

Title: Request for Accelerated Payment; Certifications Required from Individuals Electing Accelerated Payments; and Agreement with Educational Institution.

OMB Control Number: 2900-0636.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: A claimant who wishes to receive an accelerated payment of educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) must elect to do so. VA uses the request to support the claimant's election and to determine whether the claimant wants this option over the established monthly payments. The claimant is required to report that the payment was received and how the payment was used. In addition, schools are allowed to receive an advance MGIB accelerated payment on behalf of a claimant enrolled at that institution.

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 on July 3, 2003, at pages 40022-40023.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 1,086 hours.

a. Request for Accelerated Payment—167 hours.

b. Certifications Required from Individuals Electing Accelerated Payments—833 hours.

c. Agreement with Educational Institutions—86 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent:

a. Request for Accelerated Payment—1 minute.

b. Certifications Required from Individuals Electing Accelerated Payments—5 minutes.

c. Agreement with Educational Institutions—3 minutes.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 13,727

a. Request for Accelerated Payment—6,000.

b. Certifications Required from Individuals Electing Accelerated Payments—6,000.

c. Agreement with Educational Institutions—1,727.

Estimated Annual Responses: 21,727.

a. Request for Accelerated Payment—10,000.

b. Certifications Required from Individuals Electing Accelerated Payments—10,000.

c. Agreement with Educational Institutions—1,727.

Dated: September 16, 2003.

By direction of the Secretary:

Jacqueline Parks,

IT Specialist, Records Management Service.

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BILLING CODE 8320-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Privacy Act of 1974; System of Records

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

ACTION: Notice of New System of Records "Shipboard Hazard and Defense Integrated Database—VA".

SUMMARY: The Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552(e)(4)) requires that each agency publish in the **Federal Register** a notice of the existence and character of its systems of records. Notice is hereby given that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is establishing a new system of records entitled, "Shipboard Hazard and Defense Integrated Database—VA" (128VA008A).

DATES: Comment on the establishment of this system of records must be received no later than October 30, 2003. If no public comment is received, the new system will become effective October 30, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Anyone may submit written comments concerning the proposed system of records to the Director, Regulations Management (00REG1), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420. Fax comments to (202) 273-9289; or e-mail comments to OGCRegulations@mail.va.gov.

Comments will be available for public inspection at the above address in the Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Room 1063B, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (except holidays). Please call (202) 273-9515 for an appointment.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Dat Tran, Acting Director, Data Management and Analysis Service, Office of Policy (008A3), VA Central Office, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 273-6482.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Description of the Proposed Systems of Records

The Shipboard Hazard and Defense (SHAD) Integrated Database, located at VA Central Office (VACO), Washington, DC is a relational database. The database contains demographic, medical, and

benefits information on veterans identified as Project 112 participants. Project 112 was the Department of Defense's (DoD) comprehensive program of chemical and biological warfare vulnerability tests, which DoD conducted to determine how to protect U.S. military personnel against these health threats. Project SHAD tests were the shipboard tests. DoD conducted SHAD tests to evaluate the effectiveness of shipboard detection of chemical and biological agents, the effectiveness of protective measures, and risks to U.S. forces. Data for the integrated database was compiled from VA's Compensation and Pension Master Records (CPMR), Beneficiary Identification and Record Locator System (BIRLS), and Inpatient and Outpatient data systems by matching social security numbers to the records of the veterans. The purpose of the Shipboard Hazard and Defense Integrated Database is to combine information about veterans who have been identified by DoD as P-112 participants from multiple VA databases into one database. The comprehensive information will be used by the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) to assess the needs of these veterans, address their concerns about potential health risks, and monitor VA's outreach efforts.

II. Proposed Routine Use of Disclosures of Data in the System

1. The record of an individual who is covered by this system may be disclosed to a member of Congress or staff person acting for the member when the member or staff person requests the record on behalf of, and at the written request of, that individual. Individuals sometimes request the help of a member of Congress in resolving some issues relating to a matter before VA. The member of Congress then writes VA, and VA must be able to give sufficient information to be responsive to the inquiry.

2. Records covered by this system, as deemed necessary and proper, may be disclosed to named individuals serving as accredited service organization representatives and other individuals named as approved agents or attorneys for a documented purpose and period of time. The purpose of these disclosures should be to aid beneficiaries in the preparation and presentation of their cases during the verification and/or due process procedures and in the presentation and prosecution of claims under laws administered by VA.

3. A record containing the name(s) and address(es) of present or former members of the Armed Services and/or