



(October 1, 2015)

In order to further improve the lines of communication and to respond to the concerns between the National VA Council and you our members, I have established a National VA Council Briefing. This NVAC Briefing will bring you the latest news and developments within DVA and provide you with the current status of issues this Council is currently addressing. I believe that this NVAC Briefing will greatly enhance the way in which we communicate and the way in which we share new information, keeping you better informed.

Alma L. Lee
National VA Council, President

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**In This Briefing: [Retroactive Overtime and Awards](#)**

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FEDSMILL - *"Respect for Employee Rights, Ideas, Insights, Participation and Unions Generates the Power to Improve Government"*

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AFGE FORCES AGENCY TO PAY INCENTIVE AWARDS

A tip of the hat to the victory AFGE tied up this week forcing an agency to pay incentive awards. ([AFGE, 68 FLRA 1049](#)) The contract merely said, "only when and if the [Agency's] budget permits awards to be granted." When sequestration and various OMB directives discouraging awards, the agency decided not to pay the awards employees had already earned. At the union's urging the arbitrator agreed that the agency was obligated to pay them because it had the burden to prove "not merely the existence of sequestration and the OMB guidance, but that [these events] actually prohibited [the Agency] from paying." When it could not, he ordered the

agency to grant the awards retroactively. It will be interesting to see if the agency pays only unit employees or finds a way to also pay non-unit employees.

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NTEU TIGHTENS GRIP ON \$300 MILLION DHS BACK PAY DOLLARS

Yes, we have written about this before. But the wins keep on coming for NTEU in its long-term fight overtime with DHS/CBP and this is shaping up to be the biggest back pay case in federal sector history. It may also turn out to be the biggest case of agency non-compliance with FLRA ever. [Continue reading →](#)

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