

agencies of the Federal Government and from State and local governments; and

“(C) otherwise advise and assist the Director in the discharge of the duties of the Office of Community Support for Military Families With Special Needs in such manner as the Secretary of Defense and the Director jointly determine appropriate.

“(4) MEETINGS.—The Director shall meet with the advisory panel at such times, and with such frequency, as the Director considers appropriate. The Director shall meet with the panel at least once each year. The Director may meet with the panel through teleconferencing or by other electronic means.”

§ 1782. Surveys of military families

(a) **AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary of Defense, in order to determine the effectiveness of Federal programs relating to military families and the need for new programs, may conduct surveys of—

- (1) members of the armed forces who are on active duty, in an active status, or retired;
- (2) family members of such members; and
- (3) survivors of deceased retired members and of members who died while on active duty.

(b) **RESPONSES TO BE VOLUNTARY.**—Responses to surveys conducted under this section shall be voluntary.

(c) **FEDERAL RECORDKEEPING REQUIREMENTS.**—With respect to a survey authorized under subsection (a) that includes a person referred to in that subsection who is not an employee of the United States or is not otherwise considered an employee of the United States for the purposes of section 3502(3)(A)(i) of title 44, the person shall be considered as being an employee of the United States for the purposes of that section.

(d) **SURVEY REQUIRED FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010.**—Notwithstanding subsection (a), during fiscal year 2010, the Secretary of Defense shall conduct a survey otherwise authorized under such subsection. Thereafter, additional surveys may be conducted not less often than once every three fiscal years.

(Added Pub. L. 104–106, div. A, title V, §568(a)(1), Feb. 10, 1996, 110 Stat. 330; amended Pub. L. 107–107, div. A, title V, §572, Dec. 28, 2001, 115 Stat. 1122; Pub. L. 110–181, div. A, title V, §581(c), Jan. 28, 2008, 122 Stat. 122.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2008—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 110–181 added subsec. (d).

2001—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 107–107, §572(a), reenacted heading without change and amended text generally. Text read as follows: “The Secretary of Defense may conduct surveys of members of the armed forces on active duty or in an active status, members of the families of such members, and retired members of the armed forces to determine the effectiveness of Federal programs relating to military families and the need for new programs.”

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 107–107, §572(b), reenacted heading without change and amended text generally. Text read as follows: “With respect to such surveys, family members of members of the armed forces and reserve and retired members of the armed forces shall be considered to be employees of the United States for purposes of section 3502(3)(A)(i) of title 44.”

§ 1783. Family members serving on advisory committees

A committee within the Department of Defense which advises or assists the Department in

the performance of any function which affects members of military families and which includes members of military families in its membership shall not be considered an advisory committee under section 1001(2) of title 5 solely because of such membership.

(Added Pub. L. 104–106, div. A, title V, §568(a)(1), Feb. 10, 1996, 110 Stat. 330; amended Pub. L. 117–286, §4(a)(50), Dec. 27, 2022, 136 Stat. 4311.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2022—Pub. L. 117–286 substituted “section 1001(2) of title 5” for “section 3(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.)”.

§ 1784. Employment opportunities for military spouses

(a) **AUTHORITY.**—The President shall order such measures as the President considers necessary to increase employment opportunities for spouses of members of the armed forces. Such measures may include—

- (1) excepting, pursuant to section 3302 of title 5, from the competitive service positions in the Department of Defense located outside of the United States to provide employment opportunities for qualified spouses of members of the armed forces in the same geographical area as the permanent duty station of the members; and

- (2) providing preference in hiring for positions in nonappropriated fund activities to qualified spouses of members of the armed forces stationed in the same geographical area as the nonappropriated fund activity for positions in wage grade UA–8 and below and equivalent positions and for positions paid at hourly rates.

(b) **REGULATIONS.**—The Secretary of Defense shall prescribe regulations—

- (1) to implement such measures as the President orders under subsection (a);

- (2) to provide preference to qualified spouses of members of the armed forces in hiring for any civilian position in the Department of Defense if the spouse is among persons determined to be best qualified for the position and if the position is located in the same geographical area as the permanent duty station of the member;

- (3) to ensure that notice of any vacant position in the Department of Defense is provided in a manner reasonably designed to reach spouses of members of the armed forces whose permanent duty stations are in the same geographic area as the area in which the position is located; and

- (4) to ensure that the spouse of a member of the armed forces who applies for a vacant position in the Department of Defense shall, to the extent practicable, be considered for any such position located in the same geographic area as the permanent duty station of the member.

(c) **STATUS OF PREFERENCE ELIGIBLES.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to provide a spouse of a member of the armed forces with preference in hiring over an individual who is a preference eligible.