

Fort Benning civilians to be paid Oct. 17, should report to work as normal

FORT BENNING (Oct. 16, 2013) - Department of the Army Civilian employees at Fort Benning will receive their pay Thursday (Oct. 17).

Employees who were not furloughed during the shutdown will be paid for the hours they worked as normal.

Those employees who were furloughed during the government shutdown will be paid for the hours they worked prior to Oct. 1 (48 hours total) when the furlough period began.

Retroactive back pay approved

Those employees who were furloughed will be paid retroactively for the time they were furloughed when an appropriation bill is passed by Congress and approved by the President. Currently, the exact pay date for the retroactive pay is unknown.

The Oct. 31 pay day for civilian employees at Fort Benning will be a normal, full pay check.

Impact on leave accrual

Some employees will notice that their Leave and Earning Statement reflects no accrual of leave or sick leave for the pay period ending Oct. 5. The reason is that employees who had 48 hours of administrative furlough time earlier this year due to the Sequestration and who were not recalled from furlough prior to 6 Oct 13, hit 80 hours of non-pay status as a result of the emergency shutdown furlough during the pay period ending Oct. 5, 2013. Based on application of the government-wide rules, when an employee reaches 80 hours of non-pay status, he or she does not earn annual leave or sick leave for that pay period.

When the employees in this situation are retroactively paid for their time in furlough status, the leave balances will be adjusted. (Note: The legislation providing for retroactive pay has not been passed by the Senate nor signed by the President.)

Report to work as normal

The Assistant Secretary of the Army (Manpower and Reserve Affairs (ASA M&RA) has advised that the Pay Our Military Act (POMA) is both an authorization and an appropriation. This means the failure to increase the United States' Debt Ceiling which is scheduled to happen at midnight Oct. 16, of itself, will not trigger the need to furlough employees again.

Therefore, employees should report to work tomorrow, Oct. 17, just as they did today regardless of action taken by Congress.