CASE DIGEST: U.S. Dep't of the Navy, Commander Navy Region Nw. Fire & Emergency Servs., 74 FLRA 286 (2025)

The Union filed a grievance alleging that the Agency violated the parties' collective-bargaining agreement by directing a firefighter to rotate from his assigned fire station to fill a vacancy for a single shift at a different fire station. The Arbitrator issued an initial award (first award), in which he found that the Agency violated the parties' agreement based on a contractual provision addressing involuntary reassignments, but retained jurisdiction to resolve any questions regarding the grievance. The Agency subsequently requested clarification of the basis for the Arbitrator's ruling, asserting that the Arbitrator had not addressed whether the parties' agreement permitted the specific type of rotation at issue in the grievance. The Arbitrator then issued a new award in which he effectively reversed the first award, found the parties' agreement permitted the rotation, and denied the grievance (second award).

The Agency filed exceptions to the first award on nonfact and essence grounds. The Union filed exceptions to the second award on contrary-to-law, bias, fair-hearing, exceeded-authority, essence, and incomplete, ambiguous, or contradictory grounds. The Authority partially dismissed and partially denied the Union's exceptions challenging the second award. Consequently, the Authority dismissed the Agency's exceptions, which sought reversal of the first award, as moot.

This case digest is a summary of a decision issued by the Federal Labor Relations Authority, with a short description of the issues and facts of the case. Descriptions contained in this case digest are for informational purposes only, do not constitute legal precedent, and are not intended to be a substitute for the opinion of the Authority.