

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. list	Interagency Veterans Policy Group Membership List (partial) (4 pages)	06/05/1995	P6/b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Domestic Policy Council
Molly Brostrom
OA/Box Number: 8398

FOLDER TITLE:

Interagency Veterans Policy Group-Scheduling

2012-0326-S

kc786

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
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- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

May 6, 1996

**INTERAGENCY VETERANS POLICY GROUP
MEMBERSHIP LIST**

• **CONVENERS**

Alexis Herman
Assistant to the President
Office of the Public Liaison
2FL/WW
PHONE: (202) 456-2983
FAX: (202) 456-2983

Kitty Higgins
Assistant to the President
Office of Cabinet Affairs
Room 160, OEOB
PHONE: (202) 456-2572
FAX: (202) 456-6704

Carol Rasco
Assistant to the President
Domestic Policy Council
Room 213, OEOB
PHONE: (202) 456-2249
FAX: (202) 456-2878

• **WHITE HOUSE STAFF CONTACTS**

Jeremy Ben-Ami
Deputy Assistant to the
President for Domestic Policy
Domestic Policy Council
Room 213, OEOB
PHONE: (202) 456-5584
FAX: (202) 456-7028

Molly Brostrom
Senior Policy Analyst
Domestic Policy Council
Room 207, OEOB
PHONE: (202) 456-5561
FAX: (202) 456-7028

Change Americorps Rep. to

Andre Brown

Sp Asst in Publ Liaison

606-5000 x260

565-2794 (fax)

*(Bol
Hussey
back to
DOS)*

LeeAnn Inadomi
Special Assistant to the President
for Cabinet Affairs
Room 160, OEOB
PHONE: (202) 456-2572
FAX: (202) 456-6704

Bob Jones
Special Assistant to the Secretary
Department of Veterans Affairs/
Office of Public Liaison
810 Vermont Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20420
PHONE: (202) 456-5178/273-4845
FAX: (202) 456-6218/273-4876

• **WHITE HOUSE / AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES**

Leon Bechet
Director, Veterans Affairs
Small Business Administration
409 3rd St., SW
Mail Code 7220
Washington, DC 20416
PHONE: (202) 205-6773
FAX: (202) 205-7292

Peter Beach
Director, Veterans Affairs
Department of Health and Human Services
Room 630F
200 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20201
PHONE: (202) 690-6156
FAX: (202) 690-5672

Dennis Duffy
Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs
for Policy and Planning
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20415
PHONE: (202) 273-5033
FAX: (202) 273-5993

John Dwyer
Office of the Associate Attorney General
Department of Justice
10th & Constitution, NW, Room 5132
Washington, DC 20530
PHONE: (202) 514-4969
FAX: (202) 514-1724

Jeanne Fites
Deputy Under Secretary of Defense
for Requirements and Resources
Room 3E 763
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-4000
PHONE: (202) 614-3970
FAX: (202) 697-6691

Norma St. Clair

703/696-9710

703 703

CDR Edward Gleason
Military Assistant to the Secretary
Department of Transportation
United States Coast Guard
400 7th Street, SW, Room 10200
Washington, DC 20590
PHONE: (202) 366-4531
FAX: (202) 366-6337

John Gregrich
Senior Policy Analyst
Office of National Drug Control Policy
750 17th St., NW
Washington, DC 20500
PHONE: (202) 395-6749
FAX: (202) 395-6744

Josh Gotbaum
Assistant Secretary of the Treasury,
Economic Policy
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue
Room 3454
Washington, DC 20220
PHONE: (202) 622-2200
FAX: (202) 622-2633

Elisa Harris
Director, Nonproliferation and Export Controls
National Security Council
Room 380, OEOP
PHONE: (202) 456-9181
FAX: (202) 456-9180

Robert Hussey
Federal Liaison Coordinator
Corporation for National Service
1201 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20525
PHONE: (202) 606-5000 x.499
FAX: (202) 565-2784/2781

Elaine Kamarck
Senior Policy Advisor
National Performance Review
Room 271, OEOP
PHONE: (202) 456-2816
FAX: (202) 456-6429

Janice LaChance
Chief of Staff
Office of Personnel Management
1900 East Street, NW
Row 5F12
Washington, DC 20410
PHONE: (202) 606-1000
FAX: (202) 606-4489

