

### § 1603.3

are forfeited to the Thrift Savings Plan.

[52 FR 29835, Aug. 12, 1987, as amended at 62 FR 33969, June 23, 1997; 68 FR 35497, June 13, 2003]

#### § 1603.3 Service requirements.

(a) Except as provided under paragraph (b) of this section, FERS employees will be vested in their agency automatic (1%) contributions and attributable earnings upon separating from Government only if, as of their separation date, they have completed three years of service.

(b) FERS employees will be vested in their agency automatic (1%) contributions and attributable earnings upon separating from Government service if, as of their separation date, they have completed two years of service and they are serving in one of the following positions:

(1) A position in the Senior Executive Service as a non-career appointee (as defined in 5 U.S.C. 3132(a)(7));

(2) Positions listed in 5 U.S.C. 5312, 5313, 5314, 5315 or 5316;

(3) A position placed in level IV or level V of the Executive Schedule, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 5317;

(4) A position in the Executive Branch which is excepted from the competitive service by the Office of Personnel Management because of the confidential and policy-determining character of the position; or

(5) A Member of Congress or a Congressional employee.

[52 FR 29835, Aug. 12, 1987, as amended at 60 FR 24535, May 9, 1995; 62 FR 33969, June 23, 1997]

## PART 1604—UNIFORMED SERVICES ACCOUNTS

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## 5 CFR Ch. VI (1–1–08 Edition)

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 8440e, 8474(b)(5) and (c)(1).

SOURCE: 66 FR 50713, Oct. 4, 2001, unless otherwise noted.

### § 1604.1 Applicability.

This part describes the special features of TSP participation applicable to members of the uniformed services. Uniformed services members are also covered by the other regulations of 5 CFR chapter VI to the extent they do not conflict with the regulations of this part.

### § 1604.2 Definitions.

As used in this part:

*Basic pay* means basic pay payable under 37 U.S.C. 204 and compensation received under 37 U.S.C. 206.

*Bonus contributions* means contributions made by participants from a bonus as defined in 37 U.S.C. chapter 5.

*Civilian account* means the TSP account to which contributions have been made by or on behalf of a civilian employee.

*Civilian employee* means a TSP participant covered by the Federal Employees' Retirement System, the Civil Service Retirement System, or equivalent retirement plans.

*Combat zone compensation* means compensation received for active service during a month in which a member of the uniformed services serves in a combat zone.

*Combat zone contributions* means employee contributions that are made from compensation subject to the Federal income tax exclusion at 26 U.S.C. 112 for combat zone compensation.

*Employee contributions* means contributions made by participants from basic pay, incentive pay, and special pay (including bonuses).

*Employing agency* means the organization that employs an individual who is eligible to contribute to the TSP and that has authority to make compensation decisions for that employee.

*Federal civilian retirement system* means the Civil Service Retirement System established by 5 U.S.C. chapter 83, subchapter III, the Federal Employees' Retirement System established by 5 U.S.C. chapter 84, or any equivalent Federal civilian retirement system.

*Periodic contributions* means employee contributions made from recurring incentive pay and special pay (including bonuses) as defined in 37 U.S.C. chapter 5.

*Ready Reserve* means those members of the uniformed services described at 10 U.S.C. 10142.

*Regular contributions* means employee contributions made from basic pay.

*Separation from service* means discharge of a member from active duty or the Ready Reserve or transfer of a member to inactive status or to a retired list pursuant to any provision of title 10, U.S.C. The discharge or transfer may not be followed, before the end of the 31-day period beginning on the day following the effective date of the discharge, by resumption of active duty, an appointment to a civilian position covered by the Federal Employees' Retirement System, the Civil Service Retirement System, or an equivalent retirement system, or continued service in or affiliation with the Ready Reserve. Reserve component members serving on full-time active duty who terminate their active duty status and subsequently participate in the drilling reserve are said to continue in the Ready Reserve. Active component members who are released from active duty and subsequently participate in the drilling reserve are said to affiliate with the Ready Reserve.

*Service member* means a member of the uniformed services on active duty or a member of the Ready Reserve in any pay status.

*Service member account* means the account to which contributions have been made by or on behalf of a member of the uniformed services.

*Special and incentive pay* means pay payable as special or incentive pay under 37 U.S.C. chapter 5.

*Uniformed services* means the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[66 FR 50713, Oct. 4, 2001, as amended at 70 FR 32209, June 1, 2005]

#### § 1604.3 Contribution elections.

A service member may make contribution elections as described in 5 CFR part 1600. A service member may

elect to contribute sums to the TSP from basic pay, incentive pay, and special pay (including bonuses). However, the service member must elect to contribute to the TSP from basic pay in order to contribute to the TSP from incentive pay and special pay (including bonuses). A service member may elect to contribute from special pay or incentive pay (including bonuses) in anticipation of receiving such pay (that is, he or she does not have to be receiving the special pay or incentive pay when the contribution election is made); those elections will take effect when the service member receives the special or incentive pay.

[70 FR 32209, June 1, 2005]

#### § 1604.4 Contributions.

(a) *Employee contributions.* Subject to the regulations at 5 CFR part 1600 and the following limitations, a service member may make regular contributions to the TSP from basic pay. If the service member makes regular contributions, he or she also may contribute all or a portion of incentive pay and special pay (including bonuses) to the TSP. The maximum TSP regular employee contribution (including contributions from pay earned in a combat zone) which a service member may make for 2005 is 10 percent of basic pay. After 2005 the percentage of basic pay limit will not apply and the maximum contribution will be limited only by the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C.).

(b) *Matching contributions.* When matching contributions are authorized for a service member, that service member's regular contributions will be matched dollar-for-dollar on the first three percent of basic pay contributed to the TSP, and 50 cents on the dollar on the next two percent of basic pay contributed. Matching contributions only apply to regular contributions.

(c) *Deduction and transmittal of contributions.* A service member's employing agency will deduct regular contributions from the service member's basic pay each pay period based on his or her contribution election and will transmit the contributions to the TSP. If a service member also elects to make periodic contributions to the TSP, the employing agency must deduct (and