

Some Retired Pilots Get Surprise Christmas Present!

DP3 has learned from George Leatherbury, a retired Delta pilot / financial representative for an investment firm in the Atlanta area, that Delta may have given you a late Christmas gift. Here are the details from George's message to his clients this weekend, reprinted with his permission. Thanks, George!

Within the last few days, your old 401(k) account may have received an 'Adjustment' from Delta. My 401(k) received a little more than \$700 - deposited yesterday. I have checked with three clients. All have received 'Adjustments' from \$400 to \$1,000. I believe that this 'Adjustment' results from the final audit of the pilot Family Care Savings Plan. ALPA and Delta have agreed to give the pilots more options with their 401(k)'s and so the pilots will leave the traditional FCSP have a plan just for pilots. My guess is that this 'audit' has turned up some errors, and they have corrected them with these 'distributions' - that is my opinion, but in speaking with Fidelity, their agent agreed that it appeared to be the case. Again, my limited research was only with pilots retired from 2 to 5 years - it may be different for older retirees - there is only one way to find out.

To find out if you have a gift, try the following - (if you cannot log onto your account, call Fidelity for help - 800-557-1900).

If you use the "NetBenefits" site just go to it and see if your 'old retired' 401(k) has a late Christmas gift for you.

If you use the Fidelity.com site and not "NetBenefits" - then go to your account on the Fidelity website; look at the lower right hand corner for:

 Your Workplace Savings Benefit

View your workplace savings accounts and employee benefits.

- Click on: [Go To NetBenefits](#)
- on the next page click on: [Continue to NetBenefits](#)
- This will get you to your old 401(k) site and see if Delta has given you a late gift.

While I was speaking with the Fidelity agent, I asked him to transfer the amount in the 401(k) into one of my PMFM IRA accounts - he did that very easily. I did not want a distribution of the money because it is tax deferred and I, as you, am already in a high enough tax bracket this year. Next year could be the same (although not as bad a tax year). If you are not nearing or over your 60th birthday, taking a distribution could cost a 10% penalty. The 'distributions' are invested in a Fidelity money market account.

George Leatherbury

DP3 has no additional information regarding this distribution at this time, other than to note that of the four Trustees contacted at the time of this posting, three have received nothing and one has received a distribution. If we can find additional details about this distribution, specifically who may have been eligible for it and why, we will post it on our BLOG.

DP3 does not give tax advice. The opinions expressed above represent that of the author. Please consult your own financial and tax advisors regarding the tax implications of any distribution you may have received.