

§ 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 the President 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. As part of the training provided to all volunteers under subsection (a), and in coordination with the Inspector General of the Peace Corps, the President shall provide all volunteers with information regarding the mandate of the Inspector General and the availability (including contact information) of the Inspector General and the Office of Victim Advocacy as a resource for volunteers. The President shall ensure that volunteers receive such information at least once during training that occurs prior to enrollment and at least once during each significant instance of training after enrollment.

(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 reimbursements 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.

(c) Training records

The President shall implement procedures to maintain a record verifying each individual completing training provided to meet each requirement in this section and sections 2507a, 2507b, 2507f, and 2507g(b) of this title.

(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; Pub. L. 115-256, title II, § 201, Oct. 9, 2018, 132 Stat. 3654.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in subssecs. (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

2018—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 115-256, § 201(1) substituted “the President deems” for “he deems” and inserted at end “As part of the training provided to all volunteers under subsection (a), and in coordination with the Inspector General of the Peace Corps, the President shall provide all volunteers with information regarding the mandate of the Inspector General and the availability (including contact information) of the Inspector General and the Office of Victim Advocacy as a resource for volunteers. The President shall ensure that volunteers receive such information at least once during training that occurs prior to enrollment and at least once during each significant instance of training after enrollment.”

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 115-256, § 201(2), added subsec. (c). 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.”

Executive Documents

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

(1) In general

Each applicant for enrollment as a volunteer shall be provided, with respect to each country in which the applicant may be invited to serve, with specific, aggregated, and easily accessible information regarding crimes against and risks to volunteers, including—

(A) an overview of past crimes against volunteers in such country, including statistics

regarding unreported crime collected through anonymous surveys;

(B) the current early termination rate of volunteers serving in such country;

(C) health risks prevalent in such country;

(D) the nature and frequency of sexual harassment reported by volunteers serving in such country;

(E) the extent and types of services provided by the Peace Corps to volunteers serving in such country, including access to medical care, counseling services, and assistance from the Office of Victim Advocacy; and

(F) the level of satisfaction reported by volunteers serving in such country.

(2) Option to timely decline

Upon receiving information¹ described in paragraph (1), the applicant shall have the option to change the country of consideration and identify a substitute 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 reli-

gious 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’s Advocates, or healthcare 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; amended

¹ So in original. Probably should be preceded by “the”.

Pub. L. 115-256, title III, §302, Oct. 9, 2018, 132 Stat. 3656.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2018—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 115-256, §302(1), amended subsec. (d) generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “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.”

Subsec. (f)(2)(B)(iii). Pub. L. 115-256, §302(2), substituted “Victim’s Advocates,” for “victim advocates”.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

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 any employee of the Peace Corps to immediately contact a Victim’s Advocate upon receiving a report of sexual assault in accordance with the restricted and unrestricted reporting guidelines promulgated by the Peace Corps and require the Peace Corps to designate the staff at each post who shall be responsible for providing the services described in subsection (c);

(4) to the extent practicable, conforms to best practices in the sexual assault field;

(5) is applicable to all posts at which volunteers serve;

(6) includes a guarantee that volunteers will not suffer loss of living allowances for reporting a sexual assault;

(7) maintains a record documenting the resignation of any employee or volunteer of the Peace Corps who resigns before a determination has been made regarding an alleged violation of the sexual misconduct policy or other serious policy violations;

(8) takes into account the record maintained under paragraph (7) before such employee or volunteer is hired, enrolled, or otherwise invited to work with the Peace Corps;

(9) provides orientation or information regarding the awareness and prevention of sexual assault and sexual harassment to—

(A) Peace Corps-selected host families; and

(B) a designated person of authority at the volunteer’s initial workplace; and

(10) ensures, to the extent practicable and appropriate, that any assault on, or any harm or injury to, a volunteer that is committed by any member of a host family or any national of a host country that was assigned by the Peace Corps to facilitate volunteer work is—

(A) documented in an appropriate site history file and in the global tracking and recording system established pursuant to section 2507h(c) of this title; and

(B) taken into account with respect to determinations regarding placements of future volunteers at such post and the provision of any funds or other benefit by the Peace Corps.

(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 prac-