





## *Benefits Update*

Even though the FERS sick leave was dropped from the Tobacco legislation, the house resuscitated it again and added it, as part of H.R. 2990, to the 2010 Defense Authorization Bill. This bill was passed by the House in June and was sent on to the Senate (Note: this does not mean it is now law and can be credited towards your annuity).

H.R. 2990 includes the following provisions that might be of interest to federal employees.

- Would allow employees in FERS to count unused sick leave toward their annuity calculation.
- Would make it easier to rehire federal retirees part time
- Modify how CSRS calculates annuity payments for employees who retire as part-time workers
- Would permit FERS workers to make a redeposit for refunded retirement contributions

According to the article in the Government Executive, the Senate is hoping to wrap up its work on the Defense authorization bill before the August recess.

Stay Tuned!

## *CSRS and Voluntary Contributions*

Employees covered by CSRS or CSRS Offset are eligible to establish a voluntary contributions account. This allows employees to invest after tax dollars into the Civil Service Trust Fund. The amounts invested earn tax deferred interest at a variable rate, which is determined by the Treasury Department. To be eligible to participate in the voluntary contributions, employees:

- Must be currently employed and covered by CSRS or CSRS Offset
- Have not received a refund of voluntary contributions during your current federal appointment
- Cannot owe a deposit for non deduction civilian service (temp time)
- Cannot owe a redeposit for refunded retirement contributions

Total contributions into this fund cannot exceed 10% of the basic pay the employee had received as of the date of contribution. Employees interested in more information regarding voluntary contributions should refer to the following websites:

<http://www.opm.gov/retire/pubs/handbook/C031.pdf>

[http://www.govexec.com/story\\_page.cfm?articleid=42791&oref=relink](http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=42791&oref=relink)

Employees interested in making voluntary contributions need to complete a Standard Form 2804, which can be found at the following website:

<http://www.opm.gov/forms/html/sf.asp>

For questions regarding this information, contact your HR Assistant or call our office at X5523.

## HR Office

### BLM/NPS/BIA-NIFC

3833 S Development Ave  
Boise, ID 83705

Phone: 208-387-5523  
Fax: 208-387-5723

Tamara Neukam	HR Officer	(208) 387-5514
Sheri Kososik	HR Spec (ER)	(208) 387-5527
Sandy Tripp	HR Spec (Classification)	(208) 387-5627
Wendy Little	Supv HR Spec	(208) 387-5564
Karin Nichols	HR Spec	(208) 387-5320
Suzanne Rebish	HR Spec	(208) 387-5388
Angela Tallant	HR Assistant	(208) 387-5346
Pamela Burrows	HR Assistant	(208) 387-5498
Vacant	HR Assistant	(208) 387-5518
Rick Moore	HR Assistant	(208) 387-5523
<i>Fax</i>		<i>(208) 387-5723</i>



### New Employees

Rosemary Tully	FA130
Kelly Torrey	FA244
Michael Haener	FA250

### Departures

Annie Banks	FA220
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### Retirements

Brent Hanson	FA241
John Lutzow	FA263
Carl Dorsey	FA322
Eva Brown	FA331
Tom Branson	BIA

Visit us on our website:

[http://www.blm.gov/nifc/st/en/prog/fire/more/human\\_resources.html](http://www.blm.gov/nifc/st/en/prog/fire/more/human_resources.html)

## ***EAP Consultants Inc.***

EAP Consultants Inc. is a free employee assistance online resource. This free online resource is available to permanent and temporary BLM/BIA/NPS-NIFC employees and their families.

This website contains articles on information such as financial planning, stress, fitness, purchasing a car, etc.

Also on the website are calculators and forms available for use.

To check out the articles, calculators and forms on the EAP Consultants Inc. website, visit:

<http://www.eapconsultants.com/>

Click on "Member Access", then "HelpNet" Password: nifc

You can also contact EAP Consultants Inc. 24 hours per day at: 1-800-869-0276.

You will need to identify yourself as a "NIFC" employee.

For questions regarding the EAP program, contact Sheri Kososik at X5527.