POSITION: FIRE PROTECTION ENGINEER

LOCATION: PHOENIX, ARIZONA

DESCRIPTION: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is supporting the Veteran’s Administration in the construction of health care facility mega-projects throughout the South Pacific Division (SPD). Mega-projects have a projected value of greater than $100 million each, and the total value of the DVA program for the SPD is greater than $3 billion dollars. The facilities include new green-field sites, new buildings at existing VA facilities, and rehabilitation of existing buildings. Projects include hospitals, community living centers, community based outpatient clinics, central utility plants, and mental health treatment facilities.

To support this program, USACE has created a Regional Technical Support Branch (RTSB) within the SPD. The RTSB is staffed by senior level subject matter experts across a wide array of architectural and engineering disciplines. The RTSB provides expert technical reach back support to district level engineering and construction teams charged with execution of each project. In addition, RTSB staff perform reviews of construction document packages, calculations, and overall design approaches for each project. RTSB staff also perform submittal reviews, perform regular site visits during construction, and oversee construction progress, commissioning, and acceptance.

POSITION: This position is for an experienced fire protection engineer and requires licensure as a professional engineer in at least one state. The ideal candidate will have experience in the following areas:

- Applying ICC codes, NFPA codes and standards, and requirements of the VA.
- A thorough working knowledge of various types of health care occupancies,
- Knowledge of passive and active fire protection systems and features,
- Knowledge of fire alarm, detection, and communication for health care occupancies,
- Knowledge of emergency power systems, engine-generators, and associated fuel systems,
- Experience in integrating fire protection systems with other building systems,
- Ability to communicate professionally with A/E teams, contracting teams, and government agencies throughout project execution

The attached job description contains additional information on this position. Interested candidates should visit [www.USAJobs.gov](http://www.USAJobs.gov) for the official position announcement and details on the application process.

Questions may be directed to either of the following:

Mr. Craig Gosling, AIA  
Chief, RTSB  
602-230-6888  
Craig.gosling@usace.army.mil

Ray Schmid, P.E.  
Fire Protection Engineer  
602-230-6882  
raymond.p.schmid@usace.army.mil
ARMY POSITION DESCRIPTION

PD#: KC478910  Sequence#: VARIES  Replaces PD#: 

FIRE PROTECTION ENGINEER

GS-0804-13

Organization Title:

POSITION LOCATION:

Servicing CPAC: COE, SACRAMENTO, CA  Agency: VARIES
Installation: VARIES  Army Command: VARIES
Region: WEST  Command Code: VARIES

POSITION CLASSIFICATION STANDARDS USED IN CLASSIFYING/GRADING POSITION:

Citation 1: OPM JFS PROF WORK ENG & ARCHITECTURE GROUP, NOV 2008

Supervisory Certification: I certify that this is an accurate statement of the major duties and responsibilities of this position and its organizational relationships, and that the position is necessary to carry out Government functions for which I am responsible. This certification is made with the knowledge that this information is to be used for statutory purposes relating to appointment and payment of public funds, and that false or misleading statements may constitute violations of such statutes or their implementing regulations.

Supervisor Name: CRAIG GOSLING  Reviewed Date: 11/29/2016

Classification Review: This position has been classified/graded as required by Title 5, U.S. Code in conformance with standard published by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management or if no published standards apply directly, consistently with the most applicable published standards.

Reviewed By: TROY WALLIS  Reviewed Date: 11/29/2016

POSITION INFORMATION:

Cyber Workforce:
• Primary Work Role: VARIES
• Additional Work Role 1: VARIES
• Additional Work Role 2: VARIES

FLSA: EXEMPT  FLSA Worksheet: EXEMPT

CONDITION OF EMPLOYMENT:

Drug Test Required: VARIES
Financial Management Certification: VARIES
Position Designation: VARIES
Position Sensitivity: VARIES

POSITION ASSIGNMENT:

Competitive Area: VARIES
Competitive Level: VARIES
Career Program: VARIES
Career Ladder PD: NO
Target Grade/FPL: 13
Career Pos 1: 
Career Pos 2: 
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**Position Duties:**

