



**AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES
NATIONAL VETERANS AFFAIRS COUNCIL #53**

**Affiliated with the AFL - CIO
Mid-Term Bargaining Committee**

Oscar L. Williams Jr., Chair
2nd Exec. V-President
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Danville, IL 61832-6101

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Sandra Eggleston, Member
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April 7, 2009

Scott Holliday, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary
Office of Labor Management Relations (LMR)
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

Subject: FedTraveler User Profile

Dear Mr. Holliday:

The National VA Council #53 is formally demanding to bargain over the FedTraveler User Profile within the Department. Please provide the above named bargaining committee with the information and/or data related to the above subject. The negotiations in this matter should normally begin within ten (10) workdays after the management chief negotiator in this matter receives our demand to bargain.

Please cease and desist any implementation of bargaining unit until after the bargaining obligation has been met. The named bargaining committee may request a briefing over the cited subject above, before sending any proposals. If you have any questions please call me at (217) 554-4866.

Sincerely,

Oscar L. Williams, Jr.
Chairperson, Mid-Term Bargaining Committee
2nd Executive Vice President
National VA Council #53

cc: Alma L. Lee, President National VA Council #53
Executive Committee, NVAC

AFGE: Good Government We Are Ready



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
OFFICE LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS
WASHINGTON DC 20420

MAR 02 2009

Oscar L. Williams, Jr.
2nd Executive Vice President
National VA Council AFGE
29 Lake Street
Danville, IL 61832

Dear Mr. Williams:

Below is information regarding a necessary change to the FedTraveler User Profile, which will require users to provide additional information by updating their user profile. We have determined that there is no obligation to bargain because the change is necessary to comply with 49 CFR Parts 1540, 1544, and 1560 Secure Flight Program. The Final Rule is found on the following link:
http://www.tsa.gov/assets/pdf/secureflight_final_rule.pdf.

Secure Flight is a program developed by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in response to a key 9/11 Commission recommendation: uniform watch list matching by TSA. The mission of the Secure Flight program is to enhance the security of domestic and international commercial air travel through the use of improved watch list matching. TSA will require commercial airlines to provide passenger information to be used for pre-screening by matching the information against government watch lists to identify known and suspected terrorists, prevent known and suspected terrorists from boarding an aircraft, facilitate legitimate passenger air travel, and protect individuals' privacy. Secure Flight will add data elements that airlines do not currently collect and the airlines will transmit the data no later than 72 hours prior to flight time.

Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Transportation Security Administration (TSA) expects the airlines to be ready to transmit certain traveler information starting 120 days from the Final Rule date of Dec 29, 2008, or May 1, 2009. The airline data transmission to TSA will be implemented in phases from May to October 2009. To be prepared, E-Gov Travel Service (ETS) vendors and Travel Management Centers (TMCs) are working with the online booking engine suppliers and Global Distribution Systems to implement by May 1, 2009. The data elements are:

- Full Name which matches the form of ID used for the travel (required)
- Itinerary (required)
- Date of Birth (required)
- Gender (required)
- Redress Number (optional)
- Passport # for international itineraries (required) – airlines plan to phase this element in by October 31, 2009.

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Electronic Data Systems will add new fields to the FedTraveler User Profiles to collect required data to meet the May 1, 2009 requirement. The data will be transmitted via FedTraveler to the airlines through the Global Distribution systems. VA FSC is also working with Duluth Travel to determine if there will be a change in procedures when VA travelers call the TMC to make offline reservations. If changes are required, VA FSC will develop procedures.

Enclosed is a fact sheet and the link to the TSA public website is below, which details Secure Flight more thoroughly.

[http://www.tsa.gov/what we do/layers/secureflight/faqs.shtm](http://www.tsa.gov/what_we_do/layers/secureflight/faqs.shtm)

Please direct any questions about this change to Terry Riffel at (512) 460-5100 or terry.riffel@va.gov. You can also contact Doug Katcher at (828) 298-7911, ext. 13500 or douglas.katcher@va.gov.

Sincerely yours,



Scott Holliday
Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Labor-Management Relations

Enclosures

RECEIVED

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Nat'l VA Council
Mid-Term Bargaining Committee