Jacquie Lawing
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic Development
Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th St., SW
Room 7204
Washington, DC 20503
PHONE: (202) 708-0271
FAX: (202) 708-3336

Nancy Ann Min
Program Associate Director
Office of Management and Budget
Room 262, OEOP
PHONE: (202) 395-5178
FAX: (202) 395-7289

LCDR Pamella Russell
Commandant (G-PMP-1)
Department of Transportation
United States Coast Guard
2100 2nd Street, SW
Washington, DC 20593
PHONE: (202) 267-6484
FAX: (202) 267-4600

Fred Schroeder
Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services Administration
Department of Education
30 C Street, SW
Row 30 20A, MES Building
Washington, DC 20202
PHONE: (202) 205-5482
FAX: (202) 205-9874

Preston Taylor
Assistant Secretary for Veterans
Employment in Training
Department of Labor
200 Constitution Ave., NW
Room S13 15
Washington, DC 20210
PHONE: (202) 219-9116
FAX: (202) 219-4773

June (5) 1995

**INTERAGENCY VETERANS POLICY GROUP
MEMBERSHIP LIST**

• **CONVENERS**

Carol Rasco
Assistant to the President
Domestic Policy Council
Room 213, OEOB
PHONE: (202) 456-2249
FAX: (202) 456-2878

Alexis Herman
Assistant to the President
Office of the Public Liaison
2FL/WW
PHONE: (202) 456-2983
FAX: (202) 456-2983

Kitty Higgins
Assistant to the President
Office of Cabinet Affairs
Room 160, OEOB
PHONE: (202) 456-2572
FAX: (202) 456-6704

• **STAFF CONTACTS**

10 Jeremy Ben-Ami
Chief of Staff
Domestic Policy Council
Room 213, OEOB
PHONE: (202) 456-5584
FAX: (202) 456-7028

10 LeeAnn Inadomi
Special Assistant to the President
for Cabinet Affairs
Room 160, OEOB
PHONE: (202) 456-2572
FAX: (202) 456-6704

2-3³⁰ Wed 6/28
Result Rm
w/ 17 agencies
1) confirm attendance
2) deb if necessary

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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10 Steve Hilton
Deputy Assistant to the President
Deputy Director, Office of Public Liaison
Room 122, OEOB
PHONE: (202) 456-2157
FAX: (202) 456-6218

16 Molly Brostrom
Senior Policy Analyst
Domestic Policy Council
Room 207, OEOB
PHONE: (202) 456-5561
FAX: (202) 456-7028

Bob Jones
Special Assistant to the Secretary
Department of Veterans Affairs/OPL
810 Vermont Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20420
PHONE: (202) 456-5178/273-4845
→ FAX: (202) 456-6218/273-4876

• AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

✓ not others
noted by you
Leon Bechet P6/(b)(6)
Director, Veterans Affairs
Small Business Administration
409 3rd St., SW
Mail Code 7220
Washington, DC 20416
PHONE: (202) 205-6773
→ FAX: (202) 205-7292

Greg Divelas, deputy

Bill Twitt - Asst Dir

(NA)

P6/(b)(6)

✓ in
unrelated
Peter Beach P6/(b)(6)
Director, Veterans Affairs
Department of Health and Human Services
Room 630F
200 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20201
PHONE: (202) 690-6156 (690-6210)
→ FAX: (202) 690-5672

+ Intern

(A)

De Bernardis
*Andrew ~~De Bernardis~~ P6/(b)(6)
Francis 690-6037

[001]

✓ *will attend*
John Dwyer (DoD: P6/(b)(6))
Office of the Associate Attorney General
Department of Justice
10th & Constitution, NW, Room 5132
Washington, DC 20530
PHONE: (202) 514-4969
→ FAX: (202) 514-1724

new

(A)

✓ *Shirley St. Clair*
Jeanne Fites
Deputy Under Secretary of Defense
for Requirements and Resources
Room 3E 763
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-4000
PHONE: 703(202) 614-3970
→ FAX: (202) 697-6691

Kelly Sherbell, Leg. Affairs
703/697-6210 ✓

(A-sub)

Norma St. Clair - will be sitting in

(DoD: P6/(b)(6))

