

Dated: August 19, 1998.

L. M. Bynum,

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

**NOTICE OF A COMPUTER MATCHING
PROGRAM BETWEEN THE RAILROAD
RETIREMENT BOARD AND THE
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FOR
DEBT COLLECTION**

A. PARTICIPATING AGENCIES:

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

B. PURPOSE OF THE MATCH: Upon the execution of this agreement, the RRB will provide and disclose debtor records to DMDC to identify and locate any matched Federal personnel, employed, serving, or retired, who may owe delinquent debts to the Federal Government under certain programs administered by the RRB. The RRB will use this information to initiate independent collection of those debts under the provisions of the Debt Collection Act of 1982, as amended, when voluntary payment is not forthcoming. These collection efforts will include requests by the RRB of the military service/employing agency in the case of military personnel (either active, reserve, or retired) and current non-postal civilian employees, and to the Office of Personnel Management in the case of retired non-postal civilian employees, to apply administrative and/or salary offset procedures until such time as the obligation is paid in full.

C. AUTHORITY FOR CONDUCTING THE MATCH: The legal authority for conducting the matching program is contained in the Debt Collection Act of 1982 (Public Law 97-365), as amended by the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-134, section 31001); 31 U.S.C. Chapter 37, Subchapter I (General) and Subchapter II (Claims of the United States Government), 31 U.S.C. 3711 Collection and Compromise, 31 U.S.C. 3716 Administrative Offset, 5 U.S.C. 5514 Installment Deduction for Indebtedness (Salary Offset); 10 U.S.C. 135, Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller); Section 101(1) of Executive Order 12731; 4 CFR 101.1-105.5, Federal Claims Collection Standards; 5 CFR 550.1101 - 550.1108 Collection by Offset

from Indebted Government Employees (OPM); and 20 CFR part 367, Recovery of Debts Owed to the Railroad Retirement Board From Other Government Agencies.

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:

RRB will use personal data from the record system identified as RRB-42, entitled 'Uncollectible Benefit Overpayment Accounts' last published in the **Federal Register** at 49 FR 7900 on March 2, 1984 and amended as published in the **Federal Register** at 56 FR 47502 on September 19, 1991.

DoD will use personal data from the record system identified as S322.11 DMDC, entitled 'Federal Creditor Agency Debt Collection Data Base,' last published in the **Federal Register** at 61 FR 32779, June 25, 1996.

Sections 5 and 10 of the Debt Collection Act of 1982 (Public Law 97-365) authorize agencies to disclose information about debtors in order to effect salary or administrative offsets. Agencies must publish 'routine uses' pursuant to subsection (b)(3) of the Privacy Act for those systems of records from which they intend to disclose this information. Sections 5 and 10 of the Debt Collection Act constitutes the necessary authority to satisfy the compatibility requirement of subsection (a)(7) of the Privacy Act. The systems of records described above contain an appropriate routine use provision which permits disclosure of information between the agencies.

E. DESCRIPTION OF COMPUTER MATCHING PROGRAM: The RRB, as the source agency, will provide DMDC with an electronic file which contains the names of delinquent debtors in programs the RRB administers. Upon receipt of the electronic file of debtor accounts, DMDC will perform a computer match using all nine digits of the SSN of the RRB file against a DMDC computer database. The DMDC database, established under an interagency agreement between DOD, OPM, OMB, and the Department of the Treasury, consists of employment records of non-postal Federal civilian employees and military members, both active and retired. The 'hits', or matches will be furnished to the RRB. The RRB is responsible for verifying and determining that the data on the DMDC electronic reply file are consistent with the RRB's source file and for resolving any discrepancies or inconsistencies on an individual basis. The RRB will also

be responsible for making final determinations as to positive identification, amount of indebtedness and recovery efforts as a result of the match.

The electronic file provided by the RRB will contain data elements of the debtor's name, SSN, internal account numbers and the total amount owed for each debtor on approximately 5,000 delinquent debtors.

The DMDC computer database file contains approximately 8.64 million records of active duty and retired military members, including the Reserve and Guard, and the OPM government wide non-postal Federal civilian records of current and retired Federal employees.

DMDC will match the SSN on the RRB file by computer against the DMDC database. Matching records, 'hits' based on SSN, will produce data elements of the individual's name, SSN, military service or employing agency, and current work or home address.

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 public 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 of data at a mutually agreeable time on an annual basis. By agreement between RRB and DMDC, the matching program will be in effect and continue 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.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

National Assessment Governing Board; Meeting

AGENCY: National Assessment Governing Board; Education.

ACTION: Notice of Closed Teleconference Meetings.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda of the forthcoming meetings by teleconference of the Executive Committee and the full membership of the National Assessment Governing Board. This notice also describes the functions of the Board. Notice of these meetings is required under Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

Dates: September 14, September 24, and possibly September 25, 1998.

