

Veterans Affairs (VA), is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed new collection and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments on information needed to assist in VA's efforts to address the health concerns and problems of Gulf War Veterans.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before November 8, 2010.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information through the Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) at <http://www.Regulations.gov>; or to Mary Stout, Veterans Health Administration (193E1), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420 or e-mail: mary.stout@va.gov. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900–New (VA Form 10–0488)" in any correspondence. During the comment period, comments may be viewed online through FDMS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary Stout (202) 461–5867 or FAX (202) 273–9387.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA of 1995 (Pub. L. 104–13; 44 U.S.C. 3501–3521), Federal agencies must obtain approval from OMB for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. This request for comment is being made pursuant to Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

With respect to the following collection of information, VHA invites comments on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VHA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of VHA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

Titles: Follow-Up Study of a National Cohort of Gulf War and Gulf Era Veterans, VA Form 10–0488, and Consent Form for Release of Medical Records, VA Form 10–0488a.

OMB Control Number: OMB Control No. 2900–New.

Type of Review: New Collection.

Abstracts

a. The data collected on VA Form 10–0488, will help VA to assess the health of Gulf War veterans who were exposed to a variety of environmental factors potentially linked to a chronic condition including Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and unexplained multi-system illnesses. VA will use the data to better understand the long-term consequences of military deployment and to provide better health care for Gulf War veterans.

b. VA Form 10–0488a is completed by claimants to request release of medical records from their health care provider.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Annual Burden

a. Follow-Up Study of a National Cohort of Gulf War and Gulf Era Veterans, VA Form 10–0488—9,000.

b. Consent Form for Release of Medical Records, VA Form 10–0488a—117.

Frequency of Response: Annually.

Estimated Average Burden per Respondents

a. Follow-Up Study of a National Cohort of Gulf War and Gulf Era Veterans, VA Form 10–0488—30 minutes.

b. Consent Form for Release of Medical Records, VA Form 10–0488a—10 minutes.

Estimated Annual Responses

a. Follow-Up Study of a National Cohort of Gulf War and Gulf Era Veterans, VA Form 10–0488—18,000.

b. Consent Form for Release of Medical Records, VA Form 10–0488a—700.

Dated: September 3, 2010.

By direction of the Secretary.

Denise McLamb,

Program Analyst, Enterprise Records Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Privacy Act of 1974: Computer Matching Program

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice of Computer Match Program.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a, the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Guidelines on the Conduct of Matching Programs, notice is hereby

given that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) intends to conduct a computer matching program with the Social Security Administration (SSA). Data from the proposed match will be used to verify the earned income of nonservice-connected veterans, and those veterans who are zero percent service-connected (noncompensable), whose eligibility for VA medical care is based on their inability to defray the cost of medical care. These veterans supply household income information that includes their spouses and dependents at the time of application for VA health care benefits.

DATES: *Effective Date:* This match will start October 12, 2010, unless comments dictate otherwise.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be submitted by mail or hand-delivery to Director, Regulations Policy and Management (02REG), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Ave., NW., Room 1068, Washington, DC 20420; fax to (202) 273–9026; or e-mail through <http://www.Regulations.gov>. All comments received will be available for public inspection 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) 461–4902 for an appointment (this is not a toll free number). In addition, during the comment period, comments may be viewed online through the Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) at <http://www.Regulations.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tony A. Guagliardo, Director, Health Eligibility Center, (404) 848–5300 (this is not a toll free number).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department of Veterans Affairs has statutory authorization under 38 U.S.C. 5317, 38 U.S.C. 5106, 26 U.S.C. 6103(l)(7)(D)(viii) and 5 U.S.C. 552a to establish matching agreements and request and use income information from other agencies for purposes of verification of income for determining eligibility for benefits. 38 U.S.C. 1710(a)(2)(G), 1720(a)(3), and 1710(b) identify those veterans whose basic eligibility for medical care benefits is dependent upon their financial status. Eligibility for nonservice-connected and zero percent noncompensable service-connected veterans is determined based on the veteran's inability to defray the expenses for necessary care as defined in 38 U.S.C. 1722. This determination can affect their responsibility to participate in the cost of their care through copayments and their assignment to an enrollment priority group.

The goal of this match is to obtain SSA earned income information data needed for the income verification process. The VA records involved in the match are "Enrollment and Eligibility Records—VA" (147VA16). The SSA records are from the Earnings Recording and Self-Employment Income System, SSA/OEEAS 09-60-0059 and Master

Files of Social Security Number Holders and SSN Applications, SSA/OEEAS, 60-0058, (referred to as "the Numident"). A copy of this notice has been sent to both Houses of Congress and OMB.

This matching agreement expires 18 months after its effective date. This match will not continue past the

legislative authorized date to obtain this information.

Approved: August 24, 2010.

John R. Gingrich,

Chief of Staff, Department of Veterans Affairs.

[FR Doc. 2010-22487 Filed 9-8-10; 8:45 am]

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