✓ *2nd - will be tomorrow*
CDR Edward Gleason (DoD: P6/(b)(6))
Military Assistant to the Secretary
Department of Transportation
United States Coast Guard
400 7th Street, SW, Room 10200
Washington, DC 20590
PHONE: (202) 366-4531 (366-1621)
→ FAX: (202) 366-6337

new

(A)

✓ *will attend*
John Gregrich (DoD: P6/(b)(6))
Senior Policy Analyst
Office of National Drug Control Policy
750 17th St., NW
Washington, DC 20500
PHONE: (202) 395-6749
→ FAX: (202) 395-6744

(A)

✓ *to out of town*
Elisa Harris
Director, Nonproliferation and Export Controls
National Security Council
Room 380, OEOB
PHONE: (202) 456-9181
→ FAX: (202) 456-9180

new

(NA)

✓ *will attend & bring guest*
Robert Hussey (DoD: P6/(b)(6))
Federal Liaison Coordinator
Corporation for National Service
1201 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20525
PHONE: (202) 606-5000 x.499
→ FAX: (202) 565-2784/2781

new

(A + guest)

✓ *Andre Brown* (DoD: P6/(b)(6))

✓ ID
will attend
Elaine Kamarck
Senior Policy Advisor
National Performance Review
Room 271, OEOB
PHONE: (202) 456-2816
FAX: (202) 456-6429

(A)

cm
Mary Lou Keener P6/(b)(6)
General Counsel
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20415
PHONE: (202) 273-6659
FAX: (202) 273-6671

Dennis Duffy
Asst Secy for
Vets Affairs
for Policy & Planning

273-5033

→ Irwin Pernick

273-5049

Nora Egan, Deputy Asst
Secy for
Policy & Planning

P6/(b)(6)

✓ will attend
Janice LaChance (DOB P6/(b)(6))
Director, Communications
Office of Personnel Management
1900 East Street, NW
Row 5F12
Washington, DC 20410
PHONE: (202) 606-1800
FAX: (202) 606-2264

ask for 9/29 & 10/12

(A)

✓ will attend
Jacquie Lawing P6/(b)(6)
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic Development
Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th St., SW
Room 7204
Washington, DC 20503
PHONE: (202) 708-0271
FAX: (202) 708-3336

(A)

✓ will attend
Alicia Mannell (no clearance needed)
Assistant Secretary of the Treasury,
Economic Policy
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue
Room 3454
Washington, DC 20220
PHONE: (202) 622-2200
FAX: (202) 622-2633

(A)

✓ will attend ID
Nancy Ann Min
Program Associate Director
Office of Management and Budget
Room 262, OEOB
PHONE: (202) 395-5178
FAX: (202) 395-7289

(A)

add Toni Husted for calls/agenda

[001]

✓
at 4:00 PM
will call

LCDR Pamela Russell
Commandant (G-PMP-1)
Department of Transportation
United States Coast Guard
2100 2nd Street, SW
Washington, DC 20593
PHONE: (202) 267-6484
FAX: (202) 267-4600

new

✓
at 4:00 PM
will call

Les Samuels
Assistant Secretary of the Treasury,
Tax Policy
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue
Room 3120
Washington, DC 20220
PHONE: (202) 622-0050
FAX: (202) 622-0646

new

Eric Toder

P6(b)(6)

✓
will call

Fred Schroeder
Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services Administration
Department of Education
30 C Street, SW
Row 30 20A, MES Building
Washington, DC 20202
PHONE: (202) 205-5482
FAX: (202) 205-9874

replacement

Timothy Muzzio

P6(b)(6)

✓
will call

Preston Taylor P6(b)(6)
Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment in Training
Department of Labor
200 Constitution Ave., NW
Room S13 15
Washington, DC 20210
PHONE: (202) 219-9116
FAX: (202) 219-4773

✓

Al Barrego
219-9116

✓
will call

Diana Zuckerman
First Lady's Office/OSTP
Room 102, OEOB
PHONE: (202) 456-6266
FAX: (202) 456-6244

new

Carol Rasco
Assistant to the President
Domestic Policy Council
Room 213, OEOB

IVPG Meeting List

Alexis Herman
Assistant to the President
Office of the Public Liaison
2FL/WW

Kitty Higgins
Assistant to the President
Office of Cabinet Affairs
Room 160, OEOB

