Position Description

PD#: KC290726 **Replaces PD#:**
Sequence#: VARIES

INTERDISCIPLINARY

GS-**-14**

Opt: GENERAL ENGINEER - 0801
Opt: CIVIL ENGINEER - 0810
Opt: ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER - 0819
Opt: MECHANICAL ENGINEER - 0830
Opt: PHYSICAL SCIENTIST - 1301
Opt: GEOLOGIST - 1350

Servicing CPAC: COE, SACRAMENTO, CA

Agency: VARIES
MACOM: VARIES
Command Code: VARIES

Region: WEST

Citation 1: OPM DEF/GRPS & SER: GEN ENGR SERIES, GS-801, JUN 69
Citation 2: OPM PCS CIVIL ENGR SERIES, GS-810, JUN 66
Citation 3: OPM PCS ENVIRONMENTAL ENGR SERIES, GS-819, MAY 79
Citation 4: OPM PCS MECHANICAL ENGR SERIES, GS-830, JUN 77
Citation 5: OPM PCS GEN PHYSICAL SCIENCE SERIES, GS-1301, AUG 71
Citation 6: OPM PCS GEOLOGY SERIES, GS-1350, JUN 64
PD Library PD: NO
COREDOC PD: NO

Classified By: MARK CHARLTON (TW)
Classified Date: 08/04/2008

FLSA: EXEMPT
Career Program: 18
Functional Code: 91
Competitive Area: VARIES
Competitive Level: VARIES
Drug Test Required: VARIES
Financial Disclosure Required: NO
Requires Access to Firearms: VARIES
Position Sensitivity: VARIES
Emergency Essential: [ ]
DCIPS PD: NO
Acquisition Position: NO
Interdisciplinary: YES
Target Grade/FPL: 14
Career Ladder PD: YES

Career Pos 1: KC293342 GS-****-13
Bus Code: VARIES
Personnel Reliability Position: VARIES
Information Assurance:
PD Status: VERIFIED

Duties:

CL: 0801, 0819, 0830, 1350 - (0003), 0810 - (0011), 1301 - (0004)

SUPERVISORY CONTROLS:

Works under general supervision of the Team Leader, Operations/Regulatory Team, who provides work assignments in terms of broad guidelines and program objectives, and in coordination with the team leaders of both the Engineering and Construction Team and the Planning and Policy Team. Incumbent accomplishes activities on own initiative, exercising independent judgment in the analysis and solution of complex problems and attainment of program goals. Evaluations, commitments, and conclusions reached within the incumbent's area of expertise serve as standards and guides for the Regional Business Center. Recommendations and decisions are accepted as technically sound, with final approval subject to formal action of higher authority. Performance is evaluated in terms of program accomplishments, resourcefulness in solving technical and managerial problems and effectiveness in dealing with higher echelons, key officials of other agencies, and other functional elements.

DUTIES:

Serves as the Regional Silver Jackets Program Manager, a regional flood plain management expert, , regional levee and flood protection expert and technical advisor for a full range of multi-purpose projects, flood risk management, water supply, irrigation, and related activities. This includes consultation and review of state regional flood plain management general plans, designs, plans and specifications for original construction and modifications to existing construction as well as planning, engineering and operation and maintenance of multi-purpose projects, flood risk management, water supply, irrigation, and related activities. Responsibilities include providing national and regional technical expertise and guidance to key operating officials and counterparts at the subordinate District offices, higher headquarters, other government agencies, private interests and Architect-Engineer (A-E) firms. Investigates and provides innovative advice on breakthroughs by others in flood damage reduction measures. Results of these investigations are provided to key operating officials and counterparts at the four subordinate District offices, higher headquarters, other governmental agencies, private interests and Architect-Engineer (A-E) firms. Also serves as a national leader and subject matter expert in Civil Works Planning and the development and implementation of Civil Works policy in the areas of flood damage reduction, flood risk management, levees and related activities. Serves as a senior flood damage reduction, flood plain management and flood risk expert in planning, engineering and operations and providing policy advice to the Regional Business Center.

