



# NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: John Carpenter, Public Information Officer ♦ Office: (405) 557-5469 ♦ Fax: (405) 525-0139  
E-mail: john.carpenter@oesc.state.ok.us ♦ Website: oesc.state.ok.us

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## OLDER DISLOCATED WORKERS FROM ARVIN MERITOR IN CHICKASHA QUALIFY FOR ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

### *Special Status Granted to Former Company Employees Under Trade Act of 2002*

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK – Displaced workers of Arvin Meritor in Chickasha, Okla., who have previously been certified for Trade Readjustment Assistance (TRA) are now also eligible for Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance (ATAA). The Trade Act of 2002 established ATAA for older workers with non-transferable skills for whom retraining may not be appropriate. The primary focus of ATAA benefits is rapid, suitable and long-term employment. ATAA does this by providing qualified workers ages 50 or older with supplemental payments to help offset the salary gap between their old and new wages.

To qualify for ATAA, dislocated workers must meet the following criteria:

- 1) workers must be at least 50 years old at the time of reemployment;
- 2) workers must have obtained different, full-time employment within 26 weeks of separation from the adversely affected employment;
- 3) workers must receive wages that are less than those earned in the previous employment; and
- 4) workers must earn less than \$50,000 per year in their new employment, excluding over-time pay.

Dislocated workers that meet these criteria can receive supplemental payments totaling up to \$10,000 over a two-year eligibility period.

The USDOL report concludes “all workers of Arvin Meritor Inc., Chickasha, Oklahoma, who became totally or partially separated from employment on or after October 1, 2002, through two years from the date of certification, are eligible to apply for Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance...” The first day of eligibility for ATAA (date of certification) is March 8, 2005. Separated employees who would like to take advantage of this assistance should contact their nearest Workforce Oklahoma Center at 1-888-980-WORK (9675).

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