

Office of Personnel Management

§ 315.601

§ 315.402 Tenure on reinstatement.

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, a person who is reinstated becomes a career-conditional employee.

(b) A person who is reinstated becomes a career employee when he has completed the service requirement for career tenure or is excepted from it by § 315.201(c).

§ 315.403 Acquisition of competitive status.

A person who was serving probation when he was separated and who is reinstated under § 315.401 acquires a competitive status automatically on completion of probation.

Subpart E—Career or Career-Conditional Employment by Transfer

§ 315.501 Transfer.

Subject to part 335 of this chapter, an agency may appoint by transfer to a competitive service position, without a break in service of a single workday, a current career or career-conditional employee of another agency.

[60 FR 53504, Oct. 16, 1995]

§ 315.502 Tenure on transfer.

(a) *General rule.* Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, a career employee who transfers remains a career employee and a career-conditional employee who transfers remains a career-conditional employee.

(b) *Exceptions.* (1) A career-conditional employee who transfers to a position required by law to be filled on a permanent basis becomes a career employee.

(2) A career employee who transfers from a position required by law to be filled on a permanent basis becomes a career-conditional employee unless he or she has completed the service requirement for career tenure.

[60 FR 53504, Oct. 16, 1995]

§ 315.503 Acquisition of competitive status.

An employee who was serving probation when he was appointed under § 315.501 acquires a competitive status

automatically on completion of probation.

Subpart F—Career or Career-Conditional Appointment Under Special Authorities

§ 315.601 Appointment of former employees of the Canal Zone Merit System or Panama Canal Employment System.

(a) *Agency authority.* This section may be used by an agency to appoint noncompetitively, for other than temporary or term employment, a United States citizen separated from a career or career-conditional appointment under the Canal Zone Merit System, which was in effect before March 31, 1982, or under the Panama Canal Employment System, which became effective on March 31, 1982. (Appointments of such persons for temporary or term employment are to be made under applicable provisions of part 316 of this chapter.)

(b) *Service requirement.* An agency may appoint such a former employee under this section only when, immediately prior to separation from a qualifying appointment, the employee served continuously for at least one year under a nontemporary appointment in the Canal Zone Merit System, the Panama Canal Employment System, or a combination of the two systems.

(c) *Time limits.* (1) There is no time limit on the appointment under this section of an employee who:

(i) Is a preference eligible; or

(ii) Has completed at least 3 years of service, which did not include any break in service longer than 30 days, under one or more career-conditional or career appointments in the Canal Zone Merit System and/or the Panama Canal Employment System.

(2) An agency may appoint under this section an employee who does not meet the conditions in (c)(1) of this section provided no more than 3 years have elapsed since:

(i) separation from a qualifying Canal Zone Merit System or Panama Canal Employment System appointment; or

(ii) separation from service in Panama in a position excluded from the

§ 315.602

Canal Zone Merit System or Panama Canal Employment System, when such service immediately followed service under a qualifying appointment in one of those systems.

(d) *Tenure on appointment.* On appointment under paragraph (a) of this section: (1) A former career employee of the Canal Zone Merit System or Panama Canal Employment System becomes a career employee.

(2) A former Canal Zone Merit System and/or Panama Canal Employment System employee whose service from the date of career-conditional appointment in the Canal Zone Merit System or Panama Canal Employment System through the date of noncompetitive appointment under this section, inclusive, does not include any break in service of more than 30 days and totals at least 3 years becomes a career employee.

(3) All other former Canal Zone Merit System and Panama Canal Employment System employees become career-conditional employees.

(e) *Acquisition of competitive status.* A person appointed under paragraph (a) of this section automatically acquires a competitive status:

(1) On appointment, if he or she has satisfactorily completed a 1-year probationary period under the Canal Zone Merit System and/or the Panama Canal Employment System.

(2) On satisfactory completion of probation in accordance with § 315.80 (a)(3) if he or she had not completed a 1-year probationary period under the Canal Zone Merit System or Panama Canal Employment System.

[48 FR 13951, Apr. 1, 1983]

§ 315.602 Appointment based on service in the Office of the President or Vice-President or on the White House Staff.

(a) *Agency authority.* An agency may appoint noncompetitively a person who has served at least 2 years in the immediate Office of the President or Vice-President or on the White House Staff, provided that the appointment is effected without a break in service of 1 full workday.

(b) *Tenure on appointment.* (1) Except as provided in paragraph (b)(2) of this section, a person appointed under para-

5 CFR Ch. I (1-1-22 Edition)

graph (a) of this section becomes a career-conditional employee.

(2) A person appointed under paragraph (a) of this section becomes a career employee when he or she has completed the service requirement for career tenure or is excepted from it by § 315.201(c).

