

Townhall Question and Answer Session

2 April 2009, DSCC, Columbus, Ohio

1. Q: Does the union represent you when you don't pay dues?

A: Yes.

.2 Q: Is there any information on the possibility of non-dual status employees being able to mobilize?

A: Non-dual status technicians are not authorized to mobilize right now. Non-dual status employees are meant to remain at their duty station so that when military members deploy they can sustain operations during the deployment.

3. Q: What is the maximum extension for holding warrant officer certificates of eligibility?

A: 2 Years. Extensions are available on a year to year basis after the first two years.

4. Q: Why do we need due paying members in the union?

A: Union representatives are used on the hiring boards for every job interview. Paid union members are selected to travel to Washington D.C. to represent the union as well.

5. Q: Are dual-status technician funds like the safety funds, the more money you want, the more money you are supplied with?

A: No, dual-status technician funds is not like safety money.

6. Q: Are there any plans to change the way the DoD Priority Placement Program (PPP) works with Title 32 Technicians?

A: Title 32 technicians have limited priority placement rights. When we put our employees on PPP they do not receive consideration with Title 5 employees yet our agency is required to take Title 5 employees before considering Title 32 employees on PPP. When our agency hires new Non-dual Status civilian technicians we will not be clearing a PPP list before advertising positions.

7. Q: How are technicians supported in their career progression as it relates to compatibility?

A: Many technician positions have specialized areas of expertise which will not provide a clear path for upward mobility. Technicians must make choices in their career progression. Contact HRO as early as possible before making a career change. There are waiver flexibilities available depending on each individual's circumstances.

8. Q: Are hiring actions taken to affect diversity?

A: No, we're looking for talent to benefit the organization and we utilize the fairest system possible in hiring these people. Our organization needs improvement on diversity. We are developing a diversity program to have the best organization possible.

9. Q: Is there a way to look up all technician jobs besides when they post to hire?

A: This will be made available through the HRO site on TAGNET.

10. Q: Is it possible for Tricare Reserve-Select to become available to federal employees?

A: The Human Resources Advisor Council is addressing this issue at the present time.

11. Q: Is Tricare Reserve-Select available to retired traditional guardsmen?

A: You must be an active member of selected reserve. A bill is in congress at the present time that will allow all traditional guardsmen to have Tricare Reserve-Select.

12. Q: Why can't technicians receive bonuses?

A: Bonuses are based on you staying in the military. You must maintain an active military status to remain as a technician so there is no reason to pay an incentive for a military member that will not leave the Guard because he or she must stay in to keep his or her job.

13. Q: Is the union going to lobby for better insurance and bonuses?

A: Union dues paying members are chosen to go to Washington, D.C. to represent Ohio's union members. If union members want those issues to be brought up they will.

14. Q: What else is the union doing for technicians?

A: They conduct letter writing campaigns and working with different federal unions with congress. Stimulus issues are causing difficulties.

15. Q: How much will more money from due paying members help the union?

A: Strength in numbers, more strength from a larger union will allow us to have a larger voice. Collectively get together to push and fund the union. The more members the union has increases leverage and increases the chance that a difference will be made. Get involved!

16. Q: What are the successes from union experiences?

A: The union supported the use of alternate work schedules, various times to arrive at work, and they make sure those rights are not infringed.

17. Q: Can you find information on the Partnership and Ohio National Guard websites about joining the union? Is there a link on Tagnet?

A: www.afgelocal3970.org . There is a link on the Partnership webpage for this information. www.ong.ohio.gov/partnership