

citations in the parent application not contained on an IDS listing or PTO-892 form will not be imported, including, for example, citations in a third-party submission under 37 CFR 1.290, Office actions, applicant responses, citations listed in the specification, affidavits/declarations, etc.

Note that in the first phase of the RPA Initiative, the Office will perform only a single importation of citations from the parent application. Any citations from IDS listings or PTO-892 forms appearing in the parent application after this single importation occurs will not be imported. To have such later-appearing citations printed on a patent issued from the continuing application, applicant must submit an IDS with the later-appearing citations.

(6) Examiner Consideration

Examiners will consider all documents corresponding to the imported citations that are compliant with 37 CFR 1.98 in the parent application. As explained previously, the imported citations will be listed on the Notice of Imported Citations, which will be given to the applicant at the time of importation and will be viewable in the electronic file wrapper record of the continuing application via the USPTO's PAIR system. The examiner will consider the information corresponding to the imported citations to the same extent as information submitted by the applicant in an IDS. See MPEP § 609.05(b).

The examiner will indicate consideration of the imported citations in a Notice of Consideration. Examiners will strike through each citation whose document was not considered in the continuing application. This includes any citation that was not compliant with 37 CFR 1.98 in the parent application (e.g., no copy was submitted) or the examiner was unable to consider the relevance of the imported citation for some other reason. However, citations that were not compliant under 37 CFR 1.97 in the parent application will be considered by the examiner in the continuing application, if compliant with 37 CFR 1.98. The examiner should inform the applicant in the first Office action of the reason(s) a citation was not considered. Applicant may then file an IDS to correct the deficiency in the imported citations. Note that the date the IDS is filed to correct the deficiency in the continuing application is the date for determining compliance with the timing requirements of 37 CFR 1.97. See MPEP § 609.05(a).

The examiner's signature on the Notice of Consideration will indicate that the documents corresponding to all

citations that have not been lined through have been considered. The Notice of Consideration should be provided with the first Office action on the merits in the continuing application.

(7) Publication of Imported Citations

All citations that have been imported from the parent application and indicated as considered on the Notice of Consideration will be printed on the patent issuing from the continuing application. These imported citations will be marked with a double-dagger on the patent to distinguish them from the other citations of record. If an item of information is cited more than once on the record (e.g., in a Notice of Consideration and on an IDS), the citation will be listed only once on the patent and will be distinguished as a citation that has been imported from a related application.

IV. Future Phases

As indicated previously, this RPA Initiative seeks to import relevant information for consideration by the examiner at an early time in prosecution while reducing the need for applicants to submit this same information in later-filed applications. The RPA Initiative will begin with the first phase outlined in section III. The USPTO expects to expand this RPA Initiative in subsequent phases to further enhance examination quality and reduce the need for applicants to resubmit citation lists and references.

The USPTO is evaluating how to expand the RPA Initiative in future phases and will use the data acquired in the first phase in making this determination. Currently, the USPTO is considering a first expansion of the RPA Initiative (second phase) to include the importation of U.S. and foreign patent citation information from related PCT and counterpart foreign applications. However, this could change based on the feedback received from examiners and stakeholders in the first phase. Further, the RPA Initiative may be expanded to increase the number of times information is imported from the parent application, as well as encompass more art units within the USPTO so that it will eventually be applicable in all applications regardless of classification.

The timetable for expansion and the chosen sources of expansion will be determined based upon the feedback obtained in the first phase. Applicants are encouraged to provide their feedback on the RPA Initiative to help the USPTO determine how best to expand the RPA Initiative in the next phase and in any future phases.

Comments are preferred using the IdeaScale tool which is available at <https://uspto-priorart.ideascale.com>.

Dated: October 19, 2018.

Andrei Iancu,

Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

[FR Doc. 2018-23338 Filed 10-24-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

[Docket ID: DOD-2018-OS-0083]

Privacy Act of 1974; System of Records

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary of Defense, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of a modified system of records.

SUMMARY: The Office of the Secretary of Defense proposes to modify a system of records titled, "Joint Advertising, Market Research & Studies (JAMRS) Survey Database," DHRA 05. JAMRS is an official Department of Defense program responsible for joint marketing communications and market research and studies. One of JAMRS' objectives is to explore the perceptions, beliefs, and attitudes of American youth as they relate to joining the Military. Understanding these factors is critical to the success of sustaining an All-Volunteer Force and helps ensure recruiting efforts are directed in the most efficient and beneficial manner.

DATES: Comments will be accepted on or before November 26, 2018. This proposed action will be effective the date following the end of the comment period unless comments are received which result in a contrary determination.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by docket number and title, by any of the following methods:

* *Federal Rulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

* *Mail:* Department of Defense, Office of the Chief Management Officer, Directorate of Oversight and Compliance, 4800 Mark Center Drive, Mailbox #24, Suite 08D09, Alexandria, VA 22350-1700.

