

***April 8, 2010***

## **Voluntary Early Retirement Clerks, Mail Handlers, Custodians, Maintenance Operations Support Clerks and EAS in Select Offices to Receive Early Out Notices**

This week, April 5 - 9, annuity estimates and Voluntary Early Retirement (VERA) offers are being mailed to approximately 1,000 VERA eligible employees in the San Francisco District. The notices are being sent ONLY to Clerks, Mail Handlers, Custodians, Maintenance Operations Support Clerks and EAS employees who are domiciled south of the Golden Gate Bridge. North Bay and Northern California employees WILL NOT receive a VERA offer in the mail.

For those receiving VERA notices, you may retire if you are age 50 with 20 years of service or any age with 25 years of service. There is no financial incentive being offered and in addition:

- **Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS)**: Your annuity benefit will be reduced by 2% for each year (1/6 % per month) that you are under age 55 on date of retirement and the reduction is permanent.
- **Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS)**: If you meet the above requirements, your annuity benefit will not be reduced with age. Special Retirement Supplements are payable until age 62 when you reach the minimum retirement age (55 – 57). Social Security benefits begin when you reach age 62.

The VER retirement application deadline and irrevocable date is May 21, 2010. One very important thing to note is that you must follow the process in your letter to opt in and take advantage of this early out. If you participate in VERA, your retirement effective date will be June 30, 2010. (Check [San Francisco LiteBlue](#) for a complete VERA time line).

As we look to the future, the San Francisco District has been working hard to streamline operations and to become more efficient. Most recently, the International Service Center (ISC) in Daly City closed, moving to the Air Mail Center (AMC) building near the airport. The District also consolidated the Pacific Carrier Annex and the Diamond Heights carrier units into Mendell Street, consolidated the Embarcadero Postal Center (EPC) carrier unit into the new Townsend Facility, and consolidated the San Mateo St. Matthews and Foster City Stations into the San Mateo Main Post Office.

These changes not only save on transportation, maintenance and real estate costs, but also have reduced the number of employees required to process and deliver the mail. The VERA is being offered in conjunction with a Reduction In Force (RIF) to ensure that impacted employee that choose to remain employed by the Postal Service will have a better opportunity to do so.

**PLEASE COPY AND POST ON ALL EMPLOYEE BULLETIN BOARDS.**

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