(c) *Acquisition of competitive status.* A person appointed under paragraph (a) of this section acquires a competitive status automatically on appointment.

[44 FR 54692, Sept. 21, 1979]

§ 315.603 Appointment based on former incumbency of a position brought into the competitive service.

(a) *Agency authority—(1) Employee in military service.* An agency may appoint a former incumbent of a permanent excepted position who was serving under an appointment not limited to 1 year or less, or of a position in public or private enterprise when the position was brought into the competitive service on a continuing basis and who left his position after June 30, 1950, to perform active military service when:

(i) The position was brought into the competitive service before or during his military service or during the period in which he had restoration rights thereto, and he left the position to enter military service before the end of the time limits set forth in § 315.701(c);

(ii) He has been released from military service under honorable conditions;

(iii) The agency submits a recommendation for his appointment to OPM within 6 months after release from military service under honorable conditions or after hospitalization continuing after release for not more than 1 year; and

(iv) He performed 6 months of satisfactory service immediately before the date his position was brought into the competitive service in a position or positions brought into the competitive service, or in the civilian executive branch of the Government, unless OPM has excepted his particular type of case from this requirement.

(2) *Employee separated.* An agency may appoint a former incumbent of a permanent excepted position under an appointment not limited to 1 year or

less or of a position in public or private enterprise when the position was brought into the competitive service on a continuing basis, and who was separated thereafter, when:

(i) He is recommended for appointment within the time limits set forth in §315.701(c); and

(ii) He performed 6 months of satisfactory service immediately before the date his position, was brought into the competitive service, in a position or positions brought into the competitive service or in the civilian executive branch of the Government, unless OPM has excepted his particular type of case from this requirement.

(3) *Employee recovered from compensable injury.* An agency may appoint a former incumbent of a permanent excepted position who was serving under an appointment not limited to 1 year or less, when the position has been brought into the competitive service and when:

(i) The employee is entitled to restoration based on recovery from compensable injury in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 8151 and part 353;

(ii) The employee's position was brought into the competitive service either before the employee's separation for compensable injury or during his or her period of statutory restoration rights following such injury, and the employee's separation for compensable injury occurred before the end of the time limits set forth in §315.701(c);

(iii) The agency initiates the appointment within 6 months after cessation of compensation; and

(iv) The employee performed 6 months of satisfactory service immediately before the date his or her position was brought into the competitive service in the civilian executive branch of the Government, unless OPM has excepted his or her particular type of case from this requirement.

(b) *Review of disapproved recommendations.* Agencies shall establish procedures for reviewing disapprovals of recommendations for appointment under this section when such review is requested within 6 months after the date of disapproval.

(c) *Tenure on appointment.* (1) Except as provided in paragraph (c)(2) of this section, a person appointed under para-

graph (a) of this section becomes a career-conditional employee.

(2) A person appointed under paragraph (a) of this section becomes a career employee when he has completed the service requirement for career tenure or is excepted from it by §315.201(c).

(d) *Acquisition of competitive status.* (1) A person appointed under paragraph (a)(1) of this section acquires a competitive status automatically on appointment.

(2) A person appointed under paragraph (a)(2) or (a)(3) of this section acquires a competitive status automatically on completion of probation.

[33 FR 12418, Sept. 4, 1968, as amended at 43 FR 34428, Aug. 4, 1978; 54 FR 37092, Sept. 7, 1989; 66 FR 66710, Dec. 27, 2001]

§315.604 Employment of disabled veterans who have completed a training course under Chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code.

(a) When a disabled veteran satisfactorily completes an approved course of training prescribed by the Veterans Administration under chapter 31, title 38, United States Code, any agency may appoint the veteran noncompetitively to the position of class of positions for which trained.

(b) *Conversion.* An agency may convert to career or career-conditional employment a person appointed under paragraph (a) of this section.

(c) *Disqualifications.* Any law, Executive order, or civil service rule or regulation which would disqualify an applicant for appointment also disqualifies him or her for conversion of his or her employment to career or career-conditional employment under this section.

(d) *Tenure on approval of recommendation.* When an agency converts the employee under paragraph (b) of this section, the employee becomes:

(1) A career-conditional employee, except as provided in paragraph (d)(2) of this section; and

(2) A career employee when he or she has completed the service requirement for career tenure or is excepted from it by §315.201(c).

(e) *Acquisition of competitive status.* A person whose employment is converted to career or career-conditional employment under this section acquires a

§ 315.605

competitive status automatically on conversion.

[44 FR 54692, Sept. 21, 1979, as amended at 44 FR 55132, Sept. 25, 1979]

§ 315.605 Appointment of former ACTION volunteers.

