

Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224. Please send separate comments for each specific information collection listed below. You must reference the information collection's title, form number, reporting or record-keeping requirement number, and OMB number (if any) in your comment.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Requests for additional information or copies of the collection tools should be directed to R. Joseph Durbala, Internal Revenue Service, room 6129, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224, or at (202) 622-3634, or through the internet at [RJoseph.Durbala@irs.gov](mailto:RJoseph.Durbala@irs.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Currently, the IRS is seeking comments concerning the following information collection tools, reporting, and record-keeping requirements:

(1) *Title:* Determination of Interest Expense Deduction of Foreign Corporation.

*OMB Number:* 1545-2030.

*Form Number:* TD 9465.

*Abstract:* This document contains final regulations under Section 882(c) of the Internal Revenue Code concerning the determination of the interest expense deduction of foreign corporations engaged in a trade or business within the United States. These final regulations conform the interest expense rules to recent U.S. Income Tax Treaty agreements and adopt other changes to improve compliance.

*Current Actions:* There are no changes to the previously approved burden of this existing collection.

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

*Affected Public:* Businesses or other for-profit organizations.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 75.

*Estimated Time per Respondent:* 35 min.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 35.

(2) *Title:* Volunteer Return Preparation Critical Intake Sheet-NR.

*OMB Number:* 1545-2075.

*Form Number:* 13614-NR.

*Abstract:* This form will be used at the nonresident alien VITA sites by volunteers to gather information—relevant to tax preparation—from taxpayer's.

*Current Actions:* There are no changes being made to the revenue procedure at this time.

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

*Affected Public:* Individuals or Households.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 40.

*Estimated Time per Respondent:* 2 hrs.

*Estimated Total Annual Reporting Burden Hours:* 80.

(3) *Title:* Transfers by Domestic Corporations That Are Subject to Section 367(a)(5); Distributions by Domestic Corporations That Are Subject to Section 1248(f).

*OMB Number:* 1545-2183.

*Form Number:* REG-209006-89.

*Abstract:* This document contains proposed regulations under sections 367(a), 367(a)(5), 367(b), 1248(a), 1248(e), 1248(f), and 6038B of the Internal Revenue Code (Code). The proposed regulations included in this document affect domestic corporations that transfer property to foreign corporations in certain transactions, or that distribute the stock of certain foreign corporations, and certain shareholders of such domestic corporations. The proposed regulations are necessary, in part, to provide guidance on changes to the law made by the Technical and Miscellaneous Revenue Act of 1988 (Pub. L. 100-647, 102 Stat. 3342).

*Current Actions:* There is no change in the paperwork burden previously approved by OMB.

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

*Affected Public:* Federal Government.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 305.

*Estimated Time per Respondent:* 10 hrs., 40 mins.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 3,260.

The following paragraph applies to all of the collections of information covered by this notice:

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a collection of information must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any internal revenue law. Generally, tax returns and tax return information are confidential, as required by 26 U.S.C. 6103.

*Request for Comments:* Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility;

(b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Approved: January 28, 2013.

**R. Joseph Durbala,**

*IRS Reports Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2013-02258 Filed 2-1-13; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4830-01-P**

## U.S.-CHINA ECONOMIC AND SECURITY REVIEW COMMISSION

### Notice of Open Public Hearing

**AGENCY:** U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice of open public hearing.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given of the following hearing of the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission on February 7, 2013 in Washington, DC.

*Name:* William A. Reinsch, Chairman of the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission. The Commission is mandated by Congress to investigate, assess, and report to Congress annually on "the national security implications of the economic relationship between the United States and the People's Republic of China." Pursuant to this mandate, the Commission will hold a public hearing in Washington, DC on February 7, 2013, "China's New Leadership and Implications for the United States."

*Background:* This is the first public hearing the Commission will hold during its 2013 report cycle to collect input from academic, industry, and government experts on national security implications of the U.S. bilateral trade and economic relationship with China. In 2012, the Chinese Communist Party's 18th Party Congress ushered in a new generation of political leaders, raising questions over what China's priorities will be over the next decade. This hearing will examine the impacts of China's recent leadership transition through the lenses of China's domestic politics, its economy, and its military. Additionally, the hearing will include a discussion on the United States' evolving policy towards Asia. The hearing will be co-chaired by Chairman

William A. Reinsch and Vice Chairman Dennis C. Shea. Any interested party may file a written statement by February 7, 2013, by mailing to the contact below. A portion of each panel will include a question and answer period between the Commissioners and the witnesses.

