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(ii) Has completed at least 3 years of service, which did not include any break in service longer than 30 days, under one or more nontemporary appointments in Panama Canal Commission positions located in the United States or in positions under the Canal Zone Merit System and/or the Panama Canal Employment System.

(2) An agency may appoint under this section an employee who does not meet the conditions in (c)(1) of this section only if no more than 3 years have elapsed since the individual's separation from a qualifying appointment.

(d) *Tenure on appointment.* (1) On appointment under paragraph (a) of this section, an individual whose qualifying service does not include any break in service of more than 30 days and totals at least 3 years becomes a career employee.

(2) All other individuals appointed under this section become career-conditional employees.

(e) *Acquisition of competitive status.* A person appointed under paragraph (a) of this section automatically acquires a competitive status:

(1) On appointment, if he or she has satisfactorily completed a 1-year trial period, which did not include more than 22 workdays in nonpay status, during qualifying employment with the Panama Canal Commission.

(2) On satisfactory completion of probation in accordance with §315.801(a)(3) if he or she had not completed such a 1-year trial period.

[48 FR 29667, June 28, 1983]

§315.610 Noncompetitive appointment of certain National Guard technicians.

(a) An agency may appoint noncompetitively a National Guard technician who—

(1) Was involuntarily separated (other than by removal for cause on charges of misconduct or delinquency);

(2) Has served at least 3 years as a technician;

(3) Meets the qualifications requirements of the job; and

(4) Is appointed within 1 year after separating from service as a Guard Technician.

(b) The noncompetitive appointing authority also applies to National

Guard technicians separated before October 29, 1986, provided they are appointed within a year of the date of separation.

[52 FR 5431, Feb. 23, 1987]

§315.611 Appointment of certain veterans who have competed under agency merit promotion announcements.

(a) *Agency authority.* An agency may appoint a preference eligible or a veteran who has substantially completed at least 3 years of continuous active military service provided

(1) The veteran was selected from among the best qualified following competition under a merit promotion announcement open to candidates outside the agency's workforce; and

(2) The veteran's most recent separation from the military was under honorable conditions.

(b) *Definitions.* "Agency" in this context means an executive agency as defined in 5 U.S.C. 105. The agency determines in individual cases whether a candidate was released "shortly before" completing the required 3 years and should therefore be eligible for appointment.

65 FR 14432, Mara. 17, 2000

Subpart G—Conversion to Career or Career-Conditional Employment From Other Types of Employment

§315.701 Incumbents of positions brought into the competitive service.

(a) *Employee coverage.* This section applies to an employee retained under §§316.701 and 316.702 of this chapter who:

(1) Was serving in a permanent excepted position under an appointment not limited to 1 year or less, or in a public or private enterprise in a position which the agency determines to be a continuing one, at the time his position was brought into the competitive service; and

(2) Performed 6 months of satisfactory service immediately before the date his position was brought into the competitive service, in a position or positions brought into the competitive

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service, or in the civilian executive branch of the Government, unless OPM has excepted his particular type of case from this requirement.

(b) *Eligibility for conversion.* Within the time limits set forth in paragraph (c) of this section, the employment of an employee covered by paragraph (a) of this section may be converted to career or career-conditional employment.

(c) *Time limits.* Conversion may be initiated under paragraph (b) of this section only within 6 months after the position is brought into the competitive service, except that:

(1) When it is necessary for OPM to determine that §316.701 or §316.702 applies to a group of positions, the recommendation shall be submitted within 6 months after OPM advises the agency of its determination; and

(2) When an employee is absent on an assignment to an organization or agency from which reemployment rights are provided under part 352 of this chapter or by statute, the conversion shall be initiated within 6 months after the employee's return from such assignment, when reemployment occurs within the time limits prescribed in the applicable statute or regulation;

(3) When an employee is absent on approved leave without pay, the conversion shall be initiated within 6 months of the employee's return to duty, when such return occurs within time limits authorized by the agency; and

(4) When an employee who is serving on military duty or who is separated and rehired during the 6-month period after the position is brought into the competitive service is eligible for conversion under the provisions of §315.603, the conversion shall be initiated within the time limits prescribed by that section.

(d) *Tenure on approval of conversion.* Upon conversion under paragraph (b) of this section, the employee becomes:

(1) A career-conditional employee, except as provided in paragraph (b)(2) of this section;

(2) A career employee when he has completed the service requirement for career tenure or is excepted from it by §315.201(c).

(e) *Acquisition of competitive status.* A person whose employment is converted

to career or career-conditional employment under this section acquires a competitive status automatically on completion of probation.

(f) *Review of disapproved conversions.* Agencies shall establish procedures for reviewing disapprovals of conversions under this section when such review is requested within 6 months after the date of the disapproval.

[33 FR 12418, Sept. 4, 1968, as amended at 43 FR 34428, Aug. 4, 1978; 66 FR 66710, Dec. 27, 2001]

§315.702 Employees serving without competitive examination in rare cases.

(a) *Recommendation by agency.* An agency may recommend to OPM that the employment of an employee who has completed at least 1 year of satisfactory service under §316.601 be converted to career or career-conditional employment.

(b) *Tenure on approval of recommendation.* When OPM approves the agency's recommendation submitted under paragraph (a) of this section, the employee becomes:

(1) A career-conditional employee, except as provided in paragraph (b)(2) of this section;

(2) A career employee when he has completed the service requirement for career tenure or is excepted from it by §315.201(c).

(c) *Acquisition of competitive status.* A person whose employment is converted to career or career-conditional employment under this section acquires a competitive status automatically on conversion.

§315.703 Employees formerly reached on a register.

(a) *Employee coverage.* An employee who was serving in a position when his or her name was within reach for career or career-conditional appointment on a register appropriate for that position may be converted to career or career-conditional employment when:

(1) The employee's name was included on an appropriate certificate issued while the employee was serving in the position, or reconstruction of the appropriate register verifies that the employee would have been within reach;