

being made pursuant to Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

With respect to the following collection of information, IT invites comments on: (1) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of IT's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of IT'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:* Request to Correspondent for Identifying Information, VA Form Letter 70-2.

*OMB Control Number:* 2900-0078.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a previously approved collection.

*Abstract:* The form letter is used to obtain additional information from a correspondent when the incoming correspondence does not provide sufficient information to identify a veteran. VA personnel use the information to identify the veteran, determine the location of a specific file, and to accomplish the action requested by the correspondent such as; process a benefit claim or file material in the individual's claims folder. Completion of the form is voluntary and failure to furnish the requested information has no adverse effect on either the veteran or the correspondent.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 3,750 hours.

*Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent:* 5 minutes.

*Frequency of Response:* On occasion.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 45,000.

Dated: April 13, 2000.

**Donald L. Neilson,**

*Director, Information Management Service.*

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**BILLING CODE 8320-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0466]

### 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 reinstatement, with change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments for information needed to verify beneficiaries' deposit remaining at a financial institution against a fiduciary's accounting.

**DATES:** Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before July 3, 2000.

**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. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0466" 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 (Public Law 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:* Certificate of Balance on Deposit and Authorization to Disclose Financial Records, VA Form 27-4718a.

*OMB Control Number:* 2900-0466.

*Type of Review:* Reinstatement, with change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired.

*Abstract:* Fiduciaries are required to obtain certifications that the balances remaining on deposit in financial institutions as shown on accountings are correct. The form is completed by a certifying official at a financial institution who must also affix the financial seal or stamp. An Estate analyst reviews the information provided on this form when auditing accounting to determine the veracity of the information supplied by fiduciaries. The purpose is to prevent fiduciaries from supplying false certification, embezzling funds, and possibly prevent and/or identify fraud, waste, and abuse of government funds paid to fiduciaries on behalf of VA beneficiaries.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or Households, Business or Other for-Profit, Not for Profit Institutions, and State, Local or Tribal Government.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 1,185 hours.

*Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent:* 3 minutes.

*Frequency of Response:* Annually.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 23,700.

Dated: April 24, 2000.

**Donald L. Neilson,**

*Director, Information Management Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Privacy Act of 1974; Report of Amended Matching Program

**AGENCY:** Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) intends to conduct a recurring computer program matching Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) benefit recipient records with VA pension and parents' dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) records.

The goal of this match is to compare income status as reported to VA with benefit records maintained by RRB.

VA plans to match records of veterans and surviving spouses and children who receive pension, and parents who receive DIC, with Railroad Retirement benefit records maintained by RRB. The match with RRB will provide VA with data from the RRB Research File of Retirement and Survivor Benefits.