

the extent that such provisions have been identified and an exemption claimed for the record and the purposes underlying the exemption for the record pertain to the record.

(3) Exemption from the particular subsections is justified for the following reasons:

(i) *Subsection (c)(3)*. To provide the subject with an accounting of disclosures of records in this system could inform that individual of the existence, nature, or scope of an actual or potential law enforcement or counterintelligence investigation, and thereby seriously impede law enforcement or counterintelligence efforts by permitting the record subject and other persons to whom he might disclose the records to avoid criminal penalties, civil remedies, or counterintelligence measures. Access to the accounting of disclosures could also interfere with a civil or administrative action or investigation which may impede those actions or investigations. Access also could reveal the identity of confidential sources incident to Federal employment, military service, contract, and security clearance determinations.

(ii) *Subsection (c)(4)*. This subsection is inapplicable to the extent that an exemption is being claimed for subsection (d).

(iii) *Subsection (d)(1)*. Disclosure of records in the system could reveal the identity of confidential sources and result in an unwarranted invasion of the privacy of others. Disclosure may also reveal information relating to actual or potential criminal investigations. Disclosure of classified national security information would cause damage to the national security of the United States. Disclosure could also interfere with a civil or administrative action or investigation; reveal the identity of confidential sources incident to Federal employment, military service, contract, and security clearance determinations; and reveal the confidentiality and integrity of Federal testing materials and evaluation materials used for military promotions when furnished by a confidential source.

(iv) *Subsection (d)(2)*. Amendment of the records could interfere with ongoing criminal or civil law enforcement

proceedings and impose an impossible administrative burden by requiring investigations to be continuously reinvestigated.

(v) *Subsections (d)(3) and (4)*. These subsections are inapplicable to the extent exemption is claimed from (d)(1) and (2).

(vi) *Subsection (e)(1)*. It is often impossible to determine in advance if investigatory records contained in this system are accurate, relevant, timely and complete, but, in the interests of effective law enforcement and counterintelligence, it is necessary to retain this information to aid in establishing patterns of activity and provide investigative leads.

(vii) *Subsection (e)(2)*. To collect information from the subject individual could serve notice that he or she is the subject of a criminal investigation and thereby present a serious impediment to such investigations.

(viii) *Subsection (e)(3)*. To inform individuals as required by this subsection could reveal the existence of a criminal investigation and compromise investigative efforts.

(ix) *Subsection (e)(4)(G), (H), and (I)*. These subsections are inapplicable to the extent exemption is claimed from (d)(1) and (2).

(x) *Subsection (e)(5)*. It is often impossible to determine in advance if investigatory records contained in this system are accurate, relevant, timely and complete, but, in the interests of effective law enforcement, it is necessary to retain this information to aid in establishing patterns of activity and provide investigative leads.

(xi) *Subsection (e)(8)*. To serve notice could give persons sufficient warning to evade investigative efforts.

(xii) *Subsection (g)*. This subsection is inapplicable to the extent that the system is exempt from other specific subsections of the Privacy Act.

(4) In addition, in the course of carrying out analysis for insider threats, exempt records from other systems of records may in turn become part of the case records maintained in this system. To the extent that copies of exempt records from those other systems of records are maintained into this system, the DoD claims the same exemptions for

the records from those other systems that are entered into this system, as claimed for the original primary system of which they are a part.

Dated: October 5, 2016.

**Aaron Siegel,**

*Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.*

[FR Doc. 2016-24536 Filed 10-14-16; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

**Coast Guard**

**33 CFR Part 165**

[Docket No. USCG-2016-0908]

**Safety Zones; Fireworks Events in Captain of the Port New York Zone**

**AGENCY:** Coast Guard, DHS.

**ACTION:** Notice of enforcement of regulation.

**SUMMARY:** The Coast Guard will enforce various safety zones within the Captain of the Port New York Zone on the specified date and time. This action is necessary to ensure the safety of vessels and spectators from hazards associated with fireworks displays. During the enforcement period, no person or vessel may enter the safety zone without permission of the Captain of the Port (COTP).

**DATES:** The regulation for the safety zones described in 33 CFR 165.160 will be enforced on the date and time listed in the table below.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** If you have questions on this notice, call or email Petty Officer First Class Ronald Sampert U.S. Coast Guard; telephone 718-354-4154, email [ronald.j.sampert@uscg.mil](mailto:ronald.j.sampert@uscg.mil).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

The Coast Guard will enforce the safety zones listed in 33 CFR 165.160 on the specified dates and times as indicated in Table 1 below. This regulation was published in the **Federal Register** on November 9, 2011 (76 FR 69614).

TABLE 1

<p>3. Tzell Travel Group Liberty Island Safety Zone 33 CFR 165.160(2.1).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launch site: A barge located in approximate position 40°41'16.5" N., 074°02'23" W. (NAD 1983), approximately 360 yards east of Liberty Island. This Safety Zone is a 240-yard radius from the barge.</li> <li>• Date: October 27, 2016.</li> <li>• Time: 8:50 p.m.–10:30 p.m.</li> </ul>
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Under the provisions of 33 CFR 165.160, vessels may not enter the safety zones unless given permission from the COTP or a designated representative. Spectator vessels may transit outside the safety zones but may not anchor, block, loiter in, or impede the transit of other vessels. The Coast Guard may be assisted by other Federal, State, or local law enforcement agencies in enforcing this regulation.