(a) *Agency authority.* An agency in the executive branch may appoint non-competitively, for other than temporary employment, a person whom the Director of ACTION certifies as having served satisfactorily as a volunteer or volunteer leader under the Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2051 *et seq.*), or as a VISTA volunteer under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2991 *et seq.*) or the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 (Pub. L. 93-113), or as a full-time community volunteer (including criminal justice volunteer, volunteer in justice, and VET REACH volunteer) under part C of title I of Pub. L. 93-113. To be qualifying under this section VISTA and community volunteer service must total at least 1 year. In addition, a community volunteer must have served prior to October 1, 1976.

(b) *Time limit.* An agency in the executive branch may make an appointment under this section only within 1 year after the person completes the qualifying service. (For Community volunteers who have completed their service before March 10, 1978, the 1-year period begins on March 10, 1978.) However, an agency may extend the period for 2 more years to a total of 3 years if the person, after the qualifying service, is:

- (1) In the military service;
- (2) Studying at a recognized institution of higher learning; or
- (3) In another activity which, in the agency's view, warrants extension.

(c) *Conditions.* Any law, Executive order, or regulation that disqualifies an applicant for appointment also disqualifies an applicant for appointment under this section.

(d) *Tenure on appointment.* (1) Except as provided in paragraph (d)(2) of this section, a person appointed under paragraph (a) of this section becomes a career-conditional employee.

(2) A person appointed under paragraph (a) or this section becomes a career employee if excepted from the

5 CFR Ch. I (1-1-22 Edition)

service requirement for career tenure by § 315.201(c).

(e) *Acquisition of competitive status.* A person appointed under paragraph (a) of this section acquires a competitive status automatically on completion of probation.

[39 FR 961, Jan. 4, 1974, as amended at 43 FR 20954, May 16, 1978; 43 FR 34428, Aug. 4, 1978]

§ 315.606 Noncompetitive appointment of certain present and former Foreign Service officers and employees.

Subject to the conditions prescribed by OPM, an agency may appoint non-competitively a present or former career officer or employee of the Foreign Service who was appointed under authority of the Foreign Service Act of 1946, as amended (22 U.S.C. 801 *et seq.*), or legislation that supplements or replaces that Act, if:

(a) He qualifies under the requirements set forth in Executive Order 11219, and

(b) OPM has concurred in his present or former agency's plan, and substantive changes thereto, for non-competitive entry of civil service employees into the Foreign Service positions of that agency.

[33 FR 12418, Sept. 4, 1968, as amended at 66 FR 66710, Dec. 27, 2001]

§ 315.607 Noncompetitive appointment of present and former Peace Corps personnel.

(a) An agency in the executive branch may appoint noncompetitively, for other than temporary appointment, an individual:

(1) Who has completed no less than 36 months of continuous service without a break in service of 3 days or more under section 7(a) of the Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2506) which pertains to the appointment of Peace Corps staff (not volunteers);

(2) Whom the Director of the Peace Corps certifies as having satisfactorily served under such an appointment; and

(3) Who meets OPM qualification standards—including any written test requirements—for the position in question.

(4) Who is not a Peace Corps volunteer as this paragraph does not apply to Peace Corps volunteers.

(b) *Time limitations.* (1) An individual's eligibility under this section extends through September 30, 1982, or until 3 years after separation from qualifying service with the Peace Corps, whichever is later.

(2) An agency may not extend this period.

(c) *Conditions.* Any law, Executive order, or regulation which disqualifies an applicant for appointment in the competitive service also disqualifies an applicant for appointment under this section.

(d) *Acquisition of competitive status.* A person appointed under paragraph (a) of this section acquires competitive status automatically upon completion of probation.

(e) *Tenure on appointment.* (1) Except as provided in paragraph (e)(2) of this section, a person appointed under paragraph (a) of this section becomes a career-conditional employee.

(2) A person appointed under paragraph (a) of this section becomes a career employee if excepted from the service requirement for career tenure by § 315.201(c).

[45 FR 43365, June 27, 1980, as amended at 46 FR 35079, July 7, 1981; 54 FR 37092, Sept. 7, 1989]

§ 315.608 Noncompetitive appointment of certain former overseas employees.

(a) *Authority.* An executive branch agency may noncompetitively appoint, to a competitive service position within the United States (including Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands), an individual who has completed 52 weeks of creditable overseas service as defined in paragraph (b) of this section and is appointed within the time limits in paragraph (d) of this section. Any law, Executive order, or regulation that disqualifies an applicant for appointment in the competitive service, such as the citizenship requirement, also disqualifies the applicant for appointment under this section. An individual may be appointed to any occupation and grade level for which qualified. An agency may waive any requirement for a written test after determining that the duties and responsibilities of the applicant's overseas posi-

tion were similar enough to make the written test unnecessary.

