

(2) Disclose information to a Federal, State, or local agency maintaining civil, criminal or other relevant enforcement information or other pertinent information, which has requested information relevant to or necessary to the requesting agency's or the bureau's hiring or retention of an individual, or issuance of a security clearance, license, contract, grant, or other benefit;

(3) Disclose information in a proceeding before a court, adjudicative body, or other administrative body, before which the agency is authorized to appear when: (a) The agency, or (b) any employee of the agency in his or her official capacity, or (c) any employee of the agency, in his or her individual capacity where the Department of Justice or the agency has agreed to represent the employee, or (d) the United States, when the agency determines that the litigation is likely to affect the agency, is a party to litigation or has an interest in such litigation, and the use of such records by the agency is deemed to be relevant and necessary and not otherwise privileged;

(4) Provide information to a congressional office in response to an inquiry made at the request of the individual to whom the record pertains;

(5) Provide information to the news media in accordance with guidelines contained in 28 CFR 50.2 which relate to an agency's functions relating to civil and criminal proceedings, and

(6) Provide information to third parties during the course of an investigation to the extent necessary to obtain information pertinent to an investigation of the incident reported in the record.

POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR STORING, RETRIEVING, ACCESSING, RETAINING, AND DISPOSING OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:

STORAGE:

Paper, or magnetic or electronic media.

RETRIEVABILITY:

By name of individual to whom the record applies, by name of Internal Revenue Service employee reporting an incident, by identification number of the individual to whom the record pertains, by subject or incident involved, and/or by case number.

SAFEGUARDS:

Access controls will not be less than those provided by the Physical Security Handbook, IRM 1.16 and the Automated Information System Security Handbook, IRM 2.10. The records are accessible to employees of the Office of Employee Protection and to personnel of the Treasury Inspector General for Tax

Administration, all on a need-to-know basis, and all of whom have been the subject of a background investigation. Disclosure of information through remote terminals is restricted through the use of passwords and sign-on protocols which are periodically changed; these terminals are accessible only to authorized persons.

RETENTION AND DISPOSAL:

Records are maintained in accordance with IRM Handbook No. 1.15.

SYSTEM MANAGER(S) AND ADDRESS:

Chief, Office of Employee Protection, Internal Revenue Service, 477 Michigan Avenue, Detroit, Michigan.

NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE:

This system of records may not be accessed for purposes of determining if the system contains a record pertaining to a particular individual.

RECORD ACCESS PROCEDURES:

This system is exempt and may not be accessed for purposes of inspection or for contest of content of records.

CONTESTING RECORD PROCEDURES:

26 U.S.C. 7852(e) prohibits Privacy Act amendment of tax records.

RECORD SOURCE CATEGORIES:

This system of records is exempt from the Privacy Act provision that requires the record source categories be reported.

EXEMPTIONS CLAIMED FOR THE SYSTEM:

This system is exempt from 5 U.S.C. 552a(c)(3), (d), (e)(1), (e)(4)(G), (H), and (I) and (f) of the Privacy Act pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(k)(2). (See 31 CFR 1.36)

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0009]

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 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 determine a veteran's eligibility for and entitlement to vocational rehabilitation benefits.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before January 29, 2002.

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 or e-mail: irmnkess@vba.va.gov. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0009" 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 " 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, 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: Disabled Veterans Application for Vocational Rehabilitation (Chapter 31—Title 38 U.S.C.), VA Form 28-1900.

OMB Control Number: 2900-0009.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: Service-connected disabled veterans and servicepersons awaiting discharge for disability use VA Form 29-1900 to apply for vocational rehabilitation benefits. The application obtains information needed to evaluate an applicant's claim for benefits.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 13,500 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent: 15 minutes.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 54,000.

By direction of the Secretary.

Dated: November 16, 2001.

Donald L. Neilson,

Director, Information Management Service.

