



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
MANPOWER AND RESERVE AFFAIRS
111 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20310-0111

February 18, 2000

CHALLENGE Number 2000-0082



Dear

This responds to your challenge to the Army's 1999 FAIR Act inventory. Your challenge concerns one activity.

Standing. As an employee within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. 2105 performing "Force Readiness Support Activities," and "USAR Force Readiness Support Activities" included under Function Code U999, "Other Training Functions," you are an "interested party" who is qualified to submit challenges of inclusion or exclusion to the Army list. Other issues raised in your challenge are not relevant to FAIR Act determinations.

Date of Receipt. I received your Challenge on January 26, 2000.

Force Readiness Support Functions

Activity Challenged. You have challenged the inclusion on the list of work performed under the Function Code U999, "Other Training Functions." This work includes training support, base operations support to USAR units when training and implementation of Army Mobilization Operation Planning System within Function Code U999 for "Other Training Functions," as defined in the functional definition at the Army web site, <http://www.asamra.army.pentagon.mil/fair>, which is hyperlinked to the DOD FAIRNET website at <http://gravity.lmi.org/DODFAIR>.

Decision. I have determined that the activities included under Function Codes U999 pertaining to Force Readiness Support and USAR Force Readiness Support are not inherently Governmental. Therefore, they are properly included in the Army's FAIR Act list.

Rationale. The FAIR Act list includes only functions and activities that, in the judgment of the head of the agency, are not inherently Governmental. An inherently Governmental function includes those activities that require either the exercise of substantial discretion in applying Government authority or the making of value judgments in making decisions for the Government. The purpose of the challenged functions and activities listed above is to provide force readiness support.

Your challenge contends that these functions should be considered inherently Governmental because one of the functions included in Force Readiness Support involves developing mobilization and deployment policy and guidance that establishes how force and resource expansion will be accomplished at the local level. The Army Mobilization Operation Planning System determines the policies. The exercise of discretion in the Force Readiness Support function at the local level, in general, is not considered substantial in that it is so circumscribed by law, rule and regulation as to render this entire function not inherently Governmental. Another consideration is that Force Readiness Support functions are currently contracted for within the Active and Reserve Components, and are currently included in current A-76 studies.

Significance. The significance of a non-inherently Governmental designation for an activity is discussed at the Army web site hyperlinked to the DOD FAIRNET at <http://www.asamra.army.pentagon.mil/fair>. In some cases there may be legal impediments to contracting activities designated as non-inherently Governmental, as reflected in statutes, international agreements, and restrictions on contracting for personal services. In other cases, the Army may consider it imprudent to contract activities designated as non-inherently Governmental based on risk assessment and national security considerations, or enlightened human resources management. Such a determination has been made at the present time in the case of some of the activities included within this challenge.

Scope. The Army's functions are defined by its unique roles and missions. Therefore, the Army's FAIR Act decisions may not be extended to other agencies with different missions based solely on function code titles. The Army FAIR Act Inventory included civilian positions performing functions within the Army infrastructure and within Civil Works. The FAIR Act Inventory excluded all contractor positions and all military positions, as well as all personnel performing functions in the following mission areas within the Army: Major Theater of War, Smaller Scale Contingency, Base Engagement Force, Strategic Reserve, Domestic Support, or Homeland Defense.

Appeal Rights. You have the right to appeal my decision since it is adverse to your Challenge. The specific procedures for submitting an appeal are set forth at the enclosure to this decision.


Patrick T. Henry
Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Manpower and Reserve Affairs)

Enclosure

Appeal Rights

Appeals must be in writing and transmitted by United States mail, express mail delivery or other similar service, or facsimile transmission, or may be delivered in person only if the person making the delivery is authorized access to the Pentagon. (To assist in processing, appellants may mark "FAIR Appeal" on the envelope.) Appeals must be submitted to the office listed below within 10 working days of the date on which the challenger received the decision denying or rejecting the challenge:

Department of the Army
Office of the Assistant Secretary
Manpower and Reserve Affairs
ATTN: SAMR-FMMR-FAIR
111 Army Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20310-0111
Fax: 703-614-6833