Lesson Objectives

After completing this lesson, you will be able to:

▪ Define Adjustment in Force (AIF) and explain its purpose.
▪ Describe ways in which AIF can be avoided.
▪ Discuss situations that require the use of competitive AIF procedures.
▪ Discuss procedures for required advance notification to USD(I) to proceed with executing an AIF.
▪ Define competitive areas and describe factors on which they are based.
▪ List factors that may determine a competitive area.
▪ Describe the AIF retention factors.
▪ Define the three tenure groups and subgroups in AIF.
▪ Describe how the performance score is obtained.
▪ List additional considerations when developing a retention register.
▪ Describe reasons for displacement and explain how employees are displaced and released.
▪ List and describe situations that would merit temporary postponement of an employee’s release.
▪ Describe situations in which competitive AIF procedures are used for furloughs.
▪ Define transfer of function (TOF).
▪ Describe the AIF Appeals Committee (AIF AC) and identify to whom it does and does not apply.
▪ Describe what an employee can appeal when affected by an AIF and how an employee appeals.
Lesson 13: Adjustment in Force Participant Guide

- List the different organizations to which an appeal can be submitted, and identify which employees can appeal to these organizations.
- List and describe outplacement services provided to employees separated as a result of an AIF.

Topics

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LESSON 13 INTRODUCTION

This lesson lasts approximately 90 minutes.

Lesson 13: Adjustment in Force

Duration: 60 minutes

Your Notes:
Lesson 13: Adjustment in Force (AIF), the Title 10 workforce shaping or reduction policy is similar to the Title 5 Reduction in Force (RIF). There are key distinctions to be aware of between the two policies.

Your Notes:
TOPIC 1: APPROPRIATE USE FOR AIF PROCEDURES

Appropriate Use for AIF Procedures

- AIF Avoidance Strategies
- Situations Requiring the Use of Competitive AIF Procedures
- USD(I) Notification
- Employee Notification

Answer the questions on the following page.

What You Should Know:

**Appropriate Use for AIF Procedures**

- Adjustment in Force (AIF) is the workforce shaping or reduction mechanism for releasing Defense Intelligence employees from competitive areas in order of tenure, veterans’ preference, performance score, and length of service.

- Components should make every reasonable effort to avoid an AIF. This can be done in a variety of ways: resource planning, job changes or retraining, voluntary early retirement authority, separation incentives, and pre-AIF placement for those employees eligible for placement assistance and referral programs.

- Situations that require the use of competitive AIF procedures include:
  - Separation
  - Reduction in work level, pay band, or grade
  - Furlough for more than 30 consecutive days or more than 22 cumulative workdays
• Result of workforce shaping (e.g., lack of work; shortage of funds, reorganization).

- USD(I) must be notified of an AIF at least 120 days before the planned AIF effective date.
- Employees who may be affected by an AIF should be notified of general plans at least 90 days before the planned AIF effective date.
- Specific written notice should be provided to the employee at least 60 days before the AIF effective date.
- Records related to an AIF must be retained for at least 2 years after the final action has been taken.

Questions:

- In what ways can an AIF be avoided?
- What situations require the use of competitive AIF procedures?
- How many days before the planned AIF effective date must USD(I) receive notification?
- How many days before the planned AIF effective date should potentially affected employees receive notification?
TOPIC 2: COMPETITIVE AREAS FOR AIF COMPETITION PURPOSES

One of the key components for AIF planning is the establishment of competitive areas.

As the instructor reads each sentence on the following page, call out the words that are missing and fill in the corresponding blanks.

What You Should Know:

AIF Competitive Areas

- Competitive areas establish the geographical and organizational limits of AIF competition.
- There may be more than one competitive area in an AIF.
- Components should determine competitive areas at least 90 days prior to the effective date of an AIF.
- Competitive areas in AIF are defined as the combination of geographic area and any of the factors listed below:
  - Work category
  - Work level
• Pay band
• Grade
• Organizational unit
• Occupational group
• Funding lines of business

For Defense Intelligence Senior Level (DISL) positions, competitive areas may be based on:
  • Geographical location
  • Organizational unit
  • Technical qualifications
  • Funding lines of business

If an AIF will affect Defense Intelligence Senior Executive Service (DISES) position, the Component must follow procedures contained in Volume 2002 (upon approval).

The minimum geographic competitive area is the local commuting area.

An employee’s competitive area is determined by his/her official position or work role of record.

Your Notes:
Questions:

- Competitive areas establish the _______ and _______ limits of AIF competition.
- Components should determine competitive areas at least ___ days prior to the effective date of an AIF.
- What are the factors that may determine a competitive area?
- For DISL positions, competitive areas may be based on ________________________________.
- The minimum geographic competitive area is the local _____________ area.
- An employee’s competitive area is determined by his/her _____________________________ or work role of record.
TOPIC 3: AIF RETENTION FACTORS

What You Should Know:

**AIF Retention Factors**

- Employees occupying positions in the same competitive area compete for positions based on their retention standing.
- An employee’s retention standing is based on a combination of their tenure, veterans’ preference, performance, and length of creditable service.
- The retention standing is determined only for those employees competing for positions under AIF in the established competitive area. These employees are then placed on a retention register in order of their retention standing.
- Throughout AIF proceedings, employees can displace other employees with lower retention standing within the assigned competitive area if they are qualified for the position.
- Employees have no right of assignment beyond their competitive area during an AIF.
Retention Factors – Tenure Groups

- There are three tenure groups under DCIPS policy:
  - Tenure Group I includes permanent employees not currently serving a trial period.
  - Tenure Group II includes employees in a permanent appointment currently serving a trial period.
  - Tenure Group III includes all employees serving on non-permanent appointments of any kind that are more than 1 year in duration, or result in continuous employment for more than 1 year.