Leon Bechet
Director, Veterans Affairs
Small Business Administration
409 3rd St., SW
Mail Code 7220
Washington, DC 20416

Peter Beech
Director, Veterans Affairs
Department of Health and Human Services
Room 630F
200 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20201

✓ Jeanne Fites
Deputy Under Secretary of Defense
for Requirements and Resources
Room 3E 763
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-4000

703/614-3970

Norma St. Claire

John Gregrich
Senior Policy Analyst
Office of National Drug Control Policy
750 17th St., NW
Washington, DC 20500

Elaine Kamarck
Senior Policy Advisor
National Performance Review
Room 271, OEOB

~~Mary Lou Keener~~
~~General Counsel~~
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20415

Dennis Duffy
Asst Sec'y for Policy and Planning
✓ Irwin Pernick
273-5049

Janice LaChance
Director, Communications
Office of Personnel Management
1900 East Street, NW
Row 5F12
Washington, DC 20410

✓ Jacquie Lawing
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic Development
Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th St., SW
Room 7204
Washington, DC 20503

Nancy Ann Min
Program Associate Director
Office of Management and Budget
Room 262, OEOB

Fred Schroeder
Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services Administration
Department of Education
30 C Street, SW
Row 30 20A, MES Building
Washington, DC 20202

✓ Preston Taylor
Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment in Training
Department of Labor
200 Constitution Ave., NW
Room S13 15
Washington, DC 20210

Jeremy Ben-Ami
~~Chief of Staff~~ *Deputy Asst to President*
Domestic Policy Council
Room 213, OEOB

LeeAnn Inadomi
Special Assistant to the President
for Cabinet Affairs
Room 160, OEOB

Steve Hilton
Deputy Assistant to the President
Deputy Director, Office of Public Liaison
Room 122, OEOB

Bob Jones
Special Assistant to the Secretary
Department of Veterans Affairs/OPL
810 Vermont Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20420

Elisa Harris
Director, Nonproliferation and Export Controls
National Security Council
Room 380, OEOB

LCDR Pamella Russell
Commandant (G-PMP-1)
Department of Transportation
United States Coast Guard
2100 2nd Street, SW
Washington, DC 20593

Diana Zuckerman
First Lady's Office/OSTP
Room 102, OEOB

*Marsha Martin
VHA Coordinator for Homeless Initiatives
Dept of VA
810 Vermont Ave (101E)
20420*

John Dwyer
Office of the Associate Attorney General
Department of Justice
10th & Constitution, NW, Room 5132
Washington, DC 20530

Robert Hussey
Federal Liaison Coordinator
Corporation for National Service
1201 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20525

Andre Brown
Corporation for National Service
1201 New York Avenue, NW, 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20525

CDR Edward Gleason
Military Assistant to the Secretary
Department of Transportation
United States Coast Guard
400 7th Street, SW, Room 10200
Washington, DC 20590

Alicia Mannell
Assistant Secretary for Economic Policy
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue
Room 3454
Washington, DC 20220

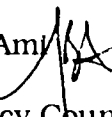
Les Samuels
Assistant Secretary for Tax Policy
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue
Room 3120
Washington, DC 20220

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 24, 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR INTERAGENCY VETERANS POLICY GROUP

FROM: LeeAnn Inadomi 
Special Assistant to the President
for Cabinet Affairs

Jeremy Ben-Ami 
Chief of Staff
Domestic Policy Council

SUBJECT: Update/Agenda for April 26 Meeting

The next meeting of the Interagency Veterans Policy Group (IVPG) is Wednesday, April 26, 2:00-3:30 in the Roosevelt Room at the White House.

Attached is the updated working agenda of the IVPG. As you recall, this working agenda was developed based on issues raised in White House meetings with veterans service organizations and military coalition groups. The IVPG met on December 15 and reported on issues identified on the working agenda and raised additional items for the Group to address.

