

Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology, was to develop, not later than 90 days after Oct. 23, 1992, fulfillment standards, and implement a program, for purposes of the training requirements of sections 1723, 1724, and 1735 of this title, and that the standards were to take effect as of Nov. 5, 1990, and cease to be in effect on Oct. 1, 1997.

**§ 1724. Contracting positions: qualification requirements**

(a) **CONTRACTING OFFICERS.**—The Secretary of Defense shall require that, in order to qualify to serve in an acquisition position as a contracting officer with authority to award or administer contracts for amounts above the simplified acquisition threshold referred to in section 2304(g) of this title, an employee of the Department of Defense or member of the armed forces (other than the Coast Guard) must, except as provided in subsections (c) and (d)—

(1) have completed all contracting courses required for a contracting officer (A) in the case of an employee, serving in the position within the grade of the General Schedule in which the employee is serving, and (B) in the case of a member of the armed forces, in the member's grade;

(2) have at least two years of experience in a contracting position;

(3)(A) have received a baccalaureate degree from an accredited educational institution authorized to grant baccalaureate degrees, and (B) have completed at least 24 semester credit hours (or the equivalent) of study from an accredited institution of higher education in any of the following disciplines: accounting, business, finance, law, contracts, purchasing, economics, industrial management, marketing, quantitative methods, and organization and management; and

(4) meet such additional requirements, based on the dollar value and complexity of the contracts awarded or administered in the position, as may be established by the Secretary of Defense for the position.

(b) **GS-1102 SERIES POSITIONS AND SIMILAR MILITARY POSITIONS.**—(1) The Secretary of Defense shall require that in order to qualify to serve in a position in the Department of Defense that is in the GS-1102 occupational series an employee or potential employee of the Department of Defense meet the requirements set forth in paragraph (3) of subsection (a). The Secretary may not require that in order to serve in such a position an employee or potential employee meet any of the requirements of paragraphs (1) and (2) of that subsection.

(2) The Secretary of Defense shall require that in order for a member of the armed forces to be selected for an occupational specialty within the armed forces that (as determined by the Secretary) is similar to the GS-1102 occupational series a member of the armed forces meet the requirements set forth in paragraph (3) of subsection (a). The Secretary may not require that in order to be selected for such an occupational specialty a member meet any of the requirements of paragraphs (1) and (2) of that subsection.

(c) **EXCEPTIONS.**—The qualification requirements imposed by the Secretary of Defense pur-

suant to subsections (a) and (b) shall not apply to an employee of the Department of Defense or member of the armed forces who—

(1) served as a contracting officer with authority to award or administer contracts in excess of the simplified acquisition threshold on or before September 30, 2000;

(2) served, on or before September 30, 2000, in a position either as an employee in the GS-1102 series or as a member of the armed forces in a similar occupational specialty;

(3) is in the contingency contracting force; or

(4) is described in subsection (e)(1)(B).

(d) **WAIVER.**—The Secretary of Defense may waive any or all of the requirements of subsections (a) and (b) with respect to an employee of the Department of Defense or member of the armed forces if the Secretary determines that the individual possesses significant potential for advancement to levels of greater responsibility and authority, based on demonstrated job performance and qualifying experience. With respect to each waiver granted under this subsection, the Secretary shall set forth in a written document the rationale for the decision of the Secretary to waive such requirements.

(e) **DEVELOPMENTAL OPPORTUNITIES.**—(1) The Secretary of Defense may—

(A) establish or continue one or more programs for the purpose of recruiting, selecting, appointing, educating, qualifying, and developing the careers of individuals to meet the requirements in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (a)(3);

(B) appoint individuals to developmental positions in those programs; and

(C) separate from the civil service after a three-year probationary period any individual appointed under this subsection who fails to meet the requirements described in subsection (a)(3).

(2) To qualify for any developmental program described in paragraph (1)(B), an individual shall have—

(A) been awarded a baccalaureate degree, with a grade point average of at least 3.0 (or the equivalent), from an accredited institution of higher education authorized to grant baccalaureate degrees; or

(B) completed at least 24 semester credit hours or the equivalent of study from an accredited institution of higher education in any of the disciplines of accounting, business, finance, law, contracts, purchasing, economics, industrial management, marketing, quantitative methods, or organization and management.