- For the purposes of AIF competition, Tenure Groups I and II are combined into Tenure Group 1 in order to provide high-performing, recently hired employees retention opportunity during an AIF.
**What You Should Know:**

**Retention Factors – Veterans’ Preference**

- Once the Tenure Groups I and III have been established according to the preceding guidance, they are divided into three subgroups based on the employee’s entitlement to veterans’ preference for AIF purposes. These subgroups are as follows:
  - Subgroup AD includes veterans who are eligible for preference and who have a compensable service-connected disability of 30 percent or more.
  - Subgroup A includes veterans eligible for preference who are not eligible for Subgroup AD (including eligible spouses, widows or widowers, and mothers of veterans).
  - Subgroup B includes nonveterans and others not eligible for preference in Subgroups AD and A.

**Your Notes:**
Answer the questions on page 13_16.

What You Should Know:

Retention Factors – Employee Performance Score

- After employees are placed on the retention register by tenure group and veterans’ preference, they will be listed in descending order based on their performance score.

- The employee’s performance score is determined by averaging, to the first decimal point, the three most recent DCIPS overall Performance Evaluations of Record received during the 4-year period prior to the deadline for receipt of Performance Evaluations of Record.

- In those cases where there are fewer than three DCIPS Performance Evaluations of Record, and there are no other Evaluations of Record available to convert to DCIPS ratings, the existing DCIPS Performance Evaluations of Record will be averaged to the first decimal point to determine the performance score.

  - Example: An employee was hired right out of college. She only has two Performance Evaluations of Record. No other evaluations to be considered. Average the two evaluations that she has.

- Situations where employees have no Evaluations of Record for the 4-year period,
meaning one was never done, or not documented, should be exceptionally rare, however, in the event that this does occur, the modal evaluation of record for the competitive area will be assigned to those employees.

- Example: Employee moved around a lot and supervisors changed constantly, so employee does not have an Evaluation of Record. The modal rating for the competitive area is 4.1, then 4.1 is used for this employee.

- Employees who were not part of a mass organizational conversion, meaning they transfer individually to a Defense Intelligence position, and who have not yet received a DCIPS Performance Evaluation of Record shall be assigned a converted DCIPS Performance Evaluation of Record of 3, “Successful.”
  - Example: An employee was selected for a new job in a DCIPS organization about 10 months ago. She is new to DCIPS and does not have a DCIPS performance evaluation of record. She will be assigned a 3 for purposes of the AIF.

- Employees who are part of a mass conversion into DCIPS, and have a non-DCIPS evaluation that is found to be equivalent to the DCIPS Performance Evaluation of Record of Outstanding, Excellent, Successful, Minimally Successful, or Unacceptable, will be assigned an overall converted DCIPS Performance Evaluation of Record consistent with the original rating (5, 4, 3, 2 or 1).
  - Example: Thirty intelligence specialists originally assigned to a position not covered under DCIPS policies in Organization A, were mass converted to Organization B, a Defense Intelligence Component. Organization A’s performance management system was reviewed and found to be equivalent to the DCIPS performance management system. It was a 5 level evaluation system and, while the labels were different, the numerical descriptions were found to be similar. As an equivalent, the performance Evaluations of Record from the previous system are used.

- Only those Performance Evaluations of Record that are available for use by the office responsible for processing the AIF at least 90 days prior to the effective date of the AIF may be included in the computation of the AIF performance score.

- To be creditable, an Evaluation of Record need not have been signed by the employee, but must have been issued to the employee with all appropriate supervisory reviews accomplished and rater and reviewer signatures.

- The performance score for DISL employees will be computed by using DISL
Components continue to use the converted ratings for employees who transferred to DCIPS individually and those who were a part of a mass conversion until they have three official DCIPS Performance Evaluations of Record.

- Example: An employee transfers to a Defense Intelligence Component from a position not covered under DCIPS policy. Should an AIF be required within the employee’s first year of employment, the employee will receive a converted DCIPS Performance Evaluation of Record of 3 ("Successful"). If the employee remains at that Component, and an AIF is required the second year, the employee now has one earned DCIPS Performance Evaluation of Record (4) that will be averaged with the converted rating (3). His performance score is then 3+4=7/2 = 3.5. If the employee remains at the Component, and an AIF is required for the third year, the employee now has two earned DCIPS Performance Evaluations of Record. His performance score is calculated by averaging the earned DCIPS performance ratings (4 and 3), and the converted rating (3). His performance score is then 3+4+3=10/3 3.33, rounded to 3.3. If an AIF is required in the fourth year, the employee will now have three DCIPS Performance Evaluations of Record and his performance score will no longer include the converted rating.
Questions:

- How is an employee’s performance score determined?

- What happens if there are fewer than three DCIPS Performance Evaluations of Record and there are no other Evaluations of Record available to convert to DCIPS ratings?

- What about employees who move into a DCIPS position individually, meaning they are not a part of a mass conversion, and do not have a DCIPS Performance Evaluation of Record score yet?

- What if a Defense Intelligence employee is missing Evaluations of Record?
Creditable Service

All creditable Federal and military service as defined by Section 351.503 of Title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, will be included. Credit for military service will be computed in accordance with section 3502(a) of Title 5, United States Code.

What You Should Know:

Retention Factors – Creditable Service

- Creditable service is the final required consideration when placing an employee on a retention register.
- All creditable Federal and military service as defined by section 351.503 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, will be included in the overall calculation for total creditable service. Policy requires that credit for military service be computed in accordance with section 3502(a) of title 5, United States Code.
Additional Retention Factors

Additional Retention Factors—’Tiebreakers’

Additional tiebreaking procedures may be used by Components to determine an employees’ final retention standing as long as the workforce is notified of the measures in advance of a planned AIF.

