

Inquiry on the capability of Defense's physical science and engineering (PSE) workforce- Future Duty Statement FFGSPO

Background

1. After doing the Survey (in house FFGSPO) last week I find that I do not do enough variety of work to maintain my engineering skills, experience and knowledge to a sufficient (in my view) level.

I have talked of this with FFG Staff over the years and now is the time to hold the line on the downward spiral of relevance to the Engineering team of which I am a member thru IE Aust.

To this end I believe that my Duties and Job Description should be reviewed and updated to include more engineering tasks and reduce tasks that do not contribute to maintaining or improving my engineering skills and knowledge but continue to allow me to be a productive member of the FFGSPO Engineering Team.

2. My work currently includes:

SG2- Deviations

a. The number of SG2 s for the 76mm and other systems being raised is reducing as there are no more Factory Overhauls (only maintenance and monitoring) to be done. Thus work with any level of Engineering albeit thru the raising of Risk Assessments will be reduced further.

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b. Continuing, however not of any criteria sufficient as an input to retention of Engineering/trade skills

Request for Problem Resolution -RPRS

c. A new area, I can see work here that may contribute to maintaining my skills. This depends on the prospective use of Contractors and the level of their involvement in support of RPRs i.e. if the contractors do all the work I will not be able to add to my engineering experience that would contribute to retention of Engineering Knowledge/Experience.

Technical Regulation

3. As a person with Engineering Authority I am mindful of the loss/retention of Engineering Skills, Knowledge and Experience. If asked I would like to base endorsement of a TRMS TR on sound knowledge rather than a whimsical memory which may occur if I am unable to maintain currency of my Skills, Knowledge and Experience. Note if I sense the loss of Engineering Knowledge/Experience in certain areas prevents the provision of sound engineering advice I will review my Engineering delegation in those areas.

4. Note: I have been in Defence employment from Craftsman to TO4 for nearly 46 years. This is a genuine effort on my part to identify my concerns and identify any way that I may maintain my skills/experience to ensure my future employment.

Work Duty Statements Past History

5. At the attached resume there is listed the positions I have held going way back. I have held responsible positions that have utilised my skills, noting that I determined that I need skilling in a certain area I went and got those skills thru TAFE and Universities. I believe that I have skills to offer Defence if Defence wishes to utilise them in a positive manner i.e. in areas where my skills are.

Future- Comment

6. I believe the future is bleak for APS Trades/Technical/Engineering in the FFGSPO and in Defence as the continual and on going outsourcing has reduced the Technical content of work dramatically to a level at which Technical content is virtually non-existent. I did think of doing work so as to become chartered thru Engineers Australia but I cannot justify this on current work.

What APS Trades/Technical/Engineering should be doing in FFGSPO and Defence?

7. Firstly sufficient work of a Technical nature so as to retain Engineering delegation and to become Chartered or sufficient to satisfy Licensing Authorities, secondly APS Staff should be part of any Contractors Organisation working imbedded/seconded and trained accordingly, thirdly if Defence is to be a good customer APS Staff should be involved with all stages of the Equipments Life Cycle by inference working with contractors directly surely this would assist in preventing the problems with HMAS *Canberra*'s maintenance

Regards

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