



Army Benefits Center - Civilian

SWCPOC at Fort Riley, Kansas

ABC-C News

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To reach the ABC-C: <https://www.abc.army.mil> or 1-877-276-9287 – (TDD 1-877-276-9833)

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Thrift Savings Plan Open Season



The current Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) Open Season began on 15 April and ends on 30 June. Employees that have retirement coverage under FERS or CSRS are eligible to contribute to the TSP. You must initiate your TSP transaction either on the ABC-C website or through the ABC-C telephone system.

The limits of contributions remain at 8% for CSRS employees and 13% for FERS employees. If you decide to contribute an even dollar amount, you need to ensure the amount will not exceed the percentage you are allowed as well as the overall limit of TSP contributions of \$12,000 for the year 2003.

To see when changes you elect will be effective, please review the chart below. Terminations of contributions are effective at the end of the pay period in which the termination transaction is initiated.

Created	Effective	Pay Week
15 Apr-31 May	1 Jun	23-27 Jun
1-14 Jun	15 Jun	7-11 Jul
15-28 Jun	29 Jun	21-25 Jul
29-30 Jun	13 Jul	4-8 Aug

If you have not yet made an election during this open season, it is not too late!

For more TSP information, go to www.tsp.gov or <https://www.abc.army.mil>.



Thrift Savings Plan Catch Up Contributions

Have you read about the TSP Catch Up opportunity? If you are contributing the maximum amount to TSP and are 50 years of age or older, this may apply to you!

Employees that are eligible and elect to contribute additional funds to their TSP are limited in the amount that can be contributed per year. This amount does not affect the regular contribution limits for the TSP open season elections.

Year	Maximum Contribution
2003	\$2,000
2004	\$3,000
2005	\$4,000
2006 and after	\$5,000*

*May be adjusted to reflect inflation

More information will be coming soon to clarify when the catch up contributions can be started.



Technical Assistance



Are you having trouble establishing a POE password or a PIN? The SWCPOC HelpDesk is available to assist employees having difficulty with either the ABC-C website or the IVRS telephone system Monday through Friday during the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. CST. The HelpDesk staff can provide assistance to employees receiving errors when creating the POE or PIN.

Please remember the HelpDesk personnel are not benefits counselors and cannot answer benefits questions, they provide assistance for reaching the ABC-C either through the website or telephone system. For assistance call 1-785-239-2000 or DSN 856-2000.

ABC-C Telephone Numbers - Overseas

Belgium	0800-78245
Germany	0800-1010282
Italy	800-780821
Japan	00531-1-20378
Korea	00798-14-800-4766
Netherlands	0800-0232739
Saudi Arabia	1-877-276-9287
United Kingdom	08-00857723

PINs and POE Passwords



The Personnel Identification Number (PIN) and the Point-of-Entry (POE) password used by the ABC-C systems sometimes cause confusion. The information below should help you understand the difference and when to use these items.

The POE is a password to take you from the public area of the ABC-C website to the secure area (EBIS) where you can view personal information and create transactions. If you forget your POE password or it expires, you can immediately create a new one by clicking "Set Password" and gain access to EBIS.

The PIN is used in conjunction with your SSN to create an electronic signature block. You use it in the secure area of the website (EBIS) and when you use the telephone system (IVRS). Your PIN for first time use is the month and year of your birth (Ex, Dec 1958 = 1258). Follow the voice prompts to create your initial PIN and create a new one if you do not remember your PIN.

To successfully create your POE password and PIN, you will need a copy of your latest SF50 or LES. Complete the information on the screen or dial it as requested on the telephone and you should find you are successful.



Counselors are available to answer your questions between 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. CST

Just call our toll-free number, 1-877-276-9287, and use your SSN and PIN to navigate to the TSP module. Once there,, dial 0 to be transferred to a counselor.

Did You Know?

Did you know that you can verify your TSP Transactions without calling a counselor?

You can verify that you successfully created your TSP transaction, the new rate or amount of money you plan to contribute, and the effective date of your action on either the ABC-C website or telephone system.

To verify your transaction on the telephone, use your SSN and PIN to navigate to the main menu. At the main menu, dial 3 for TSP, then dial 1 for personal program information, and then dial 2 for projected actions.

To verify your transaction on the website, click on Benefit Change and enter your SSN and POE password to enter EBIS. Click on TSP, then Personal TSP Information, then Personal Transactions, and finally View and/or Void TSP Projected Action. Be very careful so that you do not void your transaction unless you desire to void it.



On a Personal Note

One of the most important benefits you have as a Federal employee is the opportunity to voluntarily contribute to your future retirement income. TSP is that opportunity. Not only will it be that "little extra" money while we are enjoying our golden years, but today it is tax deferred, which means more money in our pockets.

Take every advantage to contribute to your future. Invest in TSP.



ABC-C is a Division of SWCPOC, at Fort Riley KS

Send comments or suggestions to:

<mailto:NewsletterINQ@cpocswr.army.mil>