

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Research, Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this program)

Issued on: June 1, 1999.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Agency Information Collection; Activity Under OMB Review; Submission of Audit Reports, Part 248

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13, the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) invites the general public, industry and other Federal Agencies to comment on the continuing need and usefulness of BTS collecting independent audited financial reports from U.S. certificated air carriers. Carriers not having an annual audit must file a statement that no such audit has been performed. In lieu of the audit report, the Department will accept the annual report submitted to the stockholders. Comments are requested concerning whether the audited reports are needed by DOT as: (a) A means to monitor an air carrier's continuing fitness to operate, (b) reference material used by analysts in examining foreign route cases, (c) reference material used by analysts in examining proposed acquisitions, mergers, and consolidations, (d) a means whereby the Department sends a copy of the report to International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in fulfillment of a U.S. treaty obligation, and (e) corroboration of carriers' Form 41 filings. Commenters should address whether BTS accurately estimated the reporting burden and if there are other ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collected.

DATES: Written comments should be submitted by August 9, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be directed to Mr. Bernie Stankus, Office of Airline Information, K-25, Room 4201, 400 Seventh Street, NW., Washington, DC 20590-0001.

COMMENTS: Comments should identify the OMB #2138-0004 and be submitted in duplicate to the address listed above. Commenters wishing the Department to

acknowledge receipt of their comments must submit with those comments a self-addressed stamped postcard on which the following statement is made: Comments on OMB #2138-0004. The postcard will be date/time stamped and returned to the commenter. All comments submitted will be available for examination in the Rules Docket both before and after the closing date for comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Bernie Stankus, Office of Airline Information, K-25, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590, (202) 366-4387.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

OMB Approval No. 2138-0004

Title: Submission of Audit Reports, Part 248.

Form No.: None.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Respondents: Large certificated air carriers.

Number of Respondents: 84.

Estimated Time Per Response: 15 minutes.

Total Annual Burden: 21 hours.

Needs and Uses: The audit reports are used as follows: (a) A means of monitoring an air carrier's continuing fitness to operate, (b) reference material by analysts in examining foreign route cases, (c) reference material by analysts in examining proposed acquisitions, mergers, and consolidations, (d) a means whereby the Department sends a copy of the report to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in fulfillment of a U.S. treaty obligation, and (e) corroboration of carriers' Form 41 filings.

Timothy E. Carmody,

*Director, Office of Airline Information,
Bureau of Transportation Statistics.*

[FR Doc. 99-14771 Filed 6-9-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Agency Information Collection; Activity Under OMB Review; Reporting Required for International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13, the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) invites the general public, industry and other Federal Agencies to comment on the

continuing need for and usefulness of BTS collecting supplemental data for the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). Comments are requested concerning whether: (a) The supplemental reports are needed by BTS to fulfill the U.S. treaty obligation of furnishing financial and traffic reports to ICAO; (b) BTS accurately estimated the reporting burden; (c) there are other ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collected; and (d) there are ways to minimize reporting burden, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Written comments should be submitted by August 9, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be directed to: Office of Airline Information, K-25, Room 4125, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001.

COMMENTS: Comments should identify the OMB #2138-0039 and submit a duplicate copy to the address listed above. Commenters wishing the Department to acknowledge receipt of their comments must submit with those comments a self-addressed stamped postcard on which the following statement is made: Comments on OMB #2138-0039. The postcard will be date/time stamped and returned to the commenter.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Bernie Stankus, Office of Airline Information, K-25, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001, (202) 366-4387.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

OMB Approval No. 2138-0039

Title: Reporting Required for International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

Form No.: BTS Form EF.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Respondents: Large certificated air carriers.

Number of Respondents: 47.

Estimated Time Per Response: 20 minutes.

Total Annual Burden: 16 hours.

Needs and Uses: As a party to the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Treaty), the United States is obligated to provide ICAO with financial and statistical data on operations of U.S. air carriers. Over 99 percent of the data filed with ICAO is extracted from the air carriers' Form 41 submissions to DOT. BTS Form EF is the means by which BTS supplies the

remaining one percent of the air carrier data to ICAO.

