



**AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES
NATIONAL VETERANS AFFAIRS COUNCIL #53**

**Affiliated with the AFL - CIO
Mid-Term Bargaining Committee**

Oscar L. Williams, Jr. Chairperson
3rd Exec. V-President, NVAC
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Patrick Russell, Member
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Bill Wetmore, Member
NVAC Nat. Rep.
2319 Alava Court
Waldorf, MD 20603

June 18, 2003

Ronald E. Cowles, Associate Deputy
Office of Labor-Management Relations (LMR)
Department of Veterans Affairs, Suite 215
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

Subject: VA Directive and Handbook 5017 "Employee Recognition and Awards"

Dear Mr. Cowles:

In accordance with Article 44, Section 2 C, of the VA/AFGE Master Agreement, the National VA Council #53 formally demanding to bargain in letter dated March 26, 2003 over VA Handbook 5013 "Employee Recognition and Awards" in the Department. The National VA Council #53 will negotiate an Employee Recognition and Awards Article in the new VA/AFGE Master Agreement between the parties during the upcoming national negotiations.

Please cease and desist any implementation until the national parties have completed the negotiations on this matter in the new VA/AFGE Master Agreement for AFGE bargaining units employees. If you have any questions please contact me at (217) 554-4866.

Sincerely,

Oscar L. Williams Jr.
Chairperson, Mid-Term Bargaining Committee
3rd Executive Vice President, National VA Council #53
Seventh VA District Council #59 Representative

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

**AFGE: The Future is Ours
Creating A Shared Vision for the 21st Century**