

THE DEFENCE LEGAL SERVICE
CAREER AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING OF 5 MAR 02
COMMITTEE DECISION 4/02

Subject: Policy – Recognition of Officer Training and Experience by an applicant for Appointment/Transfer as a Legal Officer in the Permanent Forces

The Committee noted:

1. The DFRT Decision on the Legal Officers' Career Structure WEF 16 Mar 00 and the Committee's previous Decisions 12/00 - Applications for Appointment/Transfer of Applicants with Prior Experience, and 42/01 - Recognition of a Period of Officer Training undertaken by an Applicant who is admitted as a lawyer at that time.
2. That newly appointed legal officers normally are appointed in the rank of LT(E) for a period of 12 months and during that period are required to undertake initial officer training and Service familiarisation as well as satisfactorily complete Legal Training Module 1. These two requirements give the legal officer an understanding of a legal officer's duties.
3. That a newly appointed legal officer in the permanent forces who does not need to undertake initial officer training and familiarisation because it has been undertaken before being appointed/transferred as a legal officer would be able undertake the Legal Training Module 1 course without delay and should satisfy the two requirements of Service and legal familiarisation in a shorter time frame than 1 year.
4. That it is in the interests of equity that officer training and Service familiarisation be recognised when considering the time and experience required before a legal officer may advance in legal competency levels.

The Committee decided to:

1. **Agree** that where a newly appointed/transferred legal officer does not need to undertake initial officer training and familiarisation because it has been undertaken beforehand, that previous training and familiarisation should be recognised as a period of up to 6 months of experience for the purposes of the appropriate period of experience required for advancement to legal competency levels (LL) 2, 3 or 4.

2. **Agree** that notwithstanding the above decision, a legal officer appointed at LL1 is not eligible to advance to LL2 until that legal officer has satisfactorily completed Legal Training Module 1.

M.F.J. SMITH

CDRE RAN

Director General The Defence Legal Service

Chairman, Career and Professional Development Committee