

By direction of the Secretary.

Donald L. Neilson,

Director, Information Management Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Privacy Act of 1974; Report of Amended Matching Program

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) intends to conduct a recurring computer program matching Internal Revenue Service (IRS) records with VA pension and parents' dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) records.

The goal of this match is to compare income status as reported to VA with records maintained by IRS.

VA plans to match records of veterans, surviving spouses and children who receive pension, and parents who receive DIC, with data from the IRS income tax return information as it relates to unearned income.

VA will use this information to adjust VA benefit payments as prescribed by law. The proposed matching program will enable VA to ensure accurate reporting of income.

Records To Be Matched: VA records involved in the match are the VA system of records, Compensation, Pension, Education and Rehabilitation Records—VA (58 VA 21/22). The IRS records will come from the Wage and Information Returns (IRP) Processing File, Treas/IRS 22.061, hereafter referred to as the Information Return Master File (IRMF), as published at 63 FR 69852 (December 17, 1998) through the Disclosure of Information to Federal, State and Local Agencies (DIFSLA) program. In accordance with Title 5 U.S.C. subsection 552a(o)(2) and (r), copies of the agreement are being sent to both Houses of Congress and to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

This notice is provided in accordance with the provisions of the Privacy Act of 1974 as amended by Public Law 100-503.

DATES: The match will start no sooner than 30 days after publication of this Notice in the **Federal Register**, or 40 days after copies of this Notice and the agreement of the parties are submitted to Congress and OMB, whichever is later, and end not more than 18 months after the agreement is properly implemented by the parties. The

involved agencies' Data Integrity Boards (DIB) may extend this match for 12 months provided the agencies certify to their DIBs within three months of the ending date of the original match that the matching program will be conducted without change and that the matching program has been conducted in compliance with the original matching program.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments, suggestions, or objections regarding the proposal to conduct the matching program to the Director, Office of Regulations Management (02D), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Room 1154, Washington, DC 20420. All written comments received will be available for public inspection in the Office of Regulations Management, Room 1158, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday except holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul Trowbridge (212A), (202) 273-7218.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This information is required by Title 5 U.S.C. subsection 552a(e)(12), the Privacy Act of 1974. A copy of this notice has been provided to both Houses of Congress and OMB.

Approved: May 21, 2001.

Anthony J. Principi,

Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Privacy Act of 1974, Addition of Routine Use to System of Records Veterans and Beneficiaries Identification and Records Location Subsystem—VA

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice; addition of routine use.

SUMMARY: As required by the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. 552a(e)(4), notice is hereby given that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) proposes to add a routine use to the system of records "Veterans and Beneficiaries Identification and Records Location Subsystem—VA (38VA21)."

DATES: The proposed routine use will be effective July 5, 2001, unless comments are received before this date which would result in a contrary determination.

ADDRESSES: Written comments concerning the proposed amendment to

the routine use may be mailed to the Office of Regulations Management (02D), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20420.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul Trowbridge, Consultant, Compensation and Pension Service, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20420, (202) 273-7218.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: There is an ongoing computer matching program between the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Department of Education (ED) to provide ED with information about the veteran status of applicants for Federal financial aid. Veteran status is relevant to the financial aid process because ED treats veterans as independent applicants—which means that they are not required to provide parental financial information. ED uses the computer match with VA to quickly verify the veteran status of many financial aid applicants. In a memorandum dated September 30, 1998, VA's Office of General Counsel stated that routine use #2 in the system of records 38VA21 was legally sufficient to support the existing computer match with ED but recommended that VA promulgate a new routine use in this system of records specifically authorizing disclosure for the purpose of conducting computer matches.

VA proposes to add this routine use to the following system of records which is contained in the **Federal Register**: "Veterans and Beneficiaries Identification and Records Location Subsystem—VA (38VA21)."

A "Report of Altered System" and an advance copy of the revised system have been sent to the Chairmen and Ranking Minority Members of the Committee on Government Reform of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Committee on Governmental Affairs of the U.S. Senate, and to the Office of Management and Budget, as required by 5 U.S.C. 552a(o) and guidelines issued by the Office of Management and Budget.

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments, suggestions, or objections regarding the proposed amended routine use statement to the Director, Office of Regulations Management (02D), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20420. All relevant material received on or before July 5, 2001 will be considered. All written comments received will be available for public inspection at the above address in the Office of Regulations Management, Room 1158,

between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

If no public comment is received during the 30-day review period allowed for public comment, or otherwise published in the **Federal Register** by VA, the new routine use is effective July 5, 2001.

Approved: May 21, 2001.

Anthony J. Principi,
Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

1. In the system identified as "Veterans and Beneficiaries

Identification and Records Location Subsystem—VA (38VA21) "the following routine use is added:

38VA21

SYSTEM NAME:

Veterans and Beneficiaries Identification and Records Location Subsystem—VA.

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ROUTINE USES OF RECORDS MAINTAINED IN THE SYSTEM, INCLUDING CATEGORIES OF USERS AND PURPOSES OF SUCH USES:

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21. Any information in this system of records may be disclosed to a Federal agency for the purpose of conducting a computer matching program (as defined in 5 U.S.C. § 552a(a)(8)) in accordance with the provisions of section 552a.

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