(f) **CONTINGENCY CONTRACTING FORCE.**—The Secretary shall establish qualification requirements for the contingency contracting force consisting of members of the armed forces whose mission is to deploy in support of contingency operations and other operations of the Department of Defense, including—

(1) completion of at least 24 semester credit hours or the equivalent of study from an accredited institution of higher education or similar educational institution in any of the disciplines of accounting, business, finance,

law, contracts, purchasing, economics, industrial management, marketing, quantitative methods, or organization and management; or (2) passing an examination that demonstrates skills, knowledge, or abilities comparable to that of an individual who has completed at least 24 semester credit hours or the equivalent of study in any of the disciplines described in paragraph (1).

(Added Pub. L. 101-510, div. A, title XII, §1202(a), Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1642; amended Pub. L. 103-35, title I, §101, May 31, 1993, 107 Stat. 97; Pub. L. 104-201, div. A, title X, §1074(a)(9)(B), Sept. 23, 1996, 110 Stat. 2659; Pub. L. 106-398, §1 [[div. A], title VIII, §808(a)-(d)], Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1654, 1654A-208; Pub. L. 107-107, div. A, title VIII, §824(a), Dec. 28, 2001, 115 Stat. 1183; Pub. L. 108-136, div. A, title VIII, §831(b)(1), Nov. 24, 2003, 117 Stat. 1549; Pub. L. 108-375, div. A, title X, §1084(d)(14), (h)(1), Oct. 28, 2004, 118 Stat. 2062, 2064.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

The General Schedule, referred to in subsec. (a)(1)(A), is set out under section 5332 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

#### AMENDMENTS

2004—Subsec. (a)(3)(B). Pub. L. 108-375, §1084(h)(1), amended directory language of Pub. L. 107-107, §824(a)(1)(C). See 2001 Amendment note below.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 108-375, §1084(d)(14), substituted “the decision of the Secretary” for “its decision” before “to waive such requirements”.

2003—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 108-136 substituted “The Secretary of Defense may waive any or all of the requirements of subsections (a) and (b) with respect to an employee of the Department of Defense or member of the armed forces if the Secretary determines” for “The acquisition career program board concerned may waive any or all of the requirements of subsections (a) and (b) with respect to an employee of the Department of Defense or member of the armed forces if the board certifies” in first sentence and “the Secretary” for “the board” in second sentence, and struck out third sentence which read “Such document shall be submitted to and retained by the Director of Acquisition Education, Training, and Career Development.”

2001—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 107-107, §824(a)(1)(A), reenacted heading without change and substituted introductory provisions for provisions which read “The Secretary of Defense shall require that in order to qualify to serve in an acquisition position as a contracting officer with authority to award or administer contracts for amounts above the simplified acquisition threshold referred to in section 2304(g) of this title, a person must—”.

Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 107-107, §824(a)(1)(B), struck out “mandatory” before “contracting courses” and substituted cls. (A) and (B) for “at the grade level, or in the position within the grade of the General Schedule (in the case of an employee), that the person is serving in;”.

Subsec. (a)(3)(B). Pub. L. 107-107, §824(a)(1)(C), as amended by Pub. L. 108-375, §1084(h)(1), inserted comma after “business”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 107-107, §824(a)(2), added subsec. (b) and struck out former subsec. (b) which read as follows:

“(b) GS-1102 SERIES POSITIONS AND SIMILAR MILITARY POSITIONS.—The Secretary of Defense shall require that a person meet the requirements set forth in paragraph (3) of subsection (a), but not the other requirements set forth in that subsection, in order to qualify to serve in a position in the Department of Defense in—

“(1) the GS-1102 occupational series; or

“(2) a similar occupational specialty if the position is to be filled by a member of the armed forces.”

Subsecs. (c) to (f). Pub. L. 107-107, §824(a)(3), added subsecs. (c) to (f) and struck out former subsecs. (c) and (d) which related to exception to requirements of subsecs. (a) and (b) and waiver of such requirements, respectively.

