

Veterans Affairs (VA), 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 new collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments for information needed to conduct a study of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis among Gulf War veterans.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before July 17, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information to Ann W. Bickoff, Veterans Health Administration (193B1), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420 or e-mail ann.bickoff@mail.va.gov. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-NEW-ALS" in any correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ann W. Bickoff (202) 273-8310 or FAX (202) 273-9381.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA of 1995 (Pub. L. 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, VHA invites comments on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VHA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of VHA'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: A Study of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Among Gulf War Veterans.

OMB Control Number: 2900-NEW-ALS.

Type of Review: New collection.

Abstract: This study is designed to investigate the occurrence and to identify the causes of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) among Gulf War veterans. The study will further define

the epidemiology of the neurological disease among veterans under the age of 45, and will determine whether there is a higher than expected occurrence. ALS is a rare disease in patients under the age of 45, which is the group of the majority of veterans on active duty during the Gulf War. The study will also ascertain the probable (possible) etiology of ALS. The result of the data collection will have importance for both the VA in achieving its mission to provide for the health of veterans and for the larger society in understanding ALS. The study will indicate whether veterans deployed to the Persian Gulf during the Gulf War are at elevated risk of ALS.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 756 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent: 6 hours.

Frequency of Response: Generally one time.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 126.

Dated: March 30, 2001.

By direction of the Secretary.

Barbara H. Epps,

Management Analyst, Information Management Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0325]

Agency Information Collection Activities Under OMB Review

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 (44 U.S.C., 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of Veterans Affairs, has submitted the collection of information abstracted below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The PRA submission describes the nature of the information collection and its expected cost and burden; it includes the actual data collection instrument.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before June 18, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR A COPY OF THE SUBMISSION CONTACT: Denise McLamb, Information Management Service (045A4), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue,

NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 273-8030 or FAX (202) 273-5981 or e-mail denise.mclamb@mail.va.gov. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0325."

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Certificate of Delivery of Advance Payment and Enrollment, VA Form 22-1999V.

OMB Control Number: 2900-0325.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: VA is authorized to pay educational assistance to veterans and other eligible individuals pursuing approved programs of education. If certain requirements are met, VA is authorized to issue payments in advance of the beginning date of training. The schools or training establishments deliver advance payments and are required to certify the deliveries to VA. The schools or training establishments are also required to report the following to VA: (1) The failure of the student to enroll; (2) an interruption or termination of attendance; or, (3) a finding of unsatisfactory attendance conduct or progress. VA Form 22-1999V serves as the certificate of delivery of the advance payment and also the report of any changes in training status.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on this collection of information was published on March 6, 2001 at page 13632.

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

Estimated Annual Burden: 1,779 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent: 5 minutes.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 21,353.

Send comments and recommendations concerning any aspect of the information collection to VA's Desk Officer, OMB Human Resources and Housing Branch, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503 (202) 395-7316. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0325" in any correspondence.

Dated: May 10, 2001.

By direction of the Secretary.

Donald L. Neilson,

Director, Information Management Service.

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