DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

[Docket ID DoD–2021–OS–0028]

Privacy Act of 1974; System of Records

AGENCY: Defense Media Activity (DMA), Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Notice of a modified system of records.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, the DoD is modifying and reissuing a current system of records titled, “DoD Media Pool and Pentagon Correspondent Files,” DPAD 12.0. This system of records was originally established by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs) to collect and maintain records on news media representatives nominated by their respective bureaus to be members of the DoD Media Pool and Pentagon correspondents who may conduct interviews with Pentagon executive-level personnel. This system of records notice (SORN) is being updated to incorporate the DoD standard routine uses and support additional information sharing of these records outside of the DoD. The routine uses are proposed to be updated to allow for disclosure to the Department of State to issue passports/visas to these individuals, and to foreign embassies to obtain a foreign entry visa for these individuals. The DoD is also modifying various other sections within the SORN to improve clarity or update information that has changed.

DATES: This system of records modification is effective upon publication; however, comments on the Routine Uses will be accepted on or before June 2, 2021. The Routine Uses are effective at the close of the comment period.

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


Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

* Mail: DoD cannot receive written comments at this time due to the COVID–19 pandemic. Comments should be sent electronically to the docket listed above.

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 https://www.regulations.gov as they are received without change, including any personal identifiers or contact information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Tanya Rose, Director, Information Management, Department of Defense, 1155 Defense Pentagon, Room 2E989, Washington, DC 20301.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The DoD Media Pool and Pentagon Correspondent Files system of records is used to issue Pentagon building and media press passes, arrange foreign clearances and visas, and to determine an individual’s suitability/preparedness for deployment with the media pool. Subject to public comment, the DoD proposes to add a new routine use (routine use J) to disclose information from this system of records to the Department of State to support issuance of media passports/visas. The DoD proposes to add another new routine use (routine use K) to support sharing of information with foreign embassies to allow members of the media to obtain foreign entry visas. In addition to updating the routine use section, the other modifications are (1) to the Authority for Maintenance of the System section to update citation(s) and add additional authorities; (2) to the Categories of Individuals Covered by the System section to clarify the individuals covered and Categories of Records to clarify how the records relate to the Category of Individuals; (3) to the Administrative, Technical, and Physical Safeguards to update the individual safeguards protecting the personal information; (4) to the Retention and Disposal section to reflect the approved disposition; (5) to the Record Access Procedures section to reflect the need for individuals to identify the appropriate DoD office or component to which their request should be directed; (6) to the Contesting Records Procedures section to update the appropriate citation for contesting records; and (7) to the System Manager and System Location sections to update the addresses and office names. Furthermore, this notice includes non-substantive changes to simplify the formatting and text of the previously published notice.

The DoD notices for systems of records subject to the Privacy Act of