

(b) Salary; travel and other expenses

(1) The salary of a member of the Service assigned under this section shall be the higher of the salary which that member would receive but for the assignment under this section or the salary of the position to which that member is assigned.

(2) The salary of a member of the Service assigned under this section shall be paid from appropriations made available for the payment of salaries and expenses of the Service. Such appropriations may be reimbursed for all or any part of the costs of salaries and other benefits for members assigned under this section.

(3) A member of the Service assigned under subsection (a)(4) to a Member or office of the Congress shall be deemed to be an employee of the House of Representatives or the Senate, as the case may be, for purposes of payment of travel and other expenses.

(c) Length of assignment

Except as otherwise provided in subsection (d)(5), assignments under this section may not exceed four years of continuous service for any member of the Service unless the Secretary approves an extension of such period for that member because of special circumstances.

(d) Assignment to the American Institute in Taiwan

(1) The Secretary may assign a member of the Service, or otherwise detail an employee of the Department, for duty at the American Institute in Taiwan, if the Secretary determines that to do so is in the national interest of the United States.

(2) The head of any other department or agency of the United States may, with the concurrence of the Secretary, detail an employee of that department or agency to the American Institute in Taiwan, if the Secretary determines that to do so is in the national interest of the United States.

(3) In this subsection, the term “employee” does not include—

(A) a noncareer appointee, limited term appointee, or limited emergency appointee (as such terms are defined in section 3132(a) of title 5) in the Senior Executive Service; or

(B) an employee in a position that has been excepted from the competitive service by reason of its confidential, policy-determining, policy-making, or policy-advocating character.

(4) An assignment or detail under this subsection may be made with or without reimbursement from the American Institute in Taiwan.

(5) The period of an assignment or detail under this subsection shall not exceed a total of 6 years, except that the Secretary (or any other head of a department or agency of the United States, with the concurrence of the Secretary) may extend the period of an assignment or detail for an additional period of not more than 6 years.

(Pub. L. 96-465, title I, § 503, Oct. 17, 1980, 94 Stat. 2093; Pub. L. 107-228, div. A, title III, § 326, Sept. 30, 2002, 116 Stat. 1386.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2002—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 107-228, § 326(2), substituted “Except as otherwise provided in subsection (d)(5), assignments” for “Assignments”.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 107-228, § 326(1), added subsec. (d).

§ 3984. Service in United States and abroad**(a) Obligation to serve abroad; length of stay in United States**

Career members of the Service shall be obligated to serve abroad and shall be expected to serve abroad for substantial portions of their careers. The Secretary shall establish by regulation limitations upon assignments of members of the Service within the United States. A member of the Service may not be assigned to duty within the United States for any period of continuous service exceeding eight years unless the Secretary approves an extension of such period for that member because of special circumstances.

(b) Intermittent duty within United States

Consistent with the needs of the Service, the Secretary shall seek to assign each career member of the Service who is a citizen of the United States (other than those employed in accordance with section 3951 of this title) to duty within the United States at least once during each period of fifteen years that the member is in the Service.

(c) Sabbaticals

The Secretary may grant a sabbatical to a career member of the Senior Foreign Service for not to exceed eleven months in order to permit the member to engage in study or uncompensated work experience which will contribute to the development and effectiveness of the member. A sabbatical may be granted under this subsection under conditions specified by the Secretary in light of the provisions of section 3396(c) of title 5, which apply to sabbaticals granted to members of the Senior Executive Service.

(Pub. L. 96-465, title I, § 504, Oct. 17, 1980, 94 Stat. 2094; Pub. L. 103-236, title I, § 180(a)(5), Apr. 30, 1994, 108 Stat. 416.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

1994—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 103-236 inserted “(other than those employed in accordance with section 3951 of this title)” after “citizen of the United States”.

§ 3985. Temporary details

A period of duty of not more than six months in duration by a member of the Service shall be considered a temporary detail and shall not be considered an assignment within the meaning of this subchapter.

(Pub. L. 96-465, title I, § 505, Oct. 17, 1980, 94 Stat. 2094.)

SUBCHAPTER VI—PROMOTION AND
RETENTION

§ 4001. Promotions

(a) Method of promotion

Career members of the Senior Foreign Service are promoted by appointment under section 3942(a) of this title to a higher salary class in the Senior Foreign Service. Members of the Senior Foreign Service serving under career candidate appointments or noncareer appointments are promoted by appointment under section 3943 of this title to a higher salary class in the Senior Foreign Service. Foreign Service officers, and Foreign Service personnel who are assigned to a class in the Foreign Service Schedule, are promoted by appointment under section 3942(a) of this title as career members of the Senior Foreign Service or by assignment under section 3964 of this title to a higher salary class in the Foreign Service Schedule.