What You Should Know:

Retention – Additional Factors

- Additional tiebreaking procedures may be used by Components to determine an employees’ final retention standing as long as the workforce is notified of the measures in advance of a planned AIF.

What You Should Know:

Special Situations that are Not Tiebreakers

- Employees who are Reservists or members of the National Guard on active duty, and who have restoration rights, will not be listed on the retention register.
- An employee who has received, in advance of the effective date of the AIF, a final written decision of removal will not compete for retention.
- An employee who, prior to the AIF effective date, has been notified of a reduction in work level, pay band, or grade will compete for retention based on the new position.
- Though employees absent due to workers’ compensation have no special protections during an AIF, they may not be denied placement rights because of their injury. Restoration rights are terminated if an employee is separated through an AIF.
Displacement

- Research your assigned topic on Displacement:
  - Displacement
  - Order of displacement and release
  - Postponement of release
- Refer to the WYSK box Displacement, Order of Displacement and Release, and Exceptions to Order of Release on pages 13-19_13-21 of the Participant Guide.
- Record notes on the worksheet on page 13-22.

What You Should Know:

**Displacement**

- Displacement is caused when the employee’s position is abolished, or when an employee with higher retention standing in the same competitive area is moved into the position of an employee of lower retention standing.
- An employee must be qualified for the lower standing employee’s position and must be able to satisfactorily perform the duties of the position without undue interruption.
- An employee on a leave of absence because of a compensable injury may not be denied an assignment right solely because of the disqualification that resulted from the compensable injury. The employee must be afforded appropriate assignment rights subject to recovery as provided by U.S.C. 8151.
- If an employee is a veteran eligible for veterans’ preference with a compensable service-connected disability of 30 percent or more, (included in Tenure Subgroup AD) and is found to be physically unqualified for an assigned position, the Component will follow the procedures outlined in Volume 2004 to obtain a final
determination from the AIF Appeals Committee (AIF AC) regarding the employee’s physical ability to perform the duties of the position.

**Order of Displacement and Release**

- Components shall select employees for release from the retention register in the inverse order of retention standing, beginning with the employee with the lowest retention standing.

- The employee with the highest retention standing whose position has been abolished will be placed first. This process continues for each employee whose position has been abolished, or whom another employee has displaced, in descending retention standing order.

- All employees in Tenure Group III will be released before any employees in Tenure Group I are released. While Tenure Group III employees can participate in an AIF, it may be more appropriate to terminate temporary and term appointments. Temporary and term appointments can be terminated at any time under policy provided in Volume 2005.

- All employees in Tenure Subgroup B will be released before any employee in Subgroup A is released, and all employees in Subgroup A will be released before any employee in Subgroup AD.

- Within each Subgroup, employees will be released in order of performance score, with the lowest performance scores released first.

- If two or more employees within the same Subgroup have the same performance score and at least one, but not all of the employees must be released, the employee with the least amount of creditable service will be released first.

- When employees in the same retention Subgroup have identical service dates and are tied for release, the Component may determine which employee to release by applying a tiebreaking procedure that was announced to the workforce as required and noted above.

- Employees on temporary assignment to another position or organization still compete within their competitive area based on their permanent position of record. For example, Tom is on JDA from Defense Intelligence Component A to Defense Intelligence Component B. Component A is effecting an AIF and even though Tom is currently assigned to Component B, he is included in the AIF at Component A because that is his permanent position of record.
Exceptions to Order of Release

- Employees must be given a temporary postponement of release from a retention register in certain situations:
  
  - A Tenure Group I employee who is entitled to military service restoration rights will be given retention priority over other employees in the same Subgroup, regardless of other retention factors (performance score or length of service), and may not be separated or reduced in work level, pay band or grade, except for cause, for a designated period of time as specified in Section 353.209 of Title 5 CFR.
  
  - A temporary exception will be made to retain an employee in an annual leave status in order for the employee to establish initial eligibility for immediate retirement, and/or to establish initial eligibility for continuation of health benefits coverage. In this situation, an employee must use accrued annual leave; the employee may not be advanced annual leave for this purpose.
  
  - An employee may be retained if he/she is performing duties that cannot be assumed within 90 calendar days by an employee with higher-retention standing without undue interruption to the mission.
  
  - Volume 2004 discusses other temporary exceptions to the order of release which will be limited to 90 calendar days, e.g., to continue an activity without undue interruption.
  
  - When all positions in the competitive area are abolished, an exception to the order of release may be made such that employees may be released without regard to performance or creditable service time. However, employees must be released in subgroup and tenure group order. This exception may be applied within 1 year of the date of liquidation.
Displacement

Order of Displacement and Release

Exceptions to Order of Release
Once a position is offered to an employee, the employee is entitled to that specific offer.

What You Should Know:

Position Offers

- Employees will be offered placement in a permanent position, to include those in a developmental program, occupied by an employee with lower retention standing in the same competitive area, for which the employee is considered qualified and does not result in a promotion.

- For those in the banded structure, an offer may be made to a position at the same or next lower work level or pay band than the employee’s current position.

- For those in the graded structure, an offer may be made to a position at the same or lower work level or grade than the employee’s current position, but not more than three grades below the employee’s position, using appropriate progression schedules (i.e. single grade or 2 grade pay).

- The employee will be placed in pay retention if the employee pay rate exceeds the maximum rate for the pay band or grade of the position being offered, including the extended range.

- If the employee accepts, rejects, or fails to reply to the initial offer within a reasonable period of time, the employee is not entitled to any further offers. The
Component will define up front what a “reasonable period” is.

- If a better position for which the employee is qualified and for which the employee has retention standing becomes available on or before the AIF effective date, it will be offered to the employee regardless of whether he/she accepted or declined a previous offer.

