# HOW CAN CIVILIAN RETENTION IN THE ACC CONTRACTING PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY BE AFFECTED?

**Charles Farrior** 

# BLUF

Fifteen recommendations presented for use by ACC to improve retention of 1102s

## Background

- Extensive Review of Existing Literature
  Historical Paradigms and Research
- Review of what has worked
  - Industry
  - Government

## Expected Findings Herzberg Effect

- Satisfaction/motivator and dissatisfaction/ hygiene factors decoupled
- Conclusion that salary is only a dissatisfier; not related to job satisfaction or motivation
- His View>> Fringe benefits, reduced hours, sensitivity training, and increased salaries only cause workers to seek other jobs

Has Led to Belief that Salary Not Important Factor in Retention

# **Contemporary View**

- Most important part of compensation is fairness
- Losing employees costs up to double the departing employees' salary
- Today's workforce is one of free agency
- Managers don't understand employee desires
- 2010 Towers Watson study
  - 94% of employees desired increased compensation
  - Other employee desires identified by survey
    - Better pension
    - Job Security
    - Improved Work/Life Balance
    - Career Advancement opportunity
    - Flexible Hours (80%)

#### Cannot Decouple Salary from Satisfaction/Retention

#### **Research Contrast**

Did not appear to be DoD issue (DoD Strategic Human Capital Plan Update, The Defense Acquisition Workforce, 2010)

Appeared to be ACC issue



## Stay Survey

- 10 questions
- Goal: find out attitudes and thoughts of invested employees
  - Survey those who have > 4 yrs in org
  - Open ended questions
  - Organizational follow-up

## Survey Results and Research Conclusions

- 1. Employees will leave for more money (from stay survey)
- 2. Supply and Demand of local market will drive salary competition
- Degree of Corporate Communication to employees will affect feeling of inclusion in organization's future
- 4. Recognition of Employees will ensure employee appreciation
- 5. Job Engagement of Employees necessary to promote employee growth and interest in job and organization

Forms the basis for Retention Equilibrium Formula and Recommendations

# 15 Recommendations

#### Can Execute Now

- 1. Begin use of <u>Stay Surveys</u>
- 2. Formalize <u>Mentoring</u> Program
- 3. Integrate <u>Communication</u> into manager/supervisor/employee relationships
- 4. <u>Corporate Communication to Employees</u>
- 5. Forge <u>Agreement</u> with other <u>Federal organizations</u> (location specific) that compete for 1102 talent
- 6. Establish Relationship with <u>Labor</u> at highest possible levels to gain support for current/prospective initiatives
- 7. Ensure each <u>IDP</u> is reviewed by Senior Mgt
- 8. Implement <u>Onboarding</u> and Recruiter follow-up with new employees
- 9. Invest in Succession Planning Development for Key Employees
- 10. Continue support of Best Practices in areas of Training (including boot camps) and Award program

# 15 Recommendations (cont)

#### 11. Employ <u>Retention Equilibrium</u> Formula

-Salary and Extrinsic Rewards - Recognition of Employees

-Market Supply and Demand - Job Engagement

- Corporate Communication to Employee

Need Additional Stakeholder Involvement

- 12. Initiate or Expand Intern Program to the extent possible
- 13. Introduction of ProPay
  - 1102s in ACC
  - L III CON
  - KO Warrant ... OR... Cost/Pricing Analyst

 Modify <u>Retention Incentive</u> authority for use... when employee is likely to leave job for other <u>Federal</u> service
 <u>Credit</u> ACC 1102 employees with 5 hours of <u>AL</u> per pay period after 1 year of service, and 6 hours of AL after two years