

**DECISION****THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL  
OF THE UNITED STATES  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20548**

PLMI

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FILE: B-196633

DATE: January 4, 1980

MATTER OF: Oscar G. Adams - [Claim for Retroactive  
Promotion and Backpay]

**DIGEST:** Employee classified as grade GS-7 alleges that he performed higher-grade GS-9 duties from 1974 to 1978 for which he was not paid. His claim for retroactive promotion with backpay is denied. Record fails to show he was detailed to established higher-graded position. Claims presented to GAO are considered on basis of written record and burden of proof is on claimants to establish liability of United States.

This decision is on the appeal of Mr. Oscar G. Adams of our Claims Division settlement dated August 23, 1979 (Z-2811309). The settlement denied his claim for a retroactive temporary promotion and backpay. For the reasons stated below we sustain the settlement.

Mr. Adams occupied a GS-7 position classified as a Civil Engineering Technician at the Marine Corps Air Station, <sup>DLG 02559</sup> Beaufort, South Carolina. He states that he performed the higher-graded duties of a GS-9 during the period August 26, 1974, to January 1, 1978. Thus, he contends he is entitled to a temporary promotion and backpay on the basis of our Turner-Caldwell decisions, 55 Comp. Gen. 539 (1975) and 56 id. 427 (1977), which held that employees are entitled to temporary promotions for extended details to established classified higher-level positions, provided they meet certain requirements.

The record does indicate that there was a GS-9 position in effect at the Marine Corps Air Station for a Civil Engineering Technician (Drafting). However, that position was superseded on August 7, 1974. It is unknown what position superseded it and the GS-7 position contains a date of February 24, 1977. Thus, there is some doubt in the record as to whether or not there was an established higher-graded classified position to which Mr. Adams could have been assigned. See Glen E. Silvey, B-192642, March 1, 1979.

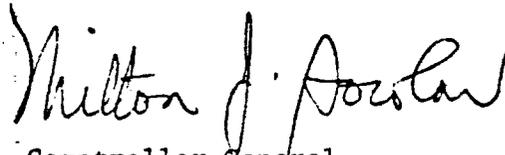
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All claims are considered on the basis of the written record, and the burden of proof is on the claimants to establish the liability of the United States and the claimants' right to payment. 4 C.F.R. § 31.7; Ronald J. Beach, B-195480, November 8, 1979. With regard to what constitutes acceptable proof of a detail, paragraph 8F of Civil Service Commission Bulletin 300-40, states that acceptable documentation includes official personnel documents or official memoranda, a decision under established grievance procedures, or a written statement from the person who supervised the employee during the period in question or other management official familiar with the work, certifying that to his or her personal knowledge the employee performed the duties of the particular established classified position for the period claimed.

There are no official records of any detail of Mr. Adams to a higher-graded classified position. He has merely stated that he performed such duties. He has, therefore, failed to meet the burden of proof necessary to establish liability on the part of the United States.

Accordingly, we sustain our Claims Division determination denying Mr. Adams' claim for a retroactive temporary promotion and backpay.



For the Comptroller General  
of the United States