

serve officer or Foreign Service staff officer or employee under the authority of section 7(a)(2) of the Peace Corps Act [subsec. (a)(2) of this section], as amended, and appointed or assigned to an appropriate class thereof; except that—

“(1) no person who holds a career or career-conditional appointment immediately prior to the effective date of section 4(a) of this Act [see effective date of 1965 Amendment note above] shall, without his consent, be so appointed until three years after such effective date; and

“(2) each person so appointed who, immediately prior to the effective date of section 4(a) of this Act [see effective date of 1965 Amendment note above], held a career or career-conditional appointment at grade 8 or below of the General Schedule established by the Classification Act of 1949, as amended [see § 5101 et seq. of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees], shall receive an appointment for the duration of operations under the Peace Corps Act, as amended [see Short Title note set out under section 2501 of this title].

Each person appointed under this subsection shall receive basic compensation at the rate of his class determined by the President to be appropriate, but the rate of basic compensation received by such person immediately prior to the effective date of his appointment under this subsection shall not be reduced by the provisions of this subsection.”

[Functions of the President conferred by section 5(b) of Pub. L. 89-134, set out above, to prescribe regulations and make determinations (relating to appointment of Peace Corps Employees in the Foreign Service System) were delegated to the Director of the Peace Corps, by section 1-105 of Ex. Ord. No. 12137, May 16, 1976, 44 F.R. 29023, set out as a note under section 2501 of this title. Such functions were previously transferred from the President to the Director of ACTION [now Corporation for National and Community Service] by section 102(c) of Ex. Ord. No. 11603, June 30, 1971, 36 F.R. 12675, set out as a note under section 2501 of this title, which was superseded by section 1-707 of Ex. Ord. No. 12137.]

§ 2507. Training program

(a) Applicants for enrollment and enrolled volunteers

The President shall make provision for such training, including training under section 2507a of this title, as he deems appropriate for each applicant for enrollment as a volunteer and each enrolled volunteer. All of the provisions of this chapter applicable respectively to volunteers and volunteer leaders shall be applicable to applicants for enrollment as such during any period of training occurring prior to enrollment, and the respective terms “volunteers” and “volunteer leaders” shall include such applicants during any such period of training.

(b) Citizen trainees for voluntary programs; foreign nationals as trainees; advances of funds or reimbursement basis; use of credits

The President may also make provision, on the basis of advances of funds or reimbursement to the United States, for training for citizens of the United States, other than those referred to in subsection (a) of this section, who have been selected for service abroad in programs not carried out under authority of this chapter which are similar to those authorized by this chapter. The provisions of section 2508 of this title shall apply, on a similar advance of funds or a reimbursement basis, with respect to persons while within the United States for training under authority of this subsection. Advances or reim-

bursements received under this subsection may be credited to the current applicable appropriation, fund, or account and shall be available for the purposes for which such appropriation, fund, or account is authorized to be used.

(Pub. L. 87-293, title I, § 8, Sept. 22, 1961, 75 Stat. 616; Pub. L. 102-511, title IX, § 904, Oct. 24, 1992, 106 Stat. 3356; Pub. L. 112-57, § 8(a)(2), Nov. 21, 2011, 125 Stat. 745.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in subsecs. (a) and (b), was in the original “this Act”, meaning Pub. L. 87-293, Sept. 22, 1961, 75 Stat. 612, as amended, known as the Peace Corps Act. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 2501 of this title and Tables.

AMENDMENTS

2011—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 112-57 inserted “, including training under section 2507a of this title,” after “for such training”.

1992—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 102-511 struck out subsec. (c) which read as follows: “Training hereinabove provided for shall include instruction in the philosophy, strategy, tactics, and menace of communism.”

DELEGATION OF FUNCTIONS

Functions of President under this section delegated to Director of Peace Corps by section 1-103 of Ex. Ord. No. 12137, May 16, 1979, 44 F.R. 29023, eff. May 16, 1979, set out as a note under section 2501 of this title.

§ 2507a. Sexual assault risk-reduction and response training

(a) In general

As part of the training provided to all volunteers under section 2507(a) of this title, the President shall develop and implement comprehensive sexual assault risk-reduction and response training that, to the extent practicable, conforms to best practices in the sexual assault field.

(b) Development and consultation with experts

In developing the sexual assault risk-reduction and response training under subsection (a), the President shall consult with and incorporate, as appropriate, the recommendations and views of experts in the sexual assault field.