(b) Recommendations and rankings of selection boards

Except as provided in section 4006(a) of this title, promotions of—

- (1) members of the Senior Foreign Service, and
- (2) members of the Service assigned to a salary class in the Foreign Service Schedule (including promotions of such members into the Senior Foreign Service),

shall be based upon the recommendations and rankings of selection boards established under section 4002 of this title, except that the Secretary may by regulation specify categories of career members, categories of career candidates, and other members of the Service assigned to salary classes in the Foreign Service Schedule who may receive promotions on the basis of satisfactory performance.

(c) Eligibility; request for promotion; time of consideration; withdrawal of request; basis for decision; affidavits

(1) Promotions into the Senior Foreign Service shall be recommended by selection boards only from among career members of the Service assigned to class 1 in the Foreign Service Schedule who request that they be considered for promotion into the Senior Foreign Service. The Secretary shall prescribe the length of the period after such a request is made (within any applicable time in class limitation established under section 4007(a) of this title) during which such members may be considered by selection boards for entry into the Senior Foreign Service. A request by a member for consideration for promotion into the Senior Foreign Service under this subsection may be withdrawn by the member, but if it is withdrawn, that member may not thereafter request consideration for promotion into the Senior Foreign Service.

(2) Decisions by the Secretary on the numbers of individuals to be promoted into and retained in the Senior Foreign Service shall be based upon a systematic long-term projection of personnel flows and needs designed to provide—

- (A) a regular, predictable flow of recruitment in the Service;
- (B) effective career development patterns to meet the needs of the Service; and

(C) a regular, predictable flow of talent upward through the ranks and into the Senior Foreign Service.

(3) The affidavit requirements of sections 3332 and 3333(a) of title 5 shall not apply with respect to a member of the Service who has previously complied with those requirements and who subsequently is promoted by appointment to any class in the Senior Foreign Service without a break in service.

(4), (5) Repealed. Pub. L. 114-323, title VII, § 715(b)(5), Dec. 16, 2016, 130 Stat. 1946.

(6)(A) The promotion, on or after January 1, 2017, of any Foreign Service officer, appointed under section 3942(a)(1) of this title, who has general responsibility for carrying out the functions of the Service to the Senior Foreign Service shall be contingent upon such individual completing at least one tour in—

- (i) a global affairs bureau; or
- (ii) a global affairs position.

(B) The requirements under subparagraph (A) shall not apply if the Secretary certifies that the individual proposed for promotion to the Senior Foreign Service—

- (i) has met all other requirements applicable to such promotion; and
- (ii) was unable to complete a tour in a global affairs bureau or global affairs position because there was not a reasonable opportunity for such individual to be assigned to such a position.

(C) In this paragraph—

(i) the term “global affairs bureau” means any bureau of the Department that is under the responsibility of—

- (I) the Under Secretary for Economic Growth, Energy, and Environment;
- (II) the Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security Affairs;
- (III) the Under Secretary for Management;
- (IV) the Assistant Secretary for International Organization Affairs;
- (V) the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs; or
- (VI) the Under Secretary for Civilian, Security, Democracy, and Human Rights; and

(ii) the term “global affairs position” means any position funded with amounts appropriated to the Department under the heading “Diplomatic Policy and Support”.

(Pub. L. 96-465, title I, § 601, Oct. 17, 1980, 94 Stat. 2094; Pub. L. 100-204, title I, § 185(b), Dec. 22, 1987, 101 Stat. 1366; Pub. L. 103-236, title I, § 180(a)(6), Apr. 30, 1994, 108 Stat. 416; Pub. L. 106-113, div. B, § 1000(a)(7) [div. A, title III, § 326], Nov. 29, 1999, 113 Stat. 1536, 1501A-437; Pub. L. 114-291, § 6, Dec. 16, 2016, 130 Stat. 1498; Pub. L. 114-323, title IV, § 403, title VII, § 715(b)(5), Dec. 16, 2016, 130 Stat. 1927, 1946; Pub. L. 117-81, div. E, title LIII, § 5307, Dec. 27, 2021, 135 Stat. 2362.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2021—Subsec. (c)(6)(A). Pub. L. 117-81, in introductory provisions, substituted “promotion, on or after January 1, 2017,” for “promotion” and “Foreign Service officer, appointed under section 3942(a)(1) of this title, who