

Career Transition Update

08/26/05

The Age 31 waiver extension – HR has promised it will be posted before transition. It hasn't been issued yet. I don't know what date they are extending it to either. I will try to find out for next week's update.

Last weeks Flyer #17 announced that a settlement was reached which allows employees who apply for retirement, other than the VERA, to continue utilizing career transition time IAW Section 9 of MOA. You were denied that which you were entitled to. You should be made whole by being able to schedule denied time as well as your current allowed time. You can also send off those retirement papers if you are still holding them so as not to lose your CTA time. The details of the grievance settlement are available to your FACREP. Scott Malon posted this last week but I found many of you were not aware so here it is again.

The funding has been found for 9 more positions in Alaska. They will be selected from the current list. No new bid will be issued.

Those that are intending to use AL to reach retirement beyond Oct. 3. Please request the response to your waiver request in writing. I will be working on the appeal process this coming week.

Bids – I don't know why they waited until the last minute but there are a few bids that will be posted over the next few weeks. There is still time for you to be selected but usually there is a very short window between opening and closing dates so please check FAA jobs site often.

6-7-8 Tower bids – Every time I think you are cruising along fine something happens to prove me wrong. If you are unable to be at the Tower on your reporting date you must call and let your new manager know why. And it should be a valid reason.

I received a message this week from someone in Tower school at the academy. I thank him and pass it along without being able to confirm it. It doesn't look like it will hurt to be prepared.

“Please disseminate this info for ATCT selectees.

You can skip a few tests at the academy if you bring copies of the following:

CTO

LAWRS Certificate

wx obs sheet with your last observation

D-BIGHT Certificate”

Reminder – If you put a retirement date on your paperwork other than Oct. 3 and want to change it you must notify the regional HR Benefits person in writing. This will not be automatic. If you signed up for the VERA and your date was Sept. 30 at that time and

you want to change it to Oct. 3 you must do it yourself in writing. If you are happy with the date you selected and it is not Oct. 3 no action is necessary. Lockheed has requested that you work your scheduled shifts till Oct. 3 and retire on that date.

Thank you to everyone who helped facilitate getting the military guys together. If you are going on active duty, currently on active duty, or recently returned from active duty and I didn't contact you this week please give me a call. You may be missing out on some very important benefits.

I have had a lot of questions about the PPP and SPP. The full information for the PPP is contained in Policy Bulletin #29, #32, and #32a. For SPP full information is in EMP-1.9. The RIF MOA also contains important information about both programs. I will attempt a summary of those benefits for those that are unclear or confused by the previously named documents. PPP provides you with priority selection on internal (selections will be made from within the agency) bids when the position is at the same or a lower pay grade and for which you are QUALIFIED. If a promotion is involved you may be considered but only after the PPP candidates. SPP will give you priority placement on an external bid (the agency plans to hire from outside) over other external bidders if you are in the commuting area and WELL QUALIFIED for the position. At the moment we are restricted to the current commuting area and if you declare it one other commuting area if you are prepared to pay for your own move.

This is the definition of commuting area from FAA Order 3350.2c under staffing adjustments and reduction in force. It is the one supplied to me by HR for use in these programs.

“ d. Commuting Area. Any population center (or two or more neighboring ones) and the surrounding localities in which people live and can reasonably be expected to travel back and forth daily to their usual employment. The local commuting area for RIF purposes is determined to be within an approximate 35-mile air radius, except where there are "overlapping" facilities (see paragraph 42a for more information).”

I hope this helps you decide which program you may want to use and when.

I have a couple more retirement questions outstanding and one on the GFT. I am still waiting for answers and will let you know when I get them. It seems the annual Labor Day vacations have started and the next two weeks will be a little short on personnel here at HQ and everywhere else if the news was right this morning. On the positive side city traffic is greatly reduced. Next week is also the ATO Summit and all the ATO Managers will be in town for it, except the AFSS Managers. A few managers from Alaska and select personnel from FAA HQ will represent our option.

The interesting question for this week: How will we get our Leave and Earnings statement after Oct. 3?

Answer - The one for pay period #21 will go to the facility. If you will no longer be at the facility make sure you leave a forwarding address and it will be mailed to you. On Oct. 2 the FAA is changing to a new payroll system and that Leave and Earnings statement will be sent to the address on your W-2. It will look different as well. You will get 2 W-2s this year from the FAA, one from each system. Of course your information will always be

available on Employee Express. If you are retiring, there will be a lot of paperwork back and forth until your benefits amount is settled and then you will only get a notice of changes when they occur. Once a year in January you will get a 1099-R for tax purposes.

If you are planning to visit the D.C. area on Sept. 1 please let your Regional Director know. They have information you may want before you arrive.

I am glad to hear no one at MIV AFSS was hurt when the ceiling collapsed this week. As if things are not bad enough for us now! I will be at AOO AFSS on Monday and Tuesday for my monthly currency and to help brief those displaced MIV pilots. I will be checking emails and both phones in the evenings. Do not hesitate to call but I may be slow to respond. I will back in the office on Wednesday and the rest of the week.

Only 38 days to go.

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