- Vacant positions within the employee’s assigned competitive area may be offered to employees being displaced through AIF, followed by vacancies outside the employee’s competitive area. Acceptance of an offer for a position outside the employee’s competitive area is voluntary, therefore is not considered a declination of an official offer, there are no ramifications if the employee declines it.

Your Notes:
**TOPIC 4: FURLOUGHS AND TRANSFERS OF FUNCTION**

**Furloughs**

Competitive AIF procedures are used for furloughs for more than 30 consecutive days or more than 22 cumulative workdays.

**What You Should Know:**

- **Furloughs**
  - Competitive AIF procedures are used for furloughs for more than 30 consecutive days or more than 22 cumulative workdays.
  - A competing employee may not be separated as a result of an AIF while an employee with a lower retention standing in the same competitive area is on furlough.
  - An employee may not be furloughed for more than 1 year.
  - Employees are recalled to duty in the order of their retention standing, beginning with the employee with the highest retention standing.

**Your Notes:**
A “transfer of function” (TOF) occurs when work is moved from one competitive area to another (where that work is not currently being done), or when an entire competitive area is moved to a new local commuting area.

What You Should Know:

**Transfer of Function (TOF)**

- A transfer of function (TOF) occurs when work is moved from one competitive area to another, or when an entire competitive area is moved to a new local commuting area.

- The work must cease to be performed in the losing competitive area and be performed by competing employees (not contracted out) in the new competitive area.

- It is important to remember that the transferred function must not be one that was being performed in the new competitive area prior to the time of transfer.

- The displacement and release procedures discussed in this lesson and in Volume 2004 are applied by the losing competitive area and will determine if a competing employee has a right to transfer. This means that the employee will otherwise be separated or reduced in work level, pay band, or grade if he or she does not transfer.

- The losing competitive area will select volunteers for the transfer when there are more volunteers for the number of positions required to do the work in the

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*HR Elements for HR Practitioners*

Adjustment in Force

Slide 13-14
The gaining competitive area will establish the retention rights of the combined population of employees transferring into the new competitive area as well as employees in the gaining competitive area.

**Your Notes:**
TOPIC 5: AIF APPEALS PROCESS

Answer the questions on the next page.

What You Should Know:

AIF Appeals Process

- Although the decision by a Component to conduct an AIF is not subject to appeal, an employee may appeal an alleged wrongful application of AIF procedures to the AIF Appeals Committee (AIF AC).
- Preference-eligible employees with one year of continuous service may appeal to the Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) or to the AIF AC, but not to both.
- Non-preference-eligible employees may appeal only to the AIF AC.
- OUSD(I) employees shall not appeal to the AIF AC because of OUSD(I)’s responsibility for the committee. Alternative procedures are provided for in Volume 2004.
- Volume 2004 discusses the specific composition of the AIF AC, the required content of the appeal, and the procedures by which the AIF AC will render its decision.
- The AIF AC decision is final after legal concurrence.
Questions:

- Though the decision by a Component to conduct an AIF is not subject to appeal, what may an employee appeal?

- May preference-eligible employees with one year of continuous service appeal to the Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) and the AIF AC?
TOPIC 6: OUTPLACEMENT ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE EMPLOYEES

Outplacement Assistance

Outplacement services:

- DoD Priority Placement Program
- Administrative Referral Assistance
- Severance Pay

What You Should Know:

**Outplacement Assistance**

- There are specific outplacement services that may be available to employees who are separated as a result of an AIF.

  - DoD Priority Placement Program
    - Unless an employee’s Component is specifically excluded from participation, all employees may register for other excepted service positions no higher than their current permanent level or grade.
    - The combat support agencies and portions of other Components are excluded from the participation in the PPP.
    - Employees with personal competitive status eligible to register with the PPP also have the option of registering for competitive service positions but may register no higher than the highest level, or grade, for which they are eligible for reinstatement in the competitive service. Employees will need to be clear when registering that they have previous competitive
status.
  - Participating Components will follow the PPP policies set forth in DoDI 1400.25, Volume 1800.

- Administrative referral assistance
  - Employees who have received written notification of separation as a result of an AIF may seek assistance to publicize their availability for positions within other Defense Intelligence Components for which they are qualified through practices that may be established by the Components for this purpose.

- Severance pay
  - As separation due to AIF is an involuntary separation (not for reasons of misconduct, delinquency, or inefficiency), employees may be eligible for severance pay, retirement, and other benefits.
  - To be eligible for severance pay, the employee must have been employed for at least 12 continuous months, must not be eligible for immediate retirement, must not be receiving workers’ compensation benefits, and must not have refused an offer of a position within the same Component and local commuting area.
  - For employees in organizations operating under the banded structure, this offer may be no more than one work level or pay band below the employee’s current position, or no more than one work level or three grades below the employee’s current position for the graded structure.

Your Notes:
Lesson 13: Adjustment in Force

DCIPS Retention Program (DRP)

What You Should Know:

**DCIPS Retention Program (DRP)**

- The DCIPS Retention Program is the placement program for Components executing an AIF. The goal of the program is to match employees pending separation by AIF with available Defense Intelligence positions for which they are qualified from around the Enterprise. The DRP program was developed with input and multiple reviews from all Components.

- The intent of the DRP is to retain talent, and keep existing employees with high clearances within the Defense Intelligence Enterprise. Employees who might otherwise be separated by AIF are given preference for available positions over external applicants/candidates.

- For Components that participate in the Priority Placement Program (PPP), the PPP takes precedence over the DRP. It’s important to note that over 70% of Defense Intelligence positions are not included in the PPP, making the DRP the only program applying to employees in those positions.
What You Should Know:

**DRP Basics**

- The DRP Open Period is initiated when the Specific AIF Notice (Individual Employee Notice) is issued to employees who will be effected by AIF. Per Volume 2004, Components are required to give at least 60 days’ notice to these employees.

