

I Order for U.S. Savings Bonds (PD F 5374); and Series I Order for U.S. Savings Bonds to be Registered in Name of Fiduciary (PD F5374-1).

*Description:* These forms are completed by the purchaser to issue United States Savings Bonds.

*Respondents:* Individuals or households.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 10,000,000.

*Estimated Burden Hours Per Respondent:* 5 minutes per form.

*Frequency of Response:* On occasion.

*Estimated Total Reporting Burden Hours:* 830,000 hours.

*OMB Number:* 1535-0102.

*Form Number:* PD F 1071.

*Type of Review:* Extension.

*Title:* Certificate of Ownership of United States Bearer Securities.

*Description:* PD F 1071 is used to establish ownership and support a request for payment.

*Respondents:* Individuals or households, Business or other for-profit.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 1,000.

*Estimated Burden Hours Per Respondent:* 15 minutes.

*Frequency of Response:* On occasion.

*Estimated Total Reporting Burden Hours:* 250 hours.

*OMB Number:* 1535-0126.

*Form Number:* PD F 3871.

*Type of Review:* Extension.

*Title:* Application for Issue of United States Mortgage Guaranty Insurance Company Tax and Loss Bonds.

*Description:* PD F 3871 is submitted by companies engaged in the business of writing mortgage guaranty insurance for purpose of purchasing "Tax and Loss" bonds.

*Respondents:* Business or other for-profit.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 37  
*Estimated Burden Hours Per Respondent:* 15 minutes.

*Frequency of Response:* On occasion.

*Estimated Total Reporting Burden Hours:* 20 hours.

*Clearance Officer:* Vicki S. Thorpe (304) 480-6553, Bureau of the Public Debt, 200 Third Street, Parkersburg, West VA 26106-1328.

*OMB Reviewer:* Joseph F. Lackey, Jr., Office of Management and Budget, Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503, (202) 395-7316.

**Mary A. Able,**

*Departmental Reports Management Officer.*  
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**BILLING CODE 4810-39-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Diseases Not Associated With Exposure to Certain Herbicide Agents

**AGENCY:** Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** As required by law, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) hereby gives notice that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, under the authority granted by the Agent Orange Act of 1991 and the Veterans Education and Benefits Expansion Act of 2001, has determined that a presumption of service connection based on exposure to herbicides used in the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam Era is not warranted for the following conditions: Hepatobiliary cancers, nasopharyngeal cancer, bone and joint cancer, breast cancer, cancers of the female reproductive system, urinary bladder cancer, renal cancer, testicular cancer, leukemia (other than chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL)), abnormal sperm parameters and infertility, Parkinson's disease and parkinsonism, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), chronic persistent peripheral neuropathy, lipid and lipoprotein disorders, gastrointestinal and digestive disease, immune system disorders, circulatory disorders, respiratory disorders (other than certain respiratory cancers), skin cancer, cognitive and neuropsychiatric effects, gastrointestinal tract tumors, brain tumors, light chain-associated (AL) amyloidosis, endometriosis, adverse effects on thyroid homeostasis, and any other condition for which the Secretary has not specifically determined a presumption of service connection is warranted.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Cheryl Konieczny, Consultant, Regulations Staff, Compensation and Pension Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420, telephone (202) 273-6779.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 3 of the Agent Orange Act of 1991, Pub. L. 102-4, 105 Stat. 11, directed the Secretary to seek to enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to review and summarize the scientific evidence concerning the association between exposure to herbicides used in support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam Era and each disease suspected to be associated with such exposure. Congress mandated that NAS determine, to the extent possible: (1) Whether there is a

statistical association between the suspect diseases and herbicide exposure, taking into account the strength of the scientific evidence and the appropriateness of the methods used to detect the association; (2) the increased risk of disease among individuals exposed to herbicides during service in the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam Era; and (3) whether there is a plausible biological mechanism or other evidence of a causal relationship between herbicide exposure and the suspect disease. Section 3 of Pub. L. 102-4 also required that NAS submit reports on its activities every two years (as measured from the date of the first report) for a ten-year period.

Section 2 of Pub. L. 102-4, codified in pertinent part at 38 U.S.C. 1116(b) and (c), provides that whenever the Secretary determines, based on sound medical and scientific evidence, that a positive association (*i.e.*, the credible evidence for the association is equal to or outweighs the credible evidence against the association) exists between exposure of humans to an herbicide agent (*i.e.*, a chemical in an herbicide used in support of the United States and allied military operations in the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam Era) and a disease, the Secretary will publish regulations establishing presumptive service connection for that disease. If the Secretary determines that a presumption of service connection is not warranted, he is to publish a notice of that determination, including an explanation of the scientific basis for that determination. The Secretary's determination must be based on consideration of the NAS reports and all other sound medical and scientific information and analysis available to the Secretary.

Section 2 of the Agent Orange Act of 1991 provided that the Secretary's authority and duties under that section would expire 10 years after the first day of the fiscal year in which NAS transmitted its first report to VA. The first NAS report was transmitted to VA in July 1993, during the fiscal year that began on October 1, 1992. Accordingly, VA's authority under section 2 of the Agent Orange Act of 1991 expired on September 30, 2002. In December 2001, however, Congress enacted the Veterans Education and Benefits Expansion Act of 2001, Public Law 107-103. Section 201(d) of that Act extended VA's authority under 38 U.S.C. 1116(b)-(d) through September 30, 2015.

Although 38 U.S.C. 1116 does not define "credible," it does instruct the Secretary to "take into consideration whether the results [of any study] are