Instructions: All submissions received must include the agency name and docket number for this **Federal Register** document. The general policy for comments and other submissions from members of the public is to make these

submissions available for public viewing on the internet at <http://www.regulations.gov> as they are received without change, including any personal identifiers or contact information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mrs. Luz D. Ortiz, Chief, Records, Privacy and Declassification Division (RPDD), 1155 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20311–1155, or by phone at (571) 372–0478.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) proposes to modify a system of records subject to the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. 552a. This system assists DoD marketing communications programs increase awareness of military service as a career option by compiling names of young adults aged 16 through maximum recruiting age to create a mailing frame from which to conduct surveys. These surveys are conducted multiple times a year and each survey is designed so that appropriate levels of precision can be achieved for inferences to be made at various geographic levels. The system also provides JAMRS with the ability to remove the names of individuals who are current/former members of, or are enlisting in, the Armed Forces and individuals who have asked to be removed from consideration as a participant in any future JAMRS survey. Multiple departments throughout the Federal Government rely on the research conducted by JAMRS, which is frequently reported to Congress. As a result of reviewing this system of records, the modification reformats the system of records notice (SORN), updates the system location, system manager, routine uses, record access procedures, contesting record procedures, and notification procedures.

The OSD notices for systems of records subject to the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, have been published in the **Federal Register** and are available from the address in **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** or at the Defense Privacy, Civil Liberties, and Transparency Division website at <https://defense.gov/privacy>.

The proposed systems reports, as required by the Privacy Act, as amended, were submitted on July 20, 2018, to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) pursuant to Section 6 to OMB Circular No. A–108, “Federal Agency Responsibilities for Review, Reporting, and Publication under the Privacy Act,”

revised December 23, 2016 (December 23, 2016, 81 FR 94424).

Dated: October 22, 2018.

Aaron T. Siegel,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

SYSTEM NAME AND NUMBER

Joint Advertising, Market Research & Studies (JAMRS) Survey Database, DHRA 05.

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION:

Unclassified.

SYSTEM LOCATION:

Epsilon Data Management, LLC, 2425 Busse Road, Elk Grove Village, IL 60007–5737.

SYSTEM MANAGER(S):

Program Manager, Office of People Analytics, Joint Advertising, Market Research & Studies (JAMRS), Suite 06J25, 4800 Mark Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22350–4000; email: info@jamrs.org.

AUTHORITY FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE SYSTEM:

10 U.S.C. 503(a), Enlistments; Recruiting campaigns; 10 U.S.C. 136, Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness; 10 U.S.C. 3013, Secretary of the Army; 10 U.S.C. 5013, Secretary of the Navy; 10 U.S.C. 8013, Secretary of the Air Force; 14 U.S.C. 350, Coast Guard; and 10 U.S.C. 2358, Research and development projects.

PURPOSE(S) OF THE SYSTEM:

To compile names of individuals aged 16 through maximum recruiting age to create a mailing frame from which to conduct surveys. These surveys will be conducted multiple times per year and each survey will be designed so that appropriate levels of precision can be achieved for inferences to be made at various geographic levels. The system also provides JAMRS with the ability to remove the names of individuals who are current/former members of, or are enlisting in, the Armed Forces, and individuals who have asked to be removed from consideration as a participant in any future JAMRS survey.

CATEGORIES OF INDIVIDUALS COVERED BY THE SYSTEM:

Individuals aged 16 through maximum recruiting age; Selective Service System registrants; individuals who have taken the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test; current military personnel who are on Active Duty or in the Reserves; prior service individuals who still have remaining Military Service Obligation (commonly known as the Individual

Ready Reserve or IRR); individuals who are in the process of enlisting or enrolled in ROTC (commonly known as the Military Entrance Program Command (MEPCOM) applicant file); and individuals who have asked to be removed from consideration as a participant in any future JAMRS survey.

Opt-Out Information: Individuals, who are 15½ years old or older, or parents or legal guardians acting on behalf of individuals who are between the ages of 15½ and 18 years old, seeking to have their name or the name of their child or ward, as well as other identifying data, removed from this system of records (or removed in the future when such information is obtained), should address written Opt-Out requests to Joint Advertising, Marketing Research & Studies (JAMRS), ATTN: Survey Project Officer, Suite 06J25, 4800 Mark Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22350–4000. Such requests must contain the full name, date of birth, and current address of the individual.

Opt-Out requests will be honored until the individual is no longer eligible for recruitment. However, because Opt-Out screening is based, in part, on the current address of the individual, any change in address will require the submission of a new opt-out request with the new address.

CATEGORIES OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:

Individual's name, gender, mailing address, date of birth, ethnicity, Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test results, and information source code.

RECORD SOURCE CATEGORIES:

State Department of Motor Vehicle offices; commercial information brokers/vendors; the Selective Service System; the Defense Manpower Data Center; the United States Military Entrance Processing Command for individuals who have taken the ASVAB test; and individuals who have submitted written “Opt-Out” requests.