- The Open Period closes the day after the AIF effective date. If separate AIFs are underway at the same time, one does not extend the Open Period for the other. However, if an employee is still being reviewed on the date that the DRP open period closes, that review continues to determine if there is a match. The AIF effective date does not change.

- In Phase 1, to maximize time for matching, Components and employees are encouraged to take advantage of Phase 1 “Preparation for DRP” to begin Registration Packages for employees who have received General AIF Notices.

- When Specific AIF Notices are issued, the Component undergoing an AIF sends resumes of affected employees to DCIPS PEO. In Phase 2, the other Components select the preliminary matching option best for them:
  - Option 1. DCIPS PEO sends resumes to all Components and they identify
preliminary matches to their available positions.

- Option 2. Each Component sends information on all available positions to DCIPS PEO and DCIPS PEO identifies preliminary matches.

- Registration in the DRP is mandatory for all employees who have received a Specific AIF Notice; if an employee does not register, the AIFing component will register for them. Unique to the DRP, registrants may choose to opt-out of receiving an offer from a specific Component when completing their registration package – doing so means they will not be considered for positions at that Component.

- In Phase 3, Components consider “preliminary matches” and conduct interviews (as necessary).

- In Phase 4, Components identify matches of one DRP registrant to one available position and make offers. Components must offer an available position to a DRP registrant if he/she is qualified.

- In Phase 5, the DRP Open Period is closed and final reports are sent to the DCIPS PEO. Any DRP registrants not placed by the day after the AIF Effective Date are separated according to their specific AIF notice.

**Your Notes:**
What You Should Know:

**DRP Roles and Responsibilities**

- The DRP requires collaboration and cooperation across the Enterprise. There are several critically important roles in the DRP program, each with their own set of responsibilities. The DRP works best when the AIFing Component, other Defense Intelligence Components, DRP liaisons and counselors, and the hiring managers work together to match employees pending separation with available positions for which they are qualified. Let’s talk through the key responsibilities of each role:

- The DCIPS PEO is responsible for central oversight of the DRP for the Defense Intelligence Enterprise, and analyzing, retaining and distributing DRP data and analysis. The DCIPS PEO is within the OUSD(I), HCMO.

- The AIFing Component employs individuals pending separation by AIF. The AIFing component issues AIF notices to employees, provides counseling to DRP Registrants, and coordinates with DCIPS PEO and other Components throughout the DRP.

- All Components are responsible for considering and reviewing all available positions for matching with employees affected by an AIF, including the AIFing...
Components. While Components are encouraged to use available positions for placement of employees who are pending separation by an AIF, if that is not possible and the positions are available to candidates external to the Components’ population, then those positions are subject to the DRP. For Components with both Defense Intelligence and non-Defense Intelligence positions, DRP applies only to the Defense Intelligence positions.

- The DRP requires the creation of two new roles at each Component:
  - DRP Liaisons - Points of contact within each of the Components, including the AIFing Component, responsible for managing the DRP program requirements and providing internal guidance on process. There will be one DRP liaison per Component.
  - DRP Counselors – Points of contact within the AIFing Component, who are responsible for counseling DRP registrants on the entire DRP process, including the impact on decisions to opt-out of certain Component consideration, accepting or declining offers through the program, impact on severance pay and benefits, and much more.

- In addition, responsibilities are assigned to HR operations and HR servicing organizations that will be coordinated through the DRP Liaison or other Component designee.

- The detailed responsibilities for each role, as well as those of the HR Office and HR Servicing Organizations, and hiring managers, are outlined in the DRP Guidance, which we will talk about next.

Your Notes:
**DRP Guidance**

**Use the DRP Guidance for Detailed Guidance**

- Guidance Signed 5 March 2013
- Includes 5 Phase Process and All Required Steps
- Outlines Roles and Responsibilities
- Contains DRP Registration Package

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**What You Should Know:**

**DRP Guidance**

- The DRP Guidance is the official guidance for the DCIPS Retention Program.

**Your Notes:**
TOPIC 7: RETENTION REGISTER EXERCISE

Mock AIF Example

• The scenario:
  — Due to Congressional budget cuts, all positions in a defined competitive area supporting Mission B are scheduled to be abolished.
  — Following Volume 2004 guidelines, the Component has identified the competitive area as:
    • Local Commuting Area 1234903
    • Organizational Code GC 24
    • Professional Work Category A

• Your task:
  — Follow AIF procedures from Volume 2004 to determine which positions will be abolished, as well as which employees will be impacted and how.

What You Should Know:

Mock AIF Example:

- Competitive areas are determined in advance of the AIF and announced by Component leadership.
- As mentioned earlier in this lesson, the minimum competitive area is the local commuting area, though Components may choose to narrow down the competitive area by adding additional factors. Only positions matching all factors will be included in the AIF.

Your Notes:
What You Should Know:

Technical Steps:

- It is important to understand that there is a process for deciding the order of displacement and release. This process is outlined in Volume 2004 of DCIPS policy.
- For every AIF, the same process steps are followed:
  - Identify on the retention register which positions will be eliminated based on the competitive area, which has been announced by the Component.
  - Analyze the positions identified for abolishment starting with the one currently filled by the employee with the highest retention standing.
  - Review his/her “resume” and all positions that will remain that are encumbered by employees with lower retention standing to determine if that employee should be offered another position or released.
  - Determine if there is an impact on another employee. If so, review the employee’s “resume” and all remaining positions encumbered by employees with lower retention standing to determine if the displaced employee should be offered another position or released.
Repeat this process until the number of abolished positions equals the number of originally announced abolished positions.
Check your work to ensure Volume 2004 policy was followed.

