

U.S. International Trade Commission

Management Letter - Wounded Warriors Federal Leave Act



OIG-ML-17-13

May 11, 2017



Office of Inspector General

The U.S. International Trade Commission is an independent, nonpartisan, quasi-judicial federal agency that provides trade expertise to both the legislative and executive branches of government, determines the impact of imports on U.S. industries, and directs actions against certain unfair trade practices, such as patent, trademark, and copyright infringement. USITC analysts and economists investigate and publish reports on U.S. industries and the global trends that affect them. The agency also maintains and publishes the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States.

Commissioners

*Rhonda K. Schmidlein, Chairman
David S. Johanson, Vice Chairman
Irving A. Williamson
Meredith M. Broadbent
F. Scott Kieff*



UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

WASHINGTON, DC 20436

May 11, 2017

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OIG-ML-17-13

Chairman Schmidlein:

On August 5, 2016, the U.S. Office of Personnel Management issued final regulations implementing newly created disabled veteran leave established under the Wounded Warriors Federal Leave Act of 2015. According to the law, disabled veteran leave must be provided to any Federal employee hired on or after November 5, 2016, who is a veteran with a service-connected disability rating of 30 percent or more for purposes of undergoing medical treatment for such disability for which sick leave could be used. Disabled veteran leave is available as a one-time benefit during a 12 month period beginning on an eligible employee's "first day of employment" and may not exceed 104 hours for a regular full-time employee.

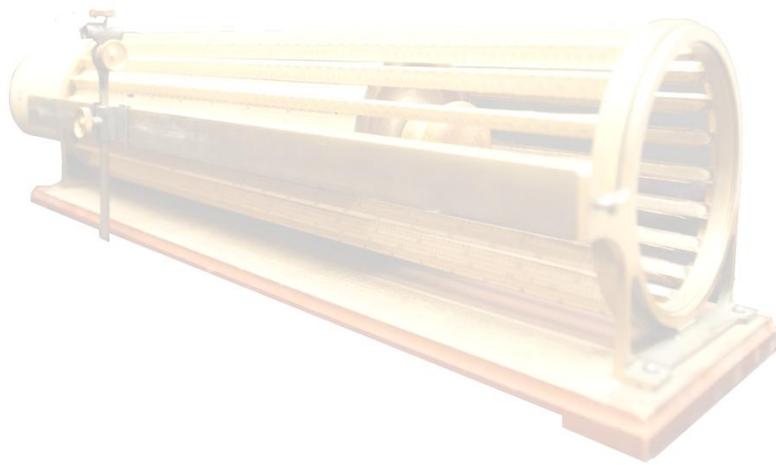
The Office of Inspector General found that because the Commission did not establish a process to implement the Wounded Warriors Federal Leave Act, it was difficult for our newly hired disabled veterans to request and use this special leave in order to undergo medical treatment for service-connected disabilities. Without a process in place, employees eligible for this leave were required to fill out forms designed for other leave requests and may have been left without newly accrued sick and annual leave to which they are entitled.

The lack of a process could be an obstacle to disabled veterans requesting this leave, and may also discourage other newly hired disabled veterans from accessing this benefit created by Congress.

Recommendation: The Commission establish a process to implement the Wounded Warriors Federal Leave Act of 2015.

Sincerely,

Philip M. Heneghan
Inspector General



“Thacher’s Calculating Instrument” developed by Edwin Thacher in the late 1870s. It is a cylindrical, rotating slide rule able to quickly perform complex mathematical calculations involving roots and powers quickly. The instrument was used by architects, engineers, and actuaries as a measuring device.

To Promote and Preserve the Efficiency, Effectiveness, and Integrity of the U.S. International Trade Commission



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