



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
ACQUISITION LOGISTICS AND TECHNOLOGY
103 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20310-0103

SFAE CDD

FEB -8 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Relevant Contracting Experience Prior to Deployment

1. The Acquisition, Logistics and Technology (ALT) community continues to transform. With the establishment of the Army Contracting Command (ACC), the Expeditionary Contracting Command (ECC), the completion of the Army Contracting Task Force and the Army Contracting Campaign Plan implementation, we have been moving forward with actions required to make the Army Acquisition Corps (AAC) more relevant and ready for the 21st century.
2. The AAC has begun accessing officers and reclassifying noncommissioned officers (NCOs) earlier in their careers. My intent is to access officers soon after their Career Field Designation Boards and reclassify NCOs prior to 10 years' time in service. Branch qualification is still a prerequisite for officers; NCOs are required to have the Advanced Leaders Course completed prior to their first acquisition assignment. Most officers and NCOs should expect their first assignment to be in support of the ACC's contracting mission. Both officers and NCOs are required to attend their respective contracting training courses enroute to their first contracting assignment.
3. Upon completion of the required contracting training, it is my expectation that both officers and NCOs will remain on station for one year before deploying to support current operations to ensure they develop an acceptable level of contracting proficiency. This will provide the newly accessed acquisition member an opportunity to gain a minimum of one year of vital experience; this does not preclude temporary assignments to Combat Training Centers or support to other regional requirements as dictated by respective Army Service Component Commands.
4. The growth of proficient contracting within the AAC will allow us to better support the Warfighter and provide a more predictable deployment cycle. I am continually impressed with our ability to meet the multiple demands placed upon this community in supporting overseas contingency operations.
5. I am committed to sending fully experienced and qualified contracting professionals. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to ensure our contracting workforce receives the required experience before deployment.

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6. The point of contact is Dr. Robert Pratt, (703) 805-1234, or e-mail: robert.d.pratt@us.army.mil.

Learn, we must continue to grow and mature our Contracting workforce and ensure that they have the right skills. Thanks for your support!

William N. Phillips

WILLIAM N. PHILLIPS
Lieutenant General, GS
Director, Acquisition Career Management

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