*Location, Date and Time:* 2118 Rayburn House Office Building. Thursday, February 7, 2013, 9:00 am–4:15 pm Eastern Time. A detailed agenda for the hearing will be posted to the Commission's Web Site at [www.uscc.gov](http://www.uscc.gov). Also, please check our Web site for possible changes to the hearing schedule. *Reservations are not required to attend the hearing.*

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Any member of the public seeking further information concerning the hearing should contact Reed Eckhold, 444 North Capitol Street NW., Suite 602, Washington DC 20001; phone: 202–624–1496, or via email at [reckhold@uscc.gov](mailto:reckhold@uscc.gov). *Reservations are not required to attend the hearing.*

**Authority:** Congress created the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission in 2000 in the National Defense Authorization Act (Pub. L. 106–398), as amended by Division P of the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003 (Public Law 108–7), as amended by Public Law 109–108 (November 22, 2005).

Dated: January 29, 2013.

**Michael Danis,**

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

[FR Doc. 2013–02332 Filed 2–1–13; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 1137–00–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Initial Research on the Long-Term Health Consequences of Exposure to Burn Pits in Iraq and Afghanistan

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the preliminary plans of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to conduct a longitudinal cohort study of adverse health effects related to military deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan, to include potential exposure to airborne hazards and burn pits, and to take related actions to promote the effective monitoring and assessment of deployment-related exposures and potential health effects of deployments. The planned actions are based in part on VA's review of the analysis and recommendations in an October 31, 2011, report of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) concerning the potential

long-term health consequences of exposure to burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Paul Ciminera, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420, telephone (202) 461–1020. (This is not a toll-free number.)

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

On October 31, 2011, at VA's request, IOM issued a study titled, "Long-Term Health Consequences of Exposure to Burn Pits in Iraq and Afghanistan" (IOM report). The IOM reviewed a wide range of data sources including peer-reviewed literature on the subject of respiratory exposures in general, information on types of materials and quantities burned during burn pit use in Iraq and Afghanistan, and analyses of ambient air sampling collected by the Department of Defense (DoD). IOM concluded that there was limited but suggestive evidence of an association between exposure to combustion products and reduced pulmonary function, but inadequate or insufficient evidence of an association between exposure to combustion products and cancer, respiratory diseases, circulatory diseases, neurologic diseases, and adverse reproductive and developmental outcomes in the populations studied. After careful review of the IOM report, the Secretary has directed the Veterans Health Administration to conduct a long-term prospective study on all adverse health effects potentially related to military deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan, to include health effects potentially related to exposure to airborne hazards and burn pits. In addition, the Secretary has requested participation by DoD in VA's proposed study, joint participation in long-term cohort studies for every future major deployment, priority staffing in support of the VA/DoD Environmental Exposure Data Transfer Agreement (DTA), and continued collaboration on a Joint VA/DoD Action Plan to address clinical and research issues associated with deployment. Additional efforts include inviting DoD to support a joint VA/DoD post-deployment health annual symposium to disseminate lessons learned to health care teams (and other stakeholders) and bring key subject matter and policy experts together to guide joint strategic research plans on post-deployment health related issues. VA intends, in conjunction with DoD, to establish clinical evaluation protocols for exposure to burn pit emissions and other airborne pollutants encountered by servicemembers deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, and conduct research on

the long-term health effects of exposure to burn pits.

*Background.* This IOM report was not required by law. It was requested by VA in response to increasing concerns about the long-term health of U.S. servicemembers who served in Iraq or Afghanistan who may have been exposed to potentially hazardous materials from open burn pits, which were commonly used for waste disposal. Specifically, VA asked IOM to examine potential exposures and long-term health risks arising from exposure to smoke created from open pit burning of solid waste and other materials in Iraq and Afghanistan. Using the Joint Base Balad (JBB) burn pit as an example, IOM was asked to evaluate the long-term health risks based on a review of a wide range of sources such as epidemiologic studies conducted either by or under the auspices of VA or DoD; other available epidemiologic literature on populations exposed to similar hazards; as well as relevant environmental studies, relevant toxicologic studies, veteran-specific clinical/pathologic studies, and the effects related to short-term peak exposures, as well as chronic exposures. In addition, IOM was asked to make recommendations for epidemiologic research initiatives for VA and DoD to further study potential long-term health effects.

IOM first assessed the types and quantities of materials burned during the time of pit use and analyzed air monitoring data collected at JBB during 2007 and 2009. It then examined anticipated health effects from exposure to air pollutants found at JBB and studies of health effects in similar populations with similar exposures, grading the quality of those studies as key or supportive. IOM then performed a synthesis of key information on potential long-term health effects in military personnel potentially exposed to burn pits and developed design elements and feasibility considerations for an epidemiologic study.

IOM concluded that there is limited but suggestive evidence of an association between exposure to combustion products and reduced pulmonary function in the populations studied. Pulmonary function tests are frequently used to diagnose respiratory disease, and changes can be observed in the absence of clinical symptoms or disease. However, this IOM finding focused on pulmonary function, not respiratory disease, and noted that further studies, including longitudinal studies, are required. The studies conducted to this point have been limited in scope and duration, and many focus on non-veterans in other