

NATIONAL SURVEY ACTIVITIES—Continued

Year	Number of respondents	Estimated annual burden (hours)	Frequency of response
VA Regional Office-Specific Service Improvement Initiatives (Comment Card)			
2004	80,000	6,640	One-time.
2005	80,000	6,640	One-time.
2006	80,000	6,640	One-time.

Most customer satisfaction surveys will be recurring so that VBA can create ongoing measures of performance and to determine how well the agency meets customer service standards. Each collection of information will consist of the minimum amount of information necessary to determine customer needs and to evaluate VBA's performance. VBA expects to conduct an estimated 100 focus groups and receive up to 80,000 comment cards involving a total of 6,640 hours each year for 2004, 2005, and 2006. In addition, VBA expects to distribute written surveys with a total annual burden of approximately 16,052 hours in 2004, 16,382 hours in 2005, and 16,382 hours in 2006. The grand totals for the focus groups, comment cards, and written surveys are 22,692 hours in 2004, 23,022 hours in 2005, and 23,022 hours in 2006.

Anyone may view the results of previously administered surveys on the internet by going to the following VBA surveys Web site: <http://www.vba.va.gov/surveys/>.

The areas of concern to VBA and its customers may change over time, and it is important to have the ability to evaluate customer concerns quickly. OMB will be requested to grant generic clearance approval for a 3-year period to conduct customer satisfaction surveys, focus groups and to send out comment cards. Participation in the surveys, focus groups, and comment cards will be voluntary and the generic clearance will not be used to collect information required to obtain or maintain eligibility for a VA program or benefit. In order to maximize the voluntary response rates, the information collection will be designed to make participation convenient, simple, and free of unnecessary barriers. Baseline data obtained through these information collections will be used to improve customer service standards. VBA will consult with OMB regarding each specific information collection during this approval period.

Dated: November 3, 2003.

By direction of the Secretary.

Jacqueline Parks,

IT Specialist, Records Management Service.

[FR Doc. 03-28365 Filed 11-12-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0465]

Agency Information Collection Activities Under OMB Review

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-21), this notice announces that the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of Veterans Affairs, has submitted the collection of information abstracted below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The PRA submission describes the nature of the information collection and its expected cost and burden and includes the actual data collection instrument.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before December 15, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR A COPY OF THE SUBMISSION CONTACT: Denise McLamb, Records Management Service (005E3), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 273-8030, FAX (202) 273-5981 or e-mail: denise.mclamb@mail.va.gov. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0465."

Send comments and recommendations concerning any aspect of the information collection to VA's OMB Desk Officer, OMB Human Resources and Housing Branch, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503 (202) 395-7316. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0465" in any correspondence.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Student Verification of Enrollment, VA Form 22-8979.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: The form contains a student's certification of actual attendance and verification of that student's continued enrollment in courses leading to a standard college degree or in non-college degree programs. VA uses the information to determine the student's continued entitlement to benefits. The student is required to submit the verification on a monthly basis to allow for a frequent, periodic release of payment.

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 August 20, 2003, at page 50221.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 45,575 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent: 1-1/3 minutes.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 333,333.

Estimated Number of Responses: 2,000,000.

Dated: November 4, 2003.

By direction of the Secretary.

Jacqueline Parks,

IT Specialist, Records Management Service.

[FR Doc. 03-28366 Filed 11-12-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0577]

Proposed Information Collection Activity: Proposed Collection; Comment Request.

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of 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 reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments on information needed to determine a Spina Bifida child of Vietnam veterans' eligibility for ancillary benefits.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before January 12, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20S52), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0518" in any correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nancy J. Kessinger at (202) 273-7079 or FAX (202) 275-5947.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13; 44 U.S.C. 3501-3521), Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (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, VBA invites comments on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VBA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of VBA'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.

Title: Spina Bifida Award Attachment Important Information, VA Form 21-0307.

OMB Control Number: 2900-0577.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: VA Form 21-0307 is used to provide children of Vietnam veterans with Spina Bifida information about VA health care and vocational training and the steps they must take to apply for such benefits.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 500 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per

Respondent: 15 minutes.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 2,000.

Dated: November 3, 2003.

By direction of the Acting Secretary.

Jacqueline Parks,

IT Specialist, Records Management Service.

[FR Doc. 03-28367 Filed 11-12-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0641]

Proposed Information Collection Activity: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Veterans Health Administration (VHA), Department of 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 extension of a currently approved collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments for information needed to conduct a study of war related illnesses and post-deployment health issues.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before January 12, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information to Ann W. Bickoff, Veterans Health Administration (193B1), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420 or e-mail ann.bickoff@mail.va.gov. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0641" in any correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ann W. Bickoff (202) 273-8310 or FAX (202)

273-9381. These are not toll-free numbers.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13; 44 U.S.C. 3501-21), Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (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.

Title: Study of War Related Illnesses and Post-Deployment Health Issues, VA Form 10-21060(NR).

OMB Control Number: 2900-0641.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: VA has established the War-Related Illness and Injury Study Centers for war-related illnesses and post-development health issues. In order to develop a program of risk communication activities, VA must conduct a survey to gather information of sufficient scope and breadth to support the development of a risk communication strategy. A risk communication strategy will serve as a guide that clearly delineates the needs and requirement of the target audience for risk communication activities. The survey will be used to assess:

(1) The variety and prevalence of health conditions experienced by veterans of Vietnam, the Persian Gulf, and Bosnia-Kosovo and the perception of the extent that they are related to military service in a theater of operations;

(2) by region of deployment, the most frequently mentioned environmental exposures and medical countermeasures, and the level of concern of veterans regarding the perceived health impact of these exposures;

(3) which health problems, symptoms, and exposures veterans most want to receive information about; and to

(4) query veterans regarding their perception of the most desirable