



**Australian Government**  
**Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal**

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## DECISION

*Defence Act 1903*

s.58H(2)(a)—Determination of the salaries and relevant allowances to be paid to members

### **CLOSURE OF ARMY RESERVE OPERATOR RADAR**

(Matter No. 16 of 2015)

THE HON. A. HARRISON, PRESIDENT

THE HON. A. BEVIS, MEMBER

CANBERRA, 15 DECEMBER 2015

[1] This decision arises from a submission<sup>1</sup> made by the Australian Defence Force (ADF) pursuant to s.58H of the *Defence Act 1903* (the Act) to close, and remove reference to, the Army Reserve Operator Radar category and to limit the application of the Manager Surveillance Target Acquisition employment category to Australian Regular Army (ARA) members only.

[2] There was no need for there to be a hearing in this matter and we have dealt with the application on the basis of the submissions filed by the parties.

#### **Background**

[3] An Operator Radar soldier is a Reserve member of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery (RAA) Corps whose mission is to produce artillery intelligence for use by the battlefield commander. The Manager Surveillance and Target Acquisition is also a member of the RAA Corps, and assists in the command and management of soldiers within a surveillance target acquisition battery.

[4] The Tribunal previously considered the Army Operator Radar category in Matter 5 of 2013 – *Army Operator Radar* when, following an internal review, Army

submitted that there was “no longer a need to maintain the Operator Radar category in the [ARA] however it was to be maintained as a Reserve capability”.<sup>ii</sup> The changing capability then resulted in ARA Operator Radar soldiers being transferred to the Operator Unmanned Aerial System.<sup>iii</sup>

## **Submissions**

[5] Further to Matter 5 of 2013, and following a subsequent capability review conducted in 2014, Army now submit that there is no longer a requirement for the continuation of the Operator Radar category in any capacity. They therefore seek to close, and remove reference to, the category in its entirety. Concurrently, they seek to remove the Manager Surveillance and Target Acquisition from the Reserve Forces and retain it as a category in the regular Army only.

[6] Army state that they intend to reallocate the Reserve Operator Radar soldiers to the Assistant Instructor employment category and give members up to three years to retrain in an alternate category.<sup>iv</sup> The Manager Surveillance and Target Acquisition members will also be transferred to the Assistant Instructor category and be given up to three years to qualify in the Manager Operations Offensive Support (or an alternate) category.

[7] In order to ensure that affected members are not financially disadvantaged during these changes the Army intend to implement non-reduction provisions for up to 36 months where applicable.

[8] The Commonwealth support the application on the basis of the results of the reviews conducted by Army and are “of the view that the proposed amendments are appropriate”.<sup>v</sup>

## **Considerations**

[9] We gave detailed consideration to the 22 Reserve members who will be affected by the removal of the existing capabilities; 18 in the Operator category, and four in the Manager Surveillance category.

[10] We considered the evidence that there is no longer a need to retain these categories as a Reserve capability and that non-reduction provisions will provide adequate protection for members affected by this amendment.

## **Conclusion**

[11] We agree to close the Army Reserve Operator Radar and Manager Surveillance and Target Acquisition Reserve categories with a date of effect of 1 January 2016.

[12] Determination 18 of 2015 gives effect to this decision.

THE HON. A. HARRISON, PRESIDENT  
THE HON. A. BEVIS, MEMBER

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<sup>i</sup> ADF Submission – Closure of Army Reserve Operator Radar (ECN271) dated October 2015.

<sup>ii</sup> ADF Submission page 4 paragraph 6.

<sup>iii</sup> DFRT Determination 9 of 2013: *Salaries – Army Operator Radar - Amendment*

<sup>iv</sup> It is submitted that due to capability requirements this re-training may be to Reserve Artillery Light Gunner.

<sup>v</sup> Commonwealth letter Matter 16 of 2015 dated 12 November 2015.