

Notification

Final awards cannot be made until funds have been appropriated by Congress, and allocated and committed through internal USIA procedures.

Dated: October 31, 1997.

Robert L. Earle,

Deputy Associate Director for Educational and Cultural Affairs.

[FR Doc. 97-29373 Filed 11-5-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0396]

Proposed Information Collection Activity; Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Extension

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of a currently approved collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments on certification of training under the Service Members Occupational Conversion and Training Act.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed

collection of information should be received on or before January 5, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20S52), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0396" in any correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nancy J. Kessinger at (202) 273-8310 or FAX (202) 273-5981.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA of 1995 (Public Law 104-13; 44 U.S.C., 3501-3520), Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. This request for comment is being made pursuant to Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

With respect to the following collection of information, VBA invites comments on: (1) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VBA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of VBA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

Title and Form Number: Certification of Training (Under the Service Members Occupational Conversion and Training Act), VA Form 22-8929.

OMB Control Number: 2900-0396.

Type of Review: Reinstatement, without change, of a previously

approved collection for which approval has expired.

Abstract: Public Law 102-484 established the Service Members Occupational Conversion and Training Act (SMOCTA). Section 4467 requires monthly or quarterly certification of training under SMOCTA. An employer uses VA Form 22-8929 to advise VA of: (1) the number of hours a veteran has worked in an approved program during each month; (2) the amount and date of payment the employer has made to the veteran for the purchase of any tools and work-related equipment; and (3) the training status of the veteran (e.g., currently training, satisfactorily completed training, quit, laid off, etc.). Continued use of VA Form 22-8829 is necessary to authorize reimbursement to an employer.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit, Individuals or households, State, Local or Tribal Government, and Not-for-profit institutions.

Estimated Annual Burden: 500 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent: 30 minutes per application.

Estimated Annual Recordkeeping Burden: 85 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Recordkeeper: 1 hour.

Frequency of Response: Monthly or Quarterly.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,000.

Estimated Number of Recordkeepers: 85.

Dated: October 27, 1997.

By direction of the Secretary.

Donald L. Neilson,

Director, Information Management Service.

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