Position is established to serve as one of two South Pacific Division (SPD) Regional Technical Specialists and experts in fire protection/prevention and life safety (FPP) design and construction for the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) Major Construction Program being executed under the Interagency and International Services (IIS) Program by each of the 4 SPD Districts. One will be assigned to the Albuquerque District, and one will be assigned to the Sacramento District. Both will provide support to all 4 SPD Districts. Designs are either prepared by one of two Districts within SPD, or by Architect-Engineer (A-E) firms managed by these same two Districts. The construction management of these projects will be executed by each of the four Districts. Projects typically are within the geographical area of SPD, which encompasses six western states and small parts of four others. The area is characterized by complex and diverse climate. These DVA projects cover a large variety of buildings to include hospitals, medical research facilities, medical/specialty clinics, community living centers, other ancillary facilities, etc. As a recognized regional technical specialist, the incumbent uses ingenuity to research and fully explore solutions to complex problems that typically involve unprecedented aspects of beyond existing standards and methods. The incumbent resolves regional problems and coordinates with HQUSACE where a formal waiver to code or criteria is required or an official determination of equivalency is required.

1. Reviews all FPP features of projects, design analyses, calculations and instructions, and various planning documents, construction contractor material submittals, extension of design submittals, requests for clarification, etc. for DVA projects. Analyzes functional and operational aspects to determine if proposed work is within authority and if technically sound. Where a portion or majority of a project’s design has been completed by DVA and will be turned over to USACE for completion of the design prior to construction, the incumbent performs design and cost validations of these projects to assist with evaluation and determination on project acceptance by USACE. Provides recommendations and comments to appropriate personnel (e.g., Responsible District Chief of Engineering, Responsible District Chief of Construction, District Technical Lead, SPD and District Program/Project Managers, DVA, Medical MCX, HQUSACE, etc.). Where required, serves as expert witness for the region in court actions. 25%

2. Provides Independent Technical and Design Quality Assurance Reviews of in-house and
A-E designs executed by Corps Districts (i.e. Albuquerque, Sacramento, or another district outside of SPD). Serves as SPD's FPP expert providing recommendations to the Responsible Chief of Engineering for approval of FPP features of projects. Confers with the Chief, Engineering Division, and SPDHQ on controversial fire protection engineering issues and policy changes, performing all necessary research and analysis, and makes recommendations for solutions to the PDT. Reviews and approves, where appropriate, FPP features of design and construction, including design memoranda, plans, specifications, drawings, construction modifications, etc. Ensures compliance with established criteria, sound engineering principles, standard practices, and applicable building codes. Identifies and resolves design errors and omissions, discrepancies, including nonconformance with applicable codes and criteria. Assures project funding, scheduling, and cost estimates for FPP features are appropriate and reasonable. Recommends preparation of additional supportive technical documentation to substantiate project design. Evaluates and helps to resolve issues raised by technical engineering review comments. Ensures that the design satisfies the intended project purpose(s). For A-E designs, efforts include design review for A-E contract compliance. 25%

3. As a regional technical specialist for SPD, responds to requests for technical advice and assistance from any SPD Division and District team member. Provides authoritative advice on designs as well as during the construction phase of projects. Confers with architects and engineers in other organizational units to resolve conflicts or delays to the timely completion of work. Recommends solutions to problems, which may involve technical and administrative or contractual changes. Evaluates and resolves design problems through discussions with engineering representatives of the DVA, HQUSACE, and members of the District engineering staffs. Reviews Designer of Record (DOR) responses to construction contractor requests for clarification/information to determine technical adequacy and scope/contract compliance. 25%

4. Receives correspondence from Districts, CESPD, DVA Office of Construction and Facilities Managements (CFM), Medical MCX, AHJ, and HQUSACE, other federal and non-federal agencies, and interested parties making inquiries relative to specific FPP elements of designed and constructed features. Performs technical research needed to reply to such inquiries and prepares pertinent correspondence. 5%