The attached document reflects the current status of these issues and the steps being taken to resolve those that remain open. **Please review the document and come to the meeting prepared to report on the issues in which your agency is involved.**

In late May, the White House will hold its next meetings with veterans service organizations and the military coalition. At these meetings, it will be critical that we have a full report on the agenda items. **It is therefore very important that your agency provide us with any available updates at the April 26 meeting as well as work with us in the coming weeks so that we can demonstrate definitive action on the agenda items.**

If you have any questions or comments, please call Molly Brostrom at the Domestic Policy Council (456-5561).

**INTERAGENCY VETERANS POLICY GROUP
WORKING AGENDA
April 26, 1995**

Short term Issues

1. DOL Advisory Committee on Veterans Employment and Training

The Department of Labor has appointed an Advisory Committee on Veterans Employment and Training, chaired by Ron Drach of the Disabled American Veterans. The Committee has held two meetings, on December 15 and March 15, and will meet again May 25-26. Secretary Reich met with the Committee at its initial meeting, and the Committee will present the Secretary a report at the May meeting.

DOL will present a brief update on the committee, including its task force on minority veterans employment needs.

2. White House Conference on Aging

The White House worked with the White House Conference on Aging and was able to ensure that the delegate allocation to the Conference includes representatives of the veterans community. The White House Conference on Aging (May 2-5, 1995) will include 20 delegates appointed by Secretary Brown and 40 appointed by veterans' organizations. In addition, the agenda specifically calls for the inclusion of veterans issues.

3. Budget

The President's 1996 budget calls for a \$1.3 billion increase in veterans benefits, including an additional \$1 billion for health care. This increase will enable VA to provide medical treatment to an additional 43,000 veterans, construct two new hospitals and three nursing homes, and make a number of facility improvements.

The VSO/Military Coalition meetings with OMB were favorably received and provided an excellent forum for the groups to express their budget concerns and for OMB to clarify the Administration's position on budget decisions. The Military Coalition meeting indicated that there continues to be concern for: military family/retiree benefits such as access to quality health care; the impact of the draw-down on readiness of active and reserve forces; and reimbursement by HCFA for medical care given to Medicare beneficiaries.

OMB and VA will provide any updates on expected Congressional budget action.

4. White House Conference on Small Business

The White House Conference on Small Business, scheduled for June 11-15, 1995, will propose a small business "action agenda" to the Clinton Administration and Congress to "ensure small business vitality into the 21st century."

In preparing for the Conference, the Small Business Administration has targeted mailings to individual veterans (identifying names through the Procurement Automated Source System), encouraging their participation in pre-meetings designed to help identify the needs and concerns of small business owners and managers. The Administration is working to ensure that the veterans community is represented among the delegates.

SBA will report on meetings held, issues raised, and any further outreach planned.

Longer Term Issues

1. Health Care Reform/Health Issues

The status of the health reform effort and specifically the impact it will have on veterans hospitals and veterans health care was of primary importance to the VSOs. The White House met with key veterans groups on December 14 and will continue to be available to the groups to hear their concerns and recommendations. Some of these concerns are being addressed in REGO II proposals.

(a) Eligibility reform. As part of REGO II, the Administration is considering proposals to change eligibility rules for treatment at VA facilities. Recommendations are being developed, and are expected to reach the President in the near future.

(b) Accepting Medicare at VA Hospitals The Administration continues to explore the possibility of accepting Medicare payments at VA hospitals. VA and HCFA are exploring a pilot program to test the proposal.

(c) Overlapping Research Agendas The VSOs asked whether there couldn't be better coordination of the HHS and VA medical research agendas. At the December 15 meeting, VA submitted a report on existing coordination which we will share with the VSOs for their reactions and recommendations.

OMB, VA and HHS will provide further updates and comments.

2. Disability Policy

The Administration's National Disability Policy Review (NDPR) has included the Paralyzed Veterans and the Disabled Veterans of America on its outreach list. These groups met with members of the NDPR on February 16 to discuss NDPR's guiding principles. NDPR will continue to keep these groups informed of progress and solicit reactions to proposals.

3. Backlog at Board of Veterans Appeals

The Department of Veterans Affairs has been working to address the backlog of claims at the Board of Veterans Appeals, and has achieved some success. Processing times for adjudicating claims have improved, reducing the backlog from 575,000 claims at the end of December 1993 to 470,000 at the end of September 1994. Final performance goals for FY 98 call for VA to attain a national average of 106 days to process an original disability compensation claim, 77 days for an original disability pension, 68 days for original dependency and indemnity compensation claims and 44 days for original death pension claims.

