



**AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES
NATIONAL VETERANS AFFAIRS COUNCIL #53
Affiliated with the AFL - CIO
Mid-Term Bargaining Committee**

Oscar L. Williams Jr., Chair 2 nd Exec. V-President 29 Lake Street Danville, IL 61832-6101	Bill Wetmore, Member 3 rd Exec. V-President 2319 Alava Court Waldorf, MD 20603	Willie Haywood, Member 6 th Dist. Rep., NVAC 17705 Garden Blvd. Cleveland, OH 44128	Jeff Sladek, Member 13 th Dist. Rep., NVAC VAMC 3601 S. 6 th Ave. Tucson, AZ 85723	Stephanie Starks, Member National Rep., NVAC VAMC Philadelphia Philadelphia, PA 19104
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May 12, 2014

Kimberley D. Moseley, Deputy Assistant Secretary
Office of Labor Management Relations (LMR)
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

Subject: VA OI&T Air Gap Networks

Dear Ms. Moseley:

In accordance with Article 47, Section 1 C., of the Master Agreement the National VA Council #53 is formally demand to bargain on VA OI&T Air Gap Networks cited above within the Department. Please provide the NVAC's Mid-Term Bargaining Committee with all information and/or data related to this subject. The negotiations of this matter should normally begin no later than twenty (20) workdays after the Management Chief Negotiator in this matter receives our demand to bargain.

Please cease and desist any implementation until the bargaining obligation has been met. The Mid-Term Bargaining Committee may request a briefing over the cited subject above, before sending any proposals. If you have any questions please call me at (217) 554-4866.

Sincerely,

Oscar L. Williams, Jr.
Chairperson, Mid-Term Bargaining Committee
2nd Executive Vice President
National VA Council #53

cc: Alma L. Lee, President National VA Council #53
NVAC Executive Committee

AFGE: Good Government We Are Ready



Department of
Veterans Affairs

Memorandum

DATE: May 8, 2014
FROM: Michael Clements, Office of Labor Management Relations, 05LMR
SUBJ: Air Gap Networks
TO: Oscar Williams, AFGE, 2nd Executive Vice President

On behalf of Kimberly D. Moseley, DAS, Office of Labor Management, DVA, please accept this package as official notification Air Gap Networks.

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) conducted an audit of VA's external connections and found several VA facilities hosting "air-gapped" networks with business partners (Universities, Contractors, and Union Offices). Although these connections do not physically connect to the VA network, they were found to share telecommunication closets and other space within VA facilities. Due to the proximity of the connections and the lack of physical security controls in place to prevent the networks from being connected, the OIG has identified these external connections as lacking sufficient internal security controls.

Field Security Service (FSS) has issued guidance to be implemented immediately. All air-gapped networks must be documented in local security documentation and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) must be in place with the business partner. The MOU must identify the roles and responsibilities with regards to the connection, and what security controls are in place that prevent the established configuration of the connection from being modified.

All external networks coming in to VA facilities that are owned by a Union must be documented. FSS is requesting to work with the National Labor Unions to document all Union air-gapped networks that exist within a VA facility in a national MOU, rather than creating local MOUs for each air-gapped network.

If you request additional information or would like a briefing please advise and I will coordinate with Management to provide what you need.

Michael J. Clements,
Office of Labor Management Relations
512-326-6151

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