

Transportation of Firearms or Ammunition; Prohibited Transactions Involving Firearms or Ammunition) for using or possessing a firearm in connection with another felony offense from (b)(6) to (b)(6)(B). To reflect this renumbering, conforming changes are made to Application Note 4 to § 2K2.4 (Use of Firearm, Armor-Piercing Ammunition, or Explosive During or in Relation to Certain Crimes).

[FR Doc. 2011-24193 Filed 9-20-11; 8:45 am]

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UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION

Sentencing Guidelines for United States Courts

AGENCY: United States Sentencing Commission.

ACTION: Notice of final priorities.

SUMMARY: In July 2011, the Commission published a notice of possible policy priorities for the amendment cycle ending May 1, 2012. See 76 FR 45007 (July 17, 2011). After reviewing public comment received pursuant to the notice of proposed priorities, the Commission has identified its policy priorities for the upcoming amendment cycle and hereby gives notice of these policy priorities.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeanne Doherty, Office of Legislative and Public Affairs, 202-502-4502.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The United States Sentencing Commission is an independent agency in the judicial branch of the United States Government. The Commission promulgates sentencing guidelines and policy statements for Federal sentencing courts pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 994(a). The Commission also periodically reviews and revises previously promulgated guidelines pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 994(o) and submits guideline amendments to the Congress not later than the first day of May each year pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 994(p).

As part of its statutory authority and responsibility to analyze sentencing issues, including operation of the Federal sentencing guidelines, the Commission has identified its policy priorities for the amendment cycle ending May 1, 2012. The Commission recognizes, however, that other factors, such as the enactment of any legislation requiring Commission action, may affect the Commission's ability to complete work on any or all of its identified priorities by the statutory deadline of May 1, 2012. Accordingly, it may be necessary to continue work on any or all

of these issues beyond the amendment cycle ending on May 1, 2012.

As so prefaced, the Commission has identified the following priorities:

(1) Continuation of its work on statutory mandatory minimum penalties, including (A) its study of and, pursuant to the directive in section 4713 of the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009, Public Law 111-84, report to Congress on statutory mandatory minimum penalties, including a review of the operation of the "safety valve" provision at 18 U.S.C. 3553(e); and (B) its study of and, pursuant to the directive in section 107(b) of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010, Public Law 111-195, report to Congress regarding violations of section 5(a) of the United Nations Participation Act of 1945 (22 U.S.C. 287c(a)), sections 38, 39, and 40 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2778, 2779, and 2780), and the Trading with the Enemy Act (50 U.S.C. App. 1 *et seq.*).

(2) Continuation of its work on implementation of the directives in section 1079A of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, Public Law 111-203, regarding securities fraud offenses and fraud offenses relating to financial institutions or Federally related mortgage loans; and implementation of any other crime legislation enacted during the 111th or 112th Congress warranting a Commission response.

(3) Continuation of its work with the congressional, executive, and judicial branches of government, and other interested parties, to study the manner in which *United States v. Booker*, 543 U.S. 220 (2005), and subsequent Supreme Court decisions have affected Federal sentencing practices, the appellate review of those practices, and the role of the Federal sentencing guidelines. The Commission anticipates that it will issue a report with respect to its findings, possibly including (A) An evaluation of the impact of those decisions on the Federal sentencing guideline system; (B) development of recommendations for legislation regarding Federal sentencing policy; (C) an evaluation of the appellate standard of review applicable to post-*Booker* Federal sentencing decisions; and (D) possible consideration of amendments to the Federal sentencing guidelines.

(4) Continuation of its multi-year review of § 2D1.1 (Unlawful Manufacturing, Importing, Exporting, or Trafficking (Including Possession with Intent to Commit These Offenses); Attempt or Conspiracy) and possible consideration of amendments to the

Federal sentencing guidelines for drug offenses.

(5) Continuation of its review of child pornography offenses and report to Congress as a result of such review. It is anticipated that any such report would include (A) A review of the incidence of, and reasons for, departures and variances from the guideline sentence; (B) a compilation of studies on, and analysis of, recidivism by child pornography offenders; and (C) possible recommendations to Congress on any statutory changes that may be appropriate.

