File 20111011.1145: Notes from Kevin Miller's systems engineering meeting, 1100 today:

Tammy is on L-245 now. Her replacement in Logistics, Vance Lampe, was being shown around the department by Kevin today. Property and Material: please copy Vance along with Tammy Slocum.

Longetivity on the programme is still high. QBR next week Tues, Weds. Programme office will be in Deer Creek. CCRB Monday; 5.1 patch and RM 6.0: in December 2014 Solaris 10 goes out of support, which means RM 5.01 drops off the UCDMO baseline list of approved solutions. So RM 6.0 is crucial. SE Linux is still the developer's technical recommendation; the developer needs the programme office to decide next.

[Discussion of a software developer who was separated from the programme and is now on another programme. He spent a lot of time talking and arguing with another developer, but accomplished very little work for the hours he billed.]

RM 5.1 patch will keep us going the next couple of years. Developer has increased the planned scope of the 5.1 patch significantly to meet competitors' speed; competitors have always been much more inflexible, but their claimed speed was better; the developer is forced to address that perception amongst customers.

Multi-rater inputs open until Friday; self-assessments due tomorrow. New process coming for LM-Commit; it will be the process next year. The process is said to be four-quadrants–oriented, up from a scale of 1–4 in previous years. Right now, it looks like all they are changing is terminology. 'Peer groups' is the new buzzword. Took them two years to develop it, but they skipped all the hard questions.

Dan Kessler is a good guy, according to Kevin Miller.

Internal systems engineering things: network changes; switch to using an LDAP server on the network for authentication (just as they are removing it from RM, oddly); the programme has good backups now; local backups nightly, off-sote backups regularly. Differential backups rather than the old incremental kind. With the new method, each day's snapshot is like a full backup that can be restored even if a previous backup failed. Also using deduplication now to massively reduce storage requirements. What Eric developed; we have yesterday's backup on-site and also off-site. Tested a few weeks ago when entire 40 gig RM VOB got trashed by Dave Neal; was restored successfully in hours. With the two recent power outages, the developer learnt much about its network; wrote a procedure for powering everything back on after the first power outage, but after the second one it still took two hours to bring it back up. Some of the equipment was behind doors and the battery on the keypad had died. In the past, the developer had sought to decentralise locations of tools, but recent power outages showed the drawbacks of that approach.

ISO 27001 audit at end of month; much of what it is about is things like backups and restores; the developer now keeps logs of such things and has written procedures showing the auditor that the developer can do what it says it can do.

First RM 6.0 build hopefully in a couple of weeks; the first 5.1 patch build not even planned yet. The developer has de-junked RM; addees, profiles, and task threads are all gone now; the only thing that remains in 6.0 is rules. But it makes it so you can't just do an upgrade. Everything will be on the Java GUI.

I reported that I had talked with Jeff Dutoit regarding the CDRLs needed by Tom Parmentier to close out the AFRL contract and that I would provide items to cover those CDRLs. Not today, but tomorrow. Tom was in the meeting and said thanks.

References