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Written Statements: Pursuant to 41 CFR 102-3.105(j) and 102-3.140 and section 10(a)(3) of FACA, the public or interested organizations may submit written statements to the membership of the Committee at any time or in response to the stated agenda of a planned meeting. Written statements should be submitted to the Committee's Designated Federal Officer. The Designated Federal Officer's contact information is listed in this notice or it can be obtained from the General Services Administration's FACA Database—<https://www.fido.gov/facadatabase/public.asp>.

Written statements that do not pertain to a scheduled meeting of the Committee may be submitted at any time. However, if individual comments pertain to a specific topic being discussed at a planned meeting, then these statements must be submitted no later than five business days prior to the meeting in question. The Designated Federal Officer will review all submitted written statements and provide copies to all committee members.

Dated: May 15, 2013.

Aaron Siegel,

Alternate OSD Federal Register, Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 2013-11912 Filed 5-17-13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Science and Technology Reinvention Laboratory (STRL) Personnel Management Demonstration Projects

AGENCY: Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Civilian Personnel Policy) (DASD (CPP)), Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Notice of amendment to demonstration project plans.

SUMMARY: Section 342(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 1995, as amended by section 1009 of the NDAA for FY 2000, and section 1114 of the NDAA for FY 2001, authorizes the Secretary of Defense to conduct personnel demonstration projects at DoD laboratories designated as STRLs. This amendment adds waivers to current STRL *Federal Register Notices* (FRN) for the Army Research Laboratory (ARL); the Army Aviation and Missile Research, Development, and Engineering Center (AMRDEC); the

Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC); the Army Medical Research and Materiel Command (MRMC); the Army Communications-Electronics Research, Development, and Engineering Center (CERDEC); and the Naval Research Laboratory (NRL), to facilitate the use of flexibilities in their project plans by permitting terminations during extended probationary periods. On November 20, 2012, the proposed amendment was published for a 30-day comment period. No comments were received on or before December 20, 2012. This notice provides the final amendment to the demonstration project plans.

DATES: This amendment may be implemented beginning on the date of publication.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Department of Defense

Mr. William T. Cole, Defense Civilian Personnel Advisory Service, Non-Traditional Personnel Programs (DCPAS-NTPP), Suite 05L28, 4800 Mark Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22350-1100; email: *william.cole@cpms.osd.mil*.

Department of the Army

- ARL: Program Manager, ARL Personnel Demonstration Project, AMSRD-ARL-O-HR, 2800 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi, MD 20793-1197;

- AMRDEC: Special Assistant for Laboratory Management, AMRDEC, 5400 Fowler Road, Redstone Arsenal, AL 35898-5000;

- ERDC: Personnel Demonstration Project Manager, U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center, 3909 Halls Ferry Road, Vicksburg, MS 39180-6199;

- MRMC: Director, Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, Medical Research and Materiel Command, 1541 Porter Street, Fort Detrick, MD 21702-5000;

- CERDEC: CERDEC Personnel Demonstration Project Administrator, C4ISR Campus Building 6002, Room D3120, ATTN: RDER-DOS-ER, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21005.

Department of the Navy

- NRL: Director, Strategic Workforce Planning, Naval Research Laboratory, 4555 Overlook Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20375-5320.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

The conventional 1-year probationary period does not allow supervisors an adequate period of time to fully evaluate the contribution and conduct of newly

hired personnel. STRLs have included flexibilities allowing up to a 3 year probationary period. These flexibilities were fully utilized until the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit decided two cases, *Van Wersch v. Department of Health & Human Services*, 197 F.3d 1144 (Fed. Cir. 1999), and *McCormick v. Department of the Air Force*, 307 F.3d 1339 (Fed. Cir. 2002), which affected the STRL's ability to fully utilize their extended probationary periods.

B. Modifications

The following FRNs are amended under the authority of section 1114 of the NDAA for Fiscal Year 2001:

1. *ARL (63 FR 10680-10711, March 4, 1998)*

a. Add the following to section IX. Required Waivers to Law and Regulation, *A. Waivers to Title 5, U. S. Code*: "Chapter 75, sections 7501(1), 7511(a)(1)(A)(ii), and 7511(a)(1)(C)(ii); Adverse Actions—Definitions. Waived to the extent necessary to allow extended probationary periods and to permit termination during the extended probationary period without using adverse action procedures for those individuals serving a probationary period under an initial appointment except for those with veterans' preference."

b. Add the following as the final paragraph to section IX. Required Waivers to Law and Regulation, *B. Waivers to Title 5, Code of Federal Regulations*: "Part 752, sections 752.201, and 752.401: Coverage. Waived to the extent necessary to allow extended probationary periods and to permit termination during the extended probationary period without using adverse action procedures for those individuals serving a probationary period under an initial appointment except those with veterans' preference."

2. *AMRDEC (62 FR 34876-34903, June 27, 1997)*

a. Add the following to section IX. Required Waivers to Law and Regulation, *1. Title 5, U.S. Code*: "Chapter 75, sections 7501(1), 7511(a)(1)(A)(ii), and 7511(a)(1)(C)(ii); Adverse Actions—Definitions. Waived to the extent necessary to allow extended probationary periods and to permit termination during the extended probationary period without using adverse action procedures for those individuals serving a probationary period under an initial appointment except for those with veterans' preference."

b. Add the following as the final paragraph to section IX. Required Waivers to Law and Regulation, 2. *Title 5, Code of Federal Regulations*: “Part 752, sections 752.201, and 752.401: Coverage. Waived to the extent necessary to allow extended probationary periods and to permit termination during the extended probationary period without using adverse action procedures for those individuals serving a probationary period under an initial appointment except those with veterans’ preference.”

