

# United DoD Workers Coalition

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## United DoD Workers Coalition Responds to Administration's Release of NSPS Participants *Absent NSPS Proposal, Management Announces 'Spiral One' Participants*

WASHINGTON, DC – Yesterday, the United DoD Workers Coalition (UDWC), which consists of 36 unions representing hundreds of thousands of Civil Servants employed at the Department of Defense (DoD), met with DoD and Office of Personnel Management (OPM) officials regarding the creation of the National Security Personnel System (NSPS). Principal Under-Secretary of Defense (Personnel & Readiness) Charlie Abell and Chief Program Officer for NSPS Mary Lacey represented DoD. OPM was represented by George Nesterzczuk and Ron Sanders.

Despite the best efforts of the UDWC to work in good faith with management during the creation of NSPS, Pentagon and OPM officials continued to stonewall union leaders by advocating for the unilateral drafting of the new personnel system. As a part of these covert tactics, management unleashed the list of those workers within DoD who they have identified as the first to participate in the yet to be unveiled NSPS program.

UDWC union leaders, who have unsuccessfully requested to view and collaborate on DoD's soon to be published NSPS product, expressed dismay and frustration with management's calculated plan to exclude unions from any meaningful role in creating NSPS. Among the concerns of the UDWC are management's failure to provide the draft NSPS prior to publication, as well as their refusal to engage in true collaboration with the UDWC.

The following comments, which were issued by several members of the UDWC, were offered in response to the release of the Spiral One list.

Ron Ault, President of Metal Trades Department of the AFL-CIO, pointed to the clear contradiction between management rhetoric with regard to NSPS, and their actions.

"I find it ironic that while we were in a meeting with DOD and OPM demanding that they meet the minimal requirements of the law as to our statutory mandated involvement into the development and implementation of NSPS, Navy Secretary Gordon England was meeting with members of Congress on a full court PR campaign. Secretary England provided more detailed information yesterday than was provided to the representatives of the DOD employees. To say representatives of DOD employees have been involved in the development of any aspect of NSPS or any facet of its implementation as required by law is a bare faced lie. All of us sitting through months of useless and non-productive meetings with DOD know as much today as we knew on day one about NSPS. I feel like a mushroom...kept in the dark and fed a diet of horse manure! It is an outrage how DOD and OPM has violated the rights of the DOD workers and I can only see it getting worse. I would advise all the DOD workers who are eligible and can retire before this disaster to federal service takes place to do so...and to all others, I say we are all going to get a real lesson in civics."

The American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), also expressed disappointment with the NSPS process, as evidenced by the following statement issued by the union.

(Continued on next page)

Nat'l Assn. of Aeronautical  
Examiners  
Nat'l Air Traffic Controllers Assn.  
Professional Airways Systems  
Specialists  
Antilles Consolidated Education  
Assn.  
Int'l Brotherhood of Boilermakers  
Assn. of Civilian Technicians  
Communications Workers of  
America  
Federal Education Assn./NEA  
Int'l Brotherhood of Electrical  
Workers  
Nat'l Federation of Federal  
Employees  
Fairchild Federal Employees Union  
American Federation of Gov.  
Employees  
Nat'l Assn. of Gov. Employees  
Int'l Guard Union of America  
Int'l Assn. of Fire Fighters  
Hawaii Council of Defense  
Commissary Unions  
Laborers' Int'l Union of  
North America  
Int'l Assn. of Machinists and  
Aerospace Workers  
Nat'l Marine Engineers Beneficial  
Assn.  
Int'l Organization of Masters,  
Mates & Pilots  
Metal Trades Dept., AFL-CIO  
American Nurses Assn.  
United American Nurses  
Int'l Union of Operating Engineers  
Int'l Union of Painters and Allied  
Trades  
United Assn. of Journeymen and  
Apprentices of the Plumbing &  
Pipe Fitting Industry of the U.S.  
and Canada  
United Power Trades Org.  
Int'l Federation of Professional and  
Technical Engineers  
Retail, Wholesale, and  
Department Store Union  
Seafarers Int'l Union  
Service Employees Int'l Union  
Sport Air Traffic Controllers  
American Federation of State,  
County and Municipal Employees  
American Federation of Teachers  
Int'l Brotherhood of Teamsters  
Int'l Assn. of Tool Craftsman  
(List in-formation)

"AFGE is very disappointed and concerned that DOD unilaterally selected their target sites for NSPS without any union consultations. Receiving notice just as employees are being briefed on their inclusion is unacceptable. DOD has taken the first step toward the failure of NSPS by not even requesting input from the unions on the most appropriate sites for success. Their action certainly violates the commitments the DOD Unions received directly from Secretary of the Navy England when he took over the NSPS project. Shame on whoever made the decision to exclude the unions from these discussions."

Steve Lenkart, NAGE Legislative Director, also weighed in on the release of Spiral One.

"We are very disappointed, but not surprised, that DoD officials again chose to sneak around employee representatives instead of informing us about their intentions and working with us. We sat face to face in the same room for hours before they told us they were meeting with installation employees and Congress that same morning, and then failed to provide us with equal information.

"This exemplifies the Defense Department's continuing desire to elude employees and managers until plans are set in stone and rolled out. We have a timeline for implementation but still do not have any details of what NSPS will look like. If this new system is truly legitimate and DoD officials are honestly open to employee and manager input, why do they continue to deny us information and act behind our backs?"

The UDWC is comprised of 36 unions, representing nearly 600,000 DoD Civil Servants.

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