Serves as the primary point of contact for the Silver Jackets program with the implementation of various states by bringing together federal, state, and local agencies, such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and others to be active participants with program activities such as public outreach and state and regional flood risk management planning. This includes facilitating the identification of opportunities to leverage information, resources and programs between all agencies.

Projects are spread throughout the South Pacific Division regional boundaries, encompassing all or parts of ten western states and four Districts of the Corps of Engineers. New projects typically constructed involve new and specialized equipment, materials and methods, and present considerable site layout and foundation preparation problems. The geography and geology is diverse, with areas prone to earthquakes and unusual weather trends, and terrain ranging from flat deltas to rugged mountains and covers more than 762,000 square miles. Foundation conditions vary from solid rock to coastal silts with mixtures of formulations.

Heavily populated areas (San Francisco, Los Angeles, Sacramento, Fresno, San Diego, Las Vegas, Salt Lake City, Albuquerque, Phoenix and Tucson) create extraordinary demands for water supply. Excessive periodic rainfall coupled with snowmelt run off and ocean tidal wave patterns create unusual flood containment requirements. Coordinating and assuring proper operation and maintenance of flood risk management and water supply transport facilities is vitally important to these areas. The position requires knowledge of various engineering and scientific disciplines to appropriately perform technical oversight and management of operations and maintenance program throughout the Division.

The incumbent is involved in facilitation, technical consulting and advisory capacity as a regional expert in flood risk management including all work involved in the planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance of highly complex projects. Projects involve flood risk management channels, levees, multi-purpose projects concerned with flood damage reduction. Geographically and climatically, the region differs dramatically from coastal plains to high desert. Conditions require the incumbent to apply a wealth of complex and innovative communication, engineering and scientific knowledge to understand problems, develop specific investigations, evaluate data, consider alternatives, and provide solutions to optimize and enhance the Flood risk management Program. The incumbent?s expertise may also be applicable to other geographical regions of the country. Serves as a member of interagency panels and boards providing consultation and advice on engineering and flood risk management structures. Serves as a member of the South Pacific Division team responsible for business line budgeting.

1. Technical Guidance/Quality Assurance

As the regional authoritative source of expertise, investigates and develops new and innovative means of finding solutions to a wide variety of projects requiring many differing engineering and management specialties. Due to a variety of different geological conditions, position is required to perform as a regional technical expert. Maintains specialized knowledge of civil works policies, engineering and flood risk management, and the limitations of proven concepts and practices. Uses highly complex tools to develop improvements to these concepts, making them applicable not only to the SPD geographical region but also to other regions in the nation as well. Assures the quality of all flood risk management activities of the subordinate Districts including detailed engineering features of preliminary and final drawings, basis for design, technical specifications, cost estimates, planning documents, operations and maintenance plans, etc. Based on investigations, issues guidance, and reviews and endorses other flood risk management design criteria. Forwards design criteria changes to higher headquarters for possible implementation by other COE activities. Planning, Engineering and Operations policy and guidance disseminated reflect regional and program requirements. Reviews and approves Districts? Quality Control Plans to ensure the adequacy of design review. Uses state-of-the-art knowledge to review and approve requests for waivers to flood risk management structure. Reviews and evaluates customer?s technical criteria to ensure compatibility with COE guidelines, and develop solutions to resolve incompatible to the satisfaction of the customer. Leads district staff in seeking innovative approaches to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in planning and engineering evaluations and related formulation. Develops, evaluates and recommends procedures, new analytical methods and techniques, and guidelines for accomplishing the engineering, operations and maintenance and related formulation portions of interdisciplinary planning studies. Provides assistance to districts in resolving major technical issues and facilitates resolution of flood damage problems and related formulation policy issues. Interprets Corps-wide economic and related formulation policies. Coordinates extensively with counter-parts at the district, Division and HQUSACE levels, state and local officials, and private interests to develop solutions for contentious technical, legal and policy issues. Using technical engineering expertise, provides staff level review and comments on various documents including environmental assessments, impacts statements, general design memoranda, designs, plans

and specifications for projects at all stages. Documents may originate from other SPD elements, districts, Divisions, USACE, government agencies, or private interests. Maintains a specialized knowledge of all components of O&M activities, relevant legislation and policy establishing Federal interest in the viability of flood risk management, water supply and irrigation O&M projects. 40%