This notice is issued under authority of 33 CFR 165.160(a) and 5 U.S.C. 552 (a). In addition to this notice in the **Federal Register**, the Coast Guard will provide mariners with advanced notification of enforcement periods via the Local Notice to Mariners and marine information broadcasts.

If the COTP determines that a safety zone need not be enforced for the full duration stated in this notice, a Broadcast Notice to Mariners may be used to grant general permission to enter the safety zone.

Dated: September 29, 2016.

**M.H. Day,**

*Captain, U.S. Coast Guard, Captain of the Port New York.*

[FR Doc. 2016-25048 Filed 10-14-16; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### 38 CFR Part 3

RIN 2900-AP84

#### Extension of the Presumptive Period for Compensation for Gulf War Veterans

**AGENCY:** Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Interim final rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is issuing this interim final rule to amend its adjudication regulations regarding compensation for disabilities resulting from undiagnosed illnesses suffered by veterans who served in the Persian Gulf War. This amendment is necessary to extend the presumptive period for qualifying chronic disabilities resulting from undiagnosed illnesses that must become manifest to a compensable degree in order that entitlement for compensation be established. The intended effect of this amendment is to provide consistency in VA adjudication policy and preserve certain rights afforded to Persian Gulf War veterans and ensure fairness for current and future Persian Gulf War veterans.

**DATES:** *Effective date:* This interim final rule is effective October 17, 2016.

*Comment date:* Comments must be received on or before December 16, 2016.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments may be submitted through [www.Regulations.gov](http://www.Regulations.gov); by mail or hand-delivery to Director, Regulation Policy and Management (OOREG), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Room 1068, Washington, DC 20420; or by fax to (202) 273-9026. Comments should indicate that they are submitted in response to “RIN 2900-AP84—Extension of the Presumptive Period for Compensation for Gulf War Veterans.” Copies of comments received will be available for public inspection in the Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Room 1068, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (except holidays). Please call (202) 461-4902 for an appointment. (This is not a toll-free number.) In addition, during the comment period, comments may be viewed online through the Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) at [www.Regulations.gov](http://www.Regulations.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Stephanie Li, Chief, Regulations Staff (211D), Compensation Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 461-9700. (This is not a toll-free telephone number.)

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Background

In response to the needs and concerns of veterans who served in the Southwest Asia theater of operations during the Persian Gulf War, Congress enacted the Persian Gulf War Veterans' Benefits Act, Title I of the Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 1994, Public Law 103-446, which was codified in relevant part at 38 U.S.C. 1117. This law provided authority for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Secretary) to compensate eligible Gulf War veterans with a chronic disability resulting from undiagnosed illness. That illness must have become manifest either during active duty service in the Southwest Asia theater of operations during the Persian Gulf War, or disabling to a degree of ten percent or more during a period determined by the Secretary and prescribed by regulation. The Secretary would determine this period after reviewing any credible medical or scientific evidence, the historical treatment afforded disabilities for which VA had established such periods, and other pertinent circumstances regarding the experiences of veterans of the Persian Gulf War.

To implement 38 U.S.C. 1117, VA published a final rule to add 38 CFR

3.317, which established the framework for VA to pay compensation under the Persian Gulf War Veterans' Benefits Act. See 60 FR 6660-6666, Feb. 3, 1995. As part of that rulemaking, VA established a period of two years after Gulf War service in which VA would presume a medical relationship of an undiagnosed illness to that service. VA determined that there was little or no scientific or medical evidence at that time useful in determining an appropriate presumptive period for undiagnosed illnesses. Therefore, VA primarily based this two-year period on its history of establishing presumptive periods as well as the available facts regarding service in the Southwest Asia theater of operations during the Gulf War.

The lack of medical and scientific evidence about the nature and cause of the illnesses suffered by Gulf War veterans continued, as did the uncertainty of an appropriate presumptive period for undiagnosed illnesses. Accordingly, VA established December 31, 2001, as the date by which an undiagnosed illness must become manifest. See 62 FR 23138, Apr. 29, 1997. In 2001, VA again extended the period to December 31, 2006. See 66 FR 56614, Nov. 9, 2001.

In December 2001, section 202(a) of Public Law 107-103 amended 38 U.S.C. 1117 by revising the term “chronic disability” to include the following (or any combination thereof): (a) An undiagnosed illness; (b) a medically unexplained chronic multisymptom illness (such as chronic fatigue syndrome, fibromyalgia, and irritable bowel syndrome) that is defined by a cluster of signs and symptoms; or (c) any diagnosed illness that the Secretary determines warrants a presumption of service connection. The term “qualifying chronic disability” broadened the scope of those illnesses the Secretary may presume related to service. Under 38 U.S.C. 1117, a chronic disability must still occur during service in the Southwest Asia theater of operations during the Persian Gulf War, or to a degree of ten percent or more disabling during the prescribed presumptive period following such service. VA amended § 3.317 to reflect these changes. See 68 FR 34539, June 10, 2003.

As required by Public Law 105-368, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) reviews, evaluates, and summarizes the scientific and medical literature for possible association between service in the Southwest Asia theater of operations and long-term adverse health effects. Following review of such NAS reports, VA determined that the evidence remained inconclusive