

corporations that made a section 444 election have correctly reported the payment required under section 7519.

*Respondents:* Business or other for-profit.

*Estimated Number of Respondents/Recordkeepers:* 72,000.

*Estimated Burden Hours Per Respondent/Recordkeeper:*

Recordkeeping—5 hr., 16 min.

Learning about the law or the form—1 hr., 5 min.

Preparing, copying, assembling and sending the form to the IRS—1 hr., 13 min.

*Frequency of Response:* Annually.

*Estimated Total Reporting/*

*Recordkeeping Burden:* 545,040 hours.

*Clearance Officer:* Garrick Shear (202) 622-3869, Internal Revenue Service, Room 5571, 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20224.

*OMB Reviewer:* Alexander T. Hunt (202) 395-7860, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10226, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

**Lois K. Holland,**

*Departmental Reports Management Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Agency Information Collection: Emergency Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) the following emergency proposal for the collection of information under the Provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA, 44 U.S.C. 3507(j)(1)). This

collection of information is needed prior to the expiration of the time periods contained in 5 CFR 1320. This emergency clearance request is essential to satisfying the requirements of Public Law 103-446 and the VA's mission of caring for veterans and their families. If the Veterans Health Administration uses normal clearance procedures, the collection of information would be disrupted. Public harm may result if formal clearance procedures are followed since many Gulf War veterans and their families are awaiting the results of the survey to aid in the diagnosis and treatment of symptoms. VA had expected the research survey to be exempt from the definition of information pursuant to 5 CFR 1320.3(h)(5); a different standard was applied to this research survey resulting in an unanticipated situation. OMB has been requested to act on this emergency clearance request by August 21, 1998.

**Title:** National Health Survey of Gulf War Era Veterans and their Families: Phase III Physical Examinations.

**OMB Control Number:** None assigned.

**Type of Review:** New Collection.

**Abstract:** In November of 1994 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs was directed by the "Persian Gulf War Veterans' Benefits Act," Title I of the "Veterans' Benefits Improvements Act of 1994," Public Law 103-446, to conduct a health survey of Persian Gulf veterans and their spouses and children. In response to the legislative mandate, the Veterans Health Administration initiated a survey entitled "National Health Survey of Gulf War Era Veterans and their Families." The present survey protocol represents Phase III of the study, clinical examinations of a sample of 1,000 Gulf War Veterans and their spouses and children and 1,000 Gulf War era nondeployed veterans and their spouses and children. The Cooperative Studies Evaluation Committee approved this study in September of 1997.

Physicians within and outside the Department of Veterans Affairs hospital system will use the information

collected during Phase III to aid in diagnosing and treating Gulf War veterans. Researcher will also use the information to further identify any possible illnesses associated with the myriad of symptoms presented by Gulf War veterans.

**Affected Public:** Individuals or households.

**Estimated Annual Burden:** 54,920 hours.

**Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent:** 10 hours.

**Frequency of Response:** The forms will be completed by the clinical staff once during at two-day battery of examinations; there will be no follow-up visits.

**Estimated Number of Respondents:** 5,492 study participants. (A total 2,000 veterans, 1,520 spouses, and 1,972 children will be examined during Phase III.)

**ADDRESSES:** A copy of this submission may be obtained from Ron Taylor, Information Management Service (045A4), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420, (202) 273-8015.

Comments and recommendations concerning this submission should be directed to VA's OMB Desk Officer, Allison Eydtt, OMB Human Resources and Housing Branch, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503 (202) 395-4650.

**DATES:** Written comments on the collection of information should be directed and received by the VA's OMB Desk Office on or before August 24, 1998.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ron Taylor, VA Clearance Officer (045A4), (202) 273-8015.

Dated: July 29, 1998.

By direction of the Secretary.

**Donald L. Neilson,**

*Director, Information Management Service.*

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