

(1) A disclosure of information by an employee or applicant which the employee or applicant reasonably believes evidences—

(i) A violation of any law, rule, or regulation, or

(ii) Mismanagement, a gross waste of funds, an abuse of authority, or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety, if such disclosure is not specifically prohibited by law and if such information is not specifically required by Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or the conduct of foreign affairs; or

(2) A disclosure to the General Counsel of the GAO Personnel Appeals Board of information which the employee or applicant reasonably believes evidences—

(i) A violation of any law, rule, or regulation, or

(ii) Mismanagement, a gross waste of funds, an abuse of authority, or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety.

(i) *Reprisals for appeals.* GAO employees shall not take or fail to take any personnel action against any employee or applicant for employment as a reprisal for the exercise of any appeal right granted by any law, rule, or regulation.

(j) *Discrimination for conduct.* GAO employees shall not discriminate for or against any employee or applicant for employment on the basis of conduct which does not adversely affect the performance of the employee or applicant or the performance of others; except that nothing in this paragraph shall prohibit an agency from taking into account in determining suitability or fitness any conviction of the employee or applicant for any crime under the laws of any State, or the District of Columbia, or of the United States.

(k) *Other personnel actions.* GAO employees shall not take or fail to take any other personnel action if the taking of or failure to take such action violates any law, rule or regulation implementing, or directly concerning, the merit system principles described in §2.4.

(l) *Information to the Congress.* Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize the withholding of informa-

tion from the Congress or the taking of any personnel action against an employee who discloses information to the Congress.

§ 2.6 Veterans' preference.

(a) GAO will provide preference, for any individual who would be a preference eligible in the executive branch, in a manner and to an extent consistent with preference eligibles in the executive branch.

(b) Appeals from preference decisions will be heard by the GAO Personnel Appeals Board.

PART 3—EMPLOYMENT

Sec.

3.1 Appointment, promotion, and assignment.

3.2 Oath of office.

3.3 Assignments to and from States.

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§ 3.1 Appointment, promotion, and assignment.

Employees of GAO shall be appointed, promoted and assigned solely on the basis of merit and fitness, but without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments and other personnel actions in the competitive service.

§ 3.2 Oath of office.

The provisions of subchapter II of chapter 33 of title 5, U.S. Code, and Office of Personnel Management implementing regulations apply to Government Accountability Office employees.

§ 3.3 Assignments to and from States.

The provisions of subchapter VI of chapter 33 of title 5, U.S. Code, and Office of Personnel Management implementing regulations apply to Government Accountability Office employees.

PART 4—EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE AND UTILIZATION

Sec.

4.1 Training.

4.2 Performance appraisal.

4.3 Removal for unacceptable performance.

4.4 Incentive awards.