4 August 2009

Happy Coast Guard Day! Today is the 219th birthday of the United States Coast Guard, the oldest continuous seagoing service in the U. S. Although there was a Continental Navy, it was disbanded after the Revolutionary War. On 4 August 1790 the Treasury Department created the U. S. Revenue Marine (later changed to U. S. Revenue Cutter Service) in order to protect the fledgling country from smugglers, pirates, and other miscreants plying the seas, and also to save those in distress. In 1915 it merged with the U. S. Life-Saving Service to form the U. S. Coast Guard. In 1939 the U. S. Lighthouse Service became part of the USCG. In 1967, it moved to the Department of Transportation when that department was formed, and has been part of the Department of Homeland Security since its creation in 2002. During times of war, it operates under the U. S. Navy.

So, happy anniversary to all current and former Coasties out there. *Semper Paratus - Always Ready!*

(Thanks for allowing me that personal indulgence, I don't usually have class on Coast Guard Day, so I don't have anyone with whom to celebrate. Now, back to reality.)

Your Assignment 7 Forum postings were pretty interesting. Some of you put a lot of thought into the possible situations, and actually presented your ideas in an orderly, report-like presentation. I think all of you had a basic grasp of the situation and presented some good points. Some things I was thinking about, and some of you noted them:

- How do we get the old Widgerator out of the building? Is there a clear path or is there other equipment in the way that will have to be moved (disconnected)? Will the route support the load? What is in the "adjoining building" where the old equipment will be going? The same issues will have to be addressed.

- How do we get the new Widgemeister 2000 in the building? Is there a loading dock for off-loading? Is there a doorway through which it will fit? Is the route clear, including possibly crossing floor penetrations, drains, grills, etc.?

- Do we have the equipment/manpower to do it ourselves, or will this need to be contracted?
Can we do this without any production shut-downs?

Will other equipment need to be relocated (permanently) in order to accommodate the configuration of the new equipment? Will the production flow be the same, or will this create changes?

Besides making sure there is sufficient power (in the correct voltage, amperage, and phase), are there any lighting, cooling and/or ventilation issues that need to be addressed?

What about technology interfaces with building systems?

Besides having other equipment out of the way, are there any overhead obstructions (e.g. lighting, conduit, ductwork, structural elements, etc.)?

Does this offer opportunities?

○ What about getting some deferred maintenance done on some other idled equipment during the shut-down period?

○ What about some utility upgrades?

○ How about some over needed clean-up?

So not all projects are a bad deal, and some challenges are really opportunities.

OK, so this page is way too long, but I think you got the message. Good job. Don't forget the deadline for all remaining work is this Friday at 3:59 p.m.

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31 July 2009

The discussions about the laws were interesting. A couple of clarifications might be in order. First, the Davis-Bacon Act which requires prevailing wages, while it encourages local workers, anyone can come and work in the area as long as they are paid the "prevailing wage" which in and of itself is self-perpetuating. And it only applies if there are Federal funds involved or State funds involved if that State has a "little Davis-Bacon" act in place.

Second, on the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA), if the company is applying it properly, it should not be additional time off, but should be identifying that time taken off as applying to the 12 weeks of time that a company has to keep that, or a comparable job open to the absent worker. FMLA can be applied to any sick time so that a series of individual days taken can be cumulative.

I've gone ahead and put up the Student Evaluations on the Calendar. I know you already have a bunch of work to do as we head into the home stretch, but this will give you more flexibility to do it at your leisure, like this weekend. The Calendar link will take you to the DropBox where you can download instructions for the evaluation. You will not be able to access the evaluation while you are logged in as yourself, you have to login in as a student evaluator. Hopefully, it will be easy to follow.