(c) Subsequent training

Once a volunteer has arrived in his or her country of service, the President shall provide the volunteer with training tailored to the country of service that includes cultural training relating to gender relations, risk-reduction strategies, treatment available in such country (including sexual assault forensic exams, post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) for HIV exposure, screening for sexually transmitted diseases, and pregnancy testing), MedEvac procedures, and information regarding a victim’s right to pursue legal action against a perpetrator.

(d) Information regarding crimes and risks

Each applicant for enrollment as a volunteer shall be provided with information regarding crimes against and risks to volunteers in the country in which the applicant has been invited to serve, including an overview of past crimes against volunteers in the country.

(e) Contact information

The President shall provide each applicant, before the applicant enrolls as a volunteer, with—

(1) the contact information of the Inspector General of the Peace Corps for purposes of reporting sexual assault mismanagement or any other mismanagement, misconduct, wrongdoing, or violations of law or policy whenever it involves a Peace Corps employee, volunteer, contractor, or outside party that receives funds from the Peace Corps;

(2) clear, written guidelines regarding whom to contact, including the direct telephone number for the designated Sexual Assault Response Liaison (SARL) and the Office of Victim Advocacy and what steps to take in the event of a sexual assault or other crime; and

(3) contact information for a 24-hour sexual assault hotline to be established for the purpose of providing volunteers a mechanism to anonymously—

(A) report sexual assault;

(B) receive crisis counseling in the event of a sexual assault; and

(C) seek information about Peace Corps sexual assault reporting and response procedures.

(f) Definitions

In this section and sections 2507b through 2507g of this title:

(1) Personally identifying information

The term “personally identifying information” means individually identifying information for or about a volunteer who is a victim of sexual assault, including information likely to disclose the location of such victim, including the following:

(A) A first and last name.

(B) A home or other physical address.

(C) Contact information (including a postal, email, or Internet protocol address, or telephone or facsimile number).

(D) A social security number.

(E) Any other information, including date of birth, racial or ethnic background, or religious affiliation, that, in combination with information described in subparagraphs (A) through (D), would serve to identify the victim.

(2) Restricted reporting

(A) In general

The term “restricted reporting” means a system of reporting that allows a volunteer who is sexually assaulted to confidentially disclose the details of his or her assault to specified individuals and receive the services outlined in section 2507b(c) of this title without the dissemination of his or her personally identifying information except as necessary for the provision of such services, and without automatically triggering an official investigative process.

(B) Exceptions

In cases in which volunteers elect restricted reporting, disclosure of their personally identifying information is authorized to the following persons or organizations when disclosure would be for the following reasons:

(i) Peace Corps staff or law enforcement when authorized by the victim in writing.

(ii) Peace Corps staff or law enforcement to prevent or lessen a serious or imminent threat to the health or safety of the victim or another person.

(iii) SARLs, victim advocates or health-care providers when required for the provision of victim services.

(iv) State and Federal courts when ordered, or if disclosure is required by Federal or State statute.

(C) Notice of disclosure and privacy protection

In cases in which information is disclosed pursuant to subparagraph (B), the President shall—

(i) make reasonable attempts to provide notice to the volunteer with respect to whom such information is being released; and

(ii) take such action as is necessary to protect the privacy and safety of the volunteer.

(3) Sexual assault

The term “sexual assault” means any conduct prescribed by chapter 109A of title 18, whether or not the conduct occurs in the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States, and includes both assaults committed by offenders who are strangers to the victim and assaults committed by offenders who are known or related by blood or marriage to the victim.

(4) Stalking

The term “stalking” means engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to—

(A) fear for his or her safety or the safety of others; or

(B) suffer substantial emotional distress.

(Pub. L. 87-293, title I, §8A, as added Pub. L. 112-57, §2, Nov. 21, 2011, 125 Stat. 736.)

OFFSET OF COSTS AND PERSONNEL

Pub. L. 112-57, §9, Nov. 21, 2011, 125 Stat. 745, provided that: “Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Direct [probably should be “Director”] of the Peace Corps shall—

“(1) eliminate such initiatives, positions, and programs within the Peace Corps (other than within the Office of Inspector General) as the Director deems necessary to ensure any and all costs incurred to carry out the provisions of this Act [see Short Title of 2011 Amendment note set out under section 2501 of this title], and the amendments made by this Act, are entirely offset;

“(2) ensure no net increase in personnel are added to carry out the provisions of this Act, with any new full or part time employees or equivalents offset by eliminating an equivalent number of existing staff (other than within the Office of Inspector General);

“(3) report to Congress not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act [Nov. 21, 2011] the actions taken to ensure compliance with paragraphs (1) and (2), including the specific initiatives, positions, and programs within the Peace Corps that have been eliminated to ensure that the costs of carrying out this Act will be offset; and

“(4) not implement any other provision of this Act (other than paragraphs (1), (2), and (3)) or any amendment made by this Act until the Director has certified that the actions specified in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) have been completed.”

