

THE TECHNICIAN

FEBRUARY, MARCH, APRIL 2024

ISSUE #2, Vol. #82

DUTY ● DIGNITY ● DEDICATION

First Coast Chapter #86!



**BEING HEARD STARTS WITH
BEING SEEN!**



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ELECTION 2024



NOMINATIONS NOTICE FOR ACT'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nominations open on March 1, 2024, and will close on April 15, 2024

As of March 1, 2024, The Election Committee will begin accepting Nominations for the positions of National:

President

Treasurer

Vice President NE

Vice President NW

Only written nominations will be accepted. All nominations must be submitted electronically, and date stamped by the e-mail server no later than April 15, 2024. To be eligible for office a nominee must have been a member in good standing and on the membership rolls since July 1, 2023.

When submitting your nomination, include the member's name/phone number/ chapter name, and number/e-mail address as well as your name/phone number/chapter name and number / and e-mail address. This complete information is necessary to validate the nomination. Failure to provide this information could result in a nomination not being validated. Before submitting your nomination, confirming that the individual is willing to accept the nomination is advisable.

ELECTION 2024

ALL NOMINATIONS ARE TO BE E-MAILED TO THE 2024 ACT ELECTION COMMITTEE AT THE FOLLOWING E-MAIL ADDRESS:

2024.ACT.ELECTION.COMMITTEE@ACTNAT.COM

ONCE NOMINATIONS ARE VALIDATED, THE ELECTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WILL CONTACT THE NOMINEES BY E-MAIL TO OBTAIN ACCEPTANCE AND BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION WHICH WILL BE PRINTED IN THE ACT TECHNICIAN NEWSPAPER BEFORE THE BALLOT IS E-MAILED TO ELIGIBLE ACT VOTERS.

Vote

RALLY 2024 IS IN THE BOOKS!



Please send any images of the 2024 Rally to Admin@actnat.com



Future write up and Presidents message coming in the next issue of The Technician

Senate and House Letters in Support of Military Leave

Mr. Les Hackett

XX Feb. 2024

The Honorable (full name of Senator)
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator (last name of Senator)

We write this letter to ask for your support to increase the amount of military leave utilized by federal employees when absent from work to accomplish our Guard or Reserve service.

Currently, we get credited with 15 days (120 Hours) of military leave at the beginning of the fiscal year on Oct. 1. The limit of 15 days has been on the books since 1966 and probably was sufficient back in the day. But we can attest the Guard and Reserve training tempo has dramatically changed since the mid-1960s. The once standard 2-day weekend drill has morphed into 4-day events several times a year and the traditional 2-week annual training (summer camp) can now often run 3 and sometimes 4 weeks. Add all the state active duty for COVID and other state emergencies and it doesn't take long to burn through 120 hours.

Once out of military leave for the year we either have to use our personal leave or go on leave without pay (LWOP) which can compromise benefits like health insurance. During the year Guard units will often be looking for volunteers to accomplish unit business. Still, it's hard to justify doing extra duty if it means using your vacation days or going on LWOP.

The organization representing NG employees, The Association of Civilian Technicians (ACT), has developed a legislative fix for this situation that we believe updates the military leave statute to address the additional duty time required by the Guard and Reserve (see attached paper and bill language).

We would like to ask you to support this legislation by introducing it in the Senate. Once introduced we will begin gathering co-sponsors and other support to add the language to the 2025 NDAA.

Respectfully Submitted: The undersigned

(Name)

(Home address and contact information)

Senate and House Letters in Support of Military Leave

Mr. Les Hackett

XX Feb. 2024

The Honorable (Full name of Rep)
United States House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

Dear (Mr./ Ms.) (last name of rep)

We write this letter to ask for your support to increase the amount of military leave utilized by federal employees when absent from work to accomplish our Guard or Reserve service.