2. Program Management:

As the regional authoritative source of expertise, manages the regional flood risk program and administers the flood protection management program. Ensures that regionally the flood protection structures database is maintained and that flood protection structure assessments, evaluations and certifications are completed according to national policies. Conducts staff inspections of project operations and maintenance. Reviews project facilities for proper maintenance, allocation of resources, and operation in accordance with approved plans, environmental assessments or impact statements. Reviews O&M manuals for new flood risk management projects to insure regulatory compliance, technical adequacy, quality, and comprehensive project operation and maintenance plans. Coordinates action with appropriate staff as required, resolving conflicting views; compiles comments and/or recommendations into a unified Division document, recommends approval or disapproval. Manages the program for inspection of Federal local protection completed works flood risk management projects. Reviews District inspection reports to ensure effectiveness of the program, and when necessary, directs District action to correct deficiencies. In conjunction with District personnel, conducts and participates in physical inspections of levees and surrounding areas for proper maintenance and repair. As the Sliver Jackets Program Manager, is responsible for the silver jackets management portion of the planning, engineering and operations budget, prioritizes elements of work and analyzes District data in connection with future budget requests. Recommends allocation of funds for specific purposes, redistribution of funds (between districts), and revocation of excess funds to HQUSACE. Participates in formulation of budget and program data for the Division Commander for presentation at annual congressional budget hearings. Reviews District Flood Damage Reduction Program budget submissions for adequacy and prepare Division submissions for inspection of completed works. Reviews PL 84-99 rehabilitation requests (to repair damage caused by floods) for propriety and adequate maintenance of prior repairs. Represents and speaks for the South Pacific Division in meetings with the highest officials within the Corps, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil works and representatives of study partners to address policy issues leading to the support of projects by the Administration. These meetings are to resolve major policy and project issues, which reflect desires of project sponsors, competing objectives and limited resources.
40%

3. Regional Interface

Serves as the silver jacket management and levee expert and technical liaison to Federal and state agencies, consultants and universities on issues such as flood risk management facilities, structures, and hydropower. Facilitates coordination for various silver jacket initatives between various federal, state and local agencies. Facilitates resolution of differences between the Corps and other agencies and interests. Researches, investigates and conducts technical analysis, and prepares correspondence relative to problems or inquiries from key officials or congressional representatives. Initiates, reviews and approves information papers, justification or fact sheets, slides and maps for various reasons; for example, to use as supporting testimony at congressional hearings on reports recommending Federal action. Participates in meetings and professional conferences with key headquarters, Division or District officials, local sponsors, and public interests. Participates in periodic and pre-flood inspections of flood risk management structures; identifies significant deficiencies, advises project personnel and commanders, recommends action to be taken. Provides advice

on pertinent policy, laws and regulations, and furnishes technical guidance and instructions pertaining to flood risk management. Initiates and conducts special studies of flood risk management structures and related activities. Shares data from studies with HQUSACE, other Corps Divisions and districts, and local interests. Reviews, interprets, and prepares Division supplements to engineering data, criteria and information, such as engineering circulars and manuals pertaining to the planning, engineering and operations of flood risk management structures; disseminates to District offices with clarifying guidance as necessary. Maintains contact with representatives of other Corps offices, other Federal and State agencies and interagency committees. Participates in national and regional workshops and conferences in a continuing effort to maintain coordination with all agencies engaged in economics and related plan formulation to minimize duplication of effort and to achieve maximum effectiveness in overall development of joint actions and activities by the several agencies. Coordinates Corps long-range planning activities with other Federal, State and local planning efforts. 20%

PERFORMS OTHER DUTIES AS ASSIGNED.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:
Incumbent is required to travel approximately 30% of the time.

