

Follow the instructions to view Department of Commerce, USPTO information collections currently under review by OMB.

Written comments and recommendations for this information collection should be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice on the following website www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this particular information collection by selecting “Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function and entering either the title of the information collection or the OMB Control Number 0651–0061.

Further information can be obtained by:

- *Email:* InformationCollection@uspto.gov. Include “0651–0061 information request” in the subject line of the message.
- *Mail:* Kimberly Hardy, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313–1450.

Kimberly Hardy,

Information Collections Officer, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office.

[FR Doc. 2021–19996 Filed 9–15–21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–16–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No.: PTO–P–2021–0042]

Extension of the Motion To Amend Pilot Program in Trial Proceedings Under the America Invents Act Before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is extending the Motion to Amend (MTA) Pilot Program, which was initiated on March 15, 2019, and provides additional options for a patent owner who files an MTA before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB). In particular, the MTA Pilot Program provides a patent owner who files an MTA with options to request preliminary guidance from the PTAB on the MTA and to file a revised MTA. The program also provides timelines for briefing to accommodate these options.

DATES: *Effective Date:* September 16, 2021. *Duration:* The MTA Pilot Program

will run until September 16, 2022. The USPTO may extend the MTA Pilot Program (with or without modification) on either a temporary or a permanent basis, or may discontinue the program after that date.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jessica Kaiser, Lead Administrative Patent Judge, or Michelle Ankenbrand, Lead Administrative Patent Judge, by telephone at 571–272–9797.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A patent owner in an America Invents Act (AIA) trial proceeding may file an MTA as a matter of right. *See* 35 U.S.C. 316(d)(1), 326(d)(1). After receiving feedback from the public about the PTAB’s MTA practice, including some concerns regarding the grant rate of claim amendments in AIA trial proceedings, in October 2018 the USPTO published a Request for Comments in the **Federal Register** seeking written public comments on a proposed amendment process in AIA trials that would involve preliminary guidance from the PTAB on the merits of an MTA and an opportunity for a patent owner to file a revised MTA (Request for Comments on Motion To Amend Practice and Procedures in Trial Proceedings Under the America Invents Act Before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board, 83 FR 54319 (Oct. 29, 2018)). The majority of comments supported the PTAB issuing a preliminary decision in cases involving an MTA, and commenters were almost evenly mixed in supporting or opposing a revised MTA. On March 15, 2019, in response to the stakeholder comments received, the USPTO issued a notice detailing the MTA Pilot Program (Notice Regarding a New Pilot Program Concerning Motion To Amend Practice and Procedures in Trial Proceedings Under the America Invents Act Before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board, 84 FR 9497 (Mar. 15, 2019)).

The MTA Pilot Program provides a patent owner with two options not previously available: (1) A patent owner may choose to receive preliminary guidance from the PTAB on its MTA, and/or (2) A patent owner may choose to file a revised MTA after receiving the petitioner’s opposition to the original MTA and/or after receiving the PTAB’s preliminary guidance (if requested). If a patent owner does not elect either the option to receive preliminary guidance or the option to file a revised MTA, AIA trial practice, including MTA practice, is essentially unchanged from the practice prior to the MTA Pilot Program.

The USPTO has presented preliminary results of the MTA Pilot Program and continues to track data related to MTAs. The most recent

information and statistics related to MTAs are available on the USPTO’s website at www.uspto.gov/patents/ptab/motions-amend-study.

Based on the preliminary results of the MTA Pilot Program, the USPTO has decided to extend it. The program is hereby extended through September 16, 2022. The USPTO may extend the MTA Pilot Program (with or without modification) on either a temporary or a permanent basis, or may discontinue the program after that date.

The requirements for the MTA Pilot Program remain as set forth in the original notice, without modification at this time.

Andrew Hirshfeld,

Commissioner for Patents, Performing the Functions and Duties of the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

[FR Doc. 2021–20037 Filed 9–15–21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–16–P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

[Docket ID: DoD–2021–OS–0097]

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Information collection notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the *Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995*, the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness announces a proposed public information collection and seeks public comment on the provisions thereof. Comments are invited on: Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; the accuracy of the agency’s estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Consideration will be given to all comments received by November 15, 2021.

