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

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

Oscar L. Williams Jr., Chairperson 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	Patrick Russell, Member 8 th Dist. Rep., NVAC VA Blacks Hills, HCS Hot Springs, SD 57747	Sandra Eggleston, Member 13 th Dist. Rep., NVAC VAMC Tucson Tucson, AZ 85723
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November 2, 2007

Meghan Serwin-Flanz
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Labor Management Relations (05LMR)
Department of Veterans Affairs, Suite 250
1575 I Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20420

Subject: VA Fire Department Evaluation Program – Respond to Fire Events

Dear Ms. Flanz:

The National VA Council #53 is formally demanding to bargain on VA Fire Department Evaluation program response to fire events in the Department. Please provide the above named bargaining team members with any information and/or data concerning the above cited subject. The negotiations of this matter should normally begin no later than ten (10) workdays after the management chief negotiator in this matter receives our demand to bargain.

Please cease and desist any further implementation until after the bargaining obligation has been met. The named 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

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR
HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND LABOR RELATIONS
WASHINGTON DC 20420

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OCT 31 2007

Alma L. Lee, President
AFGE National VA Council
VA Medical Center
Bldg. 12-2, Suite 007
1970 Blvd. & Roanoke
Salem, VA 24153

Dear Ms. Lee:

Enclosed for your review and comments is documentation regarding VA's Fire Department Evaluation program. In accordance with VA Manual MP-3, Part III, paragraph 34.04, local VA facilities' Fire Departments are evaluated to test their ability to respond to fire events. The evaluations are conducted for each shift at each facility that has a Fire Department by Mr. Virgil Hall, VA Fire Department Program Manager. In order to ensure that facility Fire Departments can effectively respond to interior fires, Mr. Hall has determined that the target time for the interior drill ("evolution #1") should be reduced from seven (7) minutes to six (6) minutes and thirty (30) seconds.

If you are interested in a briefing or would like to bargain on this subject, please contact Larry Bennett not later than November 30, 2007. He can be reached at 202-461-4126 or via e-mail at larry.bennett@va.gov.

Sincerely yours,

Meghan Serwin Flanz
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Labor-Management Relations

Enclosures