Evaluation:

KC 250579 was used with minor edits. TW

EVALUATION STATEMENT

1. REFERENCES:

OPM PCS Engineering Series, GS-801, TS-6, Jun 71
OPM PCS Civil Engineer Series, GS-810, TS-62, Jun 66
OPM PCS Environmental Engineer Series, GS-819, TS-35, May 79
OPM PCS Mechanical Engineer Series, GS-830, TS-28, Jun 77
OPM PCS General Physical Science, GS-1301, HRCD-4, Dec 97
OPM PCS Geologist, GS-1350, HRCD-4, Dec 97

2. BACKGROUND: The previous position reflected a Major Subordinate Command with 3 field commands in the structure. In 1996, the South Pacific Division command structure was increased in size from 3 to 4 field commands. During the 1999-2000 time-period, HQUSACE directed that the Major Subordinate Commands become Regional Business Centers carrying out national policy with the direction to focus on subject matter experts to provide technical guidance and consultation to the field structure. Thus, there has been an accretion of duties with the current position and an increased emphasis on the incumbent to be a national expert and technical consultant in the program areas of flood protection structure risk and safety and flood damage reduction. Further, the position is a regional technical expert providing support to four Districts located in San Francisco, Sacramento, Los Angeles, and Albuquerque for the full range of flood risk management, silver jacket initatives and multi-purpose projects. The position provides technical expertise and guidance on flood risk management experienced within the western region of the United States, which is among the most diverse in the nation. As a technical consultant and advisor for flood risk management, the position is involved in all work for the planning, design, construction, operations and maintenance of highly complex projects. The geographic area of the Division includes more than 762,000 square miles and some of the most diverse geographical resources found in the country. Geographically and climatically, the region?s coastal plains and high desert areas differ dramatically. Conditions require the application of innovative engineering to provide solutions to problems and to optimize and enhance the Flood Risk and Flood Protection Management Programs. This evaluation is based on input from the incumbent, the Operations Division

Chief, the Chief, Engineering and Construction Division, and similar positions in the Northwest Division and the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division.

3. SERIES DETERMINATION: The position requires application of civil and flood risk management engineering skills and knowledge, to provide program guidance and expertise, investigate and study problem areas, and conduct quality assurance (QA) reviews on activities (i.e. levee assessment, evaluation and certification; design of flood risk management structures; water flow trends; sedimentation characteristics; industry and practices; etc.) This work can be performed by application of a variety of professional engineering/scientific disciplines. Therefore, this position can be classified to each of the series listed above.

4. TITLE DETERMINATION: This is an interdisciplinary position. Once the position is filled, it will be titled appropriately according to the series being used. Classification titles are provided below.

GS-801, General Engineer
GS-810, Civil Engineer
GS-819, Environmental Engineer
GS-830, Mechanical Engineer
GS-1301, Physical Scientist
GS-1350, Geologist

5. GRADE DETERMINATION: Two standards are used to provide grading criteria for this position. They are: 1) General Grade Evaluation Guide for Non-Supervisory Professional Engineering Positions, GS-0800, and 2) Civil Engineering, GS-810 Series.

A. General Grade Evaluation Guide for Non-Supervisory Professional Engineering Positions.

Type of Work: Work performed by this position includes: performing staff level assignments, serving as a technical consultant, serving as a program coordinator, and performing quality review functions. The level of this work is highly complex and requires the exercise of highly developed judgment based on extensive professional experience. This work matches Type III (staff level work) as defined on page 4 of the standard.

