

operations, by transferring their illegal activities to other geographical areas, or by destroying or concealing evidence that would form the basis for detection or apprehension. In the case of a delinquent account, such release might enable the subject of the investigation to dissipate assets before levy.

(ii) Providing accountings to the subjects of investigations would alert them to the fact that the Department has information regarding their illegal activities and could inform them of the general nature of that information.

* * * * *

(2) * * * The application of these provisions to the systems of records would compromise the Department's ability to utilize and provide useful tactical and strategic information to law enforcement agencies.

(i) * * *

(A) discovering the facts that would form the basis for their detection or apprehension;

(B) enabling them to destroy or alter evidence of illegal conduct that would form the basis for their detection or apprehension, and

(C) using knowledge that investigators had reason to believe that a violation of law was about to be committed, to delay the commission of the violation or commit it at a location that might not be under surveillance.

(ii) Permitting access to either on-going or closed investigative files would also reveal investigative techniques and procedures, the knowledge of which could enable individuals planning non-criminal acts to structure their operations so as to avoid detection or apprehension.

(iii) * * * Confidential sources and informers might refuse to provide investigators with valuable information unless they believed that their identities would not be revealed through disclosure of their names or the nature of the information they supplied. * * *

(iv) Furthermore, providing access to records contained in the systems of records could reveal the identities of undercover law enforcement officers or other persons who compiled information regarding the individual's illegal activities and thereby endanger the physical safety of those undercover officers, persons, or their families by exposing them to possible reprisals.

(4) * * * The application of this provision to the system of records could impair the Department's ability to collect, utilize and disseminate valuable law enforcement information.

* * * * *

(6) * * * The application of this provision to the systems of records

could compromise the Department's ability to complete or continue investigations or to provide useful information to law enforcement agencies, since revealing sources for the information could:

* * * * *

(iii) Cause informers to refuse to give full information to investigators for fear of having their identities as sources disclosed.

* * * * *

Dated: March 30, 2001.

W. Earl Wright, Jr.,

Chief Management and Administrative Programs Officer.

[FR Doc. 01-8511 Filed 4-5-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4810-25-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 100

[CGD11-01-004]

RIN 2115-AE46

Special Local Regulations: San Diego Crew Classic

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of Implementation.

SUMMARY: This document implements 33 CFR 100.1101, Southern California annual marine events, for the San Diego Crew Classic which will be held on April 7, 2001 and April 8, 2001. The race will consist of eight oared shells, 60 feet long for club and intercollegiate rowing competitions, with approximately 3,000 participants. These regulations will be effective on Mission Bay, that portion bounded by Enchanted Cove, Fiesta Island, Pacific Passage and DeAnza Point. These Special Local Regulations are necessary to control vessel traffic in the regulated areas during the event to ensure the safety of participants and spectators.

Pursuant to 33 CFR 100.1101(b)(3), Commanding Officer, Coast Guard Activities San Diego, is designated Patrol Commander for this event; he has the authority to delegate this responsibility to any commissioned, warrant, or petty officer of the Coast Guard.

EFFECTIVE DATES: 33 CFR 100.1101 is effective from 6 a.m. (PST) until 6 p.m. (PST) on April 7, 2001, and from 6 a.m. (PDT) until 6 p.m. (PDT) on April 8, 2001. If the event concludes prior to the scheduled termination date and/or time, the Coast Guard will cease enforcement

of this section and will announce that fact via Broadcast Notice to Mariners.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Petty Officer Nicole Lavorgna, U.S. Coast Guard MSO San Diego, San Diego, California; Telephone: (619) 683-6495.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: These Special Local Regulations permit Coast Guard control of vessel traffic in order to ensure the safety of spectator and participant vessels. In accordance with the regulations in 33 CFR 100.1101, no persons or vessels shall block, anchor, or loiter in the regulated area; nor shall any person or vessel transit through the regulated area, or otherwise impeded the transit of participant or official patrol vessels in the regulated area, unless cleared for such entry by or through an official patrol vessel acting on behalf of the Patrol Commander.

Dated: March 29, 2001.

E.R. Riutta,

Vice Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard, Commander, Eleventh Coast Guard District.

[FR Doc. 01-8448 Filed 4-5-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-15-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 117

[CGD01-01-046]

Drawbridge Operation Regulations: Shaw Cove, CT

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of temporary deviation from regulations.

SUMMARY: The Commander, First Coast Guard District, has issued a temporary deviation from the drawbridge operating regulations governing the operation of the Amtrak Bridge, at mile 0.0, across the Shaw Cove at New London, Connecticut. Under this deviation the bridge owner need not open the bridge for vessel traffic from 10 p.m. on April 4, 2001 through 10 p.m. on April 6, 2001. This action is necessary to facilitate necessary maintenance at the bridge.