VA will provide any further update.

4. Persian Gulf Veterans

The Administration has taken action to be responsive and sensitive to veterans of the Persian Gulf suffering from unexplained illnesses.

In March, the President announced the establishment of a Presidential Advisory Committee to review and make recommendations aimed at finding the causes of this illness and improving the care available to Persian Gulf veterans. The President is expected to issue an Executive Order creating the Committee, and name its members and Chair shortly.

OSTP and NSC will present an update on timing of introduction of Committee and any other issues.

5. Homelessness

Homelessness among veterans continues to be a significant problem, and the federal response is located in several agencies. Therefore, the key agencies have been asked to meet and discuss ways to better coordinate funding, programs and services for the homeless veteran population.

A series of interagency (VA, DOL, HUD) staff-level meetings have been held to address the issue.

At the last meeting of the IVPG, DOL suggested a meeting of Assistant Secretaries at DOL, HUD, and VA to discuss this issue. DOL will provide a status report on meetings held and any other initiatives. HUD and VA will provide any additional updates.

It has been suggested that the IVPG work with the Interagency Council for the Homeless (ICH) to facilitate better coordination among the different agencies. The White House will propose including the issue as a specific agenda item at the next ICH meeting.

6. Veterans Preference

The Administration continues its dialogue with veterans groups to hear their concerns and recommendations about Veterans Preferences. OPM and the National Performance Review have met with veterans groups to discuss with them proposals to update the veterans preference regulations.

OPM and NPR will provide updates on these discussions and any proposals.

7. Transition/Downsizing

At the December 15 IVPG meeting, it was reported that the Coast Guard concerns about inclusion in discussions concerning retraining and downsizing have been addressed through meetings with DOL and VA on the issue.

8. SBA 8A Program

There is interest in greater access for both veterans and for the disabled to 8A preferences in contracting.

SBA and VA were to meet to discuss ways to improve access; the agencies will report on meetings held. In addition, SBA is to prepare a proposal for presentation to the Interagency Group on how it will provide better information for persons with disabilities about applying for 8A preference.

9. National Guard/Reserve Job Security

This was raised by VSOs/Military Coalitions as a significant issue which has involved several Departments over the past year. At the December 15 meeting, DoD reported that it has two proposals, a tax credit and insurance proposal, that VA is reviewing.

DoD and VA to present updates on these proposals.

10. Minority Veterans Employment needs

A special DOL task force to address minority Veterans employment needs was formed under the auspices of the DOL Advisory Committee on Veterans Employment and Training. The task force will report to Secretary Reich at the May 26 meeting of the Advisory Committee.

11. GI Bill

Despite early rumblings, no legislation has been introduced to expand or alter benefits under the GI bill. Neither the House or Senate Veterans Affairs Committees addressed GI benefits in their Budget Views and Estimates.

The 1993 OBRA legislation cancelled the Montgomery GI Bill FY 94 COLA and cut in half the FY 95 COLA. The President's 1996 budget would extend the halved COLA through FY 96, but the House has proposed to restore the COLA to its full amount in FY 96.

VA will present any further update.

13. DoD/VA Program Coordination

There are a series of management issues on which DoD and VA are working to improve coordination. The VA has been meeting with veterans groups on how to streamline services from active duty and presented a report on the status of current coordination efforts at the last meeting; this information will be included in the report to the VSOs/Military Coalition.

Issues to Monitor

A number of issues were raised about which groups were assured that the Administration planned no change in policy. These issues will remain on the agenda of this group, however, because they have been of concern in the past. If there is any change in their status, agencies should bring this to the attention of the Interagency Group.

1. Taxation of Benefits

The Group was assured that the Administration is not considering proposing taxation of veterans benefits.

2. VETS Program

There are no Administration plans to change the structure or management of the VETS program, either by consolidation with ETA or movement to the VA.

New Issues/Concerns

1. World War II End Commemoration. Commemoration of the end of World War II continues through November 11, 1995. The President will travel to Honolulu in early September for VJ Day activities. A list of other planned Commemoration activities will be handed out at the IVPG meeting.