(6) Continuation of its multi-year study of the statutory and guideline definitions of "crime of violence", "aggravated felony", "violent felony", and "drug trafficking offense", including (A) Possible consideration of an amendment to specify the types of documents to be considered under the "categorical approach", *see Taylor v. United States*, 495 U.S. 575 (1990); *Shepard v. United States*, 544 U.S. 13 (2005), for determining the applicability of guideline enhancements; (B) an examination of relevant circuit conflicts regarding whether any offense is categorically a "crime of violence", "aggravated felony", "violent felony", or "drug trafficking offense" for purposes of triggering an enhanced sentence under certain Federal statutes and guidelines; and (C) possible report to Congress making recommendations on any statutory changes that may be appropriate to relevant statutes, such as 8 U.S.C. 1326.

(7) Continuation of its review of departures within the guidelines, including provisions in Parts H and K of Chapter Five of the *Guidelines Manual*, and the extent to which pertinent statutory provisions prohibit, discourage, or encourage certain factors as forming the basis for departure from the guideline sentence.

(8) Continuation of its multi-year review of the guidelines and their application to human rights offenses, including genocide under 18 U.S.C. 1091, war crimes under 18 U.S.C. 2441, torture and maiming to commit torture under 18 U.S.C. 2340A and 114, respectively, and child soldier offenses under 18 U.S.C. 2442, and possible promulgation of guidelines or guideline amendments with respect to these offenses.

(9) Resolution of circuit conflicts, pursuant to the Commission's continuing authority and responsibility, under 28 U.S.C. 991(b)(1)(B) and *Braxton v. United States*, 500 U.S. 344 (1991), to resolve conflicting interpretations of the guidelines by the Federal courts.

(10) Consideration of (A) § 5K2.19 (Post-Sentencing Rehabilitative Efforts) (Policy Statement) in light of *Pepper v. United States*, 131 S.Ct. 1229 (March 2, 2011); (B) whether to provide a specific reference for N-Benzylpiperazine (BZP) in the Drug Quantity Table in § 2D1.1; and (C) any other miscellaneous guideline application issues coming to the Commission's attention from case law and other sources.

Authority: 28 U.S.C. 994(a), (o); USSC Rules of Practice and Procedure 5.2.

Patti B. Saris,
Chair.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0720]

Proposed Information Collection (Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom Seriously Injured/III Service Member Veteran Worksheet); 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 on information provided to Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans regarding benefits.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before November 21, 2011.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information through Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) at <http://www.Regulations.gov> or to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20M33), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420 or e-mail nancy.kessinger@va.gov. Please refer to

“OMB Control No. 2900-0720” in any correspondence. During the comment period, comments may be viewed online through FDMS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nancy J. Kessinger at (202) 461-9769 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: Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom Seriously Injured/III Service Member Veteran Worksheet, VA Form 21-0773.

OMB Control Number: 2900-0720.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: Veterans Service Representatives used VA Form 21-0773 as a checklist to ensure they provided Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom service members who have at least six months remaining on active duty and may have suffered a serious injury or illness, with information, applications, and/or referral service regarding VA benefits.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 7,000 hours.

Estimated Average Burden per Respondent: 30 minutes.

Frequency of Response: One time.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 14,000.

By direction of the Secretary.

Denise McLamb,

Program Analyst, Enterprise Records Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0721]

Proposed Information Collection (Exam for Housebound Status or Permanent Need for Regular Aid and Attendance) Activity; 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 comment on information needed to determine eligibility for aid and attendance and/or housebound benefits.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before November 21, 2011.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information through Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) at <http://www.Regulations.gov> or to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20M33), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420 or e-mail nancy.kessinger@va.gov. Please refer to “OMB Control No. 2900-0721” in any correspondence. During the comment period, comments may be viewed online through FDMS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nancy J. Kessinger at (202) 461-9769 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