Have a good weekend.
27 July 2009

OK, I apparently screwed up again. I modified Assignment 6 to account for the fact we didn't have class last Tuesday (for which I got in trouble, incidentally), but somehow that new website did not get linked correctly. (I think I just didn't click "Save" the required eight times.) So unlike the undergraduate sections, you got the original website developed as if we were actually going to meet. I think all of you completed the intended assignments, but it will take a bit for me to figure it out. One part of the assignment that you obviously did not see was an extra credit portion (Task 3). I have corrected the Calendar link to the proper website, so you can now see what you missed. Besides the Assignment page, there were some modifications to each lesson, so you may want to review those as time allows. If you want the credit, please have this submitted by 3:59 p.m. Friday, 31 August. Sorry about that, I thought it was all working.

So we've moved from laws to "interior stuff" in Assignment 7. Read and enjoy.

Next week is our last week for classes. Technically, Thursday and Friday are Final Exam days, but since we don't have a final exam (you're welcome) we will use those days for our last assignment and Final Project. I need to have final grades submitted by Monday, so I will need the weekend to grade your remaining work. Since I realize how busy things get at the end of the semester, and the fact that some of you may be traveling, I will be opening Assignment 8 and the Final Project this Wednesday rather than Friday as I normally would.

Also I mentioned that next week you will have the opportunity to give me a student evaluation. We will do this as a UTest, but in order to maintain your anonymity, you will have to login using an ID other than your own. I will give this to you as we get closer. This will be the standard departmental evaluation, just put in UTest format. I can't stress how important these are. The results are used to evaluate both the instructor (me) and the course. I know some of you are unhappy with me, but I hope you will keep your evaluation objective. I feel it is very important to put in your own comments at the end; there is a question at the end for that. But again, please be specific. If you just put in a comment like, "You suck" without any specifics about it, that does not help me. So please take the time to write what you didn't like (and did like, positive comments are helpful too), what you might think would be better, or whatever. These are used to some extent to evaluate how I am doing overall as a faculty member, and help to modify the direction of the course. Again, these are anonymous (as long as you log in that way) so I will not be able to connect your evaluation to you personally.

And finally, congratulations to Duke Snider for finding the Buried Treasure. Five bonus points, I guess it pays to read everything.

17 July 2009

Thank you to all who took time to voice your opinion on holding class next Tuesday, 21 July. The majority has spoken, so we WILL NOT be having class on Monday night, so do not come to
either classroom. There is a lesson up for you to work on that has to do with some laws affecting our employment policies.

We have three weeks left in the semester. This leaves Assignments 6 (open now), 7 & 8, plus the Final Project. Also during the final week, you will have the opportunity to complete a Student Evaluation. I will have more on that as we get closer.

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The first person who e-mails me with "Buried Treasure" in the subject line will get 5 bonus points.

14 July 2009

OK, so I guess my assignment wasn't that clear, if many of your responses were any indication. I asked you to research a journal article on "one of the services presented in the 'General Administrative Services'." What I meant was one of those services listed in the "General Administrative Services" section of the lesson, namely: Custodial; Records Management; Mail and Copy Service; Transportation; Furnishings and Equipment Inventory; Procurement and Expediting (a.k.a. Stores); Security and Safety; Telecommunications; and Food & Beverage Services. We had all kinds of topics other than those mentioned, which wouldn't have been bad, but the questions weren't answered either. Maybe next lesson will be better.

On that happy note, let's look at Assignment 5 "Contracting Services/Contractor Issues". In Task 2a. it says in part, "...by posing a problem with a contractor you are administering." I realize that many of you may not be, or have not been in a position where you are administering contracts. If so, then think back to your Assignment 3, Task 3C where you (or for that matter, any of the other students' postings) discussed a challenge being experienced on a project, and apply it as a contractor problem. Hopefully, that will make it easier for you. Good luck.

Also remember, I have put up a survey in the form of a UTest quiz. The one question is asking whether we feel it is still necessary to meet for class next Tuesday (I know, some of you aren't even in town) or whether we would rather just have the online assignment. Please respond before Friday so that I can notify the ITV people on Friday. Thanks, hopefully I will announce here by Friday whether we will be meeting or not. Stay tuned.

