

Affairs of the Office of Management and Budget.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 25th day of February, 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Patricia K. Holahan,**

*Acting Chief, Rulemaking and Guidance Branch, Division of Industrial and Medical, Nuclear Safety, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.*

[FR Doc. 99-5598 Filed 3-5-99; 8:45 am]

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## OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

**Science and Technology Laboratory Personnel Management Demonstration Project, Department of the Army: the Aviation Research, Development, and Engineering Center (AVRDEC).**

**AGENCY:** Office of Personnel Management.

**ACTION:** Notice to make a technical correction to the AVRDEC **Federal Register** notice, Part V, Volume 62, Number 124, published on June 27, 1997, specifically, the definition of competitive area.

**SUMMARY:** 5 U.S.C. 4703 authorizes the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to conduct demonstration projects that experiment with new and different personnel management concepts to determine whether such changes in personnel policy or procedures would result in improved Federal personnel management.

Public Law 103-337, October 5, 1994, permits the Department of Defense (DoD), with the approval of OPM, to carry out personnel demonstration projects at DoD Science and Technology (S&T) Reinvention Laboratories. This notice makes a technical correction to the AVRDEC Personnel Management Demonstration Project.

**DATES:** This demonstration project may be implemented at the U.S. Army Aviation Research Development, and Engineering Center beginning on March 8, 1999.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** AVRDEC: Mr. David E. Knepper, U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command, Attn: AMSAM-AR-ZS, Building 5681, Redstone Arsenal, AL 35898-5000, phone 256-313-4895. OPM: Ms. Joan Jorgenson, U.S. Office of Personnel Management, 1900 E Street N.W., Room 7460, Washington, DC 20415, phone 202-606-1315.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

### 1. Background

OPM has approved Science and Technology Laboratory Personnel Management Demonstration Projects and published the AVRDEC final plan in the **Federal Register** on Friday, June 27, 1997, Volume 62, Number 124, Part V. The AVRDEC demonstration project involved simplified job classification, paybanding, performance-based compensation systems, employee development provisions, and modified reduction-in-force procedures.

### 2. Overview

The Aviation Research, Development, and Engineering Center published its final project plan on June 27, 1997. The final plan incorporated changes made as a result of specific comments received from individuals during the public comment period. The comments were addressed in the final publication of the **Federal Register**. Any resulting changes to the plan were incorporated into that same document.

One commentator stated that the initial plan appeared to limit competitive areas to occupational families in all geographic areas. The commentator was concerned that the reduced number of employees in a particular occupational family would result in smaller competitive levels and lead to more separations from that occupational family if reduction-in-force (RIF) occurred in AVRDEC. Project managers agreed with the commentator and replied that a change would be made to Section III, Paragraph F: Revised Reduction-in-Force (RIF) Procedures, introductory paragraph, to clarify the meaning of the subsequent paragraph, Competitive Areas. This paragraph stated that positions included in the demonstration project at a specific geographic location will be considered a separate competitive area. Because of an oversight, however, the plan was published without making the correction.

Dated: March 2, 1999.

Office of Personnel Management.

**Janice R. Lachance,**  
*Director.*

### I. Executive Summary

The Department of the Army established the AVRDEC Personnel Management Demonstration Project to be generally similar to the system in use at the Navy Personnel Demonstration Project known as China Lake. The project was built upon the concepts of linking performance to pay for all covered positions, simplified paperwork in the processing of classification, revised its reduction-in-force

procedures and proposed other innovative interventions; emphasizing partnerships among management, employees, and unions, and delegating other authorities to line managers.

### II. Introduction

#### *Purpose*

The purpose of this notice is to make a technical correction to the definition of competitive area. The correction is hereby made to the **Federal Register**, Part V, Science and Technology Reinvention Laboratory Personnel Demonstration Project at the Aviation Research, Development, and Engineering Center (AVRDEC); Notice, Volume 62, Number 124, Friday, June 27, 1997; page 34920, column one, under F. Revised Reduction-in-Force (RIF) Procedures, Introduction. Lines 1-12 are corrected to read:

Modifications include limiting competitive area, as defined below, and increasing the emphasis on performance in the RIF process. Retention criteria are in the following order: tenure, veterans' preference, service credit adjusted by a sum of the last three performance ratings. Current reduction-in-force regulations/procedures have been adjusted in the context of the occupational family and the payband classification system.

All other provisions of the approved AVRDEC Personnel Management Demonstration Project will apply. Employee notification will be made by delivery of copies of the amendment to union officials, to AVRDEC employees included in the project, and by posting on the Internet.

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

### Sunshine Act Meeting

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the Government in the Sunshine Act, Pub. L. 94-409, that the Securities and Exchange Commission will hold the following meeting during the week of March 8, 1999.

A closed meeting will be held on Thursday, March 11, 1999, at 11:00 a.m.

Commissioners, Counsel to the Commissioners, the Secretary to the Commission, and recording secretaries will attend the closed meeting. Certain staff members who have an interest in the matters may also be present.

The General Counsel of the Commission, or his designee, has certified that, in his opinion, one or more of the exemptions set forth in 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4), (8), (9)(A) and (10)