2. Korean War Memorial. On July 27, the new Korean War memorial will be dedicated. The President and South Korea President Kim will participate in the dedication, and close to 100,000 Korean veterans are expected to come to Washington for the ceremony. An Interagency Coordinating Group under the NSC is working on the event.



THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON

Facsimile Cover Sheet

To: Molly
Company: _____
Phone: _____
Fax: 456-7028

From: Robert L. Jones
Special Assistant to the Secretary
Company: Office of the Secretary
Phone: (202) 273-4845
Fax: (202) 273-4876

Date: _____
Pages including this
cover page: _____

Comments:



Putting Veterans First

Labs Try Pay Banding

Services Will Change RIF Rules, Appraisals

By Chet Bridger
Federal Times Staff Writer

The General Schedule will be thrown out and salaries of employees at military laboratories will be tied to performance, under a project at the Defense Department.

While some details need to be worked out for final approval by Pentagon officials, the Army, Navy and Air Force plan to institute pay banding in their laboratories as soon as next year.

About 25,000 employees in the Navy warfare centers could be covered by the new rules.

The Army has 7,800 employees who could be affected. And the proposal would cover about 5,800 civilians at the Air Force.

Each service is developing a different system, but the basic goal is to create more flexibility to recruit and keep top performers. Instead of being constrained by a grade and step path, employees could move more freely up the pay scale.

"You can progress essentially as high as you can go based on how you do," said Jan Lynch, who chairs a personnel panel for DoD's lab quality improvement program.

The demonstration projects will also change annual appraisals, incentive awards, training and who stays during a reduction in force. The plans of each service vary significantly in some areas.

Army

The Army would classify its laboratory employees into five career paths: scientists and engineers; technicians; administrative; clerical and support staff; and artisans — a few hundred Wage Grade employees.

Details are being developed in consultation with employee groups at Adelphi Laboratory Center, Md.; the Army Missile Command Research and Development Center, Ala.; the Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, Md., and the Army Corps of Engineers Waterways Experiment Station, Miss.

The basic framework under consideration would include five bands. Band one would roughly run through the current GS-5 pay. Band two would run through GS-12. Bands three and four would cover GS-13a through GS-15a, and band five would include a small

percentage of employees who could be paid above the GS-15 scale.

Employees would be grouped into pay pools of about 50 each. About 3 percent of the annual payroll for pool would be budgeted for merit pay raises.

Any governmentwide locality pay or annual raises would be separate from merit raises.

Different changes to the RIF retention system are being considered at the four laboratories. Two are considering changes that would place less emphasis on veterans preference.

Army officials hope to hold public hearings on their plan this summer and implement the new system as soon as January.

Navy

Navy officials are considering a system that would have three separate career paths for scientists and engineers, administrative and support staff. Each path

would have five to six pay bands.

About 10 percent of the 25,000 people at warfare centers are Wage Grade workers. Navy officials have not decided if they would be included in pay banding.

The annual appraisal system will be changed. Under consideration is a system that would rate employees as "acceptable" or "nonacceptable."

Only minor changes to RIF retention are planned.

Navy officials hope to launch the system in 1996.

Air Force

The Air Force plan would move about 3,000 scientists and engineers to pay bands first. Other occupations could be added later.

Four bands would be created.

Converting the General Schedule system would place scientists and engineers at GS-7 to GS-11 into level one; GS-12a and GS-13a into level two, GS-14a at level three, and GS-15a at level four.

The contribution of each employee would be rated each year based on technical problem solving; communication and reporting; cooperation and supervision; research and development; corporate resource management, and technology transition and transfer.

Each employee would get a total score of 1.0 to 4.0, used to determine a merit raise. If an employee's contribution score is lower than the band he or she is paid under, any annual raise or locality pay raise could be denied.

The Air Force would change the RIF rules to emphasize performance as the top factor, followed by veterans preference and seniority.



*You can progress
essentially as high as
you can go based
on how you do.'*

Personnel Official

DPL

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 22, 1994

I am delighted to join Americans across the nation in commemorating Veterans' Employment Day.

In 1944, President Franklin Roosevelt noted, "What our service men and women want, more than anything else, is the assurance of satisfactory employment upon their return to civilian life." Today, federal agencies, working together through a variety of employment and training programs for veterans, remain committed to fulfilling that promise. As we mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Veterans' Preference Act, we recognize the tremendous value of those employment and training programs that give veterans the tools and skills they need to make their significant mark on our society.

