

RESPONSE TO NOTICE TO SHOW CAUSE

From: 8564865, LAC C. Adams, Fire Fighter

To: OC 96WG (GPCAPT TYLER)
CO 17SQN (WGCDR LARTER)

RESPONSE TO NOTIFICATION OF INTENTION TO CONTINUE CURRENT SUSPENSION FROM DUTY: 8564865, LAC C. ADAMS, 17SQN

References:

A. 8564865/P

1. Thank you for the opportunity to provide reasons for your consideration regarding my suspension. In this response I respectfully request to return to the workforce firstly as a Fire Fighter or secondly in another capacity. Should these options be not supported, then I request that the suspension continues with pay.

Current and Future Volunteer Employment

2. In response to Reference A, para 3, part a of the Notice To Show Cause, after being suspended in May of 2014, I have continued to uphold RAAF Values, and I have further developed my skills and experiences by volunteering at a number of agencies in the Katherine region. Throughout my suspension I have also maintained my Individual Readiness in the event that I am to return to work.

3. During my current suspension, I have joined the local Volunteer Bushfire Brigade as well as the Northern Territory Emergency Services (SES of the NT). These two organisations have provided me the means to not only maintain, but also improve my skills as an emergency response team member. During my attendance I have been able to conduct training to help others better themselves in various ways including casualty handling, first aid, equipment maintenance/operation, self confidence, as well as many other skill sets. The members of the Volunteer units are aware that I am a RAAF member and I have endeavoured to represent the RAAF to a very high standard in everything that I do in and for the community. When the suspension is lifted, be it in the near or distant future, I will continue serving with the volunteer units. If the suspension is to continue then I will also be submitting my application to join Northern Territory Fire and Rescue as a volunteer member.

4. In the event that I am unable to return to work either at the Fire Section or an alternate workplace, I will also consider approaching the local CHC Helicopter Crew here at RAAF Tindal in the hope that I would be able to conduct some work experience as a Rescue Crewman. This would also give me an opportunity to better understand how we as aviation fire fighters and emergency responders can work more efficiently with other support services.

Family and Personal Impact

5. Despite upholding my innocence, my family and I have endured the opinions and perceptions of friends and members of the RAAF and Katherine Community. With the small population of Tindal, having to explain why I am not at work has taken its toll on my wife and I, including our relationship. Living in a remote locality can be stressful on the members and families posted here, however the added stresses of not being at work due to the suspension

has impacted on my wife's health in particular. My wife has been re-diagnosed with depression, placed on medication and has since been seeking the assistance of medical professionals to help manage this. While I have been able to cope more with the added stresses compared to my wife, it has not gone without effect.

Career Impact

6. Having my career put on hold for the last nine months, has resulted in two missed opportunities to attend the Structural Fire Controller Course. This course is a pre-requisite in attaining the rank of Corporal and progressing amongst my peers. If I am unable to return back to work then it is likely I would be further delayed in completing the required courses which would potentially delay my professional development for a further 18 months.

Request to Return to Work - Fire Fighter

7. Discontinuing the suspension would allow me to retrain and prepare for when the court case is over, leaving me to continue on with my career in the Air Force as a Fire Fighter.

Request to Return to Work - Other Capacity

8. If it is determined that I am not able to return to the Fire Section to perform my primary duties then I wish to respectfully request consideration be given to placing me in a position away from my primary duties. A position in the ABCP has been suggested to me as an alternative to reintegrate me back into the uniform, as well as enabling me to be an effective member of the Air Force. This would mean that I would remain under supervision whilst learning new skills to improve capability and knowledge that could be used once given the all clear to return to the fire section.

Suspension with Pay

9. In response to Reference A, para 3, part b of the Notice To Show Cause if OC 96WG determined that continuing the suspension is in the best interest of the RAAF, its members and my family, then I would respectfully ask that the suspension is to continue with pay. Due to the many financial commitments I have, including supporting my family, paying off our vehicles, day to day living expenses and more, finding a job for 8 months that allows me to leave whenever I am required to attend the base for meetings and welfare checks would prove to be difficult. To date I have not been convicted of any crime, as such and with respect; I do not feel as though I should incur financial repercussions.

10. If there are any questions regarding my response to Reference A, please contact me on the details provided below or through my chain of command.

Regards



C. ADAMS
Leading Aircraftsman
Fire Fighter
17 SQN
RAAF Base Tindal

Mob: REDACTED

24 Feb 15