2000—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 106-398, §1 [[div. A], title VIII, §808(d)], struck out “(except as provided in subsections (c) and (d))” after “a person must” in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (a)(3). Pub. L. 106-398, §1 [[div. A], title VIII, §808(b)(1)], inserted “and” before “(B) have completed” and struck out “, or (C) have passed an examination considered by the Secretary of Defense to demonstrate skills, knowledge, or abilities comparable to that of an individual who has completed at least 24 semester credit hours (or the equivalent) of study from an accredited institution of higher education in any of the disciplines listed in subparagraph (B)” after “organization and management”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 106-398, §1 [[div. A], title VIII, §808(b)(2)], amended heading and text of subsec. (b) generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “The Secretary of Defense shall require that a person may not be employed by the Department of Defense in the GS-1102 occupational series unless the person (except as provided in subsections (c) and (d)) meets the requirements set forth in subsection (a)(3).”

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 106-398, §1 [[div. A], title VIII, §808(c)], amended heading and text of subsec. (c) generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows:

“(1) The requirements set forth in subsections (a)(3) and (b) shall not apply to any employee who, on October 1, 1991, has at least 10 years of experience in acquisition positions, in comparable positions in other government agencies or the private sector, or in similar positions in which an individual obtains experience directly relevant to the field of contracting.

“(2) The requirements of subsections (a) and (b) shall not apply to any employee for purposes of qualifying to serve in the position in which the employee is serving on October 1, 1993, or any other position in the same or lower grade and involving the same or lower level of responsibilities as the position in which the employee is serving on such date.”

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 106-398, §1 [[div. A], title VIII, §808(a)], in first sentence, substituted “employee or member of” for “employee of” and “employee or member possesses” for “employee possesses”.

1996—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 104-201, in introductory provisions, struck out “, beginning on October 1, 1993,” after “require that” and substituted “simplified acquisition threshold” for “small purchase threshold”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 104-201, §1074(a)(9)(B)(ii), struck out “, beginning on October 1, 1993,” after “require that”.

1993—Subsec. (c)(2). Pub. L. 103-35 inserted “or lower” before “grade” and before “level”.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2004 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 108-375, div. A, title X, §1084(h), Oct. 28, 2004, 118 Stat. 2064, provided that the amendment made by section 1084(h) [amending this section, section 1732 of this title, and provisions set out as a note under section 5949 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees] is effective as of Dec. 28, 2001, and as if included in Pub. L. 107-107 as enacted.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2000 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 106-398, §1 [[div. A], title VIII, §808(e)], Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1654, 1654A-208, provided that: “This section [amending this section], and the amendments made by this section, shall take effect on October 1, 2000, and shall apply to appointments and assignments to contracting positions made on or after that date.”

#### TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of authorities, functions, personnel, and assets of the Coast Guard, including the authorities

and functions of the Secretary of Transportation relating thereto, to the Department of Homeland Security, and for treatment of related references, see sections 468(b), 551(d), 552(d), and 557 of Title 6, Domestic Security, and the Department of Homeland Security Reorganization Plan of November 25, 2002, as modified, set out as a note under section 542 of Title 6.

#### 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.

#### CREDIT FOR EXPERIENCE IN CERTAIN POSITIONS

Section 1209(i) of Pub. L. 101-510, as amended by Pub. L. 102-25, title VII, §704(b)(3)(D), Apr. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 119, provided that: "For purposes of meeting any requirement under chapter 87 of title 10, United States Code (as added by section 1202), for a period of experience (such as requirements for experience in acquisition positions or in critical acquisition positions) and for purposes of coverage under the exceptions established by section 1724(c)(1) and section 1732(c)(1) of such title, any period of time spent serving in a position later designated as an acquisition position or a critical acquisition position under such chapter may be counted as experience in such a position for such purposes."