Timothy E. Carmody,

*Director, Office of Airline Information,
Bureau of Transportation Statistics.*

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UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

FY99 Burma Refugee Scholarship Program; Request for Proposals

SUMMARY: The Office of Academic Programs of the United States Information Agency's (USIA) Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for the Burma Refugee Scholarship Program (BRSP) which will begin recruitment and selection in FY99 (Academic year 1999-2000) and enrollment in FY00. Public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501(c) may submit proposals to develop an educational program for approximately five Burmese students and professionals, living in India as refugees, to receive undergraduate and/or graduate training in a variety of fields in the humanities and sciences in U.S. colleges and universities for a three year grant period running until 2002. The requirements are outlined in this letter and in the attached Program Goals, Objectives, and Implementation (POGI) document.

Program Information

Overview: The goal of the program is to support the economic and democratic development of Burma by helping to educate potential leaders living outside of Burma who could assist in its future transition to a democratic government. It is USIA's intent to provide grantees with programs of the highest quality that meet their academic and personal needs and to further the Agency's mission to promote mutual understanding. We also request that administration efficiencies and cost-sharing be actively sought.

Guidelines: The applicant organization shall design a proposal with a cost of up to \$300,000 to conduct the recruitment, selection, and placement of no more than five Burmese undergraduate students living in India in an appropriate U.S. academic setting. Monitoring the students' academic progress will be a requirement of the organizations. Grant administration should begin October 1, 1999. Students with undergraduate degrees who are bridging to a master's program would

also be eligible. We estimate that these funds will support five students for up to a year of intensive English-language training and two years towards an associate, bachelor's or master's degree program.

Administration in the Region: The organization must work closely with USIA, the U.S. Information Service (USIS), Immigration and Naturalization Service, and the U.S. Embassy in India to coordinate appropriate documentation for grantees' entry into the United States. The USIS representative administering the BRSP is in India, but it may be difficult for USIS officers to provide extensive facilitative assistance for this program. Applicant proposals should therefore include a plan to provide for publicity, recruitment, and selection in India, should USIS support be unavailable. The organization will be responsible for administering the program through its own resources and subcontractors, as required. The organization must also provide relocation or transition assistance to the students in the U.S. at the time their studies are terminated.

Requirements and Implementation: The proposal should respond to and describe the following major requirements:

- Planning and monitoring the entire exchange program;
- Selection and notification of participants, including publicizing the program to appropriate audiences in India using such methods as media, alumni networks, and local educational institutions and NGOs; and plans for distributing, answering inquiries about, and receiving applications—which may require the assistance of volunteers or paid staff in the region and/or special mailing arrangements;
- Travel;
- Placement at U.S. universities;
- Orientations;
- Provision of housing/stipends;
- On-going advising and student services;
- Cross cultural counseling;
- Cultural and community enrichment activities about the U.S.;
- Internships and professional development;
- Evaluation and alumni activities; and
- Fiscal management.

To the extent possible, the applicant should designate a contact person in India who would provide assistance with dissemination and submission of applications. Please review the application form to ensure that it includes all the information needed for review panel deliberations.

Length of Program: The proposed length of the Burmese scholarships is

three years—up to one year of intensive English-language training followed by up to two years of academic study. The duration of the USIA grant cannot exceed three years. Students must understand this policy in advance. Where there are compelling circumstances, students may receive a limited extension to complete their degrees at the discretion of the project director and the USIA program officer. Summer periods should be used for a mix of academic, professional and enrichment activities.

Pre-Academic and English-Language Training: Applicants must describe plans for pre-academic preparation and English-language training. USIA recommends that immediately after the initial orientation, participants be tested to determine which level of English-language courses are appropriate. Several levels of intensive English-language courses, from beginning to advanced, should be made available. It is assumed that most participants in this scholarship program will need up to one year of English-language instruction. Students who need additional instruction beyond the first year will be required to take the additional instruction at their placement universities.

Recruitment: The recruitment material and award publicity should provide all relevant information to potential applicants. The key conditions, benefits, and terms of the program—what is, and what is not covered under the grant—should be fully described to candidates and nominees before they accept an award and travel to the U.S. The description of study opportunities should be basic and include essential information for applicants who are unfamiliar with the U.S. educational system, and the policy on dependents should be described. All individuals should be fully informed of these policies before they accept an award.

Stipends: Please address the question of participant stipend levels in the narrative, including what expenses the stipend is intended to cover and the estimated monthly cost of housing provided to students. The USIA program officer must be informed in advance of any proposed adjustment in stipend levels and must approve such changes prior to implementation.

Fields of Study: Eligibility fields for the FY-99 program should respond to critical development needs in Burma, promote mutual understanding and potential linkages with the U.S., and attract academically qualified students who are likely to become future leaders in Burma. The program announcement