



Australian Government

Department of Defence
Defence Support Group

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‘Education and training is a critical investment in future capability. ... Defence education and training has also been aligned more closely with the National Training Framework. This will continue. Defence people are able to gain nationally recognised qualifications under the National Training Framework. This is an important recruitment initiative and will also help to retain people.’¹

Defence regards the National Skills Framework (NSF) and the national vocational and technical education (VTE) system as strategic assets. They contribute significantly to the development of Defence capability in peace. They will be a major source of qualified people to the Australian Defence Force (ADF) in times of partial or complete mobilisation.

VTE provided by Defence through its four Registered Training Organisations or purchased from the national VTE system is the primary means by which Defence people acquire the skills and knowledge that enable them to perform their functions.

How Defence grows and develops its people will, in the end, largely determine the level and sustainability of Australian Defence capability. If either the national or Defence VTE systems degrade so too does Australian Defence capability.

The Defence VTE system is large. While it has a strong focus on key and unique war fighting skills (for example, tank gunnery), it also addresses many skills and knowledge shared with the wider Australian workforce (for example, construction, nursing, management). Indeed, VTE for these skills is basically the same for the Australian workforce and Defence. It makes sense, therefore, for Defence to use the national system where this use is appropriate to Defence outcomes.

Defence use of national Training Packages is detailed in the following table.

¹ *Defence 2000: Our Future Defence Force*, December 2000, p68. Note: Until 2006 the National Skills Framework (NSF) was known as the National Training Framework (NTF).

DEFENCE USE TRAINING PACKAGES AS AT: 4 June 2007²

	ISC/ITAB	Training Package	Included in the Scope of Registration of the:			
			Navy RTO	Army RTO	AF RTO	DLSN ³ RTO
1.	Automotive Training (not an ISC)	AUR Automotive Industry, Retail Service and Repair		U of C	1 qual	
2.	Community Services and Health	CHC Community Services		1 qual		
3.		HLT Health	17 qual	9 qual	9 qual	
4.	Construction and Property Services	BCG General Construction		2 qual		
5.		PRD Property Development and Management	3 qual	3 qual		3 qual
6.		PRS Asset Security			1 qual	
7.	EE-Oz	UTE Electrotechnology Industry		2 qual	3 qual	
8.	Government Skills	PUA Public Safety	16 qual	28 qual	23 qual	5 qual
9.		PSP Public Sector	9 qual	13 qual	6 qual	19 qual
10.	Innovation and Business	BSB Business Services	7 qual	7 qual	11 qual	
11.		CUF Film, Television, Radio and Media		5 qual		
12.		CUS Music	6 qual	6 qual		
13.		FNS Financial Services		7 qual		
14.		ICA Information Technology	4 qual	6 qual		
15.		ICT Telecommunications		6 qual	1 qual	
16.		TAA Training and assessment	1 qual	2 qual	1 qual	
17.	Manufacturing	LMT Textiles, Clothing and Footwear		1 qual		
18.		MEA Aeroskills	2 qual		6 qual	
19.		MEM Metal and Engineering Industry	5 qual	2 qual	4 qual	
20.		PMA Chemical, Hydrocarbons and Oil Refining		U of C		
21.		PMC Manufactured Mineral Products		U of C		
22.	Resources and Infrastructure	BCC Civil Construction		3 qual	3 qual	
23.		RII Civil Construction		2 qual		
24.	Service Skills	SRF National Fitness Industry	3 qual	1 qual		
25.		SRO National Outdoor Recreation Industry		4 qual		
26.		SRS National Sport Industry		2 qual		
27.		THH Hospitality Industry	6 qual	7 qual	4 qual	
28.	Transport and Logistics	TDA Aviation		7 qual	4 qual	
29.		TDM Maritime	4 qual	7 qual		
30.		TDT Transport and Distribution	6 qual	16 qual	14 qual	
Totals:			14 TP 89 qual	27 TP 147 qual	15 TP 90 qual	3 TP 27 qual

² Data extracted from NTIS on 4 June 2007

³ Defence Learning Services Network – the Department of Defence RTO.

Defence Use of Accredited Courses

Defence RTO, between them, have 120 accredited courses. Most of these are comprised of units of competency drawn from two or more Training Packages, sometimes with additional Defence enterprise units of competency added. Defence has been forced into using accredited courses because of:

- a. the lack of flexibility in some Training Packages (however, this is being addressed as Training Packages are reviewed)
- b. the lack of relevant units of competency within national Training Packages. This too is being addressed as Defence develops and validates units of competency and qualifications it needs and then seeks and gains their inclusion in the relevant Training Package. (Through this process Defence has added over 270 units of competency and 36 qualifications to Training Packages since 2001).

Defence policy is to move from accredited courses to Training Package qualifications as soon as a suitable Training Package qualification becomes available. Under this policy Defence RTO have moved from:

445 accredited courses and 83 Training Package qualifications on 1 May 2000

to

120 accredited courses and 353 Training Package qualifications on 4 June 2007.

Defence Contribution to a Skilled National Workforce

Each year over 5,500 people leave the Australian Defence Forces. Their average length of service is eight years. Typically, over 25% of their service will have been spent in formal VTE. As a result of their Defence-provided VTE each member will leave with at least one national qualification, with most leaving with two or more qualifications.

In calendar year 2005, Defence RTO issued 16,763 qualifications, 9,892 of which were at the Certificate IV level or higher, and 14,828 Statements of attainment, most for multiple units of competency.

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