

report that describes the efforts, consistent with existing law, including procedures, effects, and results of the Department since the period covered by the prior such report, to promote equal opportunity and inclusion for all American employees in direct hire and personal service contractors status, particularly employees of the Foreign Service, including equal opportunity for all traditionally underrepresented minority groups.

(Pub. L. 114-323, title IV, § 410, Dec. 16, 2016, 130 Stat. 1931.)

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

DEFINITIONS

For definitions of “Secretary”, “Department”, and “Foreign Service” as used in this section, see section 2 of Pub. L. 114-323, set out as a note under section 2651 of this title.

§ 2734c. Employee assignment restrictions

(a) Appeal of assignment restriction

The Secretary shall establish a right and process for employees to appeal any assignment restriction or preclusion. Such right and process shall ensure that any employee subjected to an assignment restriction or preclusion shall have the same appeal rights as provided by the Department regarding denial or revocation of a security clearance. Any such appeal shall be resolved not later than 60 days after such appeal is filed.

(b) Certification

Upon full implementation of a right and process for employees to appeal an assignment restriction or preclusion under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committee¹ a report that—

- (1) certifies that such process has been fully implemented;
- (2) includes a detailed description of such process; and
- (3) details the number and nature of assignment restrictions and preclusions for the previous 3 years.

(c) Notice

The Secretary shall—

- (1) publish in the Foreign Affairs Manual information relating to the right and process established pursuant to subsection (a); and
- (2) include a reference to such publication in the report required under subsection (b).

(Pub. L. 114-323, title IV, § 414, Dec. 16, 2016, 130 Stat. 1932; Pub. L. 117-81, div. E, title LIII, § 5311(b), Dec. 27, 2021, 135 Stat. 2364.)

Editorial Notes

CODIFICATION

Section is comprised of section 414 of Pub. L. 114-323. Subsec. (d) of section 414 of Pub. L. 114-323 amended section 3982 of this title.

AMENDMENTS

2021—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 117-81 inserted at end “Such right and process shall ensure that any employee sub-

jected to an assignment restriction or preclusion shall have the same appeal rights as provided by the Department regarding denial or revocation of a security clearance. Any such appeal shall be resolved not later than 60 days after such appeal is filed.”

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

NOTICE AND CERTIFICATION

Pub. L. 117-81, div. E, title LIII, § 5311(c), Dec. 27, 2021, 135 Stat. 2364, provided that: “Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act [Dec. 27, 2021], the Secretary shall revise, and certify to the appropriate congressional committees regarding such revision, the Foreign Affairs Manual guidance regarding denial or revocation of a security clearance to expressly state that all review and appeal rights relating thereto shall also apply to any recommendation or decision to impose an assignment restriction or preclusion to an employee.”

[For definitions of “Secretary” and “appropriate congressional committees” as used in section 5311(c) of Pub. L. 117-81, set out above, see section 5002 of Pub. L. 117-81, set out as a note under section 263c of this title.]

DEFINITIONS

For definitions of “Secretary”, “Department”, and “appropriate congressional committee[s]” as used in this section, see section 2 of Pub. L. 114-323, set out as a note under section 2651 of this title.

§ 2734d. Recruitment and retention of individuals who have lived, worked, or studied in predominantly Muslim countries or communities

(a) Findings

Congress finds that successful engagement, including robust public diplomacy, with predominantly Muslim countries and communities is critical for achieving United States foreign policy objectives.

(b) Sense of Congress

It is the sense of Congress that the Department should recruit more employees that have a personal background in, and thorough understanding¹ of, the cultures, languages, and history of the Middle East and wider Muslim world.

(c) Recruitment and retention of certain individuals

The Secretary shall make every effort to recruit and retain individuals that have lived, worked, or studied in predominantly Muslim countries or communities, including individuals who have studied at an Islamic institution of higher learning.

(Pub. L. 114-323, title VII, § 713, Dec. 16, 2016, 130 Stat. 1945.)

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

DEFINITIONS

For definitions of “Department” and “Secretary” as used in this section, see section 2 of Pub. L. 114-323, set out as a note under section 2651 of this title.

