

1991, the Secretary of Defense shall prescribe regulations required under section 1734(f) of title 10, United States Code (as added by section 1202).”

**§ 1735. Education, training, and experience requirements for critical acquisition positions**

(a) **QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.**—In establishing the education, training, and experience requirements under section 1723 of this title for critical acquisition positions, the Secretary of Defense shall, at a minimum, include the requirements set forth in subsections (b) through (e).

(b) **PROGRAM MANAGERS AND DEPUTY PROGRAM MANAGERS.**—Before being assigned to a position as a program manager or deputy program manager of a major defense acquisition program or a significant nonmajor defense acquisition program, a person—

(1) must have completed the program management course at the Defense Systems Management College or a management program at an accredited educational institution determined to be comparable by the Secretary of Defense;

(2) must have executed a written agreement as required in section 1734(b)(2); and

(3) in the case of—

(A) a program manager of a major defense acquisition program, must have at least eight years of experience in acquisition, at least two years of which were performed in a systems program office or similar organization;

(B) a program manager of a significant nonmajor defense acquisition program, must have at least six years of experience in acquisition;

(C) a deputy program manager of a major defense acquisition program, must have at least six years of experience in acquisition, at least two years of which were performed in a systems program office or similar organization; and

(D) a deputy program manager of a significant nonmajor defense acquisition program, must have at least four years of experience in acquisition.

(c) **PROGRAM EXECUTIVE OFFICERS.**—Before being assigned to a position as a program executive officer, a person—

(1) must have completed the program management course at the Defense Systems Management College or a management program at an accredited educational institution in the private sector determined to be comparable by the Secretary of Defense, acting through the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment;

(2) must have at least 10 years experience in an acquisition position, at least four years of which were performed while assigned to a critical acquisition position; and

(3) must have held a position as a program manager or a deputy program manager.

(d) **GENERAL AND FLAG OFFICERS AND CIVILIANS IN EQUIVALENT POSITIONS.**—Before a general or flag officer, or a civilian serving in a position equivalent in grade to the grade of such an officer, may be assigned to a critical acquisition po-

sition, the person must have at least 10 years experience in an acquisition position, at least four years of which were performed while assigned to a critical acquisition position.

(e) **SENIOR CONTRACTING OFFICIALS.**—Before a person may be assigned to a critical acquisition position as a senior contracting official, the person must have at least four years experience in contracting.

(Added Pub. L. 101–510, div. A, title XII, § 1202(a), Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1648; amended Pub. L. 102–484, div. A, title VIII, § 812(d), Oct. 23, 1992, 106 Stat. 2451; Pub. L. 103–160, div. A, title IX, § 904(d)(1), Nov. 30, 1993, 107 Stat. 1728; Pub. L. 107–107, div. A, title X, § 1048(b)(2), Dec. 28, 2001, 115 Stat. 1225; Pub. L. 116–92, div. A, title IX, § 902(20), Dec. 20, 2019, 133 Stat. 1545.)

**Editorial Notes**

**AMENDMENTS**

2019—Subsec. (c)(1). Pub. L. 116–92 substituted “Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment” for “Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics”.

2001—Subsec. (c)(1). Pub. L. 107–107 substituted “Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics” for “Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology”.

1993—Subsec. (c)(1). Pub. L. 103–160 substituted “Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology” for “Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition”.

1992—Subsec. (b)(3). Pub. L. 102–484 struck out “or deputy program manager” after “program manager” in subpars. (A) and (B), struck out “and” at end of subpar. (A), substituted semicolon for period at end of subpar. (B), and added subpars. (C) and (D).

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

**FULFILLMENT STANDARDS FOR MANDATORY TRAINING**

For provisions relating to development of fulfillment standards for purposes of the training requirements of this section, see section 812(c) of Pub. L. 102–484, set out as a note under section 1723 of this title.

**[§ 1736. Repealed. Pub. L. 107–107, div. A, title X, § 1048(c)(6)(A), Dec. 28, 2001, 115 Stat. 1227]**

Section, added Pub. L. 101–510, div. A, title XII, § 1202(a), Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1649, related to applicability of the qualification requirements.

**§ 1737. Definitions and general provisions**

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this subchapter:

(1) The term “program manager” means, with respect to a defense acquisition program, the member of the acquisition workforce responsible for managing the program, regardless of the title given the member.

(2) The term “deputy program manager” means the person who has authority to act on behalf of the program manager in the absence of the program manager.

(3) The term “significant nonmajor defense acquisition program” means a Department of Defense acquisition program that is not a major defense acquisition program (as defined in section 4201 of this title) and that is estimated by the Secretary of Defense to require an eventual total expenditure for research, development, test, and evaluation of more than

the dollar threshold set forth in section 3041(b)(1) of this title for such purposes for a major system or an eventual total expenditure for procurement of more than the dollar threshold set forth in section 3041(b)(1) of this title for such purpose for a major system.

(4) The term “program executive officer” has the meaning given such term in regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense.