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13 July 2009

I have put up a survey in the form of a UTest quiz. The one question is asking whether we feel it is still necessary to meet for class next Tuesday (I know, some of you aren't even in town) or whether we would rather just have the online assignment. Please respond before Friday so that I can notify the ITV people on Friday. Thanks, hopefully I will announce here by Friday whether we will be meeting or not. Stay tuned.

*****************************

8 July 2009
So we have made it through the planning, design and construction process. It was interesting to read about your projects. Quite a variety. One thing I should point out about design-build that seems to be a confusion. If the owner has designed the project and is even doing some work, it is not considered D-B. The "delivery method" describes what kind of contracting relationship exists between the Owner and Contractor(s). So in that case it could still be a design/bid/build, possibly with multiple prime contractors.

If you looked at your UTest score, you probably noticed that the quiz is now worth only 34 points instead of the original 40. I decided to throw out three of the questions since so many of you got them wrong. For the question of who "owns" the schedule, the correct answer was "Contractor". The Owner may specify the start and finish, but the contractor determines how to accomplish it.

For the question of how early in the process should the end-users be brought in to the process, the correct answer was at "Conception". I guess I probably didn't discuss this in class. If you want to make sure the design accomplishes what you want it to, you had better involve the end-user. The result could be like having the non-cooking spouse of a new house design the kitchen instead of the cooking spouse (see how I got around the stereotypical husband/wife thing?); you would probably have a stove, refrigerator and dishwasher, but they may not be in the right places. If you have been around me very long you've probably heard the story about a project in South Carolina where we were renovating a hospital wing. When the project was just about complete, the Head Nurse for that wing came in and declared that she didn't like the carpet. Boom! Instant $25k change order, but what a waste of money and time, which could have been avoided by getting her involved early in the project. Another situation happened at a Kellogg's cereal plant in Battle Creek, Michigan. The Kellogg's engineers and the Daniel International (design and CM firm) engineers designed what they thought was the best design for this $5 million production line installation. After the equipment was installed, the operators came in and not-so-politely told the combined group of engineers what they thought about their collective book learning, and that it "ain't gonna work that way." Another change order for more time and money. It was nice to get the change orders, but again, all could have been avoided.

I don't remember the third question I threw out, but it was either something that I didn't discuss, or a lot of you didn't think was important. Now, on to the question of the finest Midwestern university -- where did some of those answers come from? Some school in Massachusetts? I hope by now everyone has it figured out.

So, from the exciting world of construction to the more mundane, but even more necessary world of General Administrative Services. Don't miss the deadline.

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1 July 2009

Well, that was exciting. It was good to see so many of you face-to-face, or face-to-TV. A lot of you looked better than your pictures, and some of you...well, thanks for submitting your pictures.
Sorry for the delay in starting last night, one thing I really hate is starting anything late. (Especially when someone says, "Let's wait a few more minutes for everyone to show up." Screw 'em! You're penalizing those who came on-time, and rewarding the people who are late. But I digress.) Apparently, the same "powers that be" who changed the course sections, which locked you out of the website, also decided that we didn't need to meet, so they cancelled the ITV set-up; all of this without telling me. But we made it through.

I hope you learned a little (or a little more) about construction. The wrap-up I forgot was, "How does this apply to Facilities Management?" In a nutshell: if you are in a production position, you may need some construction done, or your production may be affected by some construction. So it is good to know a bit about how it all works. If you are in an FM position, you may be the one who has to make these construction projects happen.

So don't forget the tasks for this assignment and the associated deadlines. By the way, it was suggested to me that there be more links on the calendar for all the various tasks in an assignment, such as one for the DropBox and one for the Forum, etc. so it would be more like other professors’. My reply is that one of the topics being taught in this course that is not in the syllabus is "personal responsibility." I provide a list of things for you to do, it is your responsibility to identify them and get them done. Congratulations, you're a big kid now. Someday you'll thank me.

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29 June 2009

I have all the assignments graded through Assignment 1, and the scores are in the Gradebook. A few of you forgot to complete Assignment 1, so I don't forget to check the Calendar. You don't want to lose easy points.

