

Dated: October 16, 2003.

**Patricia L. Toppings,**

*Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison  
Officer, Department of Defense.*

**Notice of a Computer Matching  
Program Between the Department of  
Veterans Affairs and the Department of  
Defense for Verification of Disability  
Compensation**

**A. Participating Agencies**

Participants in this computer matching program are the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) of the Department of Defense (DoD). The VA is the source agency, *i.e.*, the activity disclosing the records for the purpose of the match. The DMDC is the specific recipient activity or matching agency, *i.e.*, the agency that actually performs the computer matching.

**B. Purpose of the Match**

The purpose of this agreement is to verify an individual's continuing eligibility for VA benefits by identifying VA disability benefit recipients who return to active duty and to ensure that benefits are terminated if appropriate. VA will provide identifying information on disability compensation recipients to DMDC to match against a file of active duty (including full-time National Guard and Reserve) personnel. The purpose is to identify those recipients who have returned to active duty and are ineligible to receive VA compensation so that benefits can be adjusted or terminated, if in order.

**C. Authority for Conducting the Match**

The legal authority for conducting the matching program for use in the administration of VA's Compensation and Pension Benefits Program is contained in 38 U.S.C. 5304(c), Prohibition Against Duplication of Benefits, which precludes pension, compensation, or retirement pay on account of any person's own service, for any period for which he receives active duty pay. The head of any Federal department or agency shall provide, pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 5106, such information as requested by VA for the purpose of determining eligibility for, or amount of benefits, or verifying other information which respect thereto.

**D. Records to be Matched**

The systems of records maintained by the respective agencies under the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, 5 U.S.C. 552a, from which records will be disclosed for the purpose of this computer match are as follows:

VA will use the system of records identified as "VA Compensation,

Pension and Education and Rehabilitation Records—VA (58 VA 21/22)," first published at 41 FR 9294, March 3, 1976, and last amended at 66 FR 47727 (09/13/2001), with other amendments, as cited therein. Attachment 4 is a copy of the system notice with the appropriate routine use, *i.e.*, RU 46, annotated.

DoD will use the system of records identified as S322.10 DMDC, entitled, "Defense Manpower Data Center Data Base," last published at 67 FR 78781, December 26, 2002. Attachment 5 is a copy of the system notice with the appropriate routine use, *i.e.*, RU 1(d)(1), annotated.

**E. Description of Computer Matching Program**

The Veterans Benefits Administration will provide DMDC with an electronic file which contains specified data elements of individual VA disability compensation recipients. Upon receipt of the electronic file, DMDC will perform a computer match using all nine digits of the SSNs in the VA file against a DMDC computer database. The DMDC database consists of personnel records of active duty (including full-time National Guard and Reserve) military members. Matching records, "hits" based on the SSN, will produce the member's name, branch of service, and unit designation, and other pertinent data elements. The hits will be furnished to the Veterans Benefits Administration which is responsible for verifying and determining that the data on the DMDC electronic reply file are consistent with the source file and for resolving any discrepancies or inconsistencies on an individual basis. The Veterans Benefits Administration will also be responsible for making final determinations as to positive identification, eligibility for benefits, and verifying any other information with respect thereto.

The electronic file provided by VA will contain information on approximately 2.4 million disability compensation recipients.

The DMDC computer database file contains approximately 1.5 million records of active duty military members, including full-time National Guard and Reserve.

**F. Inclusive Dates of the Matching Program**

This computer matching program is subject to public comment and review by Congress and the Office of Management and Budget. If the mandatory 30 day period for comment has expired and no comments are received and if no objections are raised

by either Congress or the Office of Management and Budget within 40 days of being notified of the proposed match, the computer matching program becomes effective and the respective agencies may begin the exchange at a mutually agreeable time and thereafter on a quarterly basis. By agreement between VA and DMDC, the matching program will be in effect for 18 months with an option to renew for 12 additional months unless one of the parties to the agreement advises the other by written request to terminate or modify the agreement.

**G. Address for Receipt of Public Comments or Inquiries**

Director, Defense Privacy Office, 1941 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 920, Arlington, VA 22202-4502. Telephone (703) 607-2943.

[FR Doc. 03-26857 Filed 10-23-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-08-P

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

**Defense Logistics Agency**

**Privacy Act of 1974; Systems of Records**

**AGENCY:** Defense Logistics Agency, DoD.

**ACTION:** Notice to Amend Systems of Records.

**SUMMARY:** The Defense Logistics Agency proposes to amend a system of records notice in its inventory of record systems subject to the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552a), as amended.

**DATES:** This action will be effective without further notice on November 24, 2003 unless comments are received that would result in a contrary determination.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments to the Privacy Act Officer, Headquarters, Defense Logistics Agency, Attn: DSS-B, 8725 John J. Kingman Road, Suite 2533, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-6221.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Susan Salus at (703) 767-6183.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Defense Logistics Agency notices for systems of records subject to the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552a), as amended, have been published in the **Federal Register** and are available from the address above.

The Defense Logistics Agency proposes to amend a system of records notice in its inventory of record systems subject to the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552a), as amended. The amendment is not within the purview of subsection (r) of the Privacy Act of 1974