

Sailors go through course to benefit Navy

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TRAINING

NAVAL AIR FACILITY ATSUGI, Japan – A few select Sailors on Naval Air Facility (NAF) Atsugi find themselves being challenged to view their workspaces in a whole new way, through the Lean Six Sigma Green Belt course.

The Green Belt course is an approach created by civilian businesses and adopted by the military to improve the process of how a product is made or a service is performed by reducing the waste of the company's time, energy, and money.

“The goal of the Green Belt course is to give the student the core level of knowledge to become a green belt,” said Aviation Support Equipment Technician 2nd Class Adam Haffner, a Lean Six Sigma Black Belt.

The course provided by instructors on NAF Atsugi lasts one week. Throughout the course, the students learn process improving methods through lectures, quizzes, and activities.

“It’s challenging,” said Aviation Boatswain’s Mate Handling Chief Cedric Williams, student of the Green Belt course. “It isn’t so hard that any Sailor couldn’t do it, but you’re not just going to come in here, take the book and pass the test. You really have to apply yourself.”

Once the course has been completed, the student is not considered a Green Belt just yet. The student must commit to an “event”, a real project in which the methods and techniques learned throughout the course can be applied to assist work centers in running more effectively.

“This could help the military out as a whole if everybody had the knowledge of what Green Belt is all about and how to execute it in the shops,” said Williams. “It would save us a lot of money and time in the long run.”

For more information about the Green Belt course, please contact the AIRSpeed office at 264-3205.