§ 2507b. Sexual assault policy**(a) In general**

The President shall develop and implement a comprehensive sexual assault policy that—

- (1) includes a system for restricted and unrestricted reporting of sexual assault;
- (2) mandates, for each Peace Corps country program, the designation of a Sexual Assault Response Liaison (SARL), who shall receive comprehensive training on procedures to respond to reports of sexual assault, with duties including ensuring that volunteers who are victims of sexual assault are moved to a safe environment and accompanying victims through the in-country response at the request of the victim;
- (3) requires SARLs to immediately contact a Victim Advocate upon receiving a report of sexual assault in accordance with the restricted and unrestricted reporting guidelines promulgated by the Peace Corps;
- (4) to the extent practicable, conforms to best practices in the sexual assault field;
- (5) is applicable to all posts at which volunteers serve; and
- (6) includes a guarantee that volunteers will not suffer loss of living allowances for reporting a sexual assault.

(b) Development and consultation with experts

In developing the sexual assault policy under subsection (a), the President shall consult with and incorporate, as appropriate, the recommendations and views of experts in the sexual assault field, including experts with international experience.

(c) Elements

The sexual assault policy developed under subsection (a) shall include, at a minimum, the following services with respect to a volunteer who has been a victim of sexual assault:

- (1) The option of pursuing either restricted or unrestricted reporting of an assault.
- (2) Provision of a SARL and Victim's Advocate to the volunteer.
- (3) At a volunteer's discretion, provision of a sexual assault forensic exam in accordance with applicable host country law.
- (4) If necessary, the provision of emergency health care, including a mechanism for such volunteer to evaluate such provider.
- (5) If necessary, the provision of counseling and psychiatric medication.
- (6) Completion of a safety and treatment plan with the volunteer, if necessary.
- (7) Evacuation of such volunteer for medical treatment, accompanied by a Peace Corps staffer at the request of such volunteer. When evacuated to the United States, such volunteer shall be provided, to the extent practicable, a choice of medical providers including a mechanism for such volunteers to evaluate the provider.
- (8) An explanation to the volunteer of available law enforcement and prosecutorial options, and legal representation.

(d) Training

The President shall train all staff outside the United States regarding the sexual assault policy developed under subsection (a).

(Pub. L. 87-293, title I, §8B, as added Pub. L. 112-57, §2, Nov. 21, 2011, 125 Stat. 738.)

§ 2507c. Office of Victim Advocacy**(a) Establishment of Office of Victims¹ Advocacy****(1) In general**

The President shall establish an Office of Victim Advocacy in Peace Corps headquarters headed by a full-time victim advocate who shall report directly to the Director. The Office of Victim Advocacy may deploy personnel abroad when necessary to help assist victims.

(2) Prohibition

Peace Corps Medical Officers, Safety and Security Officers, and program staff may not serve as victim advocates. The victim advocate referred to in paragraph (1) may not have any other duties in the Peace Corps that are not reasonably connected to victim advocacy.

(3) Exemption

The victim advocate and any additional victim advocates shall be exempt from the limitations specified in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (2) and paragraph (5) under section 2506(a) of this title.

(b) Responsibilities**(1) Victims of sexual assault**

The Office of Victim Advocacy shall help develop and update the sexual assault risk-reduction and response training described in section 2507a of this title and the sexual assault policy described in section 2507b of this title, ensure that volunteers who are victims of sexual assault receive services specified in section 2507b(c) of this title, and facilitate their access to such services.

(2) Other crimes

In addition to assisting victims of sexual assault in accordance with paragraph (1), the Office of Victim Advocacy shall assist volunteers who are victims of crime by making such victims aware of the services available to them and facilitating their access to such services.

(3) Priority

The Office of Victim Advocacy shall give priority to cases involving serious crimes, including sexual assault and stalking.

(c) Status updates

The Office of Victim Advocacy shall provide to volunteers who are victims regular updates on the status of their cases if such volunteers have opted to pursue prosecution.

(d) Transition

The Office of Victim Advocacy shall assist volunteers who are victims of crime and whose service has terminated in receiving the services specified in section 2507b(c) of this title requested by such volunteer.

(e) Sunset

This section shall cease to be effective on October 1, 2018.

(Pub. L. 87-293, title I, §8C, as added Pub. L. 112-57, §2, Nov. 21, 2011, 125 Stat. 739.)

¹ So in original. Probably should be "Victim".