



WHAT'S NEW?

from the
Benefits and Entitlements Service Team (BEST)

29 Jul 03

- **Department of Defense (DoD) Decides to Pay Flexible Spending Account (FSA) Program Administrative Fees Associated with Enrollment in the FSA Program.** Employees who enrolled during the Initial FSA open season will see deductions start in the pay period beginning 7 Sep 03, with its corresponding pay date of 26 Jul 03.

7 Jul 03

- **New Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) Record Keeping System Implemented.** The new record keeping system was implemented 16 Jun 03. There are many changes with the new system, some of which are daily valuation and posting of accounts with number of shares and shares cost as well as fund/account balances; daily processing of business transactions such as interfund transfers, contribution allocation changes, and loan applications; and the ability to write a personal check to pay off a loan and/or make additional payments. In addition, TSP participant statements will be issued on a quarterly basis (31 Mar, 30 Jun, 30 Sep, and 31 Dec), with the first due out in Oct 03. Eventually, quarterly statements will be available on the TSP web site.
- **Final Participant Statement for Old TSP Record Keeping System.** The TSP is mailing a final statement for the old record keeping system that will provide account activity information for the period 1 -31 May 03. Keep this statement as a permanent record of account status, and be sure to compare the closing balance with the opening balance on the first quarterly statement received in Oct 03. Employees who do not receive the old system final statement by 31 Jul should contact the TSP Service Office at (504) 255-8777.
- **Final Loan Statement under Old TSP Record Keeping System.** The TSP is also mailing final loan statements for the old monthly valued record keeping system that will show information about participants' loans as of 31 May 03. Employees with a loan(s) who do not receive this final statement by 31 Jul 03 should contact the TSP Service Office at (504) 255-8777. In the future, participants with loans will no longer receive separate loan statements. Instead, information about loans will be included on quarterly participant statements. The first quarterly statement will be sent in Oct 03.
- **Thrift Savings Plan Rates of Return Posted for Jun 03.** The monthly G, F, C, S, and I Fund returns represent the actual total rates of return used to allocate monthly earnings for Jun 03 to participant accounts, after deduction for administrative costs, trading costs, and accrued investment management fees. Percentages in () are negative returns. For more information, go to the TSP Homepage at www.tsp.gov and click on Rates of Returns.

	G Fund	F Fund	C Fund	S Fund	I Fund
Jun 03	0.20%	(0.30%)	1.20%	2.20%	2.30%
<u>Last 12 Months</u> (7/1/2002 - 6/30/2003)	4.19%	10.31%	0.25%	4.31%	(6.62%)

- **Flexible Spending Account (FSA) Belated Enrollment.** The FSA initial open enrollment season ended 27 Jun 03. Employees who missed this deadline, regardless of the reason, should contact SHPS regarding belated enrollment. (1-877-372-3337 or TTY 1-800-952-0450)