(1) *Tenure.* A person appointed under this section becomes a career-conditional employee unless he or she has already satisfied the requirements for career tenure or is exempt from the service requirement in 5 CFR 315.201.

(2) *Competitive status.* A person appointed under this section acquires competitive status automatically upon completion of probation.

(b) *Creditable overseas service.* For purposes of this section only, creditable service is service in an appropriated fund position(s) performed by a family member under a local hire appointment(s) overseas during the time the family member was accompanying a sponsor officially assigned to an overseas area and for which the family member received a fully successful or better (or equivalent) performance rating. Creditable overseas service is computed in accordance with the procedures in the OPM Guide to Processing Personnel Actions. Creditable service may have been under more than one appointment and need not be continuous. Leave without pay taken during the time an individual is in the overseas area is credited on the same basis as time worked.

(c) *Service waiver.* Up to 26 weeks of the 52-week service requirement is waived when the head of an agency (or designee) that employed the family member overseas certifies that the family member's expected 52 weeks of employment were cut short because of a nonpersonal situation that necessitated the relocation of the family member from the overseas area. The certification must include the number of weeks waived. For this purpose, a nonpersonal situation includes disaster, conflict, terrorism or the threat of terrorism, and those situations when a family member is forced to return to the United States because of military deployment, drawdowns, or other management-initiated actions. A nonpersonal situation does not include circumstances that specifically relate to a particular individual, for example, ill health or personal interest in relocating.

(d) *Time limit on eligibility.* An individual is eligible for appointment(s)

under this authority for a period of 3 years following the date of returning from overseas to the United States to resume residence or until March 31, 1998, whichever date is later. An agency may extend an individual's appointment eligibility beyond 3 years for periods equivalent to—

(1) The time the individual was accompanying a sponsor on official assignment to an area of the United States with no significant opportunities for Federal employment; or

(2) The time an individual was incapacitated for employment.

(e) *Definitions.* In this section terms have the following meaning:

(1) *Family member.* An unmarried child under age 23, a spouse, or a domestic partner. An individual must have been a family member at the time he or she met the overseas service requirement and other conditions but does not need to be a family member at the time of noncompetitive appointment in the United States.

(2) *Sponsor.* A Federal civilian employee, a Federal nonappropriated fund employee, or a member of a uniformed service who is officially assigned to an overseas area.

(i) *Officially assigned.* Under active orders issued by the United States Government.

(ii) *Federal civilian employee.* An employee of the executive, judicial, or legislative branch of the United States Government who serves in an appropriated fund position.

(iii) *Nonappropriated fund employee.* An employee paid from nonappropriated funds of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, Navy Ship's Stores Ashore, Navy Exchanges, Marine Corps Exchanges, Coast Guard Exchanges, or other instrumentalities of the United States.

(iv) *Member of a uniformed service.* Personnel of the U.S. Armed Forces (including the Coast Guard), the commissioned corps of the Public Health Service, and the commissioned corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(3) *Accompanying.* The family member resided in the overseas area while the sponsor was officially assigned to an overseas post of duty. The family member need not have physically resided

with the sponsor at all times or have traveled with the sponsor to or from the overseas area.

(4) *Local hire appointment.* An appointment that is not actually or potentially permanent and that is made from among individuals residing in the overseas area. In this section only, a local hire appointment includes nonpermanent employment under:

(i) Overseas limited appointment under 5 CFR 301.203(b) or (c);

(ii) Expected appointment under Schedule A 213.3106(b)(1), 213.3106(b)(6), or 213.3106(d)(1) when the duration of the appointment is tied to the sponsor's rotation date or when the appointment is made on a not-to-exceed (NTE) basis;

(iii) An "American family member" or "part-time intermittent temporary (PIT)" appointment in U.S. diplomatic establishments;

(iv) 50 U.S.C. 403j; Public Law 86-36 (50 U.S.C. 402, note); the Berlin Tariff Agreement; or as a local national employee paid from appropriated funds; or

(v) Any other nonpermanent appointment in the competitive or excepted service approved by OPM.

(5) *Overseas.* A location outside the 50 States of the United States, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

(6) *Domestic partner.* A person in a domestic partnership with a sponsor of the same sex.

(7) *Domestic partnership.* A committed relationship between two adults, of the same sex, in which the partners:

(i) Are each other's sole domestic partner and intend to remain so indefinitely;

(ii) Maintain a common residence, and intend to continue to do so (or would maintain a common residence but for an assignment abroad or other employment-related, financial, or similar obstacle);

(iii) Are at least 18 years of age and mentally competent to consent to contract;

(iv) Share responsibility for a significant measure of each other's financial obligations;

(v) Are not married or joined in a civil union to anyone else;

(vi) Are not the domestic partner of anyone else;

Office of Personnel Management

§315.610

(vii) Are not related in a way that, if they were of opposite sex, would prohibit legal marriage in the U.S. jurisdiction in which the domestic partnership was formed;

(viii) Are willing to certify, if required by the agency, that they understand that willful falsification of any documentation required to establish that an individual is in a domestic partnership may lead to disciplinary action and the recovery of the cost of benefits received related to such falsification, as well as constitute a criminal violation under 18 U.S.C. 1001, and that the method for securing such certification, if required, shall be determined by the agency; and

(ix) Are willing promptly to disclose, if required by the agency, any dissolution or material change in the status of the domestic partnership.

