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| EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION ADVISORY SYSTEM U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR Washington, D.C. 20210 | CLASSIFICATION Unemployment Insurance |
| | CORRESPONDENCE SYMBOL OUI/DUIO |
| | DATE September 18, 2023 |

ADVISORY: UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PROGRAM LETTER NO. 14-23

TO: STATE WORKFORCE AGENCIES

**FROM: BRENT PARTON /s/
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary**

SUBJECT: Implementation of the Federal Identification Code (FIC) for the United States Space Force (USSF) and related updates to the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Interstate Connection Network (ICON) and the Military-State Data Exchange System (MSDES)

1. **Purpose.** To provide State Workforce Agencies (states) with the new FIC (810-destination 0001) for the USSF to be used for all Unemployment Compensation for Ex-servicemembers (UCX) claims and billing activities related to this military branch.
2. **Action Requested.** The United States Department of Labor’s (Department) Employment and Training Administration (ETA) requests that state administrators provide information contained in this Unemployment Insurance Program Letter (UIPL) to the appropriate staff. State agencies are required to implement this change no later than the quarter that starts January 1, 2024.
3. **Summary and Background.**

- a. Summary – For USSF UCX claims, ETA has designated a new FIC 810-destination 0001. ICON and MSDES have also been updated to allow states to request claims and billing information from the USSF through these systems. This guidance also provides instructions for processing a UCX first claim with two Certificates of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, DD Form 214 (DD214), for service performed during the state base period.

For claims filed by former civilian employees of the USSF under the Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) program, states will continue to use the Civilian US Department of Air Force (USAF) FICs, as stated on the Standard Form 8 (SF-8).

- b. Background – On December 20, 2019, the President signed the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (Public Law 116-92), establishing the USSF as a new branch of the US Armed Forces, one of the eight US uniformed services, and the sixth armed service branch. While the USSF is an independent branch under USAF, its military and civilian

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| RESCISSIONS None | EXPIRATION DATE Continuing |
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personnel funding remains in the USAF's budget. USAF has been processing all UCX claims filed for both branches under the USAF FIC for UCX claims (FIC 803). Using the same FIC code makes it impractical for the USAF and ETA to distinguish between USAF and USSF claims for tracking and accounting purposes. To resolve this issue, ETA and the USAF agreed to designate a separate FIC for USSF UCX claims.

4. **Guidance.** In accordance with the Department's authority under 5 U.S.C. § 8509(f), ETA has assigned FIC 810-destination 0001 to the USSF for processing UCX claims. The Federal Agencies Claim Directory has been updated with the new FIC and point(s) of contact information. States must use this new FIC for any USSF-related UCX claims, billing, and reporting activities.

To ensure that ETA is able to determine how to properly bill the branches, beginning on the quarter that starts October 1, 2023, but no later than the quarter that starts January 1, 2024, states must implement the programming changes to use the new FIC when filing new UCX claims for ex-servicemembers who were discharged from the USSF. ETA is recommending implementing this change at the start of the quarter to mitigate billing errors. States may refer to the ICON and MSDES User Guides for more information.

- a. **Transfer of Service and Multiple DD214.** The USAF has advised ETA of the following: 1) Ex-servicemembers who transferred from the USAF to the USSF will receive a DD214, from both the USAF and the USSF when separated; 2) When a member transfers from the USAF to the USSF, and time remains on their contract (if enlisted) or they had a remaining active-duty service commitment (ADSC) (if an officer), those periods of time transfer with the member to the USSF; and 3) If a former USSF servicemember presents DD214's from both the USAF and the USSF, and was discharged honorably, they will be deemed to have completed their first full term of active service.
 - b. **Initial Processing for Individuals with Multiple DD214.** When processing the initial claim for an ex-servicemember who transitioned from the USAF to the USSF during an applicable base period, states must submit a Type 1 record to the Federal Claims Control Center (FCCC) for both military branches to capture the total base period wages attributable to the USAF/USSF for that ex-servicemember. The Type 1 responses will contain wage calculations for each branch. The state will submit one Type 2 record to the FCCC indicating the separating military branch as the most recent employer. In addition, the record must indicate which quarter(s)' wages will be used from the respective military branches. States must use the designation "08" on Type 1-6 records for USSF. Space Force will be listed as an option in the "pick list" on the Type 1-6 Data Entry web application.
 - c. **Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE).** When processing claims for former civilian employees of the USSF under the UCFE program, states should use the civilian USAF FIC as provided on the Standard Form 8 (SF-8).
5. **Inquiries.** Please direct inquiries to the appropriate Regional Office.

6. **References.**

- 2020 National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (Public Law 116-92);
- 5 U.S.C. Chapter 85, Subchapter II, Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Servicemembers (5 U.S.C. 8521-8525);
- 5 U.S.C. Chapter 85, Subchapter I, Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (5 U.S.C. 8501-8509);
- 5 U.S.C. 8509(f), Federal Employees Compensation Account;
- 20 CFR Part 614, Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Servicemembers;
- 20 CFR Part 609, Unemployment Compensation for Federal Civilian Employees;
- Training and Employment Notice (TEN) No. 20-12, *Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Servicemembers (UCX) – UCX Claims Processing Enhancements*, issued on January 24, 2013, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/advisories/training-and-employment-notice-no-20-12>;
- TEN No. 27-13, *Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Servicemembers (UCX) Military-State Data Exchange System (MSDES)*, issued on April 8, 2014, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/advisories/training-and-employment-notice-no-27-13>;
- ET Handbook No. 384, Second Edition, *Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Servicemembers*, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/advisories/handbooks/et-handbook-no-384>; and
- UCX Decision Tree in ICON: <https://www.naswa.org/icon/ucx-decision-tree>.

7. **Attachment(s).** None.