

NAATS HQ E-Mail Update Vol. 5 #49

July 21, 2005

There were no amendments offered in the full committee on appropriations today, not just ours, but none at all. That means more than likely the appropriations bill will go to the floor and we will do everything we can to get an amendment issued at that time. It does not look like this will happen until sometime in September. Wally has meetings set up next week with some key staffers and they will plan strategy from there, this includes looking at all the retirement issues talked about in the past months. There has also been a concern about the language passing and LM out of the goodness of their heart not requesting any money from the FAA for a year and the contract going forward. There is fear that if this happens it would stop the FAA from getting the funding for the RIF to include severance pay, this is not likely to happen. The intent of Congress if this language passes is to stop this outsourcing and the agency would be ignoring their intent, I don't think that would sit well with our elected officials.

We had a telcon this morning with the attorneys on the Judge/Administrator's decision and unfortunately because it is still protected they couldn't tell us any specifics. The redacted version of the recommendation should be out in 7-10 days, the reason we can't see the whole thing is because of protected procurement information in it. I'm sorry that's procurement law and there is not much we can do about it.

FAA Follies – Think it's time for a couple! Scott did get a response to his information request he sent in back on June 7, 2005. It had to do with RIF procedures, well you'll be glad to know that according to Jim Washington the FAA "...has taken numerous and significant steps to facilitate the placement of as many of the AFSS employees as possible.....". Right on, (sarcasm) placing 65 people from Flight Service in towers while you placed 371 from the outside in FY05 is one of the numerous and significant steps. Wow place 65 out of 2000, get real, the insignificant number of people placed is a disgrace.

Next up is an update put out by Beth Gerrits this week about a few more tower bids being tossed out to people. She's given information by the right hand to put out so people know what's going on and the left hand doesn't agree with it so they call it "union propaganda" what the heck is that, I guess one more for the FLRA to sort out. Like Larry says "you just can't make this stuff up"!

Kate Breen