Currently, we get credited with 15 days (120 Hours) of military leave at the beginning of the fiscal year on Oct. 1. The limit of 15 days has been on the books since 1966 and probably was sufficient back in the day. But we can attest the Guard and Reserve training tempo has dramatically changed since the mid-1960s. The once standard 2-day weekend drill has morphed into 4-day events several times a year and the traditional 2-week annual training (summer camp) can now often run 3 and sometimes 4 weeks. Add all the state active duty for COVID and other state emergencies and it doesn't take long to burn through 120 hours.

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The organization that represents NG employees in our state, the Association of Civilian Technicians (ACT), has developed a legislative fix for this situation that we believe updates the military leave statute to address the additional duty time required by the Guard and Reserve (see attached paper and bill language).

We would like to ask you to support this legislation by introducing it in the House. Once introduced we will begin gathering co-sponsors and other support to add the language to the 2025 NDAA.

Respectfully Submitted: The undersigned

(Name)

(Home address and contact information)

Senate and House Letters in Support of 20-Year Conversion

Mr. Les Hackett

XX Feb, 2024

The Honorable (Full name of Congressman)
United States Senate
Washington DC 20515

Dear (Mr./ Ms.) (last name of Rep)

We write this letter to bring your attention to an issue that has the potential to affect us personally but also feel the issue is negatively affecting National Guard readiness. The issue is the career-long requirement for certain federal employees (known as military technicians) to hold concurrent membership in the Guard or Reserve to maintain their federal employment. Currently, in order to qualify for a voluntary unreduced annuity under the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) technicians must maintain Guard membership until their Minimum Retirement Age (MRA) which is 55 to 57.

The Guard, like the active service, is an up-or-out military organization. Once you reach 20 years of Guard service the leadership utilizes Qualitative Retention Boards to analyze your promotion potential. Once identified for administrative separation through non-retention there is no meaningful appeal. With the limited promotion potential in each state's Guard ranks, getting to the FERS MRA is a crap shoot. Most of our fellow technicians eventually lose their careers prematurely through non-retention in the Guard. We are concerned the same fate awaits us.

The career-long dual-status requirement doesn't make sense for the Guard either. Separating experienced surface and aviation mechanics after the organization has invested tens of thousands of tax dollars in training them simply because they are no longer Guard members. It not only creates personal hardship for the individual but hurts unit readiness also. It's common knowledge in the Guard that it is getting more and more difficult to recruit and retain technicians. Potential applicants realize the futility of trying to maintain Guard membership until their late 50s and don't even apply.

The organization that represents the largest block of NG employees, The Association of Civilian Technicians (ACT), has developed a legislative fix for this situation that we believe updates the technician program to ensure that technician employment is really a career program and also allows the Guard to retain experienced employees after their Guard career is over. We urge you to support this legislation as best you can.

Respectfully Submitted: The undersigned.

Name

Home address and contact information

Senate and House Letters in Support of 20-Year Conversion

Mr. Les Hackett

XX Feb, 2024

The Honorable (Senator's full name)
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator (Senator's last name)

We write this letter to bring your attention to an issue that has the potential to affect us personally but also feel the issue is negatively affecting National Guard readiness. The issue is the career-long requirement for certain federal employees (known as military technicians) to hold concurrent membership in the Guard or Reserve to maintain their federal employment. Currently, in order to qualify for a voluntary unreduced annuity under the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) technicians must maintain Guard membership until their Minimum Retirement Age (MRA) which is 55 to 57.

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Respectfully Submitted: The undersigned

Name Home address and contact information

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LM REPORTS & 990Ns Due Soon!

**I hate to be a Nag but
this is your reminder
that LM reports are due
March 15th & 990Ns are
due May 15th**





ASSOCIATION OF CIVILIAN TECHNICIANS

YOUR ONLY CHOICE TO PROTECT YOUR BARGAINING RIGHTS

DUTY...DIGNITY...DEDICATION

11 THE TECHNICIAN

SINCE 1960

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