3. *ERDC (63 FR 14580–14599, March 25, 1998)*

a. Add the following to section IX. Required Waivers to Law and Regulation, A. *Waivers to Title 5, U.S. Code*: “Chapter 75, sections 7501(1), 7511(a)(1)(A)(ii), and 7511(a)(1)(C)(ii); Adverse Actions—Definitions. Waived to the extent necessary to allow extended probationary periods and to permit termination during the extended probationary period without using adverse action procedures for those individuals serving a probationary period under an initial appointment except for those with veterans’ preference.”

b. Add the following to section IX. Required Waivers to Law and Regulation, B. *Waivers to Title 5, Code of Federal Regulations*: “Part 752, sections 752.201, and 752.401: Coverage. Waived to the extent necessary to allow extended probationary periods and to permit termination during the extended probationary period without using adverse action procedures for those individuals serving a probationary period under an initial appointment except those with veterans’ preference.”

4. *MRMC (63 FR 10440–10462, March 3, 1998)*

a. Add the following to section IX. Required Waivers to Law and Regulation, 1. *Waivers to Title 5, U.S. Code*: “Chapter 75, sections 7501(1), 7511(a)(1)(A)(ii), and 7511(a)(1)(C)(ii); Adverse Actions—Definitions. Waived to the extent necessary to allow extended probationary periods and to permit termination during the extended probationary period without using adverse action procedures for those individuals serving a probationary period under an initial appointment except for those with veterans’ preference.”

b. Add the following as the final paragraph to section IX. Required Waivers to Law and Regulation, 2. *Title 5, Code of Federal Regulations*: “Part 752, sections 752.201, and 752.401:

Coverage. Waived to the extent necessary to allow extended probationary periods and to permit termination during the extended probationary period without using adverse action procedures for those individuals serving a probationary period under an initial appointment except those with veterans’ preference.”

5. *CERDEC (66 FR 54872–54899, October 30, 2001)*

a. Add the following to section IX. Required Waivers to Law and Regulation, A. *Waivers to Title 5, U.S. Code*: “Chapter 75, sections 7501(1), 7511(a)(1)(A)(ii), and 7511(a)(1)(C)(ii); Adverse Actions—Definitions. Waived to the extent necessary to allow extended probationary periods and to permit termination during the extended probationary period without using adverse action procedures for those individuals serving a probationary period under an initial appointment except for those with veterans’ preference.”

b. Add the following to section IX. Required Waivers to Law and Regulation, B. *Waivers to Title 5, Code of Federal Regulations*: “Part 752, sections 752.201, and 752.401: Coverage. Waived to the extent necessary to allow extended probationary periods and to permit termination during the extended probationary period without using adverse action procedures for those individuals serving a probationary period under an initial appointment except those with veterans’ preference.”

6. *NRL (64 FR 33970–34046, June 24, 1999)*

a. Add the following as the final box on the left side of Appendix A: Required Waivers to Law and Regulation chart, *Title 5, U. S. Code*: “Chapter 75, sections 7501(1), 7511(a)(1)(A)(ii), and 7511(a)(1)(C)(ii); Adverse Actions—Definitions. Waived to the extent necessary to allow extended probationary periods and to permit termination during the extended probationary period without using adverse action procedures for those individuals serving a probationary period under an initial appointment except for those with veterans’ preference.”

b. Add the following on the right side of the information entered in 6.a. above to Appendix A: Required Waivers to Law and Regulation chart, *Title 5, Code of Federal Regulations*: “Part 752, sections 752.201, and 752.401: Coverage. Waived to the extent necessary to allow extended probationary periods and to permit

termination during the extended probationary period without using adverse action procedures for those individuals serving a probationary period under an initial appointment except those with veterans’ preference.”

Dated: May 15, 2013.

Aaron Siegel,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 2013–11952 Filed 5–17–13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001–06–P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for Arctic Deep Draft Ports Navigation Improvements Feasibility Study

AGENCY: Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) announces its intention to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to study the feasibility of improving the navigation infrastructure in the vicinity of Norton Sound and the Bering Strait with a focus on existing infrastructure at Nome, possible infrastructure at Cape Riley near Teller, and improved infrastructure at Point Spencer at Port Clarence, Alaska. This study will be performed through a partnership between USACE and the State of Alaska, Department of Transportation. The existing infrastructure in this region of Alaska is presently not capable of meeting existing or anticipated navigation demands for multinational, Federal, state, and local interests. Of particular concern in this region is the ability to provide a systematic approach to meeting navigation requirements in this region in response to a changing climate and thus an increasing need for environmentally and responsibly planned infrastructure. The EIS will address the potential for positive and negative environmental impacts of construction, operation, and maintenance of marine infrastructure serving the Norton Sound and Bering Strait region. USACE will hold scoping meetings in Nome and Teller, Alaska, in an effort to better define the issues associated with navigation in this region of Alaska. Teleconferencing or VTC will be set up as available to accommodate stakeholders unable to be present at the scoping meetings. Scoping will be