



WHAT'S NEW?

from the

Benefits and Entitlements Service Team (BEST)

18 Jun 03

- **Flexible Spending Account (FSA) Enrollments Now Accepted!** SHPS is now accepting FSA enrollments, and the open season has been extended through 27 June 2003. Enrollments may be made by web (www.fsafeds.com) or by calling SHPS toll-free at 1-877-372-3337 (TTY 1-800-952-0450). We're still waiting for a decision on whether the agency will pay FSA program administrative costs on behalf of employees. In the meantime, employees who want to enroll in the FSA program for plan year 2003 must do so by 27 Jun 03, and as part of the enrollment process must acknowledge they will be responsible for the administrative fees if the agency chooses not to cover the fees. In addition, payroll deductions for FSA enrollees will begin with the pay period ending 20 September 2003.

9 Jun 03

- **Flexible Spending Account (FSA) Early Enrollment Period Extended until 27 June 2003.** OPM announced today they have extended the FSA early enrollment period to 27 June 2003. The reason for the extension is the delay in accepting actual enrollments, which OPM hopes will begin soon.

4 Jun 03

- **Flexible Spending Account (FSA) Early Enrollment Period Ends 20 June 2003.** We've been advised the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) will not extend the FSA early enrollment period, even though actual enrollments are not being accepted at this time. (If this changes, we'll let you know.) As a result, employees interested in enrolling should contact SHPS and leave their name and E-mail address by 20 June. SHPS will notify these employees when enrollments are being accepted. SHPS can be contacted by Web at www.fsafeds.com; toll-free telephone: 1-877-372-3337 or TTY 1-800-952-0450; and E-mail to fsafeds@shps.net. SHPS customer service representatives are available via the toll-free phone number from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.
- **Thrift Savings Plan Rates of Return Posted for May 2003.** The monthly G, F, C, S, and I Fund returns represent the actual total rates of return used to allocate monthly earnings for May 2003 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
May 2003	0.34%	1.87%	5.26%	9.42%	6.07%
<u>Last 12 Months</u> (6/1/2002 - 5/31/2003)	4.43%	11.72%	(7.97%)	(4.74%)	(12.25%)