§ 2734e. Annual Report

Not later than 90 days after December 27, 2021, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Af-

¹ So in original. Probably should be “committees”.

¹ So in original. Probably should be “understanding”.

fairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate a report that contains the following:

(1) A rationale for the use of assignment restrictions by the Department of State, including specific case studies related to cleared United States Foreign Service and civil service employees of the Department that demonstrate country-specific restrictions serve a counterintelligence role beyond that which is already covered by the security clearance process.

(2) The number of such Department employees subject to assignment restrictions over the previous year, with data disaggregated by—

- (A) identification as a Foreign Service officer, civil service employee, eligible family member, or other employment status;
- (B) the ethnicity, national origin, and race of the precluded employee;
- (C) gender; and
- (D) the country of restriction.

(3) A description of the considerations and criteria used by the Bureau of Diplomatic Security to determine whether an assignment restriction is warranted.

(4) The number of restrictions that were appealed and the success rate of such appeals.

(5) The impact of assignment restrictions in terms of unused language skills as measured by Foreign Service Institute language scores of such precluded employees.

(6) Measures taken to ensure the diversity of adjudicators and contracted investigators, with accompanying data on results.

(Pub. L. 117–81, div. E, title LIII, § 5311(d), Dec. 27, 2021, 135 Stat. 2364.)

§ 2734f. Strategic staffing plan for the Department of State

(a) In general

Not later than 18 months after December 27, 2021, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives a comprehensive 5-year strategic staffing plan for the Department that is aligned with and furthers the objectives of the National Security Strategy of the United States of America issued in December 2017, or any subsequent strategy issued not later than 18 months after December 27, 2021, which shall include the following:

(1) A dataset displaying comprehensive workforce data, including all shortages in bureaus described in GAO report GAO–19–220, for all current and planned employees of the Department, disaggregated by—

- (A) Foreign Service officer and Foreign Service specialist rank;
- (B) civil service job skill code, grade level, and bureau of assignment;
- (C) contracted employees, including the equivalent job skill code and bureau of assignment;
- (D) employees hired under schedule C of subpart C of part 213 of title 5, Code of Fed-

eral Regulations, including the equivalent grade and job skill code and bureau of assignment of such employee; and

(E) overseas region.

(2) Recommendations on the number of Foreign Service officers disaggregated by service cone that should be posted at each United States diplomatic post and in the District of Columbia, with a detailed basis for such recommendations.

(3) Recommendations on the number of civil service officers that should be employed by the Department, with a detailed basis for such recommendations.

(b) Maintenance

The dataset required under subsection (a)(1) shall be maintained and updated on a regular basis.

(c) Consultation

The Secretary shall lead the development of the plan required under subsection (a) but may consult or partner with private sector entities with expertise in labor economics, management, or human resources, as well as organizations familiar with the demands and needs of the Department's workforce.

(d) Report

Not later than 120 days after December 27, 2021, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report regarding root causes of Foreign Service and civil service shortages, the effect of such shortages on national security objectives, and the Department's plan to implement recommendations described in GAO–19–220.

(Pub. L. 117–81, div. E, title LIII, § 5313, Dec. 27, 2021, 135 Stat. 2365.)

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

DEFINITIONS

For definitions of “Secretary”, “appropriate congressional committees”, and “Department” as used in this section, see section 5002 of Pub. L. 117–81, set out as a note under section 263c of this title.

§ 2735. Foreign relations exchange programs

(a) Authority

The Secretary may establish exchange programs under which officers or employees of the Department of State, including individuals appointed under title 5 and members of the Foreign Service (as defined in section 3903 of this title), may be assigned, for not more than 1 year, to a position with any foreign government or international entity that permits an employee to be assigned to a position with the Department of State.

(b) Salary and benefits

(1) Members of Foreign Service

During a period in which a member of the Foreign Service is participating in an exchange program authorized pursuant to subsection (a), such member shall be entitled to the salary and benefits to which such member would receive but for the assignment under this section.