

e. Statement of Assurance of Compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, VA Form 10-1043A-171.

f. Certification Regarding Lobbying, VA Form 10-0144-171.

g. Statement of Assurance of Compliance with Equal Opportunity Law, VA Form 10-144A-171.

h. Per Diem for Adult Day Health Care of Veterans in State Homes, 38 CFR Part 52-21,485.

Dated: April 24, 2003.

By direction of the Secretary.

Jacqueline Parks,

IT Specialist, Records Management Service.
[FR Doc. 03-11206 Filed 5-5-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-NEW-ALS]

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 new collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments for information needed to develop a national registry on veterans diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before July 7, 2003.

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@hq.med.va.gov. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-NEW-ALS" in any correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ann W. Bickoff (202) 273-8310 or FAX (202) 273-9381.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13; 44 U.S.C.

3501-3520), 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.

Titles:

a. National Registry of Veterans with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), ALS Initial Baseline Screening Form, VA Form, 10-21047.

b. National Registry of Veterans with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), ALS Initial Baseline and Biannual Telephone Assessment.

c. VA Research Consent Form, VA Form 10-1086.

OMB Control Number: 2900-NEW-ALS.

Type of Review: New collection.

Abstract: Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) is a disease of high priority to the Department of Veterans Affairs because of ongoing concerns about the health of veterans who served in the Gulf War. The creation of the registry will have significance both for VA and for the larger U.S. society in understanding the natural history of ALS. It will provide VA with crucial epidemiological data on the current population of veterans with ALS, as well as the ongoing identification of new cases. The data will help VA to understand how veterans are affected by ALS and may assist with early identification of new ALS clusters. This registry will provide a mechanism for informing veterans with ALS of new clinical drug trials and other studies.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Annual Burden:

a. National Registry of Veterans with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), ALS Initial Baseline Screening Form, VA Form, 10-21047-1,094 hours.

b. National Registry of Veterans with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS),

ALS Initial Baseline and Biannual Telephone Assessment-3,645.

c. VA Research Consent Form, VA Form 10-1086-1,421.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent:

a. National Registry of Veterans with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), ALS Initial Baseline Screening Form, VA Form, 10-21047-30 minutes.

b. National Registry of Veterans with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), ALS Initial Baseline and Biannual Telephone Assessment-30 minutes.

c. VA Research Consent Form, VA Form 10-1086-20 minutes.

Frequency of Response: Semi-annually.

Estimated Number of Respondents:

a. National Registry of Veterans with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), ALS Initial Baseline Screening Form, VA Form, 10-21047-2,196.

b. National Registry of Veterans with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), ALS Initial Baseline and Biannual Telephone Assessment-4,413.

c. VA Research Consent Form, VA Form 10-1086-1,840.

Estimated Number of Responses:

a. National Registry of Veterans with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), ALS Initial Baseline Screening Form, VA Form, 10-21047-2,196.

b. National Registry of Veterans with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), ALS Initial Baseline and Biannual Telephone Assessment-7,674.

c. VA Research Consent Form, VA Form 10-1086-1,840.

Dated: April 24, 2003.

By direction of the Secretary.

Jacqueline Parks,

IT Specialist, Records Management Service.
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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Computer Matching Program Between the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Department of Defense (DoD)

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice of computer matching program.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Department of Veterans Affairs intends to conduct a recurring computer matching program. This will match personnel records of the Department of Defense with VA records of benefit recipients under the Montgomery GI Bill.

The goal of these matches is to identify the eligibility status of veterans,

servicemembers, and reservists who have applied for or who are receiving education benefit payments under the Montgomery GI Bill. The purpose of the match is to enable VA to verify that individuals meet the conditions of military service and eligibility criteria for payment of benefits determined by VA under the Montgomery GI Bill—Active Duty (MGIB) and the Montgomery GI Bill—Selected Reserve (MGIB—SR).

DATES: This match will commence on or about June 5, 2003. At the expiration of 18 months after the commencing date the Departments may renew the agreement for another 12 months.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Yunker (225B), Strategy Development Leader, Education Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 273-7180.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Further information regarding the matching program is provided below. This information is required by paragraph 6c of the “Guidelines on the Conduct of Matching Programs” issued by the

Office of Management and Budget (OMB) (54 FR 25818), as amended by OMB Circular A-130, 65 FR 77677 (2000). A copy of the notice has been provided to both Houses of Congress and OMB. The matching program is subject to their review.

a. *Names of participating agencies:* Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs.

b. *Purpose of the match:* The purpose of the match is to enable VA to determine whether an applicant is eligible for payment of benefits under the MGIB or the MGIB—SR and to verify continued compliance with the requirements of both programs.

c. *Authority:* The authority to conduct this match is found in 38 U.S.C. 3684A(a)(1).

d. *Categories of records and individuals covered:* The records covered include eligibility records extracted from DOD personnel files and benefit records that VA establishes for all individuals who have applied for and/or are receiving, or have received education benefit payments under the Montgomery GI Bill. These benefit records are contained in a VA system of records identified as 58VA21/22

entitled: Compensation, Pension, Education and Rehabilitation Records—VA, first published in the **Federal Register** at 41 FR 9294 (March 3, 1976), and last amended at 66 FR 47727 (September 13, 2001), with other amendments as cited therein.

e. *Inclusive dates of the matching program:* The match will begin on June 5, 2003, or 40 days after the OMB review period, whichever is later and continue in effect for 18 months.

f. *Address for receipt of public inquiries or comments:* Interested individuals may submit written comments to the Director, Regulations Management (00REG1), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Room 1154, Washington, DC 20420. Comments will be available for public inspection at the above address in the Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Room 1158, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Approved: April 23, 2003.

Anthony J. Principi,

Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

[FR Doc. 03-11101 Filed 5-5-03; 8:45 am]

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