

the EA by writing to SEA (Room 500, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423-0001) or by calling SEA, at (202) 565-1539. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.] Comments on environmental and historic preservation matters must be filed within 15 days after the EA becomes available to the public.

Environmental, historic preservation, public use, or trail use/rail banking conditions will be imposed, where appropriate, in a subsequent decision.

Pursuant to the provisions of 49 CFR 1152.29(e)(2), A&E shall file a notice of consummation with the Board to signify that it has exercised the authority granted and fully abandoned the line. If consummation has not been effected by A&E's filing of a notice of consummation by October 1, 2004, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to consummation, the authority to abandon will automatically expire.

Board decisions and notices are available on our Web site at "http://www.stb.dot.gov."

Decided: September 24, 2003.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik, Director, Office of Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-24739 Filed 9-29-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Forms 5434 and 5434-A

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the IRS is soliciting comments concerning Form 5434, Application for Enrollment, and Form 5434-A, Application for Renewal of Enrollment.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before December 1, 2003, to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Glenn P. Kirkland, Internal Revenue Service, room 6411, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the forms and instructions should be directed to Carol Savage at Internal Revenue Service, room 6407, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224, or at (202) 622-3945, or through the Internet at CAROL.A.SAVAGE@irs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Form 5434, Application for Enrollment, and Form 5434-A, Application for Renewal of Enrollment.

OMB Number: 1545-0951.

Form Number: Forms 5434 and 5434-A.

Abstract: Form 5434 is used to apply for enrollment to perform actuarial services under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). Form 5434-A is used to renew enrollment every three years to perform actuarial services under ERISA. The information is used by the Joint Board for the Enrollment of Actuaries to determine the eligibility of the applicant to perform actuarial services.

Current Actions: There are no changes being made to the forms at this time.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Individuals.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 6,000.

Estimated Time Per Respondent: 38 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 3,800.

The following paragraph applies to all of the collections of information covered by this notice:

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a collection of information must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any internal revenue law. Generally, tax returns and tax return information are confidential, as required by 26 U.S.C. 6103.

Request for Comments: Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility;

(b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Approved: September 24, 2003.

Glenn P. Kirkland,

IRS Reports Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 03-24791 Filed 9-29-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0636]

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. 3501-21), 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 and includes the actual data collection instrument.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before October 30, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR A COPY OF THE SUBMISSION CONTACT: Denise McLamb, Records Management Service (005E3), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 273-8030, FAX (202) 273-5981 or e-mail: denise.mclamb@mail.va.gov. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0636."

Send comments and recommendations concerning any aspect of the information collection to VA's OMB 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. 2900-0636" in any correspondence.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Request for Accelerated Payment; Certifications Required from Individuals Electing Accelerated Payments; and Agreement with Educational Institution.

OMB Control Number: 2900-0636.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: A claimant who wishes to receive an accelerated payment of educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) must elect to do so. VA uses the request to support the claimant's election and to determine whether the claimant wants this option over the established monthly payments. The claimant is required to report that the payment was received and how the payment was used. In addition, schools are allowed to receive an advance MGIB accelerated payment on behalf of a claimant enrolled at that institution.

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 July 3, 2003, at pages 40022-40023.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 1,086 hours.

a. Request for Accelerated Payment—167 hours.

b. Certifications Required from Individuals Electing Accelerated Payments—833 hours.

c. Agreement with Educational Institutions—86 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent:

a. Request for Accelerated Payment—1 minute.

b. Certifications Required from Individuals Electing Accelerated Payments—5 minutes.

c. Agreement with Educational Institutions—3 minutes.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 13,727

a. Request for Accelerated Payment—6,000.

b. Certifications Required from Individuals Electing Accelerated Payments—6,000.

c. Agreement with Educational Institutions—1,727.

Estimated Annual Responses: 21,727.

a. Request for Accelerated Payment—10,000.

b. Certifications Required from Individuals Electing Accelerated Payments—10,000.

c. Agreement with Educational Institutions—1,727.

Dated: September 16, 2003.

By direction of the Secretary:

Jacqueline Parks,

IT Specialist, Records Management Service.

[FR Doc. 03-24625 Filed 9-29-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Privacy Act of 1974; System of Records

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

ACTION: Notice of New System of Records "Shipboard Hazard and Defense Integrated Database—VA".

SUMMARY: The Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552(e)(4)) requires that each agency publish in the **Federal Register** a notice of the existence and character of its systems of records. Notice is hereby given that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is establishing a new system of records entitled, "Shipboard Hazard and Defense Integrated Database—VA" (128VA008A).

DATES: Comment on the establishment of this system of records must be received no later than October 30, 2003. If no public comment is received, the new system will become effective October 30, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Anyone may submit written comments concerning the proposed system of records to the Director, Regulations Management (00REG1), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420. Fax comments to (202) 273-9289; or e-mail comments to OGCRegulations@mail.va.gov. Comments will be available for public inspection at the above address in the Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Room 1063B, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (except holidays). Please call (202) 273-9515 for an appointment.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Dat Tran, Acting Director, Data Management and Analysis Service, Office of Policy (008A3), VA Central Office, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 273-6482.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Description of the Proposed Systems of Records

The Shipboard Hazard and Defense (SHAD) Integrated Database, located at VA Central Office (VACO), Washington, DC is a relational database. The database contains demographic, medical, and

benefits information on veterans identified as Project 112 participants. Project 112 was the Department of Defense's (DoD) comprehensive program of chemical and biological warfare vulnerability tests, which DoD conducted to determine how to protect U.S. military personnel against these health threats. Project SHAD tests were the shipboard tests. DoD conducted SHAD tests to evaluate the effectiveness of shipboard detection of chemical and biological agents, the effectiveness of protective measures, and risks to U.S. forces. Data for the integrated database was compiled from VA's Compensation and Pension Master Records (CPMR), Beneficiary Identification and Record Locator System (BIRLS), and Inpatient and Outpatient data systems by matching social security numbers to the records of the veterans. The purpose of the Shipboard Hazard and Defense Integrated Database is to combine information about veterans who have been identified by DoD as P-112 participants from multiple VA databases into one database. The comprehensive information will be used by the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) to assess the needs of these veterans, address their concerns about potential health risks, and monitor VA's outreach efforts.

II. Proposed Routine Use of Disclosures of Data in the System

1. The record of an individual who is covered by this system may be disclosed to a member of Congress or staff person acting for the member when the member or staff person requests the record on behalf of, and at the written request of, that individual. Individuals sometimes request the help of a member of Congress in resolving some issues relating to a matter before VA. The member of Congress then writes VA, and VA must be able to give sufficient information to be responsive to the inquiry.

2. Records covered by this system, as deemed necessary and proper, may be disclosed to named individuals serving as accredited service organization representatives and other individuals named as approved agents or attorneys for a documented purpose and period of time. The purpose of these disclosures should be to aid beneficiaries in the preparation and presentation of their cases during the verification and/or due process procedures and in the presentation and prosecution of claims under laws administered by VA.

3. A record containing the name(s) and address(es) of present or former members of the Armed Services and/or