

## **NAATS HQ E-Mail Update Vol. 5 #34**

### **June 07, 2005**

The swaps between a couple of members to/from Alaska have been denied by Human Resources. They feel it's not fair to the rest of the employees in the lower 48 to let those couple of people from the lower 48 swap up into Alaska. If these people from the lower 48 found people to swap with and worked it out on their own, why not take care of at least 4 more people. I'm thrilled (sarcasm) they are concerned about fairness now, they didn't seem to be too concerned with fairness when ATMs from certain tower facilities didn't want to select flight service controllers to fill slots.

The VSIP/VERA is being made available in Alaska, the window is June 6-June 20. Please make sure you are absolutely certain this is what you want to do when you submit the paperwork, they will not let you pull it, even though it may be the fair thing to do if circumstances change.

If a member in Alaska is expecting to take a VSIP/VERA and come down to the lower 48 and get the same offer as the affected members are, think again. You will probably find employment with LM, but not at your current salary with the sign on bonuses and the lap top. You would be applying as an outside hire. According to the LM letter dated 4/25/05, you would have to be on the ROFR list and be employed in the 58 AFSS sites by the FAA on the date immediately preceding day one of transition. If you are thinking of doing this, call LM directly and make sure you know what you're getting yourself into.

There is supposed to be a handful of selections announced within the next week or two for the openings in Alaska. From what I hear the number of selections made is under 10. If I get more on that I'll pass it along, actually you folks in the field will probably hear before I do, so let me know.

The response to the Fed Times article is out and thanks to Mike Sheldon for helping me with that and making the contact with Fed Times.

I was sent a copy of LM's policy on "Intellectual Property", evidently you'll be asked to sign an Intellectual Property contract at the next visit. I sent it to our attorney to take a look at it and he said all businesses of any size particularly those which might be classified as "high tech" including universities have similar policies. If you come up with some kind of program/software, while working for LM it becomes their property. That's the cliff note version, the attorney has not seen the contract so he cannot comment on specifics, and this is simply something to think about.

Last, but certainly not least, I had the pleasure of sitting in on the NAGE Executive Board meeting last week (Wed-Fri). If I had any doubts of whether or not this was the right group to affiliate with, I don't any longer. I had the opportunity to talk to several of the members of the Board and ask about the change from the prior administration run by Mr. Lyons and to this one run by Mr. Holway, the answers were consistent, "it's like night and day". They are very happy with the changes made since Mr. Holway has taken over and the emphasis that is put on membership and giving the heads of divisions or locals a say in running the union. It's a large BOD, around 35 members, but the meeting ran very smoothly and I'm amazed at how well President Holway knew all the members and listened to their concerns and suggestions. NAGE members are police officers, VA nurses, corrections officers, people who work at military bases, and state/municipal workers. I met some terrific people who are in the same boat as we are whether you call it A-76 or BRAC, we are all fighting for our jobs and actually basic rights. The problems our union brothers and sisters are experiencing are very much the same as the ones we're fighting, this administration is doing everything in its power to cut the working people's rights and benefits. Just look at the recent problems with United Airlines employees losing most of their pensions while their CEO keeps his \$4.5 million pension. One of the NAGE bargaining unit members was given the Carnegie Hero Medal Award and that in itself speaks to the caliber of members they have. Mark Bradley is a man with two young daughters, he put his life on the line to save a woman from a car jacking by two armed men on his way home from work. If the membership approves the affiliation, I'll be proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with these folks.

Kate Breen