

## US Air Force Air Logistics Centers:

## Lean Enterprise Transformation and Associated Capabilities

MIT Technology
+ Policy
Program

Jessica Lauren Cohen, Master's Candidate in Technology and Policy

## Unique Opportunity for this Research

- Three projects allowed for increased access for interviews and shop tours
- Warner Robins case studies of the C-130,
   C-5, and Purchase Request lean efforts
- Alpha-test of EVSMA with Ogden
- Beta-test of EVSMA with Oklahoma City
- I am looking to understand the enterprise transformation efforts at each ALC in order to identify best practices that can be generalized for other Air Force locations
- All comparisons will be done in light of previous LAI research and products, as well as organizational change literature









## Methodology

- Case studies of Warner Robins
- Observations of EVSMA engagement at Ogden and Oklahoma City
- Over 60 interviews conducted with individuals at all levels throughout each command
- Qualitative data analysis
- Examination of transformation efforts observed through the theoretical lens of change literature







## **Key Questions**

- 1. How have the capabilities, resources, and conceptual models embraced by the ALC leadership teams affected their lean enterprise transformation process?
- 2. What change tools and capabilities could be incorporated into the EVSMA process and the LAI Transition to Lean Roadmap, in order to improve the lean enterprise transformation results?
- 3. What are the implications for large, government enterprises in undertaking lean improvement and transformation efforts?

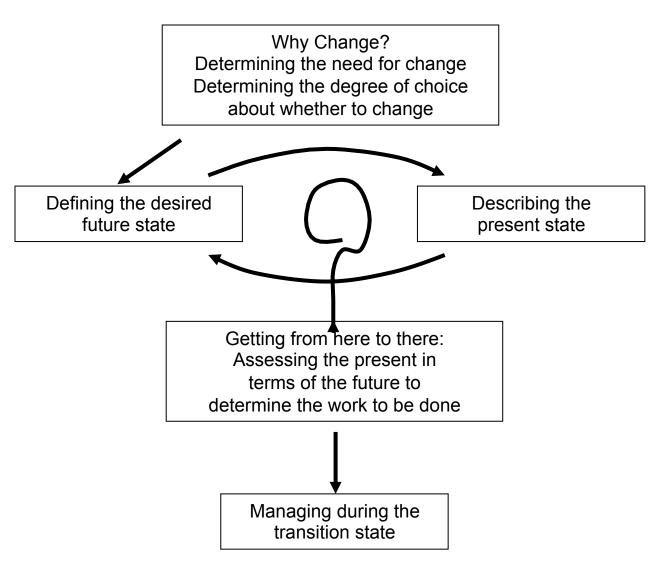
# General Information about the Air Logistics Centers

- ALCs are the maintenance and repair organizations of the Air Force
- Part of the Air Force Materiel Command
- There are three ALCs today: Warner Robins,
   Oklahoma city, and Ogden
- Recent structural reorganization into four wings
- Each ALC has over 20,000 employees and conducts over \$5 billion in business every year
- Lean Enterprise Transformation is imminent

#### Sustaining Learning and Change



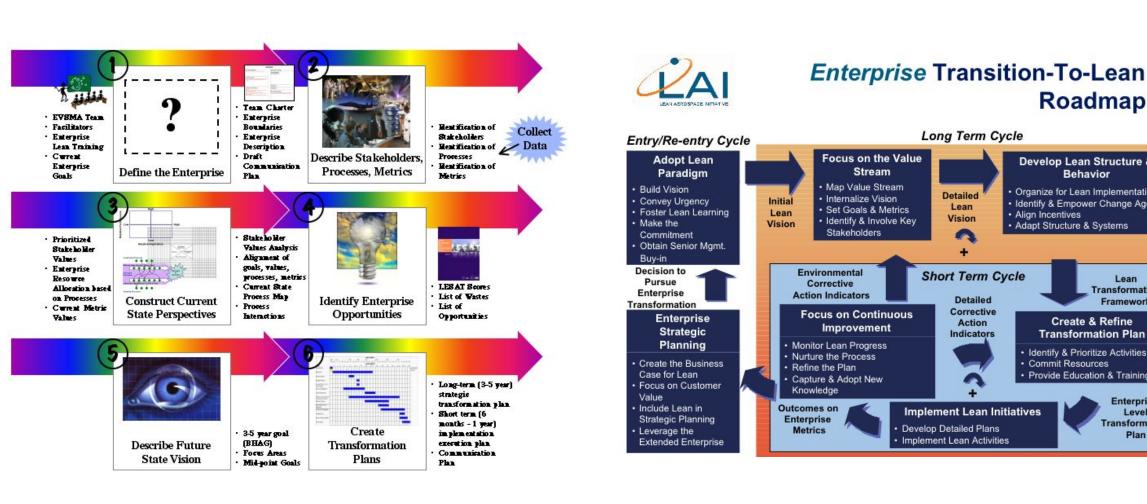
#### Planned Change Model



From Beckhard & Harris, Organizational Transitions, Addison-Wesley, 1987

### **Common Themes Identified**

- EVSMA creates a unique environment of regular and relatively informal meetings for leaders and change agents
- Enterprise level strategic planning is necessary, but not sufficient for successful transformation
- Alignment of core processes and enterprise level activities is not a priority for all involved
- Leadership personalities can affect the willingness of employees to change
- "Middle Managers" often impede change
- It is difficult to select the correct people to be change agents and work on lean projects
- Consistent and just-in-time training is crucial for development of change capabilities
- Federal fiscal policy establishes monuments that may remain un-moveable



### **Expected Products**

- Technology and Policy Master's Thesis
- Recommendations to ALCs regarding future efforts and policy implications
- Suggestions for additions to the LAI TTL Roadmap with emphasis on contribution of bottom-up transformation
- Possible refinement of EVSMA process, including change management tools and capabilities necessary to cascade change