5. Maintains awareness of current advances in FPP. Performs special studies of building materials and methods. Analyzes and evaluates possible applicability to DVA projects, and makes recommendations based on findings. Incorporates knowledge of technical advances when reviewing designs. Recommends inclusion of improved procedures, practices and materials, as appropriate. Participates in conferences and meetings with representatives of DVA CFM, SPDHQ, HQUSACE, District, A-E firms, Medical MCX, and other interested parties. Attends Quality Assurance conferences. Participates at public hearings, regional and national level meetings, committees and professional conferences involving specialty areas of expertise (e.g., seismic design). Represents SPD at such conferences. Relays pertinent policy, laws and regulations and furnishes technical guidance or instructions to the District Engineering staffs. 5%

6. Regional Oversight role: Ensures technical consistency for DVA Projects across the SPD Region. Maintains awareness of changes DVA FPP criteria and applicability to projects already in design or construction. Provides technical direction and oversight to FPP PDT members assigned to DVA projects. Co-champions a regional FPP Community of Practice (CoP). Provides coaching, facilitating and communicating team objectives, mission, goals, and problems to be solved, milestones, techniques, work methods, procedures and identification of parameters of a viable solution. 10%

7. Partners with the other FPP RTS to capture and disseminate FPP engineering and construction lessons learned (LL) from projects from across the region within the DVA
Major Construction Program. Shares LLs with the USACE Enterprise. Leads and participates in After Action Reviews (AAR) representing the FPP discipline, and authors FPP portions of AAR reports. Develops and provides training materials and presentations to Regional and national team members based on lessons learned as well as changes in DVA FPP criteria. Performs other duties as assigned. 5%

Factor 1, Knowledge Required by the Position Level 1-8 (1550pts)

Expert knowledge of FPP. Incumbent is routinely called upon as the technical expert in the FPP field to provide advice and guidance to SPD's four districts. Mastery of advanced concepts, principles, and practices of FPP design and construction. DVA projects involve complex facilities such as hospitals, medical research facilities, medical/specialty clinics, community living centers, and other ancillary facilities and seismic retrofit of existing structures.

Ability to prepare briefings and present complex technical issues to senior leaders within USACE, DVA and other agencies, outside stakeholders, contractors, etc.

Ability to write technical reports on complex issues and to communicate recommendations and decisions.

Factor 2, Supervisory Controls Level 2-4 (450pts)

Works under the general supervision of the Section Chief, who provides initial guidance on policy matters, instructions on program objectives to be achieved and changes on work priorities. Incumbent’s recommendations and decisions in the FPP functional area are relied upon as technically sound and are generally accepted as SPD final commitments. Keeps supervisor informed of project progress and work status, referring only major policy issues for decisions with a recommended course of action. Completed work is reviewed for overall adequacy, timeliness and proper coordination with other technical specialists. Overall performance is evaluated in terms of performance objectives established jointly between the supervisor and the incumbent.

Factor 3, Guidelines Level 3-4 (450 pts)

Guidelines include standard material in the form of agency policies and regulations, industry design standards and building codes, textbooks, manufacturer’s catalogs and handbooks, standard designs and specifications of DVA and those of regulatory agencies, applicable codes that generally vary from one state to another and established practices. Interprets policy and programs of higher authority, to assure proper, timely and consistent implementation and compliance. Where non-compliance is found, the incumbent works with the PDT, and as a subject matter expert, develops technically correct courses of action, and coordinates with the proper Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) to obtain either concurrence or any approval reserved by code or DOD criteria for AHJs. The employee uses initiative and judgment in selecting, adapting and applying pertinent guidelines.

Factor 4, Complexity Level 4-5 (325 pts)

Assignments involve the review of projects related to fire protection/prevention and life safety design and construction of proposed works including hospitals, medical research facilities, medical/specialty clinics, community living centers, and other ancillary facilities, etc. Individual assignments involve a number of complex features that generally vary from one project to another in scope or magnitude and require the FPP regional technical specialist to use different approaches. The position reviews designs from the two vertical design Districts within SPD or by Architect-Engineer (A-E) firms that contain a variety of complex features, and researches and resolves systemic problems which are determined to
result in errors or poor quality products produced. When deficiencies in design or construction or conflicts in policy are encountered, the incumbent, as a subject matter expert, develops technically sound recommendations, strategies, and actions to reconcile or resolve the issues, and serves as the advocate, where necessary, to obtain higher headquarters and/or AHJ approvals. Problems arising from users are frequent and require technical judgment, originality, resourcefulness and diplomacy to resolve.

