



(October 29, 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: Final Rule on Locality Pay Areas**  
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On October 27, 2015, OPM published a final rule in the *Federal Register* on behalf of the President's Pay Agent establishing 13 new General Schedule (GS) locality pay areas and adding a number of counties to the definitions of current locality pay areas. The final rule can be found at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-10-27/pdf/2015-27380.pdf>.

Under the final rule, the new GS locality pay areas and revised definitions of current locality pay areas will be applicable in January 2016. No final decisions on annual pay adjustments for January 2016 have been made at this time. In his August 27, 2015, alternative pay plan message covering civilian employee pay adjustments the President announced his decision to exercise his authority to limit base GS adjustments to 1.0 percent and stated his intent to exercise his alternative plan authority for locality pay adjustments by the end of November 2015. The President announces final locality pay percentages each year by Executive order. Such Executive orders are normally issued in the latter part of December.

Questions on the final rule should be emailed, with “Final Rule on Locality Pay Areas” in the subject line, to pay-leave-policy@opm.gov.