

## Career Transition Update

8/5/05

VSIP-I still have not received documentation but have been told that with the “preselected”(those selected before the VSIP was offered) personnel in Alaska there will be a match to the 14 VSIP volunteers. Paul Sheridan also said that there might be up to 8 more selections in Alaska. No dates, rules, or other details yet.

Age 31 Waiver- I do not yet know if this will be extended.

Procedures for Post Oct 3 employment- The guidelines for SPP that were issued to your managers and posted on the HR site this week should answer most of your questions. Yes, I know it doesn't match a lot of what you were promised. Scott Malon is working on that. For the moment this is the document we are dealing with. By the way even though the SPP went into effect with receipt of your RIF notice HR has just completed those guidelines. Talk about planning ahead and timeliness!

Annual Leave to Retirement-There have been many questions from those that are planning to use annual leave to get to their retirement date. The Flyer #15 addresses these issues and requests you contact your regional HR office with your intentions. Many of you had questions about the effect on your Lockheed Martin employment and only Lockheed Martin can answer those questions. I suggest you contact them as well.

RIF Grievances- For those of you that are considering filing a RIF grievance Scott Malon has issued some suggestions and guidelines. Contact your FACREP or Regional Director for a copy if you have not yet seen it.

I was a little fed up with opening my mail account four days in a row to banner headlines of the NATCA negotiations while all of you were getting RIF notices so I fired this off to Highlights. Their response follows. They did not publish it and so I thought I would share it with you.

Date Submitted: July 28, 2005  
From: Beth A. Gerrits  
Phone: (202) 267-9217  
Email: Beth.Gerrits@faa.gov  
Photos Available: No

### Story Text:

Instead of leading with the shenanigans of the NATCA versus FAA games you might want to cover the rather historic delivery of over 2000 RIF notices to all the personnel in the Conus Flight Service option in one week. This is a sad occasion for a proud and dedicated workforce that should not go unmarked. With approximately 750 of them losing an ATC retirement for the want of 7 hours to 2 years of good time and destined to an old age with minimal income, continued working, or without health insurance benefits this is indeed a proud day for the FAA and they should mention how they treat their long time employees (over 18 years). And please do not insult us with the positive aspect of going to work for the contractor. Those jobs have only been offered to about 1000 employees.

The rest of us have already been put on notice that our employment with the contractor is short lived, perhaps only 6 months, and their health insurance benefits may not be carried into retirement.

The response from Jim Tise:

Ms. Gerrits:

Focus FAA plans to do a story that features a number of your coworkers who worked the recent Oshkosh air show. In a later edition, we hope to run an article detailing the proud history of the AFSS. I also plan to print your letter in the feedback section of Focus FAA in the August 16 issue. Beyond that, I wish you and your coworkers luck. Judging by what I've been hearing from you and other specialists, you're going to need it. I'm sorry about that.

jim t.

If I haven't covered something you need or want to know give me a call.

I did get a call from a pilot today offering his services as a financial planner to anyone that might need his help. If you are in or near the (717) area code and interested give me a call and I will pass on his name and number.

In closing, I am off to celebrate my Father's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday in Pittsburgh this weekend. He did not want gifts. His request was to spend time with and enjoy the company of friends and loved ones. These are the important things in life when you get to be 80. Oh, and lots of good food that somebody else has cooked. We are supplying that as well. Have a good weekend yourself and touch base with someone you love.

Beth Gerrits  
NAATS RIF/ Career Transition Liaison  
(W) 202 267-9217  
Cell 814 934-9758  
Beth.Gerrits@faa.gov