Time: 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

Location: National Assessment Governing Board, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mary Ann Wilmer, Operations Officer, National Assessment Governing Board, Suite 825, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., Washington, DC, 20002–4233, Telephone: (202) 357–6938.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Assessment Governing Board is established under section 412 of the National Education Statistics Act of 1994 (Title IV of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994), (Pub. L. 103–382).

The Board is established to formulate policy guidelines for the National Assessment of Educational Progress. The Board is responsible for selecting subject areas to be assessed, developing assessment objectives, identifying appropriate achievement goals for each grade and subject tested, and establishing standards and procedures for interstate and national comparisons. Under P.L. 105–78, the National Assessment Governing Board is also granted exclusive authority over developing Voluntary National Tests pursuant to contract number RJ97153001.

On September 14, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Executive Committee of the National Assessment Governing Board will hold a closed teleconference meeting. The Executive Committee will prepare a document outlining the conditions for renewal of the Voluntary National Tests contract. The information and discussion will relate to the source selection criteria by which government contracts may be modified or awarded. Not only would the disclosure of such data implicate proscriptions set forth in the Federal Acquisition Regulations, but also such disclosure would significantly frustrate a proposed agency action. Specifically, disclosure of the Executive Committee's discussion may affect private decisions made by the contractor. Such matters are protected by exemption 9B of Section 552b(c) of Title 5 U.S.C.

On September 24, the Executive Committee will meet in closed session to review the contractor's response to the Governing Board's decisions of the options for renewal of the Voluntary National Tests contract. If unable to reach agreement or substantive changes are required given the contractor's response to the options for renewal of the contract, the Executive Committee will formulate recommendations to the Governing Board. This teleconference must be conducted in closed session because public disclosure of this information would likely have an adverse financial effect on the Voluntary National Tests program. The discussion of this information would be likely to significantly frustrate implementation of a proposed agency action if conducted in open session. Such matters are protected by exemption 9B of Section 552b(c) of Title 5 U.S.C.

On September 25, 1998, if needed, the Governing Board will meet in a closed teleconference to take final action on substantive changes in the Voluntary National Tests contract. This teleconference must be conducted in closed session because public disclosure of this information would likely have an adverse financial effect on the Voluntary National Tests program. The discussion of this information would be likely to significantly frustrate implementation of a proposed agency action if conducted in open session. Such matters are protected by exemption 9B of Section 552b(c) of Title 5 U.S.C.

Records are kept of all Board proceedings and are available for public inspection at the U.S. Department of Education, National Assessment Governing Board, Suite 825, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., Washington, DC, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Roy Truby,

Executive Director, National Assessment Governing Board.

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BILLING CODE 4000–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Nevada Operations Office; Notice Inviting Research Grant Applications

AGENCY: Nevada Operations Office, Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice inviting research grant applications under Financial Assistance Program Notice 98–01.

SUMMARY: The Office of Research and Development (NN–20), of the Office of Nonproliferation and National Security (NN), U.S. Department of Energy, in keeping with its mission to strengthen

the Nation's capabilities in the areas of nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction and national security through the support of science, engineering, and mathematics, announces its interest in receiving grant applications from academic researchers, preferably in a corroborative partnership with one of the DOE National Laboratories. The purpose of this program is to enhance our national capability to detect illicit proliferation activities and our national capabilities to protect critical information and materials through research and development.

DATES: All applications, referencing Program Notice NN–98–01, should be received not later than 4:30 PM, PST, on or before September 24, 1998 in order to be accepted for merit review and to permit timely consideration for award.

ADDRESSES: Applications should be sent to U.S. Department of Energy, Nevada Operations Office, Contracts Management Division, ATTN: Darby A. Dieterich, P.O. Box 98518, Las Vegas, NV 89193–8518.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions of a technical nature should be addressed to the following personnel: Peter G. Mueller, DOE/NV Emergency Management Division, (702) 295–1777; or Carolyn R. Roberts, DOE/NV Emergency Management Division, (702) 295–2611. Other questions should be addressed to Darby A. Dieterich, Contracts Management Division, (702) 295–1560.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION—RESEARCH TOPIC AREAS:

It is anticipated that awards resulting from this notice will be made in the November 1998 timeframe. Another notice will be published in the near future setting forth a schedule for future submittals and associated reviews. In addition, an Internet address will be established containing Office of Research and Development (NN–20) program information for use in preparing and submitting future applications.

If the academic research entity does not have a current relationship with a National Laboratory, this partnership may be set up after the award of the grant with the aid of NN–20 at Office of Nonproliferation and National Security, NN–20, Office of Research and Development, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20585. General research program and related topic areas include, but are not limited to the following: