



Ami Pendergrass <pendergassnvac@gmail.com>

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**Fw: General Hickey Response to Alma regarding VBA overtime**

2 messages

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**Reilly, Valorie, VBASPT** <valorie.reilly@va.gov>

Thu, May 23, 2013 at 7:33 AM

To: pendergrassnvac@gmail.com, "Bartzis, Nicholas,VBACLEV" <nicholas.bartzis@va.gov>

FYI

Sent from my wireless blackberry device.

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From: Nelson, Kevin, VBAHOUS

Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2013 09:57 PM

To: Reilly, Valorie, VBASPT

Cc: Nelson, Kevin, VBAHOUS

Subject: General Hickey Response to Alma regarding VBA overtime

Hi Valorie,

I hope your training is going well this week. I just wanted to give you an update on General Hickey's response to Alma regarding her note to the General on Saturday, involving mandatory overtime for union officials on 100% official time. Apparently, this is an isolated incident regarding the Anchorage Regional Office. I'm not aware of any other issues regarding this matter at other Regional Offices. Thanks.

Kevin Nelson

Labor & Employee Relations Specialist

VBA Office of Human Resources

[713-383-1706](tel:713-383-1706)

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From: Hickey, Allison (EX), VBAVACO

Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2013 12:53 PM

To: Alma Lee ([Alma.Lee@va.gov](mailto:Alma.Lee@va.gov))

Subject: VBA overtime

Alma,

Thank you for your note. I asked the staff to look at your concerns and to get some background. As you stated, the backlog is a serious concern for all of us in the VBA. To accomplish President's and Secretary Shinseki's goal of eliminating the disability claims backlog, we must have an "all hands on deck" approach as we ask our hard working Veterans Service Center employees to work mandatory overtime through the end of FY 2013. We need all the help we can get to accomplish this goal. Rest assured, we respect the need for union officials in our organization and will not interfere with their official time during regular duty hours. We want to ensure that they are comfortable in the performance of all of their duties, including overtime. We will look to have these employees make a value-added contribution during overtime that may not include the full duties of a VSR/RVSR depending upon their current expertise with the new process and technology. With that being said, we need all claims processors and claims processing support personnel to work mandatory overtime and are committed to providing the necessary assistance during overtime to fulfill this requirement. I am sensitive to the need for our employees to share some family vacation time together as well, which is why we have provided the ability to identify a month where an employee won't have to complete these hours. We are also providing the maximum flexibility on when and how these hours are completed each month as well.

In regards to the Demand to Bargain on mandatory overtime, we are more than willing to engage in post-implementation discussions regarding your concerns with mandatory overtime and have requested a meeting with the Mid-Term Bargaining Committee. We are totally dedicated to maintaining a positive working relationship with our union partners.

Thank you again for your leadership,

Allison

Allison A. Hickey

Under Secretary

Veterans Benefits Administration

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

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**Ami Pendergrass** <pendergrassnvac@gmail.com>  
To: "Reilly, Valorie, VBASPT" <valorie.reilly@va.gov>  
Cc: "Bartzis, Nicholas,VBACLEV" <nicholas.bartzis@va.gov>

Thu, May 23, 2013 at 9:33 AM

This is definitely not an isolated issue - I've been talking to Milwaukee all week and they are being asked as well. Of course, now it is with the caveat of, "well, you can just work in the mail room." Working on the national grievance now. Will be out by no later than early next week.

[Quoted text hidden]

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PLEASE NOTE NEW PHONE NUMBER

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