Your Notes:
Assumptions

- The retention register used in this exercise is a snapshot of a typical retention register and is used for example purposes only. An actual retention register has more columns and information.
- The employee data in this sample retention register is fictitious. For the purposes of this exercise, it can be assumed that the retention register was produced by a Component’s HR information system.
- Since the full resumes of the employees in the retention register are not available for this basic exercise, a table of resume highlights is provided to demonstrate past experience for the employees in the retention register.
- For the purpose of the exercise:
  - Accounting positions have a positive education requirement.
  - Professional work category positions are 2-grade interval positions.

What You Should Know:

Assumptions:

- The retention register used in this exercise is a condensed snapshot of a typical retention register and is used for example purposes only. An actual retention register has more columns and information.
- The employee data in this sample retention register is fictitious. For the purposes of this exercise, it can be assumed that the retention register was produced by a Component’s HR information system.
- In the event of an AIF, the HRIS will create the retention register for HR practitioners; retention standing does not need to be calculated manually but a general understanding of how the standing is created is helpful.
- Since the HRIS generates the retention register based on the information in the system, it is critical that data be current and accurate.
- Since the full resumes of the employees in the retention register are not available for this basic exercise, a table of resume highlights has been provided to demonstrate past experience for the employees in the retention register.
- For the purpose of this exercise:
  - Accounting has a positive education requirement.
  - Professional work category positions are 2-grade interval positions, mean that
employees progress two steps at a time (i.e. GG-7 to GG-9 to GG-11).

**Your Notes:**
Resume Highlights

Use this page as a reference throughout the exercise.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employee Name</th>
<th>Past Experience</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Franklin</td>
<td>• Intelligence Analyst (8 years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Intelligence Analyst for US Navy (2 years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Information Technology Specialist for US Navy (8 years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim</td>
<td>• Intelligence Analyst (15 years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Management Analyst (8 years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Budget Analyst (3 years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill</td>
<td>• Intelligence Analyst (29 years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• High school AP World History teacher (5 years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sela</td>
<td>• Information Technology Specialist (11 years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michelle</td>
<td>• Budget Analyst (16 years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Internat private federal consulting firm (1 year)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kendra</td>
<td>• Accountant (2 years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• CPA at private accounting firm (6 months)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Accounting degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allison</td>
<td>• Intelligence Analyst (1 year)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Researcher at public policy think tank (3 years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Intelligence Analyst for US Army (4 years)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What You Should Know:

Resume Highlights:

- All experiences listed are professional work level.
- All military experience is officer level.
- Use this slide as a reference throughout the exercise.

Your Notes:
Lesson 13: Adjustment in Force

Retention Register

Use this page to document your answers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position Number</th>
<th>Employee Name</th>
<th>Pay Plan</th>
<th>Occupational Series</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Position Title/Work Role</th>
<th>Supervisor Y/N</th>
<th>Work Level</th>
<th>Work Category</th>
<th>Overtime Code</th>
<th>Retention Factors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Franklin</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td></td>
<td>Intelligence analyst</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>GC-24</td>
<td>11/4900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tim</td>
<td>GG 152</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Intelligence analyst</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>GC-24</td>
<td>11/4900</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
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<td>11/4900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Selia</td>
<td>GS 2110</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Information Technology Specialist</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>GC-24</td>
<td>11/4900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Michelle</td>
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<td>Budget analyst</td>
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<td>A</td>
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<td>GC-24</td>
<td>11/4900</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Kendra</td>
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<td>11/4900</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Retention Register Column Definitions (specific to this exercise):

- **Position Number**: This is the position of the employee in the retention register. This does not refer to an employee’s retention standing.
- **Pay Plan**: A two-digit alphabetical code used to identify which Federal civilian pay system an employee falls under.
- **Occupational Series**: Classes of positions that share distinct, common technical qualifications, competency requirements, career paths, and progression patterns.
- **Grade**: The numerical designation, GG-1 through GG-15, grouped by work levels, which differentiate within the work level qualifications required, difficulty, and responsibility.
- **Position Title/Work Role**: The name of the position occupied by an employee.
- **Supervisor Y/N**: Indicates if the employee is in a supervisory or non-supervisory role.
- **Work Level**: General descriptions that define work in terms of increasing complexity, span of authority and responsibility, level of supervision (received or exercised), scope and impact of decisions, and work relationships associated with.
a particular work category.

- **Work category-** broad sets of related occupational groups that are characterized by common types of work (i.e., Technician/Administrative Support; Professional; and Supervision and Management).

- **Org code-** code which refers to the department or function in an organization that the position falls under.

- **Duty Station Code-** code which refers to the local commuting area or duty station to which an employee is assigned.

- **Work schedule-** designates if the employee is full-time or part-time.

- **Tenure-** designates the group that an employee resides for retention standing depending on whether the employee has served and completed, currently completing, or not served a trial period.

- **Veterans’ Preference AIF Y/N-** indicates if any employee qualifies for veterans’ preference or not.

- **Sub-group-** refers to which veterans’ preference group an employee falls under: either AD (veterans’ who are eligible for veteran’s preference and have a compensable service-related disability of 30% or more), A (veterans and others who qualify under policy who are eligible to receive veteran’s preference), or B (non-veterans and others who are not eligible for veteran’s preference in subgroups AD and A).

- **Performance Rating (average last 3) -** the average, rounded to one decimal place, of the employee’s last three end of year ratings of record (if available).

- **AIF SCD (adj for add'l civ/mil time) -** Service Computation Date, determines the length of creditable service. For AIF purposes, this number is adjusted to include any additional qualifying civilian and military service time. (Displayed as “SCD” in Component HRIS and therefore appears in the retention register this way, but is what we refer to in DCIPS policy as the length of creditable service factor).

