Improvements Have Been Dramatic**



Army Order and Ship Times Dropped Dramatically with Velocity Management

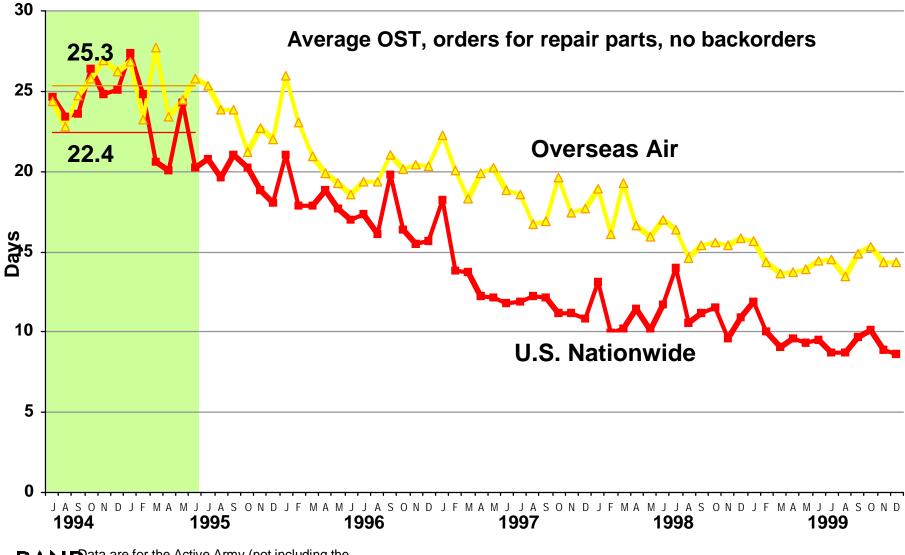


National Area-Oriented Depots Also Facilitate Overseas Distribution Strategy



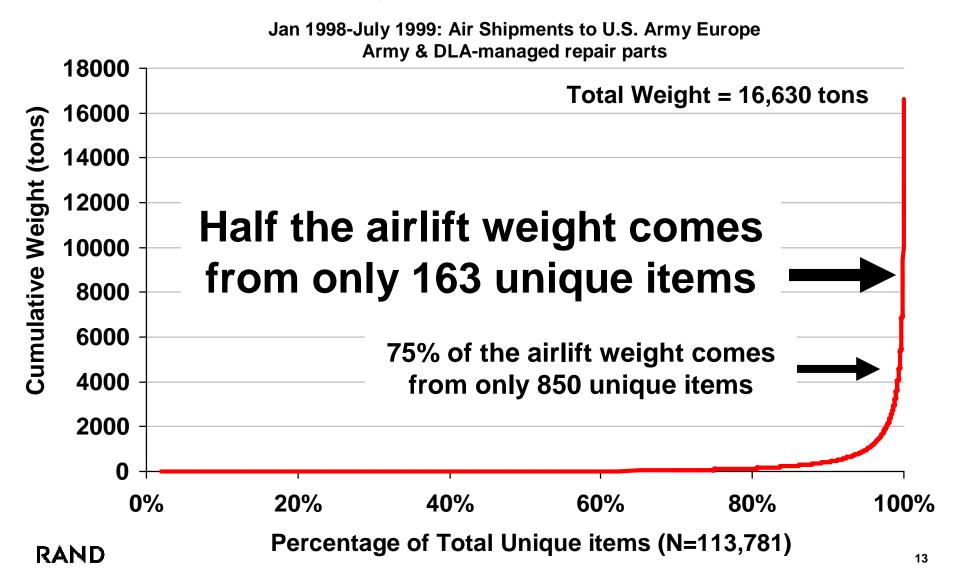
RAND

Overseas Order and Ship Times also Improved Dramatically



RAN Pata are for the Active Army (not including the National Guard or U.S. Army Reserves).

