

## **Information for Law Enforcement Officers**

Under Public Law 105-382, enacted November 13, 1998, certain special agents covered under the Foreign Service Retirement and Disability System (FSRDS) or FSRDS Offset had an opportunity to elect to become covered under special law enforcement retirement provisions. The opportunity also applied to those special agents under the Foreign Service Pension System (FSPS), who have part of their annuity computed under the FSRDS, and to survivors of special agents who were eligible to make an election during the election period. The special law enforcement provisions are similar to those for law enforcement personnel under the Civil Service Retirement System.

The law provides that special agents who are covered must: (1) pay an additional .5% in employee retirement contributions for future service as a special agent (this is on top of the increased employee contributions required under the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, explained in FMP's Payroll News dated January 1999); and (2) retire at age 57 unless an exemption from mandatory retirement is approved under section 812 of the Foreign Service Act.

In return, DS special agents who have at least 20 years of service as a special agent (including service as a law enforcement officer under the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) or the Federal Employees' Retirement System (FERS) or a member of the Capitol Police) receive the following enhanced annuity computation upon retiring: 2.5% of high three average salary for the first 20 years of service as a special agent (including law enforcement service under CSRS, or a member of the Capitol Police); and 2.0% of high three average salary for service described above in excess of 20 years, or for any other creditable service.

In order for an eligible special agent to receive the full benefit of the enhanced retirement formula, a deposit representing the extra .5% contribution for prior periods of law enforcement service must be paid with interest. Alternatively, a special agent may incur an actuarial reduction in his or her annuity benefits if he or she chooses not to make a special contribution.