[61 FR 9322, Mar. 8, 1996, as amended at 77 FR 42903, July 20, 2012]

§315.609 Appointment based on service in United States positions of the Panama Canal Commission.

(a) *Agency authority.* An agency may appoint noncompetitively, for other than temporary or term employment, a United States citizen who has served under nontemporary appointment in a continuing career position of the Panama Canal Commission located in the United States.

(b) *Service requirement.* An agency may appoint such an individual under this section only when, immediately prior to separation from a qualifying appointment with the Panama Canal Commission in the United States, the individual served continuously for at least 1 year under such qualifying appointment or under a combination of such appointment and nontemporary appointment in the Canal Zone Merit System or the Panama Canal Employment System.

(c) *Time limits.* (1) There is no time limit on the appointment under this section of an employee who:

(i) Is a preference eligible; or

(ii) Has completed at least 3 years of service, which did not include any break in service longer than 30 days, under one or more nontemporary appointments in Panama Canal Commission positions located in the United

States or in positions under the Canal Zone Merit System and/or the Panama Canal Employment System.

(2) An agency may appoint under this section an employee who does not meet the conditions in (c)(1) of this section only if no more than 3 years have elapsed since the individual's separation from a qualifying appointment.

(d) *Tenure on appointment.* (1) On appointment under paragraph (a) of this section, an individual whose qualifying service does not include any break in service of more than 30 days and totals at least 3 years becomes a career employee.

(2) All other individuals appointed under this section become career-conditional employees.

(e) *Acquisition of competitive status.* A person appointed under paragraph (a) of this section automatically acquires a competitive status:

(1) On appointment, if he or she has satisfactorily completed a 1-year trial period, which did not include more than 22 workdays in nonpay status, during qualifying employment with the Panama Canal Commission.

(2) On satisfactory completion of probation in accordance with §315.801(a)(3) if he or she had not completed such a 1-year trial period.

[48 FR 29667, June 28, 1983]

§315.610 Noncompetitive appointment of certain National Guard technicians.

(a) An agency may appoint noncompetitively a National Guard technician who—

(1) Was involuntarily separated (other than by removal for cause on charges of misconduct or delinquency);

(2) Has served at least 3 years as a technician;

(3) Meets the qualifications requirements of the job; and

(4) Is appointed within 1 year after separating from service as a Guard Technician.

(b) The noncompetitive appointing authority also applies to National Guard technicians separated before October 29, 1986, provided they are appointed within a year of the date of separation.

[52 FR 5431, Feb. 23, 1987]

§315.611 Appointment of certain veterans who have competed under agency merit promotion announcements.

(a) *Agency authority.* An agency may appoint a preference eligible or a veteran who has substantially completed at least 3 years of continuous active military service provided

(1) The veteran was selected from among the best qualified following competition under a merit promotion announcement open to candidates outside the agency's workforce; and

(2) The veteran's most recent separation from the military was under honorable conditions.

(b) *Definitions.* "Agency" in this context means an executive agency as defined in 5 U.S.C. 105. The agency determines in individual cases whether a candidate was released "shortly before" completing the required 3 years and should therefore be eligible for appointment.

[65 FR 14432, Mar. 17, 2000]

§315.612 Noncompetitive appointment of certain military spouses.

(a) *Agency authority.* In accordance with the provisions of this section, an agency head may appoint noncompetitively a spouse of a member of the armed forces serving on active duty, a spouse of a 100 percent disabled service member injured while on active duty, or the un-remarried widow or widower of a service member who was killed while performing active duty.

(b) *Definitions*—(1) *Active duty* means full-time duty in the armed forces, including full-time National Guard duty, except that for Reserve Component members the term "active duty" does not include training duties or attendance at service schools.

(2) *Armed forces* has the meaning given that term in 10 U.S.C. 101.

(3) *Duty station* means the permanent location to which a member of the armed forces is assigned for duty as specified on the individual's permanent change of station (PCS) orders.

(4) *Member of the armed forces or service member* means an individual who:

(i) Is serving on active duty in the armed forces or serving under orders specifying the individual is called or

ordered to active duty for more than 180 consecutive days;

(ii) Retired or was released or discharged from active duty in the armed forces and has a disability rating of 100 percent as documented by the Department of Veterans Affairs; or

(iii) Was killed while serving on active duty in the armed forces.

