

Dated: February 12, 2024.

**Daniel W. Peck,**

*Executive Director, U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission.*

[FR Doc. 2024-03174 Filed 2-14-24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 1137-00-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0659]

### Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review: Statement in Support of Claimed Mental Health Disorder(s) Due to an In-Service Traumatic Event(s)

**AGENCY:** Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, this notice announces that the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of Veterans Affairs, will submit the collection of information abstracted below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The PRA submission describes the nature of the information collection and its expected cost and burden and it includes the actual data collection instrument.

**DATES:** 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](http://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. Refer to “OMB Control No. 2900-0659.”

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Maribel Aponte, Office of Enterprise and Integration, Data Governance Analytics (008), 810 Vermont Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20006, (202) 266-4688 or email [maribel.aponte@va.gov](mailto:maribel.aponte@va.gov). Please refer to “OMB Control No. 2900-0659” in any correspondence.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Authority:* 38 U.S.C. 5103(a), 38 U.S.C. 5107(a), Public Law 117-271, Public Law 117-303, 38 CFR 3.304(f).

*Title:* Statement in Support of Claimed Mental Health Disorder(s) Due to an In-Service Traumatic Event(s) (VA Form 21-0781).

*OMB Control Number:* 2900-0659.

*Type of Review:* Revision of a currently approved collection.

*Abstract:* VA Form 21-0781 is primarily used to gather certain information about in-service stressors, so VA may assist claimants in establishing the occurrence of the claimed stressor(s). To establish a grant of service-connected compensation, there must be evidence to support the in-service stressor(s) reported by the veteran. This form is voluntary, however, without this information, VA cannot thoroughly assist certain claimants with the research of military records and other sources of information for supporting evidence about the in-service stressor(s). The form requests information that is necessary to conduct meaningful research of evidence to help substantiate the claim.

This revision combines the two previously approved forms under this collection number into *one* form: resulting in the discontinuance of the previously approved VA Form 21-0781a, a new title, and a total reduction overall of burden on the claimant.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on this collection of information was published at 88 FR 86220 on December 12, 2023.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or Households.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 87,436.

*Estimated Average Burden per Respondent:* 45 minutes.

*Frequency of Response:* One time.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 116, 581.

By direction of the Secretary.

**Dorothy Glasgow,**

*VA PRA Clearance Officer, (Alt), Office of Enterprise and Integration, Data Governance Analytics, Department of Veterans Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 2024-03148 Filed 2-14-24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8320-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0862]

### Agency Information Collection Activity: Decision Review Request: Higher-Level Review

**AGENCY:** Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, this notice announces that the

Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, will submit the collection of information abstracted below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The PRA submission describes the nature of the information collection and its expected cost and burden and it includes the actual data collection instrument.

**DATES:** Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice by clicking on the following link [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain), and select “Currently under Review—Open for Public Comments”, then search the list for the information collection by Title or “OMB Control No. 2900-0862.”

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Maribel Aponte, Office of Enterprise and Integration, Data Governance Analytics (008), 810 Vermont Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20420, (202) 266-4688 or email [maribel.aponte@va.gov](mailto:maribel.aponte@va.gov). Please refer to “OMB Control No. 2900-0862” in any correspondence.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Authority:* Public Law 115-55; 44 U.S.C. 3501-21.

*Title:* Decision Review Request: Higher-Level Review (VA Form 20-0996).

*OMB Control Number:* 2900-0862.

*Type of Review:* Revision of a currently approved collection.

*Abstract:* VA Form 20-0996, *Decision Review Request: Higher-Level Review* is used by a claimant to formally request a higher-level review of a VA decision as the agency of original jurisdiction, in accordance with the Appeals Modernization Act. The information collected is used by VA to identify the issues which the claimant wishes to dispute in their request for a higher-level review. Additionally, the information collected is used to schedule a telephonic informal conference, when requested.

This is an extension of a currently approved collection which was due for renewal. No substantive changes were made to the collection. Minor changes were made to the instructions to make the instructions easier to understand. The requirement to sign in ink was removed. Changes were made to the Optional Informal Conference and Issues For Higher-Level Review sections to make these sections easier for claimants to understand and complete.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB