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minimum retirement age and completing 10 years of service; or

(2) After becoming age 60 and completing 20 years of service; or

(3) After becoming age 62 and completing 5 years of service.

(b)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (b)(2) or (c) of this section, an annuity payable under paragraph (a) of this section commences on the first day of the month following separation.

(2) An annuity payable under paragraph (a) of this section commences on the day after separation, if that separation occurs upon the expiration of a term (or other period) for which the individual was appointed or elected.

(c)(1) An employee or Member entitled to an annuity under paragraph (a)(1) of this section may elect to postpone the commencing date of that annuity, provided the individual—

(i) Has completed less than 30 years of service; and

(ii) Is not entitled to an immediate annuity under any other provision of this subpart. An immediate annuity means an annuity that will begin within 31 days of separation.

(2) A postponed commencing date may not precede the later of—

(i) The first day of the month after the date of separation of the employee or Member; or

(ii) The 31st day after the date of filing the election of a commencing date.

(3) A postponed commencing date must be no later than the second day before the employee's 62nd birthday.

(4) The election of a commencing date may be filed not more than 90 days before the commencing date elected by the employee or Member, and must be filed in a form prescribed by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM).

(5) A written election that is not in the prescribed form, but which designates a specific commencing date, and otherwise conforms to the time limits in paragraphs (c)(2) through (c)(4) of this section, will be accepted as an informal election subject to ratification in the prescribed form.

(6) The election of a commencing date becomes irrevocable on the date OPM authorizes the first annuity payment.

(d)(1) If an employee or Member separates from service after attaining the minimum retirement age and completing 10 years of service, but is reemployed before filing an application for retirement based on that separation, the individual may not elect an annuity commencing date that precedes separation from the reemployment service.

(2) In the case of an employee or Member who separates from service after attaining the minimum retirement age and completing 10 years of service, and is reemployed after filing an application for retirement based on that separation, that individual may not elect an annuity commencing date that precedes separation from the reemployment service if he or she is reemployed prior to a postponed commencing date elected under paragraph (c) of this section.

[51 FR 47197, Dec. 31, 1986, as amended at 56 FR 65418, Dec. 17, 1991]

§ 842.205 Early retirement—major RIF, reorganization, or transfer of function.

(a) An employee other than an employee entitled to an annuity under § 842.207 or § 842.208, who separates from the service voluntarily after completing 25 years of service, or after becoming age 50 and completing 20 years of service is entitled to an annuity if, on the date of separation, the employee is—

(1) Serving in a position and in a geographic area designated by the Director of OPM or his or her designee; and

(2) Serving during a period in which the Director of OPM or his designee determines, in accordance with instructions issued under appendix E of FPM chapter 351, that—

(i) The employing agency is undergoing a major reorganization, a major reduction in force, or a major transfer of function; and

(ii) A significant percent of the employees serving in the employing agency will be separated or subject to a reduction in basic pay.

(b) Determinations of major reorganization, major reduction in force, or major transfer of function will be made by the Director of OPM or his or her designee only after receipt of a written

request to make the determination from the head of the agency, or his or her designee.

§ 842.206 Involuntary retirement.

(a) An employee, other than an employee entitled to an annuity under § 842.207 or § 842.208, who separates from the service involuntarily after completing 25 years of service, or after becoming age 50 and completing 20 years of service is entitled to an annuity, except as provided in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section.

(b) An employee who is separated for cause on charges of misconduct or delinquency is not entitled to an annuity under paragraph (a) of this section.

(c) An employee who would otherwise be entitled to an annuity under paragraph (a) of this section is not so entitled if the employee has declined a reasonable offer of another position that meets all of the following conditions:

(1) The offer must be made in writing;

(2) The employee must meet established qualification requirements; and

(3) The offered position must be—

(i) In the employee's agency, including an agency to which the employee would be transferred in a transfer of function(s) between agencies;

(ii) Within the employee's commuting area unless geographic mobility is a condition of the employee's employment;

(iii) Of the same tenure and work schedule; and

(iv) Not lower than the equivalent of two grades or pay levels below the employee's current grade or pay level, without consideration of the employee's eligibility to retain his or her current grade or pay under part 536 of this chapter or other authority. In movements between pay schedules or pay systems, the representative rate of the grade or pay level that is two grades below that of the current position will be compared with the representative rate of the grade or pay level of the offered position. For this purpose, ''representative rate'' has the meaning given that term in § 536.102 of this chapter.

(d) An annuity payable under paragraph (a) of this section commences on the day after separation from the service.

§ 842.207 Air traffic controllers.

(a) An employee who separates from service, except by removal for cause or charges of delinquency or misconduct, is entitled to an annuity—

(1) After completing 25 years of service as an air traffic controller; or

(2) After becoming age 50 and completing 20 years of service as an air traffic controller.

(b) An annuity payable under paragraph (a) of this section commences on the first day of the month following separation.

§ 842.208 Firefighters and law enforcement officers.

(a) An employee who separates from service, except by removal for cause on charges of delinquency or misconduct, is entitled to an annuity—

(1) After completing any combination of service as a firefighter or law enforcement officer totaling 25 years; or

(2) After becoming age 50 and completing any combination of service as a firefighter or law enforcement officer totaling 20 years.

(b) An annuity payable under paragraph (a) of this section commences on the first day of the month following separation.

§ 842.209 Members of Congress.

(a) A Member, except one separated by resignation or expulsion, is entitled to an annuity—

(1) After completing 25 years of service; or

(2) After becoming age 50 and completing 20 years of service.

(b) An annuity payable under paragraph (a) of this section commences on the day after separation from the service.

§ 842.210 Military reserve technicians.

(a) A military reserve technician as defined in 5 U.S.C. 8401(30) who is separated from civilian service because of ceasing to qualify as a member of a military reserve component after reaching age 50 and completing 25 years of service is entitled to an annuity.