(5) *Spouse* means the husband or wife of a member of the armed forces.

(c) *Eligibility.* (1)(i) A spouse of a member of the armed forces as defined in paragraph (b)(4)(i) of this section must be currently married to the member of the armed forces on active duty.

(ii) For appointments made on or after August 13, 2023, the following additional criteria must be met for eligibility for appointment (for appointments made prior to or on August 12, 2023, the criteria in this paragraph (c)(1)(ii) does not apply):

(A) The member of the armed forces must have received orders authorizing a permanent change of station.

(B) The spouse must have married the member of the armed forces on, or prior to, the date of such orders authorizing the permanent change of station.

(C) The spouse must have relocated or is relocating with the member of the armed forces to the new duty station specified in the documentation ordering the permanent change of station.

(2) A spouse of a member of the armed forces as defined in paragraph (b)(4)(ii) of this section must be currently married to the member of the armed forces.

(3) A spouse of a member of the armed forces as defined in paragraph (b)(4)(iii) of this section must be the un-remarried widow or widower of the member of the armed forces killed on active duty in the armed forces.

(4) Except as indicated in paragraph (c)(5) of this section, noncompetitive appointment of eligible spouses under this section are not restricted to a geographical location.

(5) Beginning August 13, 2023, the noncompetitive appointment of a relocating spouse of a member of the armed forces as defined in paragraph (b)(4)(i) of this section is limited to the geographic area of the permanent duty station of the member of the armed

forces, unless there is no agency with a position within the geographic area of the permanent duty station of the member of the armed forces.

(d) *Conditions.* (1) In accordance with the provisions of this section, a spouse is eligible for noncompetitive appointment:

(i) From the date of documentation verifying the spouse's marriage to a member of the armed forces as defined in paragraph (b)(4)(i) of this section, where the spouse seeks appointment based upon marriage to an active duty member of the armed forces;

(ii) From the date of documentation verifying that the member of the armed forces is 100 percent disabled, where the spouse seeks appointment based upon marriage to a member defined in paragraph (b)(4)(ii) of this section; or

(iii) From the date of documentation verifying that the member of the armed forces was killed while on active duty where the spouse seeks appointment as the widow or widower of a member defined in paragraph (b)(4)(iii) of this section.

(2) The spouse of a member of the armed forces as defined in paragraph (b)(4)(i) of this section may receive unlimited noncompetitive appointments under this section to permanent positions through August 12, 2023. Beginning August 13, 2023, the spouse of such a member may receive a noncompetitive appointment under this section if the member receives permanent change of station orders and is limited to one such appointment per permanent change of station.

(3) A spouse of a member of the armed forces as defined in paragraph (b)(4)(ii) or (iii) of this section may receive only one noncompetitive appointment under this section to a permanent position.

(4) Any law, Executive order, or regulation that disqualifies an applicant for appointment also disqualifies a spouse for appointment under this section.

(e) *Proof of eligibility.* (1)(i) Prior to appointment, the spouse of a member of the armed forces as defined in paragraph (b)(4)(i) of this section must submit to the employing agency copies of:

(A) Documentation verifying active duty status; and

(B) Documentation verifying marriage to the member of the armed forces (*i.e.*, a marriage certificate or other legal documentation verifying marriage).

(ii) For appointments made on or after August 13, 2023, the spouse must also submit to the employing agency a copy of the service member's orders reflecting a permanent change of station, dated August 13, 2023, or later. (For appointments made on or before August 12, 2023, the requirement of this paragraph (e)(1)(ii) does not apply.)

(2) Prior to appointment, the spouse of a member of the armed forces as defined in paragraph (b)(4)(ii) of this section must submit to the employing agency copies of:

(i) Documentation showing the member of the armed forces retired, or was released or discharged from active duty, with a disability rating of 100 percent; and

(ii) Documentation verifying marriage to the member of the armed forces (*i.e.*, a marriage license or other legal documentation verifying marriage).

(3) Prior to appointment, the spouse of a member of the armed forces as defined in paragraph (b)(4)(iii) of this section must submit to the employing agency copies of:

(i) Documentation showing the member was released or discharged from active duty due to his or her death while on active duty;

(ii) Documentation verifying the member of the armed forces was killed while serving on active duty;

(iii) Documentation verifying the widow or widower's marriage to the member of the armed forces (*i.e.*, a marriage license or other legal documentation verifying marriage); and

(iv) A statement certifying that the individual seeking to use the authority is the un-remarried widow or widower of the service member.

(f) *Acquisition of competitive status.* A person appointed under paragraph (a) of this section acquires competitive status automatically upon completion of probation.