(5) The term “senior contracting official” means a director of contracting, or a principal deputy to a director of contracting, serving in the office of the Secretary of a military department, the headquarters of a military department, the head of a Defense Agency, a subordinate command headquarters, or in a major systems or logistics contracting activity in the Department of Defense.

(b) LIMITATION.—Any civilian or military member of the acquisition workforce who does not meet the education, training, and experience requirements for a critical acquisition position established under this subchapter may not carry out the duties or exercise the authorities of that position, except for a period not to exceed six months, unless a waiver of the requirements is granted under subsection (c).

(c) WAIVER.—The Secretary of each military department (acting through the service acquisition executive for that department) or the Secretary of Defense (acting through the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment) for Defense Agencies and other components of the Department of Defense may waive, on a case-by-case basis, the requirements established under this subchapter with respect to the assignment of an individual to a particular critical acquisition position. Such a waiver may be granted only if unusual circumstances justify the waiver or if the Secretary concerned (or official to whom the waiver authority is delegated) determines that the individual’s qualifications obviate the need for meeting the education, training, and experience requirements established under this subchapter.

(Added Pub. L. 101–510, div. A, title XII, §1202(a), Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1650; amended Pub. L. 102–190, div. A, title X, §1061(a)(8), (c), Dec. 5, 1991, 105 Stat. 1472, 1475; Pub. L. 103–160, div. A, title IX, §904(d)(1), Nov. 30, 1993, 107 Stat. 1728; Pub. L. 107–107, div. A, title X, §1048(b)(2), Dec. 28, 2001, 115 Stat. 1225; Pub. L. 108–136, div. A, title VIII, §§831(b)(5), 832(b)(4), 833(2), Nov. 24, 2003, 117 Stat. 1549, 1550; Pub. L. 116–92, div. A, title VIII, §861(j)(11), title IX, §902(21), Dec. 20, 2019, 133 Stat. 1520, 1545; Pub. L. 116–283, div. A, title XVIII, §§1806(e)(4), 1846(i)(4), Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 4156, 4252.)

#### Editorial Notes

##### AMENDMENTS

2021—Subsec. (a)(3). Pub. L. 116–283 substituted “section 4201” for “section 2430” and substituted “section 3041(b)(1)” for “section 2302(5)(A)” in two places.

2019—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 116–92, §861(j)(11)(A), substituted “of the acquisition workforce” for “of the Acquisition Corps”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 116–92, §861(j)(11)(B), substituted “of the acquisition workforce” for “of the Corps”.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 116–92, §902(21), substituted “Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and

Sustainment” for “Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics”.

2003—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 108–136, §833(2), substituted “the Acquisition Corps” for “an Acquisition Corps”.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 108–136, §831(b)(5), substituted “The Secretary” for “(1) The Secretary” and struck out par. (2) which read as follows: “The authority to grant such waivers may be delegated—

“(A) in the case of the service acquisition executives of the military departments, only to the Director of Acquisition Career Management for the military department concerned; and

“(B) in the case of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, only to the Director of Acquisition Education, Training, and Career Development.”

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 108–136, §832(b)(4), struck out heading and text of subsec. (d). Text read as follows: “The Secretary of Defense shall submit any requirement with respect to civilian employees established under this subchapter to the Director of the Office of Personnel Management for approval. If the Director does not disapprove the requirement within 30 days after the date on which the Director receives the requirement, the requirement is deemed to be approved by the Director.”

2001—Subsec. (c)(1), (2)(B). Pub. L. 107–107 substituted “Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics” for “Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology”.

1993—Subsec. (c)(1), (2)(B). Pub. L. 103–160 substituted “Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology” for “Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition”.

1991—Subsec. (a)(3). Pub. L. 102–190, §1061(c), substituted “the dollar threshold set forth in section 2302(5)(A) of this title for such purposes for a major system” for “\$50,000,000 (based on fiscal year 1980 constant dollars)” and “the dollar threshold set forth in section 2302(5)(A) of this title for such purpose for a major system” for “\$250,000,000 (based on fiscal year 1980 constant dollars)”.

Subsec. (c)(2)(B). Pub. L. 102–190, §1061(a)(8), struck out comma after “Director of Acquisition”.

#### Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

##### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2021 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 116–283 effective Jan. 1, 2022, with additional provisions for delayed implementation and applicability of existing law, see section 1801(d) of Pub. L. 116–283, set out as a note preceding section 3001 of this title.

#### SUBCHAPTER IV—EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Sec.	
1741.	Policies and programs: establishment and implementation.
1742.	Internship, cooperative education, and scholarship programs.
1743.	Awards to recognize members of the acquisition workforce.
[1744. Repealed.]	
1745.	Additional education and training programs available to acquisition personnel.
1746.	Defense Acquisition University.
1746a.	Acquisition workforce educational partnerships.
1747.	Acquisition fellowship program.
1748.	Fulfillment standards for acquisition workforce training.
1749.	Field training for acquisition and sustainment.

#### Editorial Notes

##### AMENDMENTS

2024—Pub. L. 118–159, div. A, title VIII, §832(b), Dec. 23, 2024, 138 Stat. 1986, which directed amendment of