### **[§ 1725. Repealed. Pub. L. 108-136, div. A, title VIII, §832(a), Nov. 24, 2003, 117 Stat. 1550; amended Pub. L. 108-375, div. A, title X, § 1084(f)(1), Oct. 28, 2004, 118 Stat. 2064]**

Section, added Pub. L. 101-510, div. A, title XII, §1202(a), Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1643, related to Office of Personnel Management approval.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2004 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 108-375, div. A, title X, §1084(f), Oct. 28, 2004, 118 Stat. 2064, provided that the amendment made by section 1084(f) (amending section 832(a) of Pub. L. 108-136, which repealed this section, and sections 1742 and 2611 of this title) is effective as of Nov. 24, 2003, and as if included in Pub. L. 108-136 as enacted.

### SUBCHAPTER III—ACQUISITION CORPS

Sec.	
1731.	Acquisition Corps: in general.
1732.	Selection criteria and procedures.
1733.	Critical acquisition positions.
1734.	Career development.
1735.	Education, training, and experience requirements for critical acquisition positions.
[1736.	Repealed.]
1737.	Definitions and general provisions.

#### AMENDMENTS

2001—Pub. L. 107-107, div. A, title X, §1048(e)(6)(B), Dec. 28, 2001, 115 Stat. 1227, struck out item 1736 "Applicability".

### **§ 1731. Acquisition Corps: in general**

(a) ACQUISITION CORPS.—The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that an Acquisition Corps is established for the Department of Defense.

(b) PROMOTION RATE FOR OFFICERS IN ACQUISITION CORPS.—The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that the qualifications of commissioned officers selected for the Acquisition Corps are such that those officers are expected, as a group, to be promoted at a rate not less than the rate for all line (or the equivalent) officers of the same armed force (both in the zone and below the zone) in the same grade.

(Added Pub. L. 101-510, div. A, title XII, §1202(a), Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1644; amended Pub. L.

108-136, div. A, title VIII, §§832(b)(1), 833(1), Nov. 24, 2003, 117 Stat. 1550.)

#### AMENDMENTS

2003—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 108-136, §833(1)(A), struck out "each of the military departments and one or more Corps, as he considers appropriate, for the other components of" after "established for" in first sentence, and struck out last sentence which read "A separate Acquisition Corps may be established for each of the Navy and the Marine Corps."

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 108-136, §833(1)(B), substituted "the Acquisition Corps" for "an Acquisition Corps".

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 108-136, §832(b)(1), struck out heading and text of subsec. (c). Text read as follows: "The Secretary of Defense shall submit any requirement with respect to civilian employees established under section 1732 of this title 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."

#### PROMOTION RATE FOR OFFICERS IN AN ACQUISITION CORPS

Pub. L. 105-85, div. A, title VIII, §849, Nov. 18, 1997, 111 Stat. 1846, as amended by Pub. L. 106-65, div. A, title IX, §911(a)(1), title X, §1067(4), Oct. 5, 1999, 113 Stat. 717, 774, directed the Secretary of a military department, upon approval, to submit to the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics a copy for review of the report of a selection board which had considered members of an Acquisition Corps of a military department for promotion to a grade above O-4, directed such Under Secretary to submit to committees of Congress a report containing the Under Secretary's assessment of the extent to which each military department was complying with the requirement set forth in section 1731(b) of this title, and provided that this section would cease to be effective on Oct. 1, 2000.

### **§ 1732. Selection criteria and procedures**

(a) SELECTION CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES.—Selection for membership in the Acquisition Corps shall be made in accordance with criteria and procedures established by the Secretary of Defense.

(b) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.—Except as provided in subsections (c) and (d), only persons who meet all of the following requirements may be considered for service in the Corps:

(1) The person must meet the educational requirements prescribed by the Secretary of Defense. Such requirements, at a minimum, shall include both of the following:

(A) A requirement that the person—

(i) has received a baccalaureate degree at an accredited educational institution authorized to grant baccalaureate degrees, or

(ii) possess significant potential for advancement to levels of greater responsibility and authority, based on demonstrated analytical and decisionmaking capabilities, job performance, and qualifying experience.

(B) A requirement that the person has completed—

(i) at least 24 semester credit hours (or the equivalent) of study from an accredited institution of higher education from among the following disciplines: accounting, business finance, law, contracts, purchasing, economics, industrial manage-