(g) *Tenure on appointment.* An appointment under paragraph (a) of this section is career-conditional unless the

§ 315.614

5 CFR Ch. I (1–1–22 Edition)

appointee has already satisfied the requirements for career tenure or is exempt from the service requirement pursuant to § 315.201.

(h) *Agency reporting requirements.* (1) As required by Executive Order 13832, each agency shall report annually (by December 31st of each year) to OPM and the Department of Labor on:

(i) The number of positions made available under the military spouse hiring authority;

(ii) The number of applications submitted under the military spouse hiring authority;

(iii) The number of military spouses appointed under the military spouse hiring authority during the preceding fiscal year; and

(iv) Actions taken to advertise the military spouse hiring authority, and any other actions taken to promote the hiring of military spouses.

(2) As required by section 573(d) of Public Law 115–232, each agency shall report annually until August 13, 2023, and separate from the report required in paragraph (h)(1) of this section on the following:

(i) The number of relocating and non-relocating spouses of current military members appointed under this authority;

(ii) The types of positions filled (by title, series, and grade level); and

(iii) The effectiveness of this hiring authority.

(3) Agencies should send their reports electronically to OPM’s Employee Services, VETS Office at militaryspouse@opm.gov.

(4) Agencies are also required to send their reports separately and directly to Department of Labor (DOL) at milspouse@dol.gov.

[74 FR 40476, Aug. 12, 2009, as amended at 76 FR 54072, Aug. 31, 2011; 86 FR 52396, Sept. 21, 2021]

§ 315.614 Hiring Authority for College Graduates.

(a) *Appointment authority.* In accordance with the provisions of this section, an agency may appoint non-competitively an eligible and qualified individual to a position classified in a professional or administrative occupational category at the general schedule (GS) 11 level (or equivalent) or below,

without regard to the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 3309 through 3319 and 3330.

(b) *Eligibility.* An eligible college graduate is defined as an individual who:

(1) Has received a baccalaureate or graduate degree from an institution of higher education as defined in 20 U.S.C. 1001(a); and

(i) Has submitted an application for the position being filled under this authority (using the date on which the application is received by the hiring agency as the date of submission).

(ii) Not later than two years after the date on which the individual received their degree described in paragraph (b)(1) introductory text of this section; or

(iii) in the case of an individual who has completed a period of not less than four years of intervening obligated service in a uniformed service, not later than two years after the date on which the individual was released or discharged from that uniformed service.

(2) Meets the minimum qualification standards prescribed or approved by OPM for the position to which the individual is being appointed.

(c) *Qualifications.* Agencies must evaluate eligible college graduates using the OPM-prescribed qualification standard, or an OPM-approved agency-specific minimum qualification standard, for the position being filled.

(d) *Classification.* An agency may make an initial appointment of an eligible and qualified individual to any position classified according to OPM classification standards in a professional or administrative occupational series at the GS-11 level (or equivalent) or below, including positions with promotion potential beyond the GS-11.

(e) *Public notice and advertising.* An agency must adhere to merit system principles, and thus must publicly advertise the position in a manner that endeavors to reach qualified individuals from all segments of society, including notifying OPM, in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 3327(b), before filling a position under this authority. To meet this requirement, an agency must display information about the position to be filled on its home page (that is accessible to the general public). An

agency may, but is not required to, use *www.USAJOBS.gov* for this purpose. Alternatively, an agency may either provide an actual job announcement on its public-facing web page (home page) or provide a link to the job announcement on its public-facing homepage. The agency should consider whether additional recruitment and advertisement activities are necessary or appropriate to further merit system principles. If USAJOBS is not used to advertise the position, the agency must satisfy the requirements of 5 U.S.C. 3327(b) by providing OPM information about the position in the same format it usually would when posting a position on USAJOBS. A job announcement must include, at a minimum, the following information:

- (1) The position title, series, grade level;
 - (2) The geographic location where the position will be filled;
 - (3) The starting salary of the position;
 - (4) The minimum qualifications of the position;
 - (5) Whether the position has promotion potential to higher grade levels;
 - (6) Any other relevant information about the position such as telework opportunities, recruitment incentives, etc.;
 - (7) Specific information instructing applicants on how to apply;
 - (8) Equal employment opportunity statement (Agencies may use the recommended equal employment opportunity statement located on OPM's USAJOBS website.); and
 - (9) Reasonable accommodation statement.
- (f) *Appointment type.* College graduates are appointed to career or career-conditional permanent positions in the competitive service.
- (g) *Acquisition of competitive status.* A person appointed under this section acquires competitive status upon completion of probationary period in accordance with the provisions of subpart H of this part.
- (h) *Tenure upon appointment.* A person appointed under paragraph (a) of this section becomes a career-conditional employee unless the appointee has already satisfied the requirements for ca-

reer tenure or is exempt from the service requirement pursuant to §315.201.

