

Jacque McCray, Information Management Service (045A4), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, Telephone (202) 565-8266 or FAX (202) 565-8267.

Dated: March 1, 1996.

By direction of the Secretary.

Donald L. Neilson,

Director Information Management Service.

[FR Doc. 96-5864 Filed 3-11-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-P

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Office of Security and Law Enforcement, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: As part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, the Office of Security and Law Enforcement invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on this information collection. This request for comment is being made pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-13; 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Comments should address the accuracy of the burden estimates and ways to minimize the burden including the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology, as well as other relevant aspects of the information collection.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposal for the collection of information should be received on or before May 13, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Tanya Al-Khateeb, Office of Security and Law Enforcement (07C), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420. All comments will become a matter of public record and will be summarized in the request for Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval. This document solicits comments concerning the following information collection:

OMB Control Number: 2900-0524.

Title and Form Number: VA Police Officer Pre-Employment Screening Checklist, VA Form 0120 (formerly VA Form 10-0120).

Type of Review: Reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired.

Need and Uses: The form is needed to document the pre-employment screening process and special

background checks for applicants seeking employment as VA police officers.

Current Actions: It is the policy of VA that no person be employed as a VA police officer who has been convicted of a serious crime or whose history reflects a disregard for laws and regulations, questionable character, or a pattern of misconduct or poor work habits. Pre-employment screening for VA police officers and full verification of qualifications and suitability have been a long-standing policy. This form provides a record of the accomplishment of pre-employment vouchering following selection standards which serve as the VA's basic assurance that federal criminal law enforcement authority is granted cautiously and responsibly.

Affected Public: State, Local or Tribal Governments—Business or other for-profit—Federal Government.

Estimated Annual Burden: 250 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent: 10 minutes.

Frequency of Response: Generally one-time.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,500.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or copies of the form should be directed to Department of Veterans Affairs, Attn: Ron Taylor, VA Clearance Officer (045A4), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, telephone (202) 565-4412 or FAX (202) 565-8267.

Dated: March 1, 1996.

By direction of the Secretary.

Donald L. Neilson,

Director Information Management Service.

[FR Doc. 96-5865 Filed 3-11-96; 8:45 am]

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Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: National Cemetery System, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: As part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, National Cemetery System (NCS) invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on this information collection. This request for comment is being made pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-13; 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Comments should address the accuracy of the burden estimates and ways to minimize the

burden including the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology, as well as other relevant aspects of the information collection.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposal for the collection of information should be received on or before May 13, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Robert Kline, National Cemetery System (401A1), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420. All comments will become a matter of public record and will be summarized in the NCS request for Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval. In this document NCS is soliciting comments concerning the following information collection:

OMB Control Number: 2900-0232.

Title and Form Number: Verification of Eligibility for Burial in a National Cemetery, VA Form 40-4962.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Need and Uses: The information is used to verify and determine eligibility for burial in a national cemetery and to establish permanent records of interments.

Current Actions: Cemetery directors now collect the information via the Burial Operation Support System (BOSS). BOSS is an automated program used to verify and determine eligibility and replaces the need for the routine use of VA Form 40-4962. The next-of-kin (or veteran) may provide an honorable discharge document to a cemetery director which would accelerate the verification and determination procedure. However, a majority of the requests for burial are made by telephone, and primarily by a funeral director. Many times discharge documents are unavailable to the next-of-kin, funeral director, or person making the final arrangements. The necessary information needed to verify and determine eligibility is entered into BOSS by the cemetery director. The information collected also provides a means whereby other documents can be completed. Inscription data for headstones or markers, scheduling of interments, preparation for the number of attendees, honor, etc., are noted in BOSS to facilitate a burial. VA Form 40-4962 is a basic working document that is used during BOSS downtime to collect information and then supply input for required forms or permanent documents, and indicates action to be taken.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 11,754 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent: 10 minutes.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 70,522.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or copies of the form should be directed to Department of Veterans Affairs, Attn: Jacquie McCray Information Management Service (045A4), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, telephone (202) 565-8266 or FAX (202) 565-8267.

Dated: March 1, 1996.

