PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

JUN 9 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR: SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
DEPUTY CHIEF MANAGEMENT OFFICER
CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU
GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, COST ASSESSMENT AND PROGRAM EVALUATION
INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS
DIRECTOR, NET ASSESSMENT
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES
DIRECTORS OF THE DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: Calendar Year 2015 Waiver of Annual Pay Limitations for Certain Employees

Eligible Department of Defense (DoD) employees are authorized an increase to the calendar year 2015 premium pay limitations, as defined by the provisions of title 5, U.S.C., section 5547, if they perform work in direct support of, or directly related to, a military operation, including a contingency operation or an operation in response to a national emergency declared by the President. Operation FREEDOM'S SENTINEL is a contingency operation under title 10, U.S.C., section 101(a)(13), and the President has continued a declaration of a national emergency in Iraq. Eligible employees are those assigned to an overseas area of responsibility of the Commander, United States Central Command (USCENTCOM) or an overseas location that has been moved from the USCENTCOM area of responsibility to the area of responsibility of the Commander, United States Africa Command (see Appendix A of the attached document). By agreement with the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence (USD(I)), this increase is again administratively extended to employees covered by the Defense Civilian Intelligence Personnel System (DCIPS) who meet the criteria above.

The increase is authorized by exercising the waiver authority resulting from section 1101 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 (Public Law 113-291, December 19, 2014). That section extends the authority in section 1101(a) of the Duncan Hunter NDAA for FY 2009 (Public Law 110-417, dated October 18, 2008), as amended. Title 10, U.S.C., sections 1601-1603, provide authorities for DCIPS employees. Eligible DoD employees who are granted a waiver under these authorities will be covered by a higher annual premium pay cap and will be entitled to premium

payments to the extent the employee's combined payable amount of basic pay and premium pay for calendar year 2015 does not exceed the annual rate of salary payable to the Vice President under title 3, U.S.C., section 104, which is $235,300.

In addition, subsection 1101(b) of the NDAA for FY 2009, as amended, continues to apply and provides that the aggregate limitation on pay under title 5, U.S.C., section 5307, will not apply to an employee in calendar year 2015 if the employee is granted a waiver of the normally applicable premium pay limitations under subsection 1101(a). Subsection 1101(c) of the NDAA for FY 2009, as amended, also continues to apply and provides that any payments made under the subsection 1101(a) waiver authority resulting in additional premium pay of a type normally creditable as basic pay will not be considered basic pay for any purpose (e.g., retirement). Further, such additional premium pay may not be used in computing lump-sum payments for accumulated and accrued annual leave under title 5, U.S.C., section 5551. For 2015, by agreement with the USD(I), these provisions also apply in the same manner to employees covered by DCIPS.

The attached guidance, initially distributed for the increased limitation for calendar year 2010, remains in effect, and has been updated to reflect the changes applicable in calendar year 2015.

Questions may be addressed to Mr. Jeff Nelson, Chief, Compensation Division, Defense Civilian Personnel Advisory Service, at jeffrey.l.nelson68.civ@mail.mil or (571) 372-1540.

Brad Carson
Acting

Attachment:
As stated

2015 Annual Limitation of Premium Pay and Aggregate Waiver Provisions United States Central Command Area of Responsibility for Employees Covered by 5 U.S.C. §§ 5547 and 5307; and 10 U.S.C. §§ 1601-1614

Premium Pay Waiver

Effective December 19, 2014, section 1101(a) of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 (Public Law 110–417), as amended, was further amended by section 1101 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon NDAA for FY 2015 (Public Law 113-291), by striking ''through 2014'' and inserting ''through 2015.'' It authorizes the Secretary of Defense to waive the annual premium pay limitation resulting from title 5, U.S.C., section 5547, or a similar limitation otherwise established for employees up to the annual rate of the salary payable to the Vice President pursuant to title 3, U.S.C., section 104, which is $235,300 for calendar year 2015. This waiver authority applies to Department of Defense (DoD) employees who (1) perform work while in an overseas location that is in the area of responsibility of the Commander, United States Central Command (USCENTCOM) or an overseas location that was formerly in the area of responsibility of the Commander, USCENTCOM but has been moved to the area of responsibility of the Commander, United States Africa Command (USAFRICOM); (2) are subject to the provisions of title 5, U.S.C., section 5547, or a similar limitation otherwise established; (3) are assigned to an overseas location in the USCENTCOM or the USAFRICOM areas of responsibility specified at Appendix A for at least 42 consecutive calendar days; and (4) perform work in direct support of, or directly related to the response to a national emergency declared by the President or a military operation, including a contingency operation as defined in title 10, U.S.C., section 101(a)(3), (Note: The operation in Afghanistan as of the date of this memorandum (Operation FREEDOM'S SENTINEL) has been determined by DoD to be a contingency operation under title 10, U.S.C., section 101(a)(13), and the President has continued a declaration of a national emergency in Iraq.)