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BILLING CODE 8320-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Scientific Review and Evaluation Board for Health Services Research and Development Service, Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration, gives notice under Pub. L. 92-463, that a meeting of the Scientific Review and Evaluation Board for Health Services Research and Development Service, will be held at the Emily Morgan Hotel, 705 East Houston Street, San Antonio, Texas 78205, January 22-25, 2002. The meeting will convene from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. on January 22, 2002, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. on January 23 and 24, 2002, and from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. on January 25, 2002. The purpose of the meeting is to review research and development applications concerned with the measurement and evaluation of health care services and with testing new methods of health care delivery and management, and nursing research. Applications are reviewed for scientific and technical merit. Recommendations regarding funding are prepared for the Chief Research and Development Officer.

This meeting will be open to the public at the start of the January 22 session for approximately one half-hour to cover administrative matters and to discuss the general status of the program. The closed portion of the meeting involves discussion, examination, reference to, and oral review of staff and consultant critiques of research protocols and similar documents. During this portion of the meeting, discussion and recommendations will include qualifications of the personnel conducting the studies (the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy), as well as research information (the premature disclosure of which would be likely to frustrate significantly the implementation of proposed agency

action regarding such research projects). As provided by the subsection 10(d) of Pub. L. 92-463, as amended by Pub. L. 94-409, closing portions of these meetings is in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6) and (9)(B).

Those who plan to attend the open session should contact Mr. John G. Demakis, Director, Health Services Research and Development Service (124F), Department of Veterans Affairs, 1400 I Street, NW., Suite 780, Washington, DC, at least five days before the meeting. For further information, call (202) 408-3665.

Dated: November 20, 2001.

By Direction of the Secretary.

Nora E. Egan,

Committee Management Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Privacy Act of 1974; System of Records

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

ACTION: Notice of new system of records—Compliance Records, Response, and Resolution of Reports of Persons Allegedly Involved in Compliance Violations—VA.

SUMMARY: As required by the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. 552a(e), notice is hereby given that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is adding a new system of records, "Compliance Records, Response, and Resolution of Reports of Persons Allegedly Involved in Compliance Violations—VA" (106VA17).

DATES: Comments on the establishment of this system of records must be received no later than December 31, 2001. If no public comment is received during the period allowed for comment or unless otherwise published in the Federal Register by VA, the new system will become effective December 31, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Written comments concerning the proposed new system of records may be submitted to the Office of Regulations Management (02D), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420. Comments will be available for public inspection at the above address in the Office of Regulations Management, Room 1158, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (except holidays).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Privacy Act Officer, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, telephone (727) 320-1839.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Description of the Proposed Systems of Records

The Compliance and Business Integrity (CBI) Program, although originally modeled after Health and Human Services (HHS)—Office of Inspector General's (OIG) hospital compliance program, has evolved into a program that meets program requirements specific to VA. Management of the CBI Program falls under the direction of the VHA Chief Financial Officer (CFO). The CBI Program assures the organizational and business structure within which patient care takes place is in compliance with laws, regulations, policies and standards, which impact the business. It also reduces business risk and serves as a management function that is interdisciplinary in nature, focuses on business processes and acts as a fiduciary of public resources. An integral component of the Compliance and Business Integrity (CBI) Program is the establishment of a Confidential Disclosure Program (CDP) designed to ensure activities of VHA are conducted in compliance with public law, established regulations and recognized standards of business practice. The CDP assures integrity of business and operational processes within VHA by providing a mechanism for employees to raise questions and report concerns about potential non-compliance and is consistent with similar reporting and tracking mechanisms identified by HHS—OIG as integral to effective health care compliance programs. Two elements of the CDP are the CBI Helpline and the Compliance Reporting and Tracking System (CIRTS). Together, they comprise the core of the CDP. VHA has contracted for the CBI Helpline, which serves as an anonymous avenue for employees and others to access the CDP in an attempt to assure the integrity of VHA business and operational processes.

The CBI Helpline is established to control the receipt and disposition of reports and/or concerns related to the following VHA areas: Enrollment; Means Testing; Eligibility; Pre-certification and certification/utilization review; Standards pertaining to documentation, coding and billing; Audits, reviews, inquiries and remediation; Accounts receivable and