

Technician Topics

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CURRENT NEWS

SICK LEAVE: Sick leave is for one's use when an employee is incapacitated to do his/her job, or for related reasons. Such related reasons are: (1) Exposure to a contagious disease that would endanger the health of coworkers; (2) Presence of contagious disease in an employee's immediate family (spouse, children) which requires his immediate care; (3) Dental, optical, or medical examination or treatment. It is the responsibility of the local supervisor to ascertain whether absences are properly chargeable to sick leave.

TIGHTER HEALTH INSURANCE SCRUTINY -BLUE CROSS/BLUE SHIELD. According to Federal Employees News, the BC/BS plans to give closer scrutiny to claims and it is indicated that other insurers will also. Listed below are steps that technicians should take in order to keep from having to pay small/large medical/hospital bills they thought were covered by their insurance: (1) Examine carefully the official brochures describing your plan. Look especially for "exclusions"(benefits not covered by insurance). Be alert to phrases such as "Medical necessity"..."where medically necessary" etc. (2) Question physicians/hospitals about medical necessity of the things they order. Many physicians/hospitals go overboard ordering the unnecessary on the theory that your insurance will pay. (3) Make sure you are not ordered into hospitals for lab tests, X-rays and other procedures that can be performed on an outpatient basis. Be cautious about special duty nursing services. (4) Consult with physicians -other insurers about what your insurance covers or doesn't cover.

ADMINISTRATION OF COMPENSATORY TIME. (a). Can compensatory time be earned by technicians during period of training? NO. Chapt 41 of Title 5, USC, which regulates training of Government employees, encompasses technician within its definition of employees. Section 4109(a)(1) of that chapter provides that an agency may pay to an employee during a period of training, all or part of his pay, EXCLUDING overtime, holiday, or night differential pay. In accordance with 32 USC, 709(2), a technician receives compensatory time off in lieu of overtime or other premium pay. Since no entitlement to overtime or other premium pay can arise during periods of training, a technician cannot earn compensatory time off during such periods. (b). May technicians be required to use compensatory time within a specified time after date of accrual, and may a ceiling be placed on the amount that can be accrued? YES. The regulatory authority of the Service Secretaries extends to all provisions of the Technician Act and encompasses regulation of the administration of compensatory time off. A minimum of four (4) biweekly pay periods from pay period of accrual should be allowed for taking compensatory time off. This would minimize the disruption of the workforce and still provide reasonable time limits for taking the time off.

EXPENSES: TIB No. 76-12 dtd Dec 1976 states that "States are reminded that payment PCS expenses should not be denied solely on the basis that an individual's move the result of selection through merit promotion procedures. Some states have been denying reimbursement for such expenses using the rationale that since the individual applied for the position, the move is for his/her convenience. The policy of the NGB that selection of the best qualified candidate through merit promotion procedures normally to be considered in the best interest of the Federal Government and PCS expenses are therefore reimburseable."

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

HIRES: The following individuals have been appointed technicians: RONALD J. DANIEL as Tng & Readiness Spec1, TAGO; BRUCE C. SCHWARBERG as AST with 130th Lt Co; GARY T. HUTCHERSON as Hv Mob Equip Mech with CSMS; JAMES T. O'MAHONEY as Program and Work Control Spec1 with the KyANG Base; FLOYD L. TUTTLE, Acft Mechanic ANG Base; FREDERICK C. BURKS JR., as Elect Mechanic, KyANG Base and DEWARD V. BRAKE AST with the 203d GS Co.

SIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS: John W. Amshoff, Elect Photo Sys Repairman at Ky ANG Base, Louisville resigned in order to accept a commission.

Col L. Stokes, LTC at the Ky ANG Base retired effective 31 December 1976. LTC Stokes held the position of Chief of Support Services. He had been a technician since 13 August 52.

PROMOTIONS: Barry L. Price, KyANG Base, Carroll C. Barrett, Ky ANG Base, Paul R. Cox, USPFO, Frank Green, USPFO, Harold L. Parker, UTES #2, James C. Amburgey Sr., ANG Base, Allen J. Massingille, Ky ANG Base and Louis V. Dusch, KyANG Base.

SUPERVISOR'S CORNER

COLLECTION OF NEW HANDICAP DATA FOR TECHNICIAN PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

SYSTEM (IPMIS): Reference AGO-TPO Letter dated 4 January 1977, same subject. It is the responsibility of the supervisor to explain the requirements of SF 256 and for requiring the completion of the form by technicians under your supervision.

TECHNICIAN PERFORMANCE RATINGS: Performance ratings for technicians in grades 1 through 4 are due during the month of February. Request these ratings be submitted to arrive in the Office of Technician Personnel not later than 7 March.

Performance ratings for technicians in grades 5 through 7 are due during the month of May.

SUPERVISOR'S RECORD: Since the National Guard Bureau has provided a supervisory form (NGB Form 904-1), memory aids should not be necessary. There may be situations, however, when personal notes are more appropriate than an official entry on the supervisor's record. In these situations, the personal notes should be filed in the same folder as the NGB Form 904-1. This practice will help to eliminate any concern that information is being maintained without the technician's knowledge.