By agreement with the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence (USD(I)), the annual premium pay cap for employees under the Defense Civilian Intelligence Personnel System (DCIPS) is waived up to the annual rate of the salary payable to the Vice President pursuant to title 3, U.S.C., section 104, which is $235,300 for calendar year 2015. This waiver authority applies to DoD employees covered by DCIPS who meet the four specified criteria described in the paragraph above.

For all covered employees, the increased annual premium pay limitation was effective on December 19, 2014, and applies to premium payments payable to an eligible employee during the 2015 calendar year.

Employees may be paid premium pay only to the extent that the payment does not cause the total of his or her basic pay and premium pay payable in calendar year 2015 to exceed $235,300. The increased premium pay cap cannot be applied to premium payments earned before an employee is assigned to the USCENTCOM or the USAFRICOM areas of responsibility specified at Appendix A, but those payments will be counted toward the higher limitation if paid during calendar year 2015.

Employees assigned to Iraq or Afghanistan for at least 42 days are deemed to meet the eligibility requirements for the increased premium pay cap and no further determination regarding these employees is required. Determinations about whether employees in other USCENTCOM or USAFRICOM overseas areas of responsibility (Appendix A) perform work that meets the four eligibility criterion described in the first paragraph above, i.e., whether the employee is performing work in direct support of, or directly related to the response to a national emergency declared by the President or a military operation, including a contingency operation as defined in title 10, U.S.C., section 101(a)(13), must be made on a case-by-case basis.

Secretaries of the Military Departments and the Heads of Defense Agencies and DoD Field Activities with independent appointing authority on behalf of themselves and their serviced populations are hereby delegated the authority to determine when employees, other than employees assigned to Iraq or Afghanistan, meet the eligibility criteria. This authority may be further delegated, in writing, to managerial and supervisory levels deemed appropriate.

NOTE: Beginning in 2012, civilian employees assigned to Iraq are not considered to be supporting a military operation; however, such employees are deemed to meet the eligibility requirements for the increased premium pay cap based on their performance of work in direct support of, or directly related to the response to a national emergency declared by the President under the "Continuation of the National Emergency with Respect to the Stabilization of Iraq" notice signed May 19, 2015.

For employees who were serving in the area on January 1, 2015, the 42 consecutive days may include days served in 2014. The 42 consecutive days also may include days served in Afghanistan in 2016, although the higher annual pay limitation addressed in this policy will apply only to premium pay payable in 2015.

Aggregate Pay

Pursuant to section 1101(b) of the NDAA for FY 2009, as amended, the calendar year 2015 aggregate pay limitation of $203,700 for total annual compensation does not apply to employees covered by title 5, U.S.C., section 5307, or similar limitation (such as title 10, U.S.C., sections 1601-1603) for whom the annual premium pay cap is waived under this policy. These employees are limited to base pay and premium pay payable in 2015 not to exceed $235,300, but all other compensation that normally would be subject to the aggregate pay cap in title 5, U.S.C., section 5307, or similar limitation will be paid as it is earned. By agreement with the USD(I), this aggregate pay limitation waiver also applies in the same manner to employees covered by DCIPS.

Additional Guidance

When an eligible employee (including an employee covered by DCIPS) no longer performs work in support of a declared emergency or a covered military operation or when the employee is reassigned to a position outside the covered geographic area of responsibility, the employee will be subject to the biweekly limitation for that position and location as established by title 5, U.S.C., section 5547, or under title 10, U.S.C., sections 1601-1603, as applicable.

