

DOD EMPLOYEES



AFGE officials attend the Ft. Hood memorial service Nov. 10. L-R: Ft. Hood EEO Director Clementine Lewis, L.1920 VP Sam Boles, L.1920 President Cheryl Eliano, Command Sergeant Master Herman Toro, Ft. Hood Garrison HR. Director Charles Green, LPO Walter Greely, 10th District NVP Roy Flores

AFGE Remembers Lives Lost at Ft. Hood

AFGE National Vice President for District 10 Roy Flores, AFGE staff, and officials from AFGE Local 1920 Nov. 10 attended a memorial service to pay tribute to the 13 people who were killed five days earlier when a gunman opened fire at the Soldier Readiness Processing Center at Ft. Hood, Texas.

“As a part of the Ft. Hood family, we offer our thoughts, our prayers, our support and our strength to our brave soldiers and their families, and our brothers and sisters who are affected by this senseless and pointless tragedy,” NVP Flores said.

AFGE officials also met with Ft. Hood heroes Sgt. Kimberly Munley and SFC Mark Todd, the civilian police officers who took down Army psychiatrist Major Nidal Hasan, ending his shooting spree. Munley, who was injured during the gunfire, is a member of AFGE Local 1920. Todd joined the union Nov. 23.

The memorial service attracted hundreds of people, including members of Congress such as Sens. John McCain, Al Franken, Kay Bailey Hutchison, John Cornyn and Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee. President Barack Obama was also present and spoke in memory of the victims.

AFGE represents 1,700 civilian Defense employees at Ft. Hood, including civilians in the Soldier Readiness Processing Center, employees at the base hospital, and officers of the installation’s civilian police force.

Obama Signs Bill to Repeal NSPS

After six long years of congressional hearings and court fights, the American Federation of Government Employees was finally able to shut down the Pentagon's National Security Personnel System when President Obama on Oct. 28 signed the fiscal 2010 Defense Authorization Act with a provision repealing the controversial pay system.

The law requires the Defense Department to return the 205,000 NSPS employees to their previous pay systems by Jan. 1, 2012. It guarantees that NSPS employees won't see any pay cuts and that they will receive the full pay hikes given to General Schedule workers. It directs DoD to work with the Office of Personnel Management to create a fair, credible and transparent performance appraisal system. It also gives DoD the authority to propose new personnel flexibilities that need to be approved by Congress.

AFGE President John Gage lauded President Obama and Congress' decision to shut down the system, saying NSPS was created in a poisonous atmosphere by ideologues seeking to destroy collective bargaining, federal unions and employee rights and

“We look forward to working with the department to improve the performance management and hiring systems so that the needs of the taxpayers, war fighters, and employees can all be addressed,” Gage said.

New Law Permanently Closes Loophole on Outsourcing without Competition

For the first time, no federal job functions of any size will be directly converted to contractor performance without a job competition, thanks to AFGE's years-long effort.

In the recently enacted fiscal 2010 Defense Authorization Act, the Defense Department will no longer be able to give away to contractors job functions performed by ten or fewer federal employees. The loophole had been closed for non-DoD agencies earlier in a 2009 law. Direct conversions of larger job functions have been prohibited under previous appropriations acts.

This new measure marks one of the historic achievements by AFGE, which has been waging war against the wholesale outsourcing promoted by the Bush administration. However, the union is asking its Locals to be on the lookout for violations and attempts to circumvent the direct conversion law.

Other provisions in the 2010 Defense Authorization Act will:

- Define the beginning and end of an outsourcing study and set a new time limit of 24 months for future studies. The beginning of an outsourcing study – know as an A-76 study – is when the preliminary planning begins. The study ends when an announcement of the winner of the competition is made. Previously, job competitions dragged on for years because it was not clear when the clock started and ended

- Ban new A-76 studies in fiscal 2010
- Require DoD to debrief federal employees and their representatives after awarding a contract when other bidders are debriefed

- Expand the jurisdiction of the Government Accountability Office, which hear bid protests, to include cases involving direct conversions of federal jobs. GAO is also allowed

to recommend cancellation of an A-76 study

New Law Grants Sick Leave Benefits, Locality Pay

The 2010 Defense Authorization Act signed by President Obama also contains several provisions relating to federal employees. The law:

- Allows workers under the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) to credit 50 percent of their unused sick leave toward their annuity. After a four-year phase-in period, FERS employees will receive full credit for unused sick leave

- Moves federal employees in Alaska, Hawaii Puerto Rico, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Island to the locality pay system and phases out their cost-of-living adjustments

- Permits federal agencies to re-employ federal retirees on a limited, part-time basis without forcing them to take a cut in their annuity checks

- Gives employees who work for the District of Columbia Courts, the Pretrial Services Agency, the Department of Corrections, and the Adult Probation and Parole Services credit for their time in service before the agencies were transferred to the federal government

Army to Insource Thousands of Security Guards at 46 Bases

The Army is converting thousands of contract security guards to in-house personnel at 46 installations nationwide.

The process is expected to be completed by July 2011. The move is in response to a 2009 law, which mandates a reduction in contract security guards, and a new DoD directive, which seeks candidates for insourcing.

For the list of the 46 installations, click on the following link:
https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&mode=form&id=8b615d61fcae5c704d01ef5b61805cb8&tab=core&_cview=0&cck=1&au=&ck=