

SC1705. SUBCHAPTER 1705

OPERATIONAL CONTINUITY DURING CLOSURE
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OPERATIONAL CONTINUITY DURING CLOSURE ACTIONS

- References: (a) DoD 1400.25-M, Civilian Personnel Manual, Subchapter 1800, “Department of Defense Priority Placement Program,” June 30, 1998
(b) Sections 3341, 5551, 5596, 6304, and 9902 of title 5, United States Code
(c) Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Memorandum, “Employment of Annuitants,” March 18, 2004
(d) Title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 316 “Temporary and Term Employment”

SC1705.1. GENERAL

This Subchapter provides closing installation commanders and activity heads personnel authority designed to retain or acquire human resources for the continuation of mission-essential functions during the closure process. These authorities establish special processes and procedures for filling critical positions permanently and temporarily. To encourage mission accomplishment instead of using annual leave, this Subchapter implements the statutory authority that provides for unlimited annual leave accumulation at closing installations.

SC1705.2. REASSIGNMENT OR PROMOTION TO CRITICAL VACANCIES.

SC1705.2.1. The Department of Defense has waived applicable provisions of the Priority Placement Program (PPP) (reference (a)) to permit closing activities to permanently reassign or promote employees into critical vacancies under specified circumstances. The reassignment or promotion exception applies only to employees serving on appointments without time limitation.

SC1705.2.2. Generally, appointments and permanent promotions may not be made effective within 24 months of an activity’s closure date. As an exception to this prohibition, DoD Component career program participants or those employees on formal mobility agreements may be promoted or reassigned from within or from outside the closing activity into positions pre-identified as “key or critical to base operations.” A selected employee cannot be moved into one of these positions from outside the commuting area unless the PPP is cleared. Employees or PPP registrants accepting such assignments shall be placed on a permanent basis, committing to remain at the activity until it is closed, and sign a mobility agreement specifying ineligibility for PPP registration because of the imminent closure of the activity. The employing DoD Component must guarantee a post-closure follow-on assignment for the employee in order to utilize this authority, except as provided in paragraph SC1705.2.3. Post-closure placements effected because of this provision are exempt from the clearance requirements of the PPP.

SC1705.2.3. Guaranteed post-closure placement is not required when the employee is eligible for optional retirement on the date of closure or is eligible for discontinued service

retirement and has been or shall be assigned to the closing activity for at least 12 months prior to the date of closure. In the latter case, permanent assignments are not permitted under this authority less than 12 months prior to the closure date unless the activity first confirms with the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) that the employee's eligibility for discontinued service retirement shall not be affected.

SC1705.2.3.1. The closing installation shall submit a request for this determination to the appropriate OPM Service Center and provide a copy to the Deputy Chief for Operations, Civilian Assistance and Re-Employment (CARE) Division, CARE Operations Branch, 320 Second Street, Suite 120, Robins Air Force Base, GA 31098-1638. The request shall include a description of the vacancy's critical nature, identify the lack of qualified candidates, and shall certify that the placement is not being made solely for arranging eligibility for discontinued service retirement or an alternative form of annuity, if applicable.

SC1705.2.3.2. If the employee becomes eligible for discontinued service retirement less than 12 months prior to closure but is already in receipt of a reduction in force separation notice issued by another activity, an OPM determination is not required. The employee's eligibility shall not be altered by a covered assignment.

SC1705.3. EMPLOYMENT OF ANNUITANTS.

SC1705.3.1. Section 9902(j) of title 5, United States Code (U.S.C.) (reference (b)) provides the Secretary of Defense authority to hire and set the salary of newly appointed annuitants, i.e., individuals receiving an annuity from the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund, without a reduction in pay or of the annuity.

SC1705.3.2. Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD(P&R)) Memorandum dated March 18, 2004 (reference (c)) implements DoD policy and procedures and delegates authority for hiring annuitants under the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 9902(j) (reference (b)). The Secretaries of the Military Departments, and Heads of the Defense Agencies and DoD Field Activities with independent appointing authority for themselves and their serviced organizations are delegated the authority to hire and compensate annuitants consistent with DoD policy.

SC1705.3.3. Under the provisions of reference (c), designees may elect to reemploy annuitants in positions, including those at closing bases, subject to the following criteria:

SC1705.3.3.1. In positions that are hard-to-fill as evidenced by historically high turnover, a severe shortage of candidates or other significant recruiting difficulty; or positions that are critical to the accomplishment of the organizations mission, or to complete a specific project or initiative;

SC1705.3.3.2. Individuals with unique or specialized skills, or unusual qualifications that are generally not available; or

SC1705.3.3.3. In positions for not more than 2087 hours (i.e., 1 year full time, or 2 years part time) to mentor less experienced employees and/or to provide continuity during critical organizational transitions. Extensions beyond 2087 hours are not authorized.

