

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

The ITP concept has been under consideration by both the U.S. Customs Service (USCS) and Her Majesty's Custom and Excise (HMCE) since 1996. The nucleus of this program is an extension of ideas developed in partnership with the trade community by various members of the Trans-Atlantic Team, primarily comprised of USCS and HMCE officers. The ITP concept also addressed issues raised by international traders, the World Customs Organization (WCO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), G-7 and other international organizations.

The concept was intended to simplify and standardize Customs processes and procedures in order to facilitate trade while maintaining effective and efficient control.

Additional information on the ITP has been published in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 68353 on December 31, 1997; 63 FR 30288 on June 3, 1998); and (64 FR 40643 on July 27, 1999).

This notice serves to inform the public that the ITP test announced in the aforementioned Notices is suspended due to lack of funding.

Procedures

The ITP system involves initiation of import clearance processing on the basis of an Inter-Customs Advice (ICA) message sent from the export customs authority to the import customs authority.

For all outstanding ITP U.S. import shipments for which an ICA message from HMCE has been received prior to the date of publication of this Notice, USCS will complete processing under ITP procedures. All processing for such shipments must be completed within 30 days following the date of publication of this Notice.

On or after the date of publication of this Notice, USCS will no longer process ICA messages for either U.S. exports or U.S. imports. Participants must revert to non-ITP processing for all cargo shipments.

Dated: March 8, 2000.

Robert J. McNamara,

Acting Assistant Commissioner, Office of Field Operations.

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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 Social Security Administration (SSA) records with VA compensation, pension and dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) records.

The goal of this match is to provide VA with information to identify those who are confined for a period exceeding 60 days due to a conviction for a felony or misdemeanor. VA has the obligation to reduce or suspend compensation, pension, and dependency and indemnity compensation benefit payments to veterans and VA beneficiaries on the 61st day following conviction and incarceration in a Federal, State, or local institution for a felony or misdemeanor. Veterans Benefits Administration also has the obligation to reduce educational assistance to any recipient who is incarcerated for a felony conviction.

VA plans to match records of VA beneficiaries with those reported by SSA as being incarcerated and to adjust their VA benefits accordingly. VA will use the SSA records provided in the match to update the master records of VA beneficiaries and to adjust their VA benefits, accordingly, if needed.

RECORDS TO BE MATCHED: The VA records involved in the match are the VA system of records, Compensation, Pension, Education and Rehabilitation Records—VA (58 VA 21/22) first published at 41 FR 9294, March 3, 1976 and last amended at 63 FR 37941 (July 14, 1998). SSA's system of records and corresponding routine uses allowing the release of records for this purpose are the Master Beneficiary Record, SSA/OSR, 09-60-0090, Routine Use Number 24; Supplemental Security Income Record, SSA/OSR, 09-60-0103, Routine Use Number 19; Master Files of Social Security Number (SSN) Holders and SSN Applications SSA/OSR, 09-60-0058, Routine Use Number 15 (sub-systems are also referred to as the Enumeration Verification System (EVS),

the Alphident or the NUMIDENT), Prisoner Update Payment System (PUPS) and the Incarceration Report Control System (IRCS). For each aspect of this program, the EVS will be accessed. In accordance with Title 5 U.S.C. subsection 552a(o)(2) and (r), copies of the agreement are being sent to both Houses of Congress and to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

This notice is provided in accordance with the provisions of the Privacy Act of 1974 as amended by Public Law 100-503.

DATES: The match will start no sooner than April 12, 2000, and end not more than 18 months after the agreement is properly implemented by the parties. The involved agencies' Data Integrity Boards (DIB) may extend this match for 12 months provided the agencies certify to their DIBs within three months of the ending date of the original match that the matching program will be conducted without change and that the matching program has been conducted in compliance with the original matching program.

ADDRESSES: Interested individuals may submit written comments to the Director, Office of Regulations Management (02D), 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 Regulations Management, Room 1158, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Mondays through Fridays, except holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kathleen Grill (212), (202) 273-7234.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This information is required by Title 5 U.S.C. subsection 552a(e)(12), the Privacy Act of 1974. A copy of this notice has been provided to both Houses of Congress and OMB.

Approved: February 28, 2000.

Togo D. West, Jr.,

Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

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