

authority vested by 31 U.S.C. 321(b) and 19 U.S.C. 2072(b), and it is ordered that:

1. Samuel H. Banks, Deputy Commissioner, United States Customs Service, shall act as Commissioner of Customs until a new Commissioner of Customs who is appointed pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 2071 executes the oath of office. Mr. Banks is authorized to use the title of Acting Commissioner of Customs.

2. All duties and powers carried out by the Commissioner of Customs prior to the effective date of this Order shall be carried out by the Acting Commissioner of Customs.

3. *Effective Date.* The foregoing arrangements are effective as of September 1, 1997. To the extent that any action heretofore taken consistent with this Order may require ratification, it is hereby approved and ratified.

4. *Cancellation.* This temporary Order shall terminate without any further action when a new Commissioner of Customs who is appointed pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 2071 executes the oath of office.

Robert E. Rubin,

Secretary of the Treasury.

[FR Doc. 97-25737 Filed 9-26-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms

[Notice No. 97-101]

The Department of the Treasury's Odor Recognition Proficiency Standard for Explosives Detection Canines (97R-2543P)

AGENCY: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), Department of the Treasury.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Treasury has established an odor recognition proficiency standard for explosives detection canines. This standard includes a minimum odor recognition proficiency test which may be used by agencies employing explosives detection canines. Further testing and validation of this standard will continue for a one year period beginning on October 1, 1997 and ending on September 30, 1998. A copy of this standard is available to all interested persons.

ADDRESSES: To receive a copy of the Department of the Treasury's Odor Recognition Proficiency Standard, send a written request, on official law enforcement or government letterhead,

to: Chief, Canine Operations Unit, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, 650 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Room 6200, Washington, DC 20226.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Rhonda Bokorney, Chief, Canine Operations Unit, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, 650 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20226 (202-927-7930).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On September 30, 1998, the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act of 1997, Pub. L. 104-208, authorized the Secretary of the Treasury to establish a standard for explosives detection canines. Section 653(a) of the Act provides the following: Sec. 653. (a) Authorization.—The Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to establish scientific certification standards for explosives detection canines, and shall provide, on a reimbursable basis, for the certification of explosives detection canines employed by Federal agencies, or other agencies providing explosives detection services at airports in the United States.

The Secretary of the Treasury requested the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) to develop the standard. The standard establishes a minimum Odor Recognition Proficiency Test which may be used by law enforcement agencies employing explosives detection canines. ATF solicited recommendations from other Federal law enforcement agencies employing explosives detection canines. These recommendations were incorporated into the standard.

Additionally, ATF has agreed to test this standard for validation for a one year period. This standard is available for consideration and use by law enforcement agencies. A copy of this standard is available to all interested persons.

Authority and Issuance

Authority: Sec. 653, Pub. L. 104-208, 110 Stat. 3009.

Raymond W. Kelly,

Under Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-25647 Filed 9-26-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900—New]

Submission for OMB Emergency Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Office of Management, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

Dated: September 22, 1997.

In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 (44 U.S.C., Chapter 35), this notice announces that the Office of Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, has submitted the collection of information abstracted below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) utilizing emergency review procedures. OMB approval has been requested by September 30, 1997. A copy of this PRA submission, with applicable supporting documentation, may be obtained from Ron Taylor, Information Management Service (045A4), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420, (202) 273-8015 or FAX (202) 273-5981.

Comments must be submitted on or before September 29, 1997. Send comments and recommendations on the proposal for the collection of information to VA's OMB Desk Officer, Allison Eydt, OMB Human Resources and Housing Branch, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503, (202) 395-4650.

OMB is particularly interested in comments which: (1) evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected, and (4) minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

Title and Form Numbers: Request for IRS 1099-MISC Tax Collection and Federal 1057 Socio-Economic Status, VA Form Letter 4-555.

OMB Control Number: 2900—New.

Type of Review: New Collection.

Abstract: Federal agencies are required to collect Internal Revenue Service (IRS) 1099 tax reporting and Federal 1057 socio-economic information on Federal I.M.P.A.C. (International Merchant Purchase

Authorization Card) credit card transactions. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), with the assistance of an outside entity, will send VA Form Letter 4-555 to collect the necessary information from merchants the Federal governments has done business with using the I.M.P.A.C. credit card so that they may provide adequate reporting for CY 1997. The form letter will support the validity and urgency for the collection of information and provide a standardized format for reporting. The General Services Administration (GSA) could not issue this type of collection of information at this time, due to the current re-procurement status for the purchase credit card.

It is essential to the VA's reporting requirements that this type of information be collected for our I.M.P.A.C. card transactions during CY 1997. By law, VA as well as all Federal agencies, must report 1099 status and also have requirements to report the socio-economic status of the merchants with whom we do business.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit.

Estimated Annual Burden: 62,500 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent: 5 minutes.

Frequency of Response: One-time.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 750,000.

Dated: September 22, 1997.

By direction of the Secretary.

Donald L. Neilson,

Director, Information Management Service.

[FR Doc. 97-25771 Filed 9-26-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Persian Gulf Expert Scientific Committee; Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), in accordance with P.L. 92-463, gives notice that a meeting of the VA

Persian Gulf Expert Scientific Committee will be held on:

Monday, November 17, 1997, at :30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 18, 1997, at 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

The location of the meeting will be 810 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C., Room 230.

The Committee's objectives are to advise the Under Secretary for Health about medical findings affecting Persian Gulf era veterans.

At this meeting the Committee will review all aspects of patient care and medical diagnoses and will provide professional consultation as needed. The Committee may advise on other areas involving research and development, veterans benefits and/or training aspects for patients and staff.

All portions of the meeting will be open to the public except from 4:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. on November 17 and from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. on November 18, 1997. During these executive sessions, discussions and recommendations will deal with medical records of specific patients and individually identifiable patient medical histories. The disclosure of this information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. Closure of this portion of the meeting is in accordance with subsection 10(d) of Pub. L. 92-463, as amended by Pub. L. 94-409, and as cited in 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6).

The agenda for November 17 will begin with presentations on Depleted Uranium and a Follow-up on ill Persian Gulf Veterans. The first days' agenda will also cover a presentation on Chemical/Biological Agents.

On November 18 the Committee will hear updates on the Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and Leishmania.

Additional information concerning these meetings may be obtained from the Executive Secretary, Office of Public Health & Environmental Hazards, 810 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20420.

Dated: September 23, 1997.

By direction of the Secretary-Designate:

Heyward Bannister,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 97-25772 Filed 9-26-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Enhanced-Use Development at the VAMC, North Little Rock, AR

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice of designation.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs is designating the Veterans Affairs Medical Center at North Little Rock, Arkansas, for an Enhanced-Use lease development. The Department intends to enter into a long-term lease of real property with the developer whose proposal will provide the most advantageous combination of services and revenue as consideration to the VA while retaining the therapeutic benefit of golf for patients at no cost to the Department.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jacob Gallun, Office of Asset and Enterprise Development (189), Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC, 20420, (202) 565-4307.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: 38 U.S.C. Sec 8161 *et seq.* specifically provides that the Secretary may enter into an Enhanced-Use lease, if the Secretary determines that at least part of the use of the property under the lease will be to provide appropriate space for an activity contributing to the mission of the Department; the lease will not be inconsistent with and will not adversely affect the mission of the Department; and the lease will enhance the property. This project meets these requirements.

Approved: September 22, 1997.

Hershel W. Gober,

Acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

[FR Doc. 97-25715 Filed 9-26-97; 8:45 am]

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