



# INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL ENGINEERS AFL-CIO & CLC

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **President Obama Signs Defense Authorization Bill Bill Includes Provisions Critical to IFPTE Members**

WASHINGTON, DC – International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE) President Gregory Junemann, issued the following statement in response to today's signing of the Fiscal Year 2010 Defense Authorization Act by President Barack Obama:

"IFPTE applauds President Obama's signing of the Defense Authorization bill. This is a significant bill for our nation's fighting men and women, as well as for civilian workers in both the private and federal sectors.

"Included in this bill were four critically important provisions impacting IFPTE's membership, most notably the much anticipated repeal of the National Security Personnel System. IFPTE, along with our sister unions that make up the United DoD Workers Coalition, have been fighting this discriminatory and ideologically fueled personnel system since 2003. We applaud the President, along with Chairmen Skelton and Levin, for including repeal language in this bill putting NSPS to rest once and for all. For the DoD civilian workforce today is a day to celebrate the end of the nightmare known as NSPS.

"IFPTE is also pleased with the inclusion of language allowing federal workers under the FERS program to allocate a percentage of their unused sick leave toward their retirement, as well as a provision calling for retirement equity for civilian workers in so called non-foreign areas such as Hawaii and Alaska. Finally, IFPTE commends the approval of a second engine for the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF). Needless to say, the JSF is not only critical to our national security interest, it is also of significant importance to countless US workers.

"We would be remiss not to applaud the 3.4% pay raise for our nation's military personnel. IFPTE commends the President and Congressional authorizers for providing this much needed pay increase for our fighting men and women."

IFPTE represents over 90,000 workers in the public, private and federal sectors.

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