**Retention Standing:**

- The retention standing is based on (in order) tenure, veterans’ preference, performance rating, and length of creditable service (shown as SCD).

- Vacancies have no retention standing – as the standing is a compilation of employee attributes and not position attributes.

- All tenure group I’s are higher on the retention register than tenure group IIIs. Therefore, Allison has the lowest retention standing as the only tenure group III employee. This is despite her veterans’ preference status because tenure is
considered before veterans’ preference.

- Then, we look at veterans’ preference; Franklin is the only one with veterans’ preference remaining, so he has the highest retention standing.
- Next, look at the employees without Veterans’ Preference—Tim, Bill, Sela, Michelle, and Kendra. Of those employees, Tim has the highest rating, so he has the next highest retention standing.
- Then, you look at length of creditable service. Bill has been working for the Federal government accruing creditable service the longest, so he’s higher than Michelle, Kendra and Sela. Next comes Sela, then Michelle, and then Kendra in order of creditable service.
- So top to bottom— you get Franklin, Tim, Bill, Sela, Michelle, Kendra, Allison, vacant position.
- Please note that Kendra is in a Developmental Program position. Her position can still be considered as an option for a displaced employee (as long as it’s within 3 grades) and any employee who takes her position will be put in that program.

Your Notes:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Title/Role</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Title/Role</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>12</td>
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<td>HR General</td>
<td>HR General</td>
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<td>GS</td>
<td>GC Manager</td>
<td>GC Manager</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: General rules in all apply and require that Volume 2004 be reviewed in its entirety when reviewing the Retention Register and making decisions.*
Step 1a

- Applying the rules of AIF within the competitive area, identify on the retention register which positions will be eliminated within the competitive area

Questions:
- Which 4 positions will be eliminated?
**Step 1a Explained:**

- The four “Mission B” positions are being eliminated; therefore any position labeled as “Mission B” on the retention register will be affected.
- This affects positions 2, 4, 7, and 8.

---

**What You Should Know:**

**Step 1a Explained:**

- The four “Mission B” positions are being eliminated; therefore any position labeled as “Mission B” on the retention register will be affected.
- This affects positions 2, 4, 7, and 8.
• Once the positions to be abolished have been identified on the retention register, are there any positions that can be abolished immediately? If yes, why?

Your Notes:
**Step 1b**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>N</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tim</td>
<td>GS</td>
<td>13I</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Intelligence Analyst</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>GC-24</td>
<td>1234903</td>
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<td>I</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Bill</td>
<td>GS</td>
<td>13I</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Intelligence Analyst</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>GC-24</td>
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<td>I</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Seba</td>
<td>GS</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>I</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>A</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>WC-24</td>
<td>1254903</td>
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<td>N</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
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<td>GS</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Allison</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Verd</td>
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<td>GC-24</td>
<td>1254903</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Answer:** Yes, Position 8 can be abolished because it is identified in the competitive area as a position that must be abolished (Mission B) and since it is vacant, there is no need to consider it further.

We can also quickly decide to separate Allison, even though she is AD, because she is tenure group III. As such, we can separate her before even beginning AIF proceedings following guidance in Volume 2005, or we can include her in the AIF with the lowest retention standing.

---

**What You Should Know:**

**Step 1b Explained:**

- The vacant position will be eliminated immediately since it is Mission B and there is no individual impacted.

- Allison will be separated next since she is Tenure Group III (lowest retention standing) and Mission B, even though she is a subgroup AD.

  - Remember, Tenure Group IIIIs do not even need to be included in the AIF; they can be separated prior to the AIF at the Component’s discretion. If included, they have the lowest retention standing and are likely the first to be separated.
Step 2

• Analyze the remaining positions identified for abolition, starting with the one currently filled by the employee with the highest retention standing.

Questions:

- Of those employees who are remaining in positions to be eliminated, who has the highest retention standing and will be analyzed first?
Step 2

What You Should Know:

Step 2 Explained:

- Of those employees who are remaining in positions to be eliminated, who has the highest retention standing and will be analyzed first? The employees in those positions are Tim and Sela. Let’s look at their retention factors:
  - Tenure- same.
  - Veterans Preference- same.
  - Performance Rating- Tim has a higher performance rating (4); therefore, he has the higher retention standing so we will review his position first.

Your Notes:
Step 3

- Review Tim’s resume and all positions that will remain that are encumbered by employees with lower retention standing to determine if he should be offered another position or released.

Questions:
- Review the position that is the lowest on the retention register to determine the following:
  - Does Tim qualify for that position?
  - Is it the best offer or match for Tim?
  - Move up the list to identify the best offer, if possible.
Participant Guide  Lesson 13: Adjustment in Force

Step 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Experience</th>
<th>Current Position</th>
<th>Work Level</th>
<th>Work Category</th>
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<td>A</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Answer:** The best match is for Tim to move into the position Bill currently occupies. It is at his current grade and in his current line of work.

What You Should Know:

**Step 3 Explained:**

- Review the position that is the lowest on the retention register to determine the following:
  - Does Tim qualify for that position?
  - Is it the best offer or match for Tim?
  - Move up the list to identify the best offer, if possible.
- The first position on the retention register for which Tim can be considered is the Accountant GG-7, occupied by Kendra.
- Tim is not qualified because he does not have an accounting degree, a requirement for the position.
- The next position to consider is the Budget Analyst GG-11 occupied by Michelle.
- Based on a review of his resume, Tim has some Budget Analyst experience, but is this the best position to offer Tim?
- If there is more than one position lower in the retention register than the position being analyzed and for which a displaced employee is qualified, the best offer must be made.
To determine the best offer, consider the following factors in this order: higher grade, closer occupational series, most similar to current position.