Factor 5, Scope and Effect Level 5-5 (325 pts)

Position serves as a South Pacific Division (SPD)-wide regional technical specialist in FPP for the DVA program. Program includes construction of DVA facilities that affect Life Safety of facilities (i.e. whether or not a facility can be accepted and occupied), the quality of life and safety of a substantial number of people, for both ambulatory and resident patients, as well as the general public who access DVA facilities. Decisions related to FPP directly affect the quality of designs and construction and thus the life safety aspects of constructed features. Incumbent incorporates knowledge of technical advances when reviewing designs. Position provides authoritative advice and guidance to key staff in the MSC, Districts, and Installation Engineers and to key operating officials in other agencies. Further, the technical expertise directly affects the District's and Division's knowledge and understanding of the functional and operational aspects of FPP.

Factor 6/7, Personal Contacts, Purpose of Contacts, Level 3/C (180pts)

The purpose of these contacts is to provide technical assistance; participate in the interchange of ideas with peers; review the FPP features of designs prepared by others for design and construction of DVA Major Construction Program projects, and study and implement systemic corrections/improvements. The work involves an active and leading role in conferences and meetings on problems and issues of considerable consequence and importance involving varying viewpoints, goals and objectives and requires the incumbent to lead PDTs in developing technically accurate solutions, and to use persuasion and influence to ensure that proper decisions are made and correct solutions are implemented.

Factor 8, Physical Demands Level 8-1 (5pts)

The work is primarily sedentary in nature. Occasional physical activity is required including walking, bending, or stooping during site and equipment.

Factor 9, Work Environment Level 9-1 (5pts)

Work is performed in an office environment, with some travel to attend meetings, conferences, or to review construction field operations.

Total Points: 3290 3155-3600 = GS-13

**Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) Determination = (EXEMPT)**

- **1. Availability Pay Exemption** - (e.g., Criminal Investigators, U.S. Customs and Border Protection pilots who are also Law Enforcement Officers).
- **2. Foreign Exemption** - (Note: Puerto Rico and certain other locations do not qualify for this exemption – See 5 CFR 551.104 for a list of Nonexempt areas.)
- **3. Executive Exemption:**
a. Exercises appropriate management responsibility (primary duty) over a recognized organizational unit with a continuing function, AND

b. Customarily and regularly directs 2 or more employees, AND

c. Has the authority to make or recommend hiring, firing, or other status-change decisions, when such recommendations have particular weight.

Note: Shared supervision or “matrix management” responsibility for a project team does not meet the above criteria. Limited “assistant manager” functions or “acting in the absence” of the manager does not meet the above criteria.

☐ 4. Professional Exemption:
   a. Professional work (primary duty)
   b. Learned Professional, (See 5 CFR, 551.208 ) (Registered Nurses, Dental Hygienists, Physician’s Assistants, Medical Technologists, Teachers, Attorneys, Physicians, Dentists, Podiatrists, Optometrists, Engineers, Architects, and Accountants at the independent level as just some of the typical examples of exempt professionals). Or
   c. Creative Professional, (See 5 CFR, 551.209 ) (The primary duty requires invention and originality in a recognized artistic field (music, writing, etc.) and does not typically include newspapers or other media or work subject to control by the organization are just some examples of Creative Professionals). Or
   d. Computer Employee, (See 5 CFR, 551.210 ) (must meet salary test and perform such duties as system analysis, program/system design, or program/system testing, documentation, and modification). Computer manufacture or repair is excluded (non-exempt work).

☐ 5. Administrative Exemption:
   a. Primary duty consistent with 5 CFR 551 (e.g.; non-manual work directly related to the management or general business operations of the employer or its customers), AND job duties require exercise of discretion & independent judgment.

☐ FLSA Conclusion:
   ✓ Exempt
   ☐ Non Exempt

FLSA Comments/Explanations:
Duties performed require a professional degree from an accredited academic institution.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT & NOTES:
SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: Current registration as a professional engineer by any state is required.

Additionally, fire protection license is required.

POSITION EVALUATION: