

Roto peen training is part of innovative college program

The DRS-TAMSCO (Technical & Management Services Co.) artisans received roto peening training from the New & Expanding Training (NEIT) industry program through the North Carolina Community College System—it's part of an innovative program to build a world-class workforce in North Carolina.

Attracting and training a skilled and motivated workforce is crucial to any new or expanding company. No state has more experience helping companies with these important issues than North Carolina. The state pioneered free customized job training for new and expanding businesses in 1958 and continues to provide the nation's most recognized customized job training service. Comprised of 58 colleges across the state, it is the third largest community college system in the United States. Typically, the services provided are based on the number of new jobs created, their skill and wage levels, and the level of total capital investment. Services are made available to companies that create 12 or more new jobs in any one community in North Carolina during a one-year period.

The decision by DRS-TAMSCO to build a facility in Elizabeth City, North Carolina made the company an ideal recipient of the training programs available from the College of The Albermarle (COA), a part of the North Carolina Community College System.

In 2005, DRS-TAMSCO, a military equipment and logistics supplier, broke ground on its expanded operation at the airport in Elizabeth City. DRS-TAMSCO's repair and supply operation, which employs about 135 people in Elizabeth City, is expecting to add additional jobs in the next two years. The new 110,000-square-foot heavy-lift, fixed-wing maintenance hangar cost over \$8 million and is capable of housing four C-130 Hercules aircraft. DRS-TAMSCO's motivation to locate in North Carolina can be attributed to a long-standing relationship with the Coast Guard in Elizabeth City. DRS-TAMSCO designed, developed, tested, and implemented the initial computerized maintenance system (ACMS) used throughout the Coast Guard's fleet of fixed and rotary wing aircraft today.

COA and DRS-TAMSCO worked closely together to plan a comprehensive training program for new employees that to-date has covered several OSHA and related safety subjects, roto peen training, Taperloks and ADS fasteners, and flight line operations. DRS-TAMSCO's artisans received roto peen training at the College of The Albermarle since their new hangar was not operational at the time of training. COA opens its classrooms to these training programs on a regular basis. The college's program also allowed DRS-TAMSCO to bring in professional trainers, Electronics Inc., for the roto peen training. "We received exceptional assistance from COA," said Sam Overman, the Policies and Procedures Program Manager for Elizabeth City Operations. "Our company has had many



DRS-TAMSCO's artisans receive roto peen training from Electronics Inc. as part of a customized training program from the College of The Albermarle in North Carolina.



The College of The Albermarle makes its classrooms available to companies that participate in its training programs.

changes during this program and both COA and Electronics Inc. rolled with the punches."

"What COA is doing for DRS-TAMSCO is what we would attempt to do for any manufacturer relocating to or expanding within our service area", says David Merrick, COA's Associate Vice President for Business and Workforce Development. "A major part of our mission is to assist businesses by helping train individuals to fill their new jobs and to assist incumbent workers to keep their jobs by upgrading their skills." ●