

determined that the sunset provision should be extended an additional four months, until July 31, 1997. Accordingly, the Commission is revising § 2200.201(b) to extend the pilot program through July 31, 1997.

**List of Subjects in 29 CFR Part 2200**

Administrative practice and procedure, Hearing and appeal procedures.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, title 29, chapter XX, part 2200, subpart M of the Code of Federal Regulations is amended as follows:

**PART 2200—RULES OF PROCEDURE**

1. The authority citation continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 29 U.S.C. 661(g), unless otherwise noted.

2. Section 2200.201 is amended by revising paragraph (b) to read as follows:

**§ 2200.201 [Amended]**

\* \* \* \* \*

(b) *Sunset Provision.* Section 2200.203(a), which permits the Chief Administrative Law Judge to assign a case for E-Z Trial, will no longer be effective after July 31, 1997 unless the rule is extended by the Commission by publication of a final rule in the **Federal Register**. After July 31, 1997, a case will only be assigned to E-Z Trial if the assignment is requested by a party.

Dated: March 21, 1997.

**Stuart E. Weisberg,**  
*Chairman.*

Dated: March 24, 1997.

**Velma Montoya,**  
*Commissioner.*

Dated: March 21, 1997.

**Daniel Guttman,**  
*Commissioner.*

[FR Doc. 97-7845 Filed 3-27-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7600-01-M

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**38 CFR Part 1**

RIN 2900-A175

**Delegation of Authority to Deputy General Counsel and Assistant General Counsel for Professional Staff Group IV in Matters Concerning Employee Inventions and Patents**

**AGENCY:** Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** This document amends the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

regulations in 38 CFR Part 1 by amending the delegation of authority for making determinations regarding right, title and interest in employee inventions. The General Counsel has determined that these Departmental determinations could be made more efficiently by including the Assistant General Counsel as an official authorized to make such decisions. In accordance with 38 U.S.C. 512, this document delegates to the Assistant General Counsel for Professional Staff Group IV the same authority and responsibility to act for VA as was previously granted to the General Counsel and Deputy General Counsel.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** March 28, 1997.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Neal C. Lawson, Assistant General Counsel (024), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 273-6356.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This final rule consists of a delegation of authority and, therefore, is not subject to the notice and comment and effective date provisions of 5 U.S.C. 553.

The Secretary hereby certifies that this final rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities as they are defined in the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601-612. This rule merely consists of a delegation of authority.

There is no Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number.

**List of Subjects in 38 CFR Part 1**

Administrative practice and procedure, Archives and records, Cemeteries, Claims, Courts, Flags, Freedom of information, Government employees, Government property, Infants and children, Inventions and patents, Investigations, Parking, Penalties, Postal Service, Privacy, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Seals and insignia, Security measures, Wages.

Approved: March 4, 1997.

**Jesse Brown,**  
*Secretary of Veterans Affairs.*

For the reasons set out in the preamble, 38 CFR part 1 is amended as set forth below:

**PART 1—GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1. The authority citation for part 1 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 38 U.S.C. § 501(a), unless otherwise noted.

2. Section 1.653 is revised to read as follows:

**§ 1.653 Delegation of authority.**

The General Counsel, Deputy General Counsel or Assistant General Counsel for Professional Staff Group IV is authorized to act for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in matters concerning patents and inventions, unless otherwise required by law. The determination of rights to an invention as between the Government and the employee where there is no cooperative research and development agreement shall be made by the General Counsel, Deputy General Counsel or the Assistant General Counsel for Professional Staff Group IV, in accordance with 37 CFR part 500.

**§ 1.164 [Amended]**

3. In § 1.654, the first sentence is revised by adding "Deputy General Counsel or Assistant General Counsel for Professional Staff Group IV," following "General Counsel,".

**§ 1.657 [Amended]**

4. Section 1.657 is revised by adding ", Deputy General Counsel or Assistant General Counsel for Professional Staff Group IV" following "The General Counsel".

[FR Doc. 97-7834 Filed 3-27-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-P

**38 CFR Part 3**

RIN 2900-A140

**Upgraded Discharges**

**AGENCY:** Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** This document makes nonsubstantive changes to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) adjudication regulations regarding upgraded discharges. The intended effect of these changes is to make the regulations simpler and easier to understand.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This amendment is effective March 28, 1997.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Laurence Freiheit, Consultant, Regulations Staff, Compensation and Pension Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, telephone (202) 273-7252.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** 38 U.S.C. 1110 authorizes the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to compensate veterans for disability resulting from injury or disease incurred or aggravated during active military service provided that the veteran was discharged or released under conditions other than