

## Subpart A—General Information

### § 48.101 Purpose.

The purpose of the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan is to permit each member of the uniformed services to elect to receive a reduced amount of any retired pay which may be awarded him as a result of service in his uniformed service in order to provide an annuity payable after his death (while entitled to retired pay) to his widow, child, or children, subject to certain limitations specified in the law and elaborated in the regulations in this part.

### § 48.102 Definitions.

(a) The terms *Plan* or *RSFPP* as hereinafter used means the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan (formerly called the Uniformed Services Contingency Option Act).

(b) The term *uniformed services* means the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Commissioned Corps of Environmental Science Services Administration, and Commissioned Corps of Public Health Service.

(c) The term *member* means a commissioned officer, commissioned warrant officer, warrant officer, nurse, flight officer, or a person in an enlisted grade (including an aviation cadet) of any of the uniformed services, and a person in any of these categories who is entitled to or is in receipt of retired pay, except persons excluded in title 10, U.S. Code, section 1431(a), as amended.

(d) The term *widow* includes *widower* and refers to the lawful spouse of the member on the date of retirement with pay.

(e) The term *child* means, in all cases, a member's child, who is living on the date of retirement of the member with pay and who meets the following requirements:

(1) A legitimate child under 18 years of age and unmarried.

(2) A stepchild, under 18 years of age and unmarried, who is in fact dependent on the member for support (see paragraphs (f) and (g) of this section).

(3) A legally adopted child, under 18 years of age and unmarried.

(4) A child, as defined above, who is 18 or more years of age and unmarried, and who is incapable of self-support be-

cause of being mentally defective or physically incapacitated if that condition existed prior to reaching age 18.

(5) A child as defined above, who is at least 18, but under 23 years of age and unmarried, who is pursuing a full-time course of study or training in a high school, trade school, technical or vocational institute, junior college, college, university, or comparable recognized educational institution. (Applicable only in the case of members who retired on or after Nov. 1, 1968).

(6) A child loses his eligibility for an annuity under this part if he is adopted by a third person before the parent-member's death. His eligibility is not affected if he is adopted by a third person after the parent-member's death (36 Comp. Gen. 325).

(f) The term *stepchild* means a child of a member's spouse by a former marriage. The stepchild relationship terminates upon the divorce of the parent spouse, but not upon the death of the parent spouse.

(g) The term *in fact dependent* means that the stepchild must be dependent on the member for over half of his or her support.

(h) The term *retirement* means retirement with eligibility to receive retired pay.

(i) The term *retired pay* includes retired, retirement, equivalent and retainer pay awarded as a result of service in the uniformed services.

(j) The term *reduced retired pay* means the retired pay remaining after the cost of participation in RSFPP has been subtracted.

(k) The term *department concerned* means (1) the Department of the Army with respect to the Army, (2) the Department of the Navy with respect to the Navy and Marine Corps, (3) the Department of the Air Force with respect to the Air Force, (4) the Department of Transportation with respect to the Coast Guard, (5) the Department of Commerce with respect to the Environmental Science Services Administration, and (6) the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare with respect to the Public Health Service.

(l) The term *dependent* means the prospective annuitants described in paragraphs (d) and (e) of this section.

(m) The term *Board of Actuaries* means the Government Actuary in the Department of the Treasury, the Chief Actuary of the Social Security Administration, and a member of the Society of Actuaries appointed by the President to advise the Secretary of Defense on the administration of the Plan.

(n) The term *Joint Board* means representatives of the uniformed services appointed under the provisions of § 48.602.

(o) The term *years of service* means years of service creditable in the computation of basic pay.

(p) The term *election* means the choice of options made by the member under the RSFPP. This term includes a modification of a previous election or an election submitted after a revocation of a previous option(s) elected.

(q) The term *elections in effect* means valid elections existing on the day of retirement.

(r) A recognized educational institution is defined as a high school, trade school, technical or vocational institute, junior college, college, university, or comparable recognized educational institution which meets one or more of the following criteria:

(1) It is operated or directly supported by the United States, or a State, or local governmental agency.

(2) It is accredited by a nationally recognized or State recognized accrediting agency.

(3) It is approved as an educational institution by a State or local governmental agency.

(4) Its credits are accepted for transfer (or for admission) by three or more accredited schools on the same basis as credits from an accredited school.

### Subpart B—Election of Options

#### § 48.201 Options.

As provided in § 48.203, a member may elect one or more of the following annuities. The amount must be specified at time of election, and may not be for more than 50 per centum nor less than 12½ per centum of his retired pay, in no case may be less than a \$25 monthly annuity be elected. If the election is made in terms of dollars, the amount may be more than 50 per centum of the retired pay that he would receive if he

were to retire at the time of election; however, if such elected amount exceeds 50 per centum of his retired pay when he does retire, it shall be reduced to an amount equal to such 50 per centum. Also, if the dollar amount elected is less than 12½ per centum of his retired pay when he does retire, it shall be increased to an amount equal to such 12½ per centum.

(a) Option 1 is an annuity payable to or on behalf of his widow, the annuity to terminate upon her death or remarriage.

(b) Option 2 is an annuity payable to or on behalf of his surviving child or children as defined in § 48.102, the annuity to terminate when there ceases to be at least one such surviving child eligible to receive the annuity. Each payment under such annuity shall be paid in equal shares to or on behalf of the surviving children remaining eligible at the time the payment is due. A member who had this option in effect on the date of retirement, and who retired on or after November 1, 1968, may apply to the Secretary concerned to have a child (other than a child described in § 48.102(e)(4)) who is at least 18 but less than 23 years of age considered not to be an eligible beneficiary under this paragraph (b) or § 48.202. Normally such applications will be approved.

(c) Option 3 is an annuity to or on behalf of his widow and surviving child or children. Such annuity shall be paid to the widow until death or remarriage, and thereafter each payment under such annuity shall be paid in equal shares to or on behalf of the surviving children remaining eligible at the time the payment is due. A member may provide for allocating, during the period of the surviving spouse's eligibility, a part of the annuity under this subpart B for payment to those of his surviving children who are not children of that spouse. The sum allotted will not exceed the equitable share for which such children would be eligible after the death of the widow.

(d) When no eligible beneficiary remains to benefit from the option elected, the member's retired pay will be restored (except as provided in § 48.604, for certain members retired before Aug. 13, 1968). All elections on file on