The higher annual limitation on premium pay established under section 1101 of the NDAA for FY 2009, as amended, and for DCIPS employees by this policy, will apply during calendar year 2015 to an employee's annual basic pay plus premium pay even after the employee has stopped performing work covered by section 1101 of the NDAA for FY 2009, as amended, and implemented by this policy. After an employee stops performing covered work, the employee's earnings again will be subject to the biweekly premium pay limitation under title 5, U.S.C., section 5547, or title 10, U.S.C., sections 1601-1603, as applicable. Employees still could receive premium payments up to the biweekly premium pay limitation each pay period until the $235,300 applicable annual premium pay limitation under section 1101(a) of the NDAA for FY 2009, or this policy, as applicable, is reached. (Note: If such an employee's aggregate projected basic pay plus premium pay payable for 2015 is less than the annual limit established under title 5, U.S.C., section 5547, an agency may invoke that annual limit, if appropriate, and pay premium pay in excess of the biweekly limit. Once the section 5547 annual limit is reached, the employee would be again subject to the section 5547 biweekly limit and simultaneously subject to the $235,300 annual premium pay limit.)

If an employee's premium pay limitation is increased to $235,300 as applicable and, at the end of calendar year 2015, the employee did not meet the eligibility criteria, the employee must reimburse the Department for premium payments made in excess of the applicable limitation. The debt collection process for current and former employees is outlined in DoD 7000.14-R, "Department of Defense Financial Management Regulation (DoD FMR), Volume 8."

To the extent that a waiver results in payment of additional premium pay of a type that is normally credited as basic pay for retirement or any other purpose, such additional pay shall not be considered to be basic pay for any purpose, nor shall it be used in computing a lump-sum payment for accumulated and accrued annual leave under title 5, U.S.C., section 5551.

Time and attendance and electronic personnel and payroll procedures established in 2009 remain essentially the same. Timekeepers should continue to provide the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) with the necessary data on employees who are projected to work in a covered overseas location for a period of at least 42 consecutive days.

Authorized management officials should ensure personnel records are established in the Defense Civilian Personnel Data System (or equivalent) and DFAS is provided the required data even if the employee has departed the overseas location prior to the issuance date of this policy. Authorized management officials also must update personnel records when an employee departs the area prior to meeting the 42 day eligibility criterion.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Aggregate Pay Limitation. The maximum amount of an employee's total calendar year payable income as specified in title 5, U.S.C., section 5307, or similar pursuant to title 10, U.S.C., sections 1601-1603, as applicable.

Annual Premium Pay Limitation. The maximum amount of basic pay and premium pay payable in a calendar year to an employee as specified in title 5, U.S.C., section 5547(a), or similar pursuant title 10, U.S.C., sections 1601-1603, as applicable.

Area of Responsibility. The geographic area associated with a combatant command within which a combatant commander has authority to plan and conduct operations.

Contingency Operation. As defined in title 10, U.S.C., section 101(a)(13), a military operation that is designated by the Secretary of Defense as an operation in which members of the armed forces are or may become involved in military actions, operations, or hostilities against an enemy of the United States or against an opposing force; or results in the call or order to, or retention on, active duty of members of the uniformed services under title 10, U.S.C., sections 331-335, 688, 12301(a), 12302, 12304, 12305, 12406, or any other provision of law during a war or during a national emergency declared by the President or Congress.

Military Operations. Operations that encompass the use of military capabilities across the range of military operations. These military actions can be applied to complement any combination of the other instruments of national power and occur before, during, and after war.

National Emergency. A condition declared by the President or the Congress by virtue of powers previously vested in them that authorize certain emergency actions to be undertaken in the national interest. Action to be taken may include partial, full, or total mobilization of national resources.

Premium Pay. Premium pay subject to the annual premium pay limitation is the dollar value of earned hours of compensatory time off and additional pay authorized for overtime, night, Sunday, or holiday work; or for standby duty, administratively uncontrollable overtime work, or availability duty. It excludes overtime pay paid to employees under the Fair Labor Standards Act and compensatory time off earned in lieu of such overtime pay.

APPENDIX A

COUNTRIES IN USCENTCOM OVERSEAS AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY

1. Afghanistan
2. Bahrain
3. Egypt
4. Iran
5. Iraq
6. Jordan
7. Kazakhstan
8. Kuwait
9. Kyrgyzstan
10. Lebanon
11. Oman
12. Pakistan
13. Qatar
14. Saudi Arabia
15. Syria
16. Tajikistan
17. Turkmenistan
18. United Arab Emirates
19. Uzbekistan
20. Yemen

COUNTRIES IN USAFRICOM OVERSEAS AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY
(Formerly in USCENTCOM Overseas Area of Responsibility)

1. Djibouti
2. Eritrea
3. Ethiopia
4. Kenya
5. Seychelles
6. Somalia
7. Sudan