

December 31, 2000, for Guaranteed Traffic carriers.

ADDRESSES: Headquarters, Military Traffic Management Command, ATTN: MTOP-MRM, 200 Stovall Street, Alexandria, VA 22332-5000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Michael C. Donohue at 703-428-2119, E-mail donohuem@mtmc.army.mil. An additional point of contact is Ms. Kiazan Moneypenny At 703-428-2384, E-mail moneypennyk@mtmc.army.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A notice proposing mandatory use of USBank's Powertrack System was published in the **Federal Register**, vol. 65, no. 151, page 47970 on Friday, August 4, 2000. In response to this notice we have received one set of comments, from the attorney representing a carrier association, within the 60-day comment period. A synopsis of these comments and responses appear below:

Comment: Carriers must pay a mandatory commission or service charge in order to participate in the program. Said payments are in the form of deductions (of up to 2%) from the amounts paid carriers for their services.

Response: Payment of the above fee is offset by the benefits of being paid more quickly—within 3 business days, as opposed to 30 days or more, and eliminating unnecessary infrastructure maintained just for DOD accounts. Complaints of DOD delayed payments by the industry were among the factors influencing implementation of PowerTrack. Additionally, there is an unspecified cost offset associated with significantly reduced paperwork through elimination of Government unique documentation. Carriers have the option to reflect any increased costs (or savings) from the use of PowerTrack in their rates just as they currently incorporate any other overhead cost of doing business.

Comment: Fees currently charged by USBank to participate in Powertrack exceed those charged in the market place by other sources.

Response: DOD maintains that said fees are well within industry norms. Further, they are appropriate and realistic in view of the benefits described above, particularly rapid payment, a benefit desired by the industry. Elimination of the onerous DOD Carrier invoice process (SF1113) reduces processing time and overhead for the carrier significantly.

Comment: Industry's use of factoring companies is voluntary. Participation in Powertrack is mandatory.

Response: Participation in DOD freight traffic is also voluntary. Use of Powertrack as a condition for so doing

has been openly addressed in a variety of forums since DOD Management Reform Memorandum #15 was published in the **Federal Register** in January 1999. DOD maintains this allowed industry members sufficient opportunity to decide if participating in DOD freight traffic, under these circumstances, was to their benefit. Further, prior to Powertrack, use of DOD unique forms and procedures, as a condition for participating in DOD freight traffic was likewise mandatory.

Comment: Selection of USBank/Powertrack was not competitive. Hence, better rates for the same, or similar, services may have been available elsewhere.

Response: This selection was competitively bid by the General Services Administration, the Government's principal contracting manager, under that agency's procurement procedures.

Comment: DOD receives a discount on transportation charges paid by USBank if DFAS forwards payments thereto within a specified period. This creates a strong appearance of conflict of interests and impropriety on the part of DOD. Further, USBank's willingness to do so suggests they are willing to do the job for less than is actually billed to customers. To avoid imposing an unreasonable financial burden on carriers, rebates should be refunded thereto or deducted from their service charges.

Response: Discounts for timely payments are a common commercial and government practice, as are penalties for late payments. It is in the best interest of both the customer and service provider to leverage discounts to reduce the bill and reduce the service provider's account receivable quickly. This is accepted, open and public, and does not constitute collusion or "kick-backs." If these discounts were redistributed to the industry, then considerations of equity would dictate the same disposition of any penalties. Further, the paperwork involved in such a process would burdensome and would detract from the system's cost benefits.

Comment: MTMC was unequivocally committed to the use of the USBank payment system long before public input was solicited.

Response: Management Reform Memorandum #15 is one of Secretary of Defense William Cohen's Defense Reform Initiatives. The plan to completely reengineer DOD's transportation documentation and financial processes was signed by the Deputy Secretary of Defense, Dr. Hamre on July 7, 1997. Numerous conferences and meeting were hosted by DOD,

bringing together senior transportation and financial leadership from within DOD and the transportation industry. In addition, the internal demands of cutting infrastructure costs and improving efficiencies, the commercial transportation industry told DOD that it was not a "customer of choice". DOD had to make drastic changes in its overall transportation documentation and related financial business processes. It was no longer acceptable to pay carriers between 30 and 90 days after delivery. MTMC, as the DOD Traffic Manager for surface and intermodal freight traffic, is unequivocally committed to the use of the USBank payment system.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

This action is not considered rule making within the meaning of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 USC 601-612.

Paperwork Reduction Act

The Paperwork reduction Act, 44 USC 3051 *et seq.*, does not apply because no information collection or record keeping requirements are imposed on contractors, offerors or members of the public.

Thomas Hicks,

Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans.

[FR Doc. 00-29999 Filed 11-22-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests

AGENCY: Department of Education.

SUMMARY: The Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, invites comments on the proposed information collection requests as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before January 23, 2001.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. OMB may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere

with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, publishes that notice containing proposed information collection requests prior to submission of these requests to OMB. Each proposed information collection, grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, e.g. new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. OMB invites public comment. The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) Is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology.

Dated: November 16 2000.

John Tressler,

Leader, Regulatory Information Management, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

Office of Student Financial Assistance Programs

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Title: Fiscal Operations Report and Application to Participate (FISAP) in the Federal Perkins Loan, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, and Federal Work-Study Programs.

Frequency: Annually.

Affected Public: Not-for-profit institutions (primary), Businesses or other for-profit, State, Local, or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 1.

Burden Hours: 25780.

Abstract: This application data will be used to compute the amount of funds needed by each institution during the 2002–2003 Award Year. The Fiscal Operations Report data will be used to assess program effectiveness, account for funds expended during the 2002–2001 award year, and as part of the institutional funding process.

Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request may be accessed from <http://edicsweb.ed.gov>, or

should be addressed to Vivian Reese, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Room 4050, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, D.C. 20202–4651. Requests may also be electronically mailed to the internet address OCIO_IMG_Issues@ed.gov or faxed to 202–708–9346. Please specify the complete title of the information collection when making your request. Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be directed to Jackie Montague at (202) 708–5359. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339.

Office of the Undersecretary

Type of Review: New Collection.

Title: Study of the SDFSCA Middle School Coordinator Initiative.

Frequency: Semi-Annually Annually.

Affected Public: State, Local, or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs (primary), Not-for-profit institutions.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 14326.

Burden Hours: 13753.

Abstract: The national evaluation of the Middle School Coordinator Initiative (MSCI) will be conducted over the course of four years and will collect data from district prevention coordinators, Middle School Coordinators, district officials, school principals, prevention teachers, school support personnel, students, parents, and representatives of community organizations. Initiative implementation will be assessed in all funded districts. School-level program data and student outcome data will be collected from a sample of 30 MSCI districts as well as 30 comparison districts over four years. Case study data will be collected from 10 of those MSCI districts.

Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request may be accessed from <http://edicsweb.ed.gov>, or should be addressed to Vivian Reese, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Room 4050, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, D.C. 20202–4651. Requests may also be electronically mailed to the internet address OCIO_IMG_Issues@ed.gov or faxed to 202–708–9346. Please specify the complete title of the information collection when making your request. Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be directed to Kathy Axt at (703) 426–9692. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information

Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Department of Education.

SUMMARY: The Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer invites comments on the submission for OMB review as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before December 26, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Lauren Wittenberg, Acting Desk Officer, Department of Education, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, N.W., Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20503 or should be electronically mailed to the internet address Lauren_Wittenberg@omb.eop.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. OMB may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, publishes that notice containing proposed information collection requests prior to submission of these requests to OMB. Each proposed information collection, grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, e.g. new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. OMB invites public comment.