

Technician Topics

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100% Retirement: The hearings by the full House Post Office and Civil Service Committee on the 100% retirement for National Guard Technicians has been postponed until they reconvene in September. Mr. Herbert (D. La.), Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, has publicly denounced the bill as "neither justified or fiscally responsible."

Exclusive Recognition by NAGE: In the recent election in the Army National Guard Technician force, National Association of Government Employees (NAGE) won exclusive recognition by a vote of 116 to 85.

SF 52's: Supervisors are reminded that SF 52's requesting personnel actions must contain in the remarks section the following statement: "Technician has attained an acceptable level of competence."

New Merit Promotion Plan: A new merit promotion plan for Army and Air technicians has been distributed to all units and activities. Each technician, especially supervisors, should become familiar with the contents of this plan.

HR 9092: The President signed HR 9092 which authorizes among other provisions, two additional steps for WG and WL positions. Additional details are not available at this time, however, it appears that due to wage controls, it will not be implemented until after April 30, 1973. Wage Grade and Wage Leader employees in Step 3 are currently paid 104% of the prevailing wage rate for that particular area. The bill provides

108% for Step 4 and 112% for Step 5. Two years in grade is required for advancement to Step 4 and two years in Step 4 for advancement to Step 5.

Reclassification Requests: NGB Letter, subject as above dated 28 Aug is quoted for information to all concerned.

"1. The Office of Technician Personnel Classification Branch is presently conducting an intensive review of the many functional areas in the National Guard technician system. This review is designed to ensure that job title, series and grades, position descriptions, and organizational structuring are accurately reflected. The magnitude of this task and the available staff require that priorities be established. Therefore, the greatest effort is being concentrated on those positions still in a deferred status and the positions identified for eventual downgrading. We are making progress and are sure that the outcome of our effort will result in many actions favorable to the technicians concerned.

2. We are being delayed, however, by the volume of individual appeals and other correspondence relative to classification matters. The concern of individual technicians is understood; however, we believe that a substantial amount of concern will be eliminated when we reach the conclusion stage of our review.

"3. To alleviate this problem all requests for classification action should be covered in the reports required by NGB-TNC, all TAGs Letter, Subject: Annual Review of Position Descriptions, 5 July 1972. This procedure will reduce greatly the vast quantity of daily correspondence requiring immediate attention, thereby allowing us maximum time to devote to the timely completion of our comprehensive review.

"4. Repeating again, we believe that forthcoming classification determinations will eliminate many of the requests that now appear to be valid. The cooperation of all concerned is sincerely solicited."