

May 13TH, 2009

Huge Federal Staffing Increase Planned in 2010

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May 12, 2009

The Defense, Commerce, Homeland Security and Veterans Affairs departments and the Social Security Administration are slated for large staffing increases next year.

Defense civilian staffing will jump by about 19,000 full-time equivalent positions, most of which will come from converting — or “in-sourcing” — about 13,800 contractor jobs to federal employee jobs, according to 2010 budget documents released yesterday by the White House. About 2,500 of those in-sourced positions will be acquisition personnel. The Pentagon will hire an additional 1,600 acquisition staff to oversee contracts.

Homeland Security is slated to get about 7,000 more employees, including more than 1,200 new employees at Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

VA’s proposed staffing increase of about 9,800 includes more than 1,300 hires to process claims faster, and other hires to support increased medical care to veterans.

The Social Security Administration is in line to receive an additional 3,200 employees, bringing staffing levels to 68,300. Those proposed employees, who will work in field offices, call centers, processing centers and hearing offices, are meant to help SSA handle growing workloads and cut down on a backlog of more than 750,000 cases.

Commerce is expected to hire 104,122 full-time equivalent employees in fiscal 2009 and 2010, but the bulk of those hires — 102,473 FTEs — will be temporary hires to help carry out the census.

The federal work force is expected to be 2.1 million in fiscal 2010, about 141,300 employees more than in fiscal 2009.