- If a better offer for Tim is identified, document on the retention register that he is qualified for the Budget Analyst position, but that you offered a better position.

- Move up to the next position, which is Sela’s position, the Information Technology Specialist GG-9.
  - Sela’s position is being abolished and therefore cannot be considered.

- Move up to Bill’s position, which is the highest position we can review that is occupied by someone of lower retention standing than Tim.
  - Based on a review of his resume, Tim is qualified for Bill’s position, which is at the same or lower grade, thereby meeting the Volume 2004 requirement that the position be within 3 grades lower of the position he currently occupies.

- Tim is placed in Bill’s position and now the displacement process is used to place or release Bill.

Your Notes:
• Since Bill is impacted and he’s the next highest on the retention register, review Bill’s resume next and all remaining positions encumbered by employees with lower retention standing to determine if he should be offered another position or released.
### Step 4 Explained:

- Review the position that is the lowest on the retention register to determine the following:
  - Does Bill qualify for that position?
  - Is it the best offer or match for Bill?
  - Move up the list to identify the best offer, if possible.

- The first position is the Accountant GG-7 that is occupied by Kendra.
- Accountant positions have a positive education requirement, for which Bill does not qualify.

- The next position is the Budget Analyst GG-11 that is occupied by Michelle.
  - A review of Bill’s resume reveals he has no experience that would qualify him for this position.

- The next position is Sela’s position, the Information Technology Specialist GG-9.
  - Since the Information Technology Specialist position is being abolished, that is not a possible placement for Bill so the review continues up the register.
- Since there are no more positions with employees with lower retention standing than Bill that he is qualified for, Bill will be separated upon execution of the AIF.
- This separation will match the abolishment of one of the positions (position #2) with an employee (Bill).

Your Notes:
Step 5

• Repeat this process until the number of abolished positions equals the number of originally announced abolished positions

Your Notes:

Questions:

▪ There is one remaining position to be abolished and it is occupied by ____________.

▪ Once again, review the position that is the lowest on the retention register to determine the following:
  • Qualify for that position?
  • Is it the best offer or match?
  • Move up the list to identify the best offer, if possible.
**Step 5 Explained:**

- There is one remaining position to be abolished and it is occupied by Sela.
- Once again, review the position that is the lowest on the retention register to determine the following:
  - Does Sela qualify for that position?
  - Is it the best offer or match for Sela?
  - Move up the list to identify the best offer, if possible.
- The first position would be Kendra’s accounting role.
  - Sela also does not have an accounting degree, so she cannot be considered for Kendra’s role due to the positive education requirement.
- The only other position where the employee has lower retention standing than Sela is the Budget Analyst 11 occupied by Michelle.
  - Based on a review of the position and Sela’s resume, she has no experience to qualify her for a Budget Analyst position.
  - Sela cannot gain a promotion through an AIF, so she cannot be offered that position.
- Sela will be separated when executing the AIF.
This separation will account for the fourth and final position to be abolished as a result of this AIF.

Your Notes:
Step 6

- Check your work to ensure Volume 2004 policy was followed
Lesson 13: Adjustment in Force

What You Should Know:

Step 6 Explained:

- The last step in the exercise is to review the retention register again and check your work to ensure that Volume 2004 processes were followed.
- Four Mission B positions should be eliminated, with three employees and one vacancy eliminated.

Your Notes:
Appealing an AIF Decision:

- Detailed processes can be found in DCIPS Volume 2004.
- An employee can appeal the AIF decision if they feel that AIF procedures were wrongfully applied and there is a formal process that the employee must follow.
- Non-preference eligible employees may appeal to the AIF Appeals Committee (AIF AC).
- Preference-eligible employees with one year of continuous service may appeal to the Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) or to the AIF AC, but not to both.

The Retention Register Creation Process:

- The HR organization within the Component will create and own the retention register.
- A retention register has all of the pertinent employee information for those employees in one competitive area.
There may be multiple competitive areas affected by the decision to execute an AIF. When this occurs, multiple retention registers will be created.

When a competitive area is defined, a retention register is created from the HR Information System, so it is critical that all data is accurate.

**The Displacement Position Review Process:**

- The position to be abolished with the employee with highest retention standing will be considered first. As we just saw in the exercise, this employee will be considered for the position of the employee with the lowest retention standing first.
- The positions must be in the same competitive area/retention register as the employee being considered.
- If the employee is qualified for the position it will be offered. If not, the position with the next highest retention standing will be considered, this process continues until a match is found or until there are no positions available within three grades as the employee being considered and it is then determined the employee will be released.

**AIF Effects on Pay:**

- If an employee’s pay rate exceeds the maximum rate for the pay band or grade of the position offered and accepted, the employee will be placed on pay retention in accordance with Volume 2006.

**Special Situation Consideration:**

- Employees in special situations (Joint Duty Assignment, Long Term Training, Leave Without Pay (LWOP), Military LWOP, etc.) are handled the same as other permanent employees.
- Veterans’ preference is applied during an AIF.

**Outplacement Assistance for Released Employees:**

- Outplacement services for employees separated due to executing an AIF may include the Priority Placement Program, administrative referral system including DRP, and severance pay. Other services may also be available.
LESSON 13 REVIEW

Lesson 13 Review

- Topic 1 – Appropriate Use for AIF Procedures
- Topic 2 – Competitive Areas for AIF Competition Purposes
- Topic 3 – AIF Retention Factors
- Topic 4 – Furloughs and Transfer of Function
- Topic 5 – AIF Appeals process
- Topic 6 – Outplacement Assistance Available to Employees
- Topic 7 – Retention Register Exercise

Your Notes:

Lesson Transition:

In Lesson 14 we will learn about Professional Development.