By direction of the Secretary

Donald L. Neilson,

Director, Information Management Service.

[FR Doc. 96-5866 Filed 3-11-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-P

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Veterans Health Administration, Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: As part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, Veterans Health Administration (VHA) invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on this information collection. This request for comment is being made pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-13; 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Comments should address the accuracy of the burden estimates and ways to minimize the burden including the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology, as well as other relevant aspects of the information collection.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposal for the collection of information should be received on or before May 13, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Ann Bickoff, Veterans Health Administration (161A4), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420. All comments will become a matter of public record and will be summarized in the VHA request for Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval. In this document VHA is soliciting comments concerning the following information collection:

OMB Control Number: None Assigned.

Title and Form Number: Survey of Health Promotion and Preventative Medicine, VA Form 10-21000(NR)

Type of Review: New collection.

Need and Uses: Congress has mandated that VA assess the rates that veterans are offered and receive critical health promotion and disease prevention services, and report these rates to Congress on an annual basis, Public Law 102-585. Existing data resources in VA are unable to provide complete documentation regarding receipt of those services. An annual mail survey is proposed to provide the necessary information.

Affected Public: Individuals and households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 5,777 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent: 10 minutes.

Frequency of Response: Annually.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 51,900.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or copies of the form should be directed to Department of Veterans Affairs, Attn: Jacquie McCray, Information Management Service (045A4), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, Telephone (202) 565-8266 or FAX (202) 565-8267.

Dated: March 1, 1996.

By direction of the Secretary.

Donald L. Neilson,

Director,

Information Management Service.

[FR Doc. 96-5867 Filed 3-11-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-P

Summary of Precedent Opinions of the General Counsel

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is publishing a summary of legal interpretations issued by the Department's General Counsel involving veterans' benefits under laws administered by VA. These interpretations are considered precedential by VA and will be followed by VA officials and employees in future claim matters. It is being published to provide the public, and, in particular, veterans' benefit claimants and their representatives, with notice of VA's interpretation regarding the legal matter at issue.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jane L. Lehman, Chief, Law Library, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810

Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 273-6558.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: VA regulations at 38 CFR 2.6(e)(9) and 14.507 authorize the Department's General Counsel to issue written legal opinions having precedential effect in adjudications and appeals involving veterans' benefits under laws administered by VA. The General Counsel's interpretations on legal matters, contained in such opinions, are conclusive as to all VA officials and employees not only in the matter at issue but also in future adjudications and appeals, in the absence of a change in controlling statute or regulation or a superseding written legal opinion of the General Counsel.

VA publishes summaries of such opinions in order to provide the public with notice of those interpretations of the General Counsel that must be followed in future benefit matters and to assist veterans' benefit claimants and their representatives in the prosecution of benefit claims. The full text of such opinions, with personal identifiers deleted, may be obtained by contacting the VA official named above.

VAOPGCPREC 19-95

Question Presented: To what extent does the six-year limitation period imposed by 31 U.S.C. 3702(b) apply to claims resulting from nonnegotiation by the payee of checks drawn on veterans' benefit appropriations? ¹

Held: The proceeds of uncashed veterans' benefit checks which have been canceled pursuant to the competitive Equality Banking Act of 1987 (CEBA), Pub. L. No. 100-86, 101 Stat. 552, are not payable unless a claim for them is made within six years after the claim accrues, as required by the Barring Act, ch. 788, 54 Stat. 1061 (1940) (codified, as amended, at 31 U.S.C. 3702(b)), regardless of whether the benefit checks were drawn on veterans' benefit appropriations. Claims based on checks which have been lost, stolen, paid on a forged endorsement, or were never received, and which have been canceled under the CEBA, must also be presented within the six-year period specified by section 3702(b). Section 3702(b) is not applicable, however, to a claim made to VA under 38 U.S.C. 5122 by a payee's surviving spouse, child, dependent parent, or person who bore the expense of the payee's last sickness and burial, as

¹ The Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA's) appropriation accounts identified in the request for opinion are 36X0102 (compensation and pension), 36X0137 (readjustment benefits), and 36X4023-25 and 36X4125-30 (loan guaranty).