From Assignment 1, it seems obvious that there is no firm definition of what Facilities Management really is. We'll just have to explore it a bit more.

A few reminders: Pay attention to deadlines, dates and times. These are firm unless prior arrangements have been made. Pay attention to the requirements of each Task; don't just answer part of it, do it all. When e-mailing me, use your Southeast Key, not Hotmail or Yahoo, or whatever else.

Apparently the two sections of this course (709 & 929) have been combined in one section (70). I think this is what caused the lack of access to the websites. Sorry about that, I was not told that was going to happen. Just think of it as another pot-hole in the highway of life.

I hope to see you all Tuesday at 6:00 p.m., either in person in Cape on on TV in Flo Valley.

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28 June 2009

Oops! The DropBox for Assignment 2 is now open. Sorry. Since I screwed up, I will keep it


open until Tuesday at 7:59 a.m. CDT.

OK, I'm back. I will be working on grading Assignment - Introduction and Assignment 1 before Assignment 2 is due (tomorrow). Plus I'll try to get read and reply to all the e-mails.

More later.

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19 June 2009

OK, it's Friday and a reminder that I will be out of pocket (or off-line) from tomorrow (Saturday, 20 June) through Saturday evening, 27 June. Make sure you check for deadlines on open Assignments (Introductions and Assignment 1). There are several tasks due Monday morning, 22 June. Even though I will not be able to grade them until I get back, the Forum, DropBox and UTest will lock-out at the due time.

See you in class Tuesday evening, 30 June, 6:00 p.m. Make sure you look at Assignment 3 before class.

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16 June 2009

I am making a minor change to Assignment - Introductions. I will be out of pocket (or off-line) from mid-morning Saturday, 20 June through Saturday evening, 27 June. Since your first three assignments are due Monday morning, 22 June, I would not be able to grade them before your e-mail is due on Friday. Therefore, I am changing Task 4 to send me an e-mail telling me that you have looked at the Gradebook, and telling me whether you will or will not be attending the face-to-face/ITV class on Tuesday, 30 June. I am also extending the Deadline for Task 4 only to Monday, 29 June, 7:59 a.m. CDT.

I have also made Assignment 2 available on Thursday, 25 June instead of Friday as most other assignments will be.

Because I will be not be available at all during that week, I would encourage you to at least look at Assignment - Introductions, Assignment 1 and Assignment 2 before Friday so you can ask questions before the deadlines if you need to.

If this is your first time on the website, don't forget to check Previous Announcements (link below).

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5 June 2009

Welcome to FM504 Facilities Management. This is a "blended" course combining web-based and ITV sessions. Make sure to activate your Southeast Key or you will not be able to access parts of the website. If you do not know how to activate it, go to: http://portal.semo.edu and follow the instructions.

There is no textbook for this course (you're welcome). However there will still be reading
assignments from lessons on these web pages, journals and case studies. Any monetary savings you thought you realized from not buying a text book will probably be spent on snacks and junk food consumed during your forays into cyberspace in search of these readings.

This is a pretty broad class with a lot of different topics, so we may not be able to cover them in any particular detail, but hopefully you will gain some familiarity with each of them. Since this is an Industrial Management program we are approaching it from the perspective of someone who does not necessarily need to know these functions, but needs to know about them, and how they relate to the overall operation of a facility. Let me know if you want to expand any of them; we'll see what time allows.

Please read the following links on this page. You will find information on the technical (computer) requirements for the course. There is a link for contact information about me (also available on the sidebar.) And the Course Syllabus link (on the left sidebar) has a lot of the ground rules and "housekeeping" information. The Assignments can be accessed from the Calendar link on each page.

Once the class starts I will be posting new Announcements at least once a week, sometimes more often if necessary. Always check this ANNOUNCEMENTS page first. You should also probably check the Previous Announcements page for any you might have missed.

Technical Requirements  Instructor Information

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Technical Requirements

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