(i) *Numerical limit on the number of appointments.* (1) Except as provided in paragraph (i)(2) of this section, the total number of individuals that an agency may appoint under this authority during a fiscal year may not exceed 15 percent of the number of individuals that the agency appointed during the previous FY to a position in the competitive service classified in a professional or administrative occupational category, at the GS-11 level or below, or equivalent, under competitive examining procedures. An appointing agency may not count appointments made using direct hire authorities, non-competitive authorities, excepted service authorities, or selections under merit promotion authorities, when establishing the limit for a given fiscal year. In calculating this limitation, agencies must round up or down to the nearest whole number, if necessary, to eliminate a decimal place. Values ending in “.5” or more may be rounded up to the nearest whole number in determining an agency's cap limitation. Values ending in less than “.5” should be rounded down to the nearest whole number in determining an agency's cap limitation.

(2) During any given fiscal year, OPM may establish a lower limitation on the number of individuals that may be appointed under paragraph (i)(1) of this section based on any factor OPM considers appropriate. OPM shall notify agencies via the OPM website to communicate any modification to the numerical limitation.

(j) *Reporting requirements.* (1) Not later than September 30 of each of the first three fiscal years beginning in FY 2020 an agency that makes an appointment under these provisions must report to Congress and to OPM on the impact of this authority for the fiscal year for which the report is submitted. OPM will provide written guidance, at the time this rule is published, describing the means by which agencies should collect this information, the timing of such collections, and the groups as to which information should be collected. An agency's report must contain the following information:

§315.701

(i) The total number of individuals appointed by the agency under this authority by position title, series, grade, and geographic location;

(ii) The number of individuals appointed under this authority by the items identified in 5 U.S.C. 3115(g), and in OPM guidance;

(iii) The number of veterans appointed, as defined in 5 U.S.C. 2108;

(iv) Any numerical limitation established in paragraph (i) of this section;

(v) Recruitment sources, outreach, and recruitment activities used to fill positions;

(vi) The total number of individuals appointed by the agency during the applicable fiscal year to a position in the competitive service classified in a professional or administrative occupational category at the GS-11 level, or an equivalent level, or below;

(vii) The number of individuals appointed under the authority that have been separated to show a break down between involuntary and voluntary separations as well as the reasons for each type of separation;

(viii) Information on difficulties encountered when using the authority;

(2) OPM may request additional information from agencies on their use of this authority. An agency must include in its report to Congress and OPM any additional information required by OPM under this subsection.

(k) *Special provisions for Department of Defense.* These regulations do not preclude the Secretary of Defense from exercising authority to appoint a recent graduate under section 1106 of Public Law 114-328. Additionally, these regulations do not apply to the Department of Defense during the period section 1106 of Public Law 114-328 is in effect.

[86 FR 61046, Nov. 5, 2021]

Subpart G—Conversion to Career or Career-Conditional Employment From Other Types of Employment

§315.701 Incumbents of positions brought into the competitive service.

(a) *Employee coverage.* This section applies to an employee retained under

5 CFR Ch. I (1–1–22 Edition)

§§316.701 and 316.702 of this chapter who:

(1) Was serving in a permanent excepted position under an appointment not limited to 1 year or less, or in a public or private enterprise in a position which the agency determines to be a continuing one, at the time his position was brought into the competitive service; and

(2) Performed 6 months of satisfactory service immediately before the date his position was brought into the competitive service, in a position or positions brought into the competitive service, or in the civilian executive branch of the Government, unless OPM has excepted his particular type of case from this requirement.

(b) *Eligibility for conversion.* Within the time limits set forth in paragraph (c) of this section, the employment of an employee covered by paragraph (a) of this section may be converted to career or career-conditional employment.

(c) *Time limits.* Conversion may be initiated under paragraph (b) of this section only within 6 months after the position is brought into the competitive service, except that:

(1) When it is necessary for OPM to determine that §316.701 or §316.702 applies to a group of positions, the recommendation shall be submitted within 6 months after OPM advises the agency of its determination; and

(2) When an employee is absent on an assignment to an organization or agency from which reemployment rights are provided under part 352 of this chapter or by statute, the conversion shall be initiated within 6 months after the employee's return from such assignment, when reemployment occurs within the time limits prescribed in the applicable statute or regulation;

(3) When an employee is absent on approved leave without pay, the conversion shall be initiated within 6 months of the employee's return to duty, when such return occurs within time limits authorized by the agency; and

(4) When an employee who is serving on military duty or who is separated and rehired during the 6-month period after the position is brought into the competitive service is eligible for conversion under the provisions of §315.603,