SC1705.4. JOB EXCHANGES

SC1705.4.1. Job exchanges are concurrent reassignments excepted from the PPP to accommodate the placement of a displaced employee from a closing activity to a non-closing activity. Specifically, the reassignments are authorized for a job exchange between an employee at an activity not scheduled for closure, eligible for optional or discontinued service retirement, with an employee (not eligible for retirement) at a closing activity.

SC1705.4.2. The employee at the non-closing activity must submit an application (OF 612, "Optional Application for Federal Employment" or resume) directly to the supporting human resources office of the closing activity to be considered a candidate for job exchange. The exchange candidate must occupy a position at the same grade and be qualified to perform the duties of the position at the closing activity. In addition, the exchange candidate must be eligible for optional retirement on or before the installation closure date. For discontinued service retirement, the employee must be employed at the closing installation for at least 12 months before closure. Employees placed through the job exchange authority must acknowledge, in writing, that they:

SC1705.4.2.1. Shall remain in the position until released by the installation, and

SC1705.4.2.2. Forfeit PPP registration eligibility.

SC1705.4.3. Closing installations announce positions available for job exchanges electronically to the PPP system in Dayton, Ohio. Positions must be certified as continuing for at least 12 months. Installations not scheduled for closure shall publicize job exchange opportunities along with other vacancy announcements and advise potential candidates of the requirements and criteria mentioned above.

SC1705.4.4. The gaining (non-closing) activity determines whether an exchange candidate is qualified to perform the duties of the new position. The closing and the non-closing activities must agree to the exchange.

SC1705.4.5. The closing installation pays all appropriate permanent change of station relocation expenses for both reassigned employees.

SC1705.5. ANNUAL LEAVE RESTORATION

SC1705.5.1. In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 6304(d)(3) (reference (b)), employees assigned to DoD activities designated by the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission for closure or realignment are entitled to have forfeited annual leave restored. This entitlement does not apply to employees assigned to organizations or functions located at closing installations but designated to continue operations after the activity's closure. It also does not apply when such organizations or functions relocate within the commuting area of the closure activity.

SC1705.5.2. Leave in excess of the statutory maximum (normally 240 hours) is restored and shall be placed in a separate leave account. Employees may not be required to use this restored leave before using other available annual leave.

SC1705.5.3. The closing or realigning activity's supporting human resources office shall notify all affected employees of their entitlement under the statute and shall provide the installation's payroll office(s) with a list of the eligible employees by Social Security Number. This list must be updated as changes in eligibility and coverage occur.

SC1705.5.4. Lump sum payment of annual leave for employees affected by closure or realignment actions is required by 5 U.S.C. 6304(d)(3) (reference (b)) in certain situations. Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 5551(c) (reference (b)), lump sum payment shall be made to eligible DoD employees upon their being assigned to a position in any other Federal Agency or department outside the Department of Defense, or to any DoD position at an installation that is not being closed or realigned.

SC1705.5.4.1. At the request of an affected employee, leave accrued at the BRAC activity during the year of transfer and not yet restored under 5 U.S.C. 6304(d)(3) (reference (b)) may be included in the lump sum payment in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 6304 note (reference (b)).

SC1705.5.4.2. Leave accrued during the year of transfer and not included in the lump sum payment under subparagraph SC1705.5.4.1. will transfer with the employee for future use at the gaining agency or activity. Such transferred leave will be subject to 5 U.S.C. 6304(a) and 6304(d)(1) and (2) (reference (b)), as it pertains to accumulation and restoration of leave, at the end of the leave year in which the transfer occurred.

SC1705.5.4.3. When it is determined that the required lump sum payment was not processed at the time of transfer from a BRAC activity to a non-BRAC activity, payment will be issued. Such payment will liquidate all leave remaining in the leave account established under 5 U.S.C. 6304(d)(3) (reference (b)) and will be calculated based on the rate of pay at the time of the transfer and include interest computed in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 5596(b)(2) (reference (b)). However, any leave used from that restored leave account subsequent to the transfer, but before the lump sum payment, will be considered appropriately paid and will not be included in the payment in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 6304 note (reference (b)).

SC1705.6. TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT TIME LIMIT EXCEPTION

Commanders and activity heads at bases scheduled to close within 2 years may approve exceptions to the requirements in 5 CFR 316.401 (reference (d)) regarding the 2-year maximum service limit for temporary appointments and to the restrictions on successive temporary appointments to the same or successor positions. This exception authority may be used at any closing activity, including those located overseas. The authority remains in effect without time limit.

SC1705.7. ELIMINATION OF 120-DAY DETAIL LIMITATION

In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 3341(b)(2) (reference (b)), the 120-day limit on details does not apply to details made in connection with the closure or realignment of a military installation pursuant to a base closure law or to details performed during organizational restructuring actions resulting from departmental reductions. When activities exercise this authority, they must ensure that the position filled by the detail is eliminated on or before the date of the closure, realignment, or restructuring action.