1) Nature of Assignment - Assignments typical of this position are found on page 15 of the GS-0800 standard. Specific matches between this position and the grading criteria referenced on p. 15 include: serving as an expert consultant in a specialized field, advising on, reviewing, and conceiving of new work to be undertaken for the organization or agency; conducting periodic visits to field sites for advice and review and to assure consistency with agency policy; conducting special studies and planning studies with new approaches to problems; relating future planning requirements to available resources, and agency responsibilities; and assessing program effectiveness. This position performs staff advisory, consulting and QA reviews for SPD and four subordinate districts involved in a variety of conventional and unusual or novel projects. The position directs further study by the Districts as necessary. Conventional assignments may include review of design or construction techniques for flood risk management projects. An example of advanced work includes investigating and developing new and innovative solutions to problems where harsh and difficult site conditions and geological conditions are encountered. In these instances, state-of-the-art scientific knowledge and concepts are applied to develop solutions. Conventional projects may become controversial due to design problems, environmental problems in the material excavation and disposal arena, coordination requirements, etc. Project coordination can be complex if other Federal agencies, state and local governments, developers, local sponsors and private interest groups are involved. In addition to the QA reviews, the position also develops procedures and standards to guide the Districts. The nature of these work

assignments are overall an excellent match with the GS-14 criteria in the standard.

2) Level of Responsibility ? Work in this position matches responsibility described under Type III on page 16 of the standard, where the incumbent independently applies seasoned professional experience to make decisions or suggest innovative approaches to complex problems. The incumbent receives little or no technical guidance. Examples of this in the standard include: making decisions that affect or influence either the program or established standards of an agency, representing the agency (with authority) in meetings with groups from other agencies or organizations, such as state and local authorities; serving as a technical specialist concerned with solving problems where guidelines provide little or no assistance. And at this level in the standard, the supervisor provides mostly administrative and broad policy and resource guidance and budget limitations. This is almost an exact match to the level of responsibility found in the subject position. The supervisor provides policy direction and accepts work as technically authoritative. In addition, this position is responsible for negotiating with other technical specialists when concerns have not been appropriately addressed in major or significant plans and studies. The incumbent of this position not only must be thoroughly familiar with the laws and regulations surrounding the flood risk management engineering and related programs, but must also be adept in interpreting and applying such laws and regulations, using seasoned professional judgment to resolve conflicts in guidance. The four subordinate districts rely on the expertise of this position to anticipate and recognize problem areas and devise solutions. And the agency and the public rely on the professional accuracy of the program work, direction, and guidance provided by this position. Overall, this is an excellent match with the GS-14 grading criteria in the standard.

3) Conclusion ? Both Nature of Assignment and Level of Responsibility match the GS-14 grading criteria. Therefore, this position is classified at the GS-14 level.

B. Civil Engineering Series:

1) This position is responsible for assuring the quality of all flood risk management activities of the subordinate districts. Review of detailed engineering features of preliminary and final drawings, technical specifications, etc., are conducted through in place of quality control plans and processes. This is an excellent match as these processes are described and evaluated within Part IV of the GS-0810, Civil Engineering standard.

2) Review and comparison of this job against grading in this standard results in a GS-14 grade conclusion. As a GS-14 specialist for the silver jackets, levee safety and flood risk management programs, the position is fully responsible for a broad range of activities covering a wide variety of complex engineering and flood risk management features and activities. Activities are in a sizeable geographic area and under the control of a number of separate organizations. There are a variety of statutory, regulatory, funding and procedural controls. Work is performed under very general supervision. Work is reviewed for overall adequacy, timeliness and coordination. Incumbent initiates own contacts and represents the Division in making final commitments. Refers only major policy issues to the supervisor for decision with recommended course of action.

3) Conclusion ? This position substantially matches the grading criteria for the GS-14 level in the Civil Engineering Standard. Therefore, this position is graded at the GS-14 level.

6. Final Classification - This position is interdisciplinary (0801, 0810, 0819, 0830, 1301, 1350), and is classified as a GS-XXXX-14.

7. Alignment Consideration - The GS-13 grade level is common among subordinate District offices for professional engineers. Work at the GS-13 level work is fairly abundant throughout

SPD. This position functions as a Regional, staff level, flood risk management engineering expert, reviewing and guiding the subordinate districts. This position meets the GS-14 grade level criteria where the organization served is engaged in work of an advanced nature.

8. FLSA DETERMINATION: This position meets the professional exemption criteria of 5 CFR 551.206 and is therefore considered to be EXEMPT form FLSA coverage.