

File 20111206.1532: Notes from 1100 Systems Engineering meeting this morning, conducted by Kevin Miller: outcomes from the QBR last week: developer re-looking at the cost of task orders. They are too expensive for small projects; even for a small project of \$10,000 work, the cost of the task order is \$20,000. Radiant Mercury programme office folks might get cut soon. Dan Griffin has realised that most of the people in the programme office don't do anything; all the work is done by PMs in the developer's organisation. It is a huge unnecessary tax on the cost of the product, and Steve Bean realises this. Example of inefficiency: qualification of MIL SPEC hardware for the new RM servers. Either the developer can decide to spend \$200,000 to qualify a low-cost server (that is already MIL SPEC) once, and thereafter buy it for \$8000 each, or they can buy more expensive servers of the same capacity that cost \$25,000 each for no additional value. Deciding not to do the \$200,000 qualification is an example of government waste.

The developer cannot reduce cost any more than they have done already, nor can they cut staff. The staff remaining are already tasked to the limit. The only place left to cut costs is in the RM programme office. Dan Griffin knows that the RMPO is way overstaffed and costing money unnecessarily. There will be cuts to the contractors in the RMPO. RM 6.0 is hanging fire because there is no money to do it, but the developer is using life cycle money right now for things like Dave Neal's porting of all GUIs to Java to reduce dependence on the OS.

Kevin will be gone all next week in D.C., and the week after that in Linux classes in Deer Creek. Eric Chiu, his deputy, will be with him. The week after that, Kevin will be on travel again, so don't really expect to see him until after the first of the year. Kevin will be here Monday of next week, at least. Discussion of charge numbers; if you think there are lots of them now, just wait until next year. There will be ten times as many then.

VH-71 helicopter project is being re-started. It will have RM on board. Doesn't make sense that if it was such a waste of money that President Obama cancelled it when he arrived in office, that it's not a waste now, but it is being restarted. The RM development was almost finished last time it was cancelled.

I reported that I am working on SCAP and a couple of BAA 10 09 RIKAs proposals that all want to use prob. redaction. The rumour that Dod 8570.01-M will be renamed DoDD 8140 soon is still only a rumour; I cannot find independent confirmation.

After the meeting, Kevin called me personally to talk about SCAP, level load, PMA results, and my plans for the new year. I got a 'successful' on my PMA, which is what I wanted, and better than I thought I'd get after driving Jeff Dutoit to distraction all year with late deliveries. He did give input, said Kevin, but the fact that the customer was delighted with the outcome of the contract was a point in my favour. I score all right on my PMA.

Kevin needs a report on SCAP by the end of this week. It will likely say that we need to do much more work on SCAP. Specifically, *'We need to know what it means to be a SCAP compliant guard'*, said Kevin. I am to work all this week on SCAP, twenty hours worth, then next week, ten hours on any AFRL BAA work and ten hours on SCAP. Kevin needs a list of deliverables for SCAP. After next week, I can go back to work on source code management tools research if necessary, or to continue on SCAP.

*Again, what does it mean to be a SCAP compliant guard.*

We talked about my future. I will likely get notice of RIF on 2nd January, if that's what I want. I hate doing it, because it's a short-term optimisation, and I should be thinking long-term for both finances and career, but the short-term optimisation is attractive at this point because it is more important to stop the bleeding. I declined to take an educational leave of absence because I think it comes with no health insurance, no pay, and a guarantee merely of returning to the same crummy job prospects as I am in right now. Congress may cut a lot of money from defence in the next year or two, and I need to keep all my options open. Kevin asked what my plans are. I said that first, I have to focus on finishing my degree in the shortest possible time. After that, the advice I have received from several people is to re-apply to Lockheed for an entirely new position, that of certification and accreditation expert, and apprentice LM Fellow. I would be in a position to help multiple departments with C&A problems, not just RM. I want to come back to Lockheed, but if I have to spend a couple of years as an independent consultant, I am prepared to do that. I am looking into IEEE for insurance in the mean time. Kevin cautioned me to plan and calculate carefully, as I won't be able to come back in three months and say I really need a job, because he won't be able to hire me at that time.

Kevin suggested that 'SCAP expert' might be a good consulting gig in the very near future. All the guards will have to be compliant with it. If I use this paid time to learn everything I can about SCAP, it might be worth something to *all* the other guard makers, not just RM and LM. It's a good idea and one

I will do something active about.

We discussed what Congress might decide to do with the JSF and the F-22 and why I am glad I'm not working on a small weapons system developer right now. From what I read in the LM early news, people are guessing it will be small weapons systems that get cut, preserving the larger programmes.

The RM programme office currently has nine engineers, e.g., Geoff McGarrigle, who do nothing. The programme is also currently still SAP and they use that to hide a lot of inefficiency from the government; Dan Griffin recently looked at the entire programme and concluded that there was nothing classified that justifies SAP status; they could save a tonne of money if they took RM out of SAP status.

I should talk to Lyle Wilson and those guys about getting hired by them after I graduate. Kevin was most insistent on this point.

Kevin asked what other options I had, and I listed teaching. Can't reliably live on that, but you can do it part time as an adjunct.

I need to check with HR to find out how they pro-rate severance pay when I am currently part-time. Jeff Bjornebo seems to think they base it on what your full-time status was for the first ten or eleven years, and only pro-rate the years when I was half-time. I will check with HR today on it.

I promised to report to Kevin on SCAP at the end of this week.

## References