DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Privacy Act of 1974; Matching Program

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

ACTION: Notice of a new matching program.

SUMMARY: This re-established computer matching agreement (CMA) sets forth the terms, conditions, and safeguards under which the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) will disclose return information, relating to unearned income, to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) for the Disclosure of Information to Federal, State and Local Agencies (DIFSLA). The purpose of this CMA is to make available to VBA certain return information needed to determine eligibility for, and amount of benefits for, VBA applicants and beneficiaries of needs-based benefits, and to adjust income-dependent benefit payments, as prescribed by law. Currently, the most cost effective and efficient way to verify annual income of applicants, and recipients of these benefits, is through a computer match.

DATES: Comments on this matching notice must be received no later than 30 days after date of publication in the Federal Register. If no public comments are received during the period allowed for comment, the re-established agreement will become effective July 1, 2018, provided it is a minimum of 30 days after the publication date. If VA receives public comments, VA shall review the substance of the comments to determine whether or not VA needs to take other actions. The CMA will be effective 30 days after the publication date even, if public comments are received. This matching program will be valid for 18 months from the effective date of this notice.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be submitted through www.Regulations.gov; by mail or hand-delivery to Director, Regulation Policy and Management (00REG), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Ave. NW, Room 1064, Washington, DC 20420; or by fax to (202) 273–9026 (not a toll-free number). Comments should indicate that they are submitted in response to a CMA between the IRS and VBA for DIFSLA. Copies of comments received will be available for public inspection in the Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Room 1063B, between the hours of 8:00 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, comments may be viewed online at www.Regulations.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Nancy C. Williams, Pension Analyst, Pension and Fiduciary Service (21P), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20420, (202) 461–8394.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

This re-established computer matching agreement (CMA) sets forth the terms, conditions, and safeguards under which the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) will disclose return information, relating to unearned income, to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) for the Disclosure of Information to Federal, State and Local Agencies (DIFSLA). The purpose of this CMA is to make available to VBA certain return information needed to determine eligibility for, and amount of benefits for, VBA applicants and beneficiaries of needs-based benefits, and to adjust income-dependent benefit payments, as prescribed by law. Currently, the most cost effective and efficient way to verify annual income of applicants, and recipients of these benefits, is through a computer match.

The IRS records consist of income of the VBA applicant or beneficiary and (when applicable) of such individual’s spouse from the
Information Return Master File (IRMF), Treasury/IRS 22.061, at 80 FR 54081–082 (September 8, 2015).

In accordance with the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. 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. This notice is provided in accordance with the provisions of Privacy Act of 1974 as amended by Public Law 100–503.

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES:
The Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

AUTHORITY FOR CONDUCTING THE MATCHING PROGRAM:
The Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552a, and 38 U.S.C. § 6103 authorize VA to enter into this CMA with IRS.

PURPOSE(S):
To re-establish a CMA with IRS to provide VA with certain return information needed to determine eligibility for and amount of benefits for VA applicants and beneficiaries of needs-based benefits and to adjust income-dependent benefit payments as prescribed by law.

CATEGORIES OF INDIVIDUALS:
Veterans and beneficiaries who apply for VA income benefits.

CATEGORIES OF RECORDS:
VBA will furnish the IRS with records in accordance with the current IRS Publication 3373, DIFSLA Handbook. The requests from VBA will include: The Social Security Number (SSN) and name control (first four characters of the surname) for each individual for whom unearned income information is requested. IRS will provide a response record for each individual identified by VBA. The total number of records will be equal to or greater than the number of records submitted by VBA. In some instances, an individual may have more than one record on file. When there is a match of individual SSN and name control, IRS will disclose the following to VBA: Payer account number; payee name and mailing address; payee TIN; payee name and address; payer TIN; and income type and amount.

SYSTEM(S) OF RECORDS:
VBA will extract return information with respect to unearned income of the VA applicant or beneficiary and (when applicable) of such individual’s spouse from the Information Return Master File (IRMF), Treasury/IRS 22.061, as published at 80 FR 54081–082 (September 8, 2015).

SIGNING AUTHORITY:
The Senior Agency Official for Privacy, or designee, approved this document and authorized the undersigned to sign and submit the document to the Office of the Federal Register for publication electronically as an official document of the Department of Veterans Affairs. John Oswalt, Executive Director for Privacy, Department of Veterans Affairs approved this document on March 7, 2018 for publication.


Kathleen M. Manwell,
Program Analyst, VA Privacy Service, Office of Privacy Information and Identity Protection, Office of Quality, Privacy and Risk, Office of Information and Technology, Department of Veterans Affairs.

[FR Doc. 2018–08745 Filed 4–25–18; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 8320–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Privacy Act of 1974: Matching Program

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice of a new computer matching program.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) intends to conduct a recurring computer matching program. This will match personnel records of the Department of Defense (DoD) with VA records of benefit recipients under the Montgomery GI Bill—Active Duty, Montgomery GI Bill—Selected Reserve, Post-9/11 GI Bill, and Reserve Educational Assistance Program. The purpose of the match is to identify the eligibility status of veterans, servicemembers, and reservists who have applied for or who are receiving education benefit payments under the Montgomery GI Bill—Active Duty, Montgomery GI Bill—Selected Reserve, Post-9/11 GI Bill, and Reserve Educational Assistance Program.

DATES: Comments on this match must be received no later than 30 days after date of publication in the Federal Register. If no public comment is received during the period allowed for comment or unless otherwise published in the Federal Register by VA, the match will become effective 30 days after date of publication in the Federal Register. If VA receives public comments, VA shall review the comments to determine whether any changes to the notice are necessary. This matching program will continue to be in effect for 18 months. At the expiration of 18 months after the commencing date, the Departments may renew the agreement for another 12 months.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be submitted through www.Regulations.gov; by mail or hand-delivery to Director, Regulation Policy and Management (00REG), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Ave. NW, Room 1064, Washington, DC 20420; or by fax to (202) 273–9026 (not a toll-free number). Comments should indicate that they are submitted in response to CMA VBA/DoD MGIB. All comments received will be available for public inspection in the Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Room 1063B, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (except holidays). Please call (202) 461–4902 (this is not a toll-free number) for an appointment.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Eric Patterson, Strategy, Legislative Development and Implementation Chief, Education Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420, (202) 461–9830.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This information is required by paragraph 6c of the “Guidelines on the Conduct of Matching Programs” issued by OMB (54 FR 25818), as amended by OMB Circular A–130, 65 FR 77677 (2000). The current matching agreement with the Department of Defense (DoD) expires March 27, 2018. The legal authority to conduct this match is 38 U.S.C. 5106, which requires any Federal department or agency to provide VA such information as VA requests for the purposes of determining eligibility for benefits, or verifying other information with respect to payment of benefits. A copy of the notice has been provided to both Houses of Congress and OMB. The matching program is subject to their review.

Participating Agencies: This computer match is between the Department of