Our nation owes a great deal to the men and women who have worn our country's uniform. The prosperity and freedom we enjoy today are the priceless gifts of their service and commitment. On this Veterans' Employment Day, let us rededicate ourselves to fulfilling President Roosevelt's mission as we say a special thanks to those who have risked their lives to protect the freedoms we cherish.

As we celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of this important law, I assure you that this Administration's support for the Act has not diminished. I remain committed to preserving the Veterans Preference Act. With the service that veterans have provided to this nation, they deserve nothing less.

Bill Clinton

INTERAGENCY VETERANS POLICY GROUP

MEMBERSHIP LIST

- Add Natl Serv
- Add Transp. - Carl
Guard

Conveners

Carol Rasco
Assistant to the President
Domestic Policy Council

Alexis Herman
Assistant to the President
Office of Public Liaison

~~Christine Varney~~ Kitty Higgins
Cabinet Secretary

Agency Representatives

✓ Leon Bechet
Director, Veterans Affairs
Small Business Administration
phone: 205-6773
fax: 205-7292

✓ Peter Beech
Director, Veterans Affairs
Health and Human Services
phone: 690-6156
fax: 690-5672

~~Anita Ferguson~~
~~White House Liaison~~
~~Department of Treasury~~
~~phone: 366-0239~~
~~fax: 366-7962~~

✓ Jeanne Fites
Deputy Under Secretary of Defense
for Requirements and Resources
phone: 614-3970 (703)
fax: 697-6691

John Gregrich
Senior Policy Analyst
Office of National Drug Control Policy
phone: 395-6751
fax: 395-6744

⇒ Add Diana Zuckerman
OSTR

Rm. 100, fax 46-6244

+ Elise Harris
*Pt. Person

fax 46-9180

Elaine Kamarck
Senior Policy Advisor
National Performance Review
phone: 456-2816
fax: 456-6429

Mary Lou Keener
General Counsel
Department of Veterans Affairs
phone: 273-6659
fax: 273-6671

ICE
Janet LaChance
Director, Communications
Office of Personnel Management
phone: 606-1800
fax: 606-2264

Jacquie Lawing
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Economic Development
Housing and Urban Development
phone: 708-0271
fax: 708-3336

Nancy Ann Min
Program Associate Director
Office of Management and Budget, WH
phone: 395-5178
fax: 395-7289

Fred Schroeder
Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services Administration
Department of Education
phone: 205-5482
fax: 205-9874

Preston Taylor
Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment in Training
Department of Labor
phone: 219-9116
fax: 219-4773

White House Contacts

Jeremy Ben-Ami
Senior Policy Analyst
phone: 456-5584
fax: 456-7028

Jennifer O'Connor
Special Assistant to the President
for Cabinet Affairs
phone: 456-2421
fax: 456-6704

Steve Hilton
Deputy Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison
phone: 456-2930
fax: 456-6218

Bob Jones
Special Assistant to the Secretary
Department of Veterans Affairs/OPL
phone: 456-5178/273-4845
fax: 456-6218/273-4876

Carol Rasco
Assistant to the President
Domestic Policy Council
Room 213, OEOB

IVPG Meeting List

66704
62525

Alexis Herman
Assistant to the President
Office of the Public Liaison
2FL/WW

To: Lee Ann
Tr: Molly

Kitty Higgins
Assistant to the President
Office of Cabinet Affairs
Room 160, OEOB

✓ Leon Bechet / Bill Trivitt
Director, Veterans Affairs
Small Business Administration
409 3rd St., SW
Mail Code 7220
Washington, DC 20416

Peter Beech
Director, Veterans Affairs
Department of Health and Human Services
Room 630F
200 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20201

✓ Jeanne Fites
Deputy Under Secretary of Defense
for Requirements and Resources
Room 3E 763
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-4000

703/614-3970

Norma St. Claire

John Gregrich
Senior Policy Analyst
Office of National Drug Control Policy
750 17th St., NW
Washington, DC 20500

Elaine Kamarck
Senior Policy Advisor
National Performance Review
Room 271, OEOB