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

Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. 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, docket number and title 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: To request more information on this proposed information collection or to obtain a copy of the proposal and associated collection instruments, please write to Defense Human Resources Activity, 4800 Mark Center Drive, Suite 08F05, Alexandria, VA 22350, LaTarsha Yeargins, 571-372-2089.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title; Associated Form; and OMB Number: National Language Service Corps (NSLC) Application and Assessment; DD Form 2932, DD Form 2933, DD Form 2934; OMB Control Number 0704-0449.

Needs and Uses: The NLSC recruits from the general public and enrolls individuals who would like to volunteer their language skills. The NLSC identifies U.S. citizens who can provide high levels of proficiency in foreign languages and cultural expertise critical to national security for short-term temporary assignments when other resources are not available. The NLSC will fill gaps between requirements of DoD or other departments or agencies of the United States and available language skills where government employees are required or desired. The NLSC will reach out to U.S. citizens (age 18 or over) who can read, listen, speak, and write in English and read, listen, write and speak at least one other specified language, generally at or above skill level 3 as described by the proficiency guidelines of the Federal Interagency Language Roundtable (ILR). The DoD and the Intelligence Community agencies use these guidelines as the basis for language skill requirements identification, position descriptions, readiness indices and language bonus pay systems. Therefore, the ILR proficiency guidelines represent a common metric used by USG agencies

as a basis for policy, planning and human capital decisions in operational, mission critical areas where language is required.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Annual Burden Hours: 1,020 hours.

Number of Respondents: 1,700.

Responses per Respondent: 3.

Annual Responses: 5,100.

Average Burden per Response: 12 minutes.

Frequency: On occasion.

Dated: September 10, 2021.

Kayyonne T. Marston,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 2021-19954 Filed 9-15-21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

[Docket ID: DoD-2020-OS-0104]

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: National Defense University, Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: 30-Day information collection notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Defense has submitted to OMB for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act.

DATES: Consideration will be given to all comments received by October 18, 2021.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this particular information collection by selecting "Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments" or by using the search function.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Angela Duncan, 571-372-7574, or whs.mc-alex.esd.mbx.dd-dod-information-collections@mail.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title; Associated Form; and OMB Number: National Defense University Security Office Forms; OMB Control Number 0704-NDUS.

Type of Request: Existing collection in use without an OMB Control Number.

Number of Respondents: 385.

Responses per Respondent: 1.

Annual Responses: 385.

Average Burden per Response: 12 minutes.

Annual Burden Hours: 77.

Needs and Uses: The National Defense University (NDU) Security Office is responsible for ensuring personnel and facility security in all situations involving NDU employees. This includes ensuring that an appropriate background investigation is completed and favorably adjudicated in accordance with 32 CFR 156.6—Common access card (CAC) investigation and adjudication. It is also necessary for the NDU Security Office to process visit clearance certification for NDU employees that are visiting outside agencies/components facilities involving access to, or disclosure of, classified information. In accordance with DoDM 5200.01, volume 3 and DoDD 5230.20 at a minimum, data is required to identify an individual, personnel security clearance, access (if appropriate), and need to know for all visitors. NDU Security Office is also responsible for in-processing all permanent personnel (military, civilians, contractors, and foreign partners assigned to the colleges and centers within NDU's area of responsibility). In accordance with HSPD-12 and FIPS 201, the data provided is necessary to process Personal Identity Verification (PIV) credentials to personnel seeking physical access to federally-controlled government facilities. The three forms included in this collection package—the NDU eQIP Nomination Form, NDU Visit Request Form, and NDU Security In-Process Form—facilitate each of these processes, respectively. Respondents to this collection are National Defense University employees who must provide information to the NDU Security Office to facilitate essential personnel, facility, and information security functions. This includes information necessary to complete a background investigation for CAC card issuance (NDU eQIP Nomination Form), information for in-processing and PIV credentialing (NDU Security In-Process Form), and information for visit clearance certification (NDU Visit Request Form).

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Frequency: On occasion.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

OMB Desk Officer: Ms. Jasmeet Sehra.

You may also submit comments and recommendations, identified by Docket ID number and title, by the following method:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

Instructions: All submissions received must include the agency name, Docket ID number, and title for this **Federal**