DATES: This deviation is effective April 4, 2001, through April 6, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Joseph Schmied, Project Officer, First Coast Guard District, at (212) 668-7165.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The Amtrak Bridge, at mile 0.0, across the Shaw Cove has a vertical clearance of 3 feet at mean high water, and 6 feet at mean low water in the closed position. The existing drawbridge

operating regulations are listed at 33 CFR 117.223.

The bridge owner, the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak), requested a temporary deviation from the drawbridge operating regulations to facilitate necessary maintenance at the bridge. This deviation from the operating regulations allows the bridge owner to need not open the Amtrak Bridge for vessel traffic from 10 p.m. on April 4, 2001 through 10 p.m. on April 6, 2001. Vessels that can pass under the bridge without an opening may do so at all times during the closed period.

The bridge owner provided less than 30 days notice to the Coast Guard of its request to deviate from the drawbridge regulations on the specified dates. However, a deviation was previously approved to perform this work March 5, 2001 through March 8, 2001; that work was cancelled due to severe weather conditions during that period. Delaying the commencement of this maintenance to require an additional 30 days notice would be unnecessary and contrary to the public interest since this work involves vital maintenance that must be performed without undue delay. Known waterway users were contacted regarding the proposed closure period; none had any objection. Furthermore, performing the repairs before the recreational boating season begins will lessen the impact and inconvenience to other mariners that use this waterway.

In accordance with 33 CFR 117.35(c) this work will be performed with all due speed in order to return the bridge to normal operation as soon as possible. This deviation from the operating regulations is authorized under 33 CFR 117.35.

Dated: March 29, 2001.

G.N. Naccara,

Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard, Commander, First Coast Guard District.

[FR Doc. 01-8447 Filed 4-5-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

38 CFR Part 3

RIN 2900-AK07

Signature by Mark

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This document amends the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) adjudication regulation that explains how a claimant can use a mark or a

thumbprint in place of a signature. This amendment is necessary to present the existing regulation in plain language and to remove an obsolete manual provision from VA's Adjudication Procedural Manual, M21-1. This document also adds a new subpart D to part 3 along with a section setting forth the scope of applicability of subpart D.

DATES: *Effective Date:* April 6, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Candice Weaver, Consultant, Plain Language Regulations Project, or Bob White, Team Leader, Plain Language Regulations Project, Veterans Benefits Administration, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC, 20420, telephone 202-273-7235 and 202-273-7228 respectively.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: VA published a proposal in the **Federal Register** on July 26, 2000 (65 FR 45952-53) to rewrite 38 CFR 3.113 in plain language. We proposed to create new § 3.2130 to restate the current regulation and to remove the obsolete requirement in the Adjudication Procedure Manual that eligibility verification reports signed by mark or thumbprint be accompanied by a separate sheet of paper certifying that the information contained on the form is true and correct. Interested persons were invited to submit written comments on or before September 25, 2000. We received one comment from the National Service Director of the Disabled American Veterans.

The comment suggested improving the proposed rule by permitting the acceptance of signatures on documents by mark or thumbprint when witnessed by accredited agents, attorneys, or service organization representatives. The commenter referred to VA's recently proposed amendment to 38 CFR 3.203 to authorize the acceptance of copies of military records certified as true and exact copies by claimants' representatives (65 FR 39580). This proposal was consistent with the partnership being developed between accredited representatives and VA for the purpose of improving claims processing. VA concurs with the commenter and has modified the proposed rule to reflect the comment. Proposed § 3.2130 has been amended by redesignating proposed paragraphs (b) and (c) as paragraphs (c) and (d) respectively, and by adding a new paragraph (b) to read "They are witnessed by an accredited agent, attorney, or service organization representative, or".

No comments were received with regard to the addition of subpart D or

§ 3.2100 on the scope of applicability of subpart D.

VA appreciates the comment submitted in response to the proposed rule which, based on the rationale set forth in the proposal and this document, is now adopted with the change explained above.

Executive Order 12866

This final rule has been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget under Executive Order 12866.

Paperwork Reduction Act

This document contains no provisions constituting a collection of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520).

Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Secretary hereby certifies that these final rules will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities as they are defined in the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601-612. The reason for this certification is that these final rules do not directly affect any small entities. Only VA beneficiaries are directly affected. Therefore, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 605(b), these final rules are exempt from the initial and final regulatory flexibility analysis requirement of sections 603 and 604.

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance program numbers are 64.100, 64.101, 64.104, 64.105, 64.109, 64.110, and 64.127.

List of Subjects in 38 CFR Part 3

Administrative practice and procedures, Claims, Disability benefits, Health care, Pensions, Veterans, Vietnam.

Approved: February 15, 2001.

Anthony J. Principi,

Acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, 38 CFR part 3 is amended as follows:

PART 3—ADJUDICATION

Subpart A—Pension, Compensation, and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation

1. The authority citation for part 3, subpart A continues to read as follows:

Authority: 38 U.S.C. 501(a), unless otherwise noted.

§ 3.113 [Removed]

2. Section 3.113 is removed.

Subpart C—[Reserved]

3. Subpart C is added and reserved.