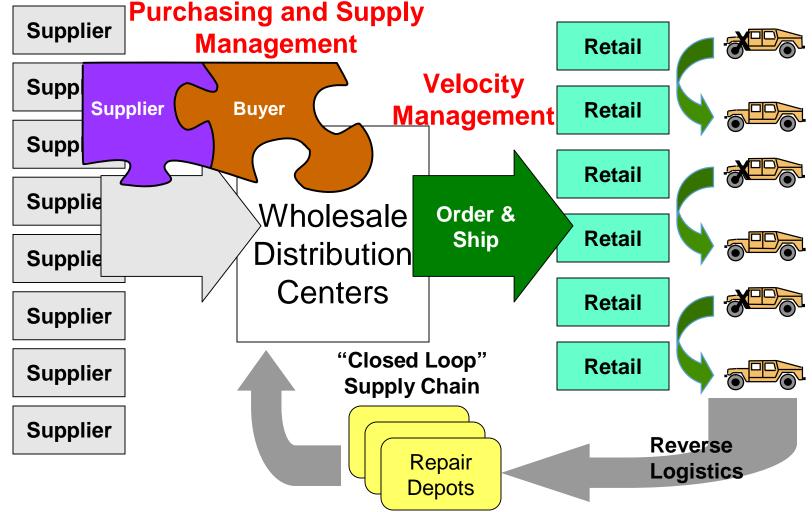
Airlift Weight is Driven by a Very Small Percentage of the Total NIINs



VM Systematically Seeks Improvements in All Dimensions of Process Performance

Process	Time		Quality	Cost
Order and ship				
Repair				
Stockage determination				
Financial management				
Deployment		7		

Improving Purchasing and Supply Management Aims at <u>Keeping</u> Items in Stock



RAND

A Spend Analysis Is the First Step to Improve Purchasing and Supply Management Practices

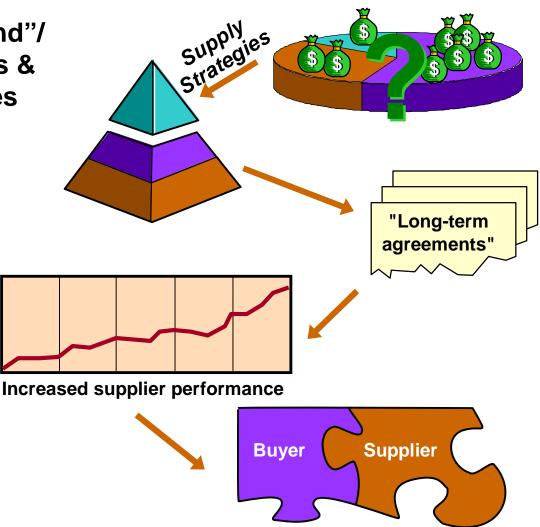
Conduct firm-wide "spend"/ supplier/market analyses & develop supply strategies

Rationalize supply base, consolidate contracts

Establish long-term partnerships with best suppliers

Help key suppliers improve quality, cost, and service

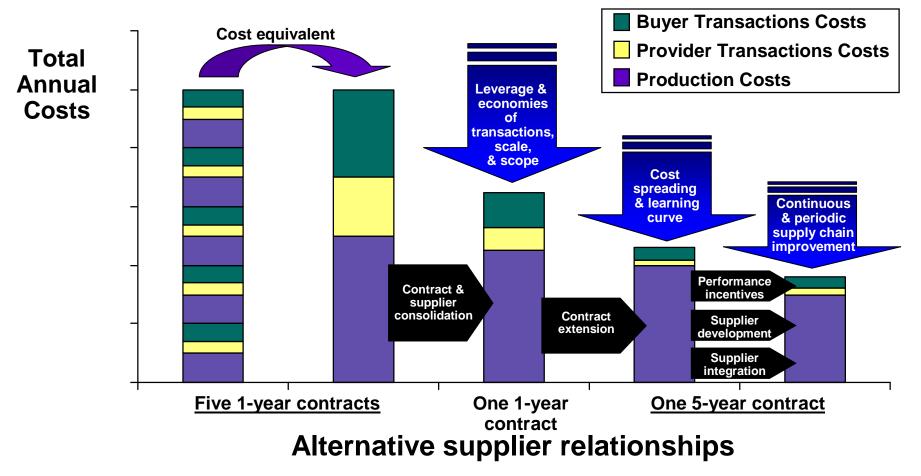
Integrate key suppliers into organization



RAND

SOURCE: Adapted from Cessna Supplier Conference 2000 as published in "Cessna Charts a Supply Chain Flight Strategy," by James P. Morgan *Purchasing*, September 7 2000.

Notional Example of How Best PSM Practices Can Reduce Total Costs* and Improve Performance



Note: Transactions costs have been exaggerated for illustration purposes

RAND

*Consolidation and changing contract terms will not always produce savings of the magnitude or in the categories as illustrated above. However, they should be consider as options to further reduce costs and improve performance.

A Fundamental Paradigm Shift in Purchasing and Supply Management

MANAGE

SUPPLIERS AND

SUPPLIER CAPACITY

NOT

ITEMS AND CONTRACTS



Questions?

Mark Wang

mark_wang@rand.org