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

In addition to those disclosures generally permitted under 5 U.S.C. 552a(b) of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, these records contained herein may specifically be disclosed outside the DoD as a routine use pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(b)(3) as follows:

a. To the Department of Homeland Security to support the development of advertising and market research targeted at prospective United States Coast Guard recruits.

b. To contractors, grantees, experts, consultants, students, and others performing or working on a contract, service, grant, cooperative agreement, or other assignment for the Federal Government when necessary to accomplish an agency function related to this system of records.

c. To the appropriate Federal, State, local, territorial, tribal, foreign, or international law enforcement authority or other appropriate entity where a record, either alone or in conjunction with other information, indicates a violation or potential violation of law, whether criminal, civil, or regulatory in nature.

d. To any component of the Department of Justice for the purpose of representing the DoD, or its components, officers, employees, or members in pending or potential litigation to which the record is pertinent.

e. In an appropriate proceeding before a court, grand jury, or administrative or adjudicative body or official, when the DoD or other Agency representing the DoD determines that the records are relevant and necessary to the proceeding; or in an appropriate proceeding before an administrative or adjudicative body when the adjudicator determines the records to be relevant to the proceeding.

f. To the National Archives and Records Administration for the purpose of records management inspections conducted under the authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906.

g. To a Member of Congress or staff acting upon the Member's behalf when the Member or staff requests the information on behalf of, and at the request of, the individual who is the subject of the record.

h. To appropriate agencies, entities, and persons when (1) the DoD suspects or has confirmed that there has been a breach of the system of records; (2) the DoD has determined that as a result of the suspected or confirmed breach there is a risk of harm to individuals, the DoD (including its information systems, programs, and operations), the Federal Government, or national security; and (3) the disclosure made to such agencies, entities, and persons is reasonably necessary to assist in connection with the DoD's efforts to respond to the suspected or confirmed breach or to prevent, minimize, or remedy such harm.

i. To another Federal agency or Federal entity, when the DoD determines that information from this system of records is reasonably necessary to assist the recipient agency or entity in (1) responding to a

suspected or confirmed breach or (2) preventing, minimizing, or remedying the risk of harm to individuals, the recipient agency or entity (including its information systems, programs and operations), the Federal Government, or national security, resulting from a suspected or confirmed breach.

POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR STORAGE OF RECORDS:

Records are maintained in electronic storage media.

POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR RETRIEVAL OF RECORDS:

Records are retrieved by individual's full name, address, and date of birth.

POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR RETENTION AND DISPOSAL OF RECORDS:

System records are destroyed/deleted 1 year after the JAMRS survey contact list has been created.

ADMINISTRATIVE, TECHNICAL, AND PHYSICAL SAFEGUARDS:

Access to information in the database is highly restricted and limited to those that require the records in the performance of their official duties. The database utilizes a layered approach of overlapping controls, monitoring and authentication to ensure overall security of the data, network and system resources. Sophisticated physical security, perimeter security (firewall, intrusion prevention), access control, authentication, encryption, data transfer, and monitoring solutions prevent unauthorized access from internal and external sources.

RECORD ACCESS PROCEDURES:

Individuals seeking access to records about themselves contained in this system should address inquiries to the Office of the Secretary of Defense/Joint Staff, Freedom of Information Act Requester Service Center, Office of Freedom of Information, 1155 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-1155.

Signed, written requests should contain the full name, date of birth, and current address of the individual as well as the name and number of this System of Records Notice. In addition, the requester must provide either a notarized statement or an unsworn declaration made in accordance with 28 U.S.C. 1746, in the following format:

If executed outside the United States: "I declare (or certify, verify, or state) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on (date). (Signature)."

If executed within the United States, its territories, possessions, or commonwealths: "I declare (or certify,

verify, or state) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on (date). (Signature)."

CONTESTING RECORD PROCEDURES:

The Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) rules for accessing records, for contesting contents, and for appealing initial agency determinations are contained in OSD Administrative Instruction 81; 32 CFR part 311, or may be obtained from the system manager.

NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES:

Individuals seeking to determine whether information about themselves is contained in this system should address inquiries to the Joint Advertising, Market Research & Studies (JAMRS), Direct Marketing Program Officer, 4800 Mark Center Drive, Suite 06J25, Alexandria, VA 22350-4000.

Signed, written requests must include the name and number of this SORN as well as the requester's name and current address. In addition, the requester must provide either a notarized statement or an unsworn declaration made in accordance with 28 U.S.C. 1746, in the following format:

If executed outside the United States: "I declare (or certify, verify, or state) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on (date). (Signature)."

If executed within the United States, its territories, possessions, or commonwealths: "I declare (or certify, verify, or state) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on (date). (Signature)."

EXEMPTIONS PROMULGATED FOR THE SYSTEM:

None.

HISTORY:

December 22, 2011, 76 FR 795661.

[FR Doc. 2018-23309 Filed 10-24-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Annual Notice of Interest Rates for Variable-Rate Federal Student Loans Made Under the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program

AGENCY: Federal Student Aid, Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Acting Chief Operating Officer for Federal Student Aid announces the interest rates for Federal Direct Stafford/Ford Loans (Direct Subsidized Loans), Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford/Ford Loans (Direct Unsubsidized Loans), and