

develop plans and policy for the use of navigable airspace and, by order or rule, to regulate the use of the airspace as necessary to ensure its efficient use.

Background

On August 18, 2004, the FAA issued an order limiting the number of scheduled arrivals that air carriers conduct at O'Hare during peak hours. The August 18 order followed a period during which O'Hare operated without any regulatory constraint on the number of aircraft operations, and O'Hare experienced significant congestion-related delay. According to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, in November 2003, O'Hare ranked last among the nation's thirty-one major airports for on-time arrival performance, with on-time arrivals 57.26% of the time. O'Hare also ranked last in on-time departures in November 2003, yielding on-time departures 66.94% of the time. The data for December 2003 reflected a similar performance by O'Hare—ranking last with 60.06% of arrivals on time and 67.23% of departures on time. Despite the high proportion of delayed flights, however, when the air carriers published their January and February 2004 schedules in the Official Airline Guide, the schedules revealed that the air carriers intended to add still more flight operations to O'Hare's schedule.

In January 2004, the two air carriers conducting most of the scheduled operations at O'Hare—together accounting for about 88% of O'Hare's scheduled flights—agreed to a temporary 5% reduction of their proposed peak-hour schedules at the airport. When the voluntarily reduced schedules failed to reduce sufficiently O'Hare's congestion-related flight delays, the two air carriers agreed to a further 2.5% reduction of their scheduled peak-hour operations at O'Hare. The FAA captured the voluntary schedule reductions in FAA orders, and the orders were effective through October 30, 2004.

By the summer of 2004, it was apparent that the schedule reductions agreed to in the first half of the year, which were made by only two of the many air carriers conducting scheduled operations at O'Hare, were unlikely to be renewed after the orders expired on October 30. In the absence of a voluntary constraint, the industry's proposed schedules for November, as reported in the preliminary Official Airline Guide in July, reflected that the number of scheduled arrivals during several hours would approach or exceed O'Hare's highest possible arrival capacity. During one hour, the number of scheduled arrivals would have

exceeded by 32% O'Hare's capacity under ideal conditions.

Therefore, the FAA invited all scheduled air carriers to an August 2004 scheduling reduction meeting to discuss overscheduling at O'Hare, voluntary schedule reductions, and retiming flights to less congested periods. The August meeting and subsequent negotiations led the FAA to issue the August 18 order, which limited the number of scheduled arrivals conducted by U.S. and Canadian air carriers at O'Hare during peak operating hours. The order also defined opportunities for new entry and for growth by limited incumbent air carriers at O'Hare. The order took effect November 1, 2004, and in the absence of an extension, it will expire on April 30, 2005.

The flight limits implemented by the August 18 order have been effective. Preliminary data reflect that the voluntary schedule reductions and adjustments that the order implements have in the first three months yielded a 21% reduction in average arrival delay minutes at O'Hare when compared to the published August 2004 schedules. Comparing the operational data for O'Hare from November 2003 with that from November 2004, the voluntary schedule adjustments over that period have cumulatively resulted in an approximate 42% reduction in average arrival delay minutes.

Order To Show Cause

The FAA is planning to issue soon a notice of proposed rulemaking to address, for a specified duration, scheduled operations at O'Hare. The notice would solicit public comment on a proposed regulation in a separate public docket associated with that rulemaking. After considering the comments received on the proposed rule, the FAA expects to issue a final rule that will address congestion-related delay at O'Hare. The rulemaking process would enable the FAA to adopt more refined measures for managing air traffic at O'Hare, but the FAA could not complete such a process before the August 18 order's current expiration date.

To prevent a recurrence of overscheduling at O'Hare during the interim between the expiration of the August 18, 2004, order on April 30 and, if adopted, the effective date of a rule, the FAA tentatively intends to extend the August 18 order. The limits on arrivals and allocation of arrival rights embodied in the August 18 order reflect the FAA's agreements with U.S. and Canadian air carriers. As a result, maintaining the order for an additional six months constitutes a reasonable

approach for preventing unacceptable congestion and delays at O'Hare. The August 18 order, as extended, would expire on October 31, 2005.

The August 18 order does not include a mechanism to allocate any capacity that is unused by the air carrier to which it was assigned in the August 18 order. The FAA is specifically soliciting views on whether the FAA should allocate unused capacity under an extended order and, if so, how the FAA should allocate any such unused capacity.

Accordingly, the FAA directs all interested persons to show cause why the FAA should not make final its tentative findings and tentative decision to extend the August 18 order through October 31, 2005, by filing their written views in Docket No. FAA-2004-16944 on or before February 24, 2005. The FAA does not intend this request for the views of interested persons to address the longer-term issues that will be considered in any forthcoming proposed rulemaking. Therefore, any submissions to the current docket should be limited to the issues specified in this order.

Issued in Washington, DC, on February 10, 2005.

Rebecca MacPherson,

Assistant Chief Counsel for Regulation.

[FR Doc. 05-2927 Filed 2-10-05; 3:46 pm]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

United States Mint

Proposed Collection: Comment Request for Customer Satisfaction and Opinion Surveys and Focus Group Interviews

AGENCY: United States Mint (Mint).

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the United States Mint, a bureau of the Department of the Treasury, is soliciting comments on the United States Mint customer satisfaction and opinion surveys and focus group interviews.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before April 18, 2005 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Kathy Chiarello, Brand Manager, Office of Sales and Marketing, United States Mint, 801 9th Street, NW., 5th Floor, Washington, DC 20220; (202) 354-7809 (this is not a toll free number); KChiarello@usmint.treas.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection package should be directed to Brenda Butler, Program Analyst, Office of Records Management, United States Mint, 799 9th Street, NW., 4th Floor, Washington, DC 20220; (202) 772-7413 (this is not a toll-free number); BrButler@usmint.treas.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: United States Mint customer satisfaction and opinion surveys and focus group interviews.

OMB Number: 1525-0012.

Abstract: The proposed customer satisfaction and opinion surveys and focus group interviews will allow the United States Mint to assess the needs and desires of customers for future products and more efficient, economical services.

Current Actions: The United States Mint conducts customer satisfaction and opinion surveys and focus group interviews to determine the level of satisfaction of United States Mint customers.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: The affected public includes: the serious and casual numismatic collectors, dealers and people in the numismatic business and the general public or one-time only customers.

Estimated Number of Respondents: The estimated number of respondents for the next three years is 16,164, with a total estimated number of burden hours of 8,328.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: The estimated number of annual burden hours is 2,776.

Requests for Comments: Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of

information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Dated: February 10, 2005.

Yvonne Pollard,

Chief, Records Management Division, United States Mint.

[FR Doc. 05-2859 Filed 2-14-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4810-37-P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-New]

Agency Information Collection: Emergency Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 (44 U.S.C., 3501-3521), this notice announces that the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) the following emergency proposal for the collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3507(j)(1)). The reason for the emergency clearance is to continue obtaining certification from State approving agency and employees of VA certifying that they do not own any interest in a proprietary profit school. Disruption of the collection of information will harm VBA's efforts to carry out its mission. OMB has been requested to act on this emergency clearance request by February 25, 2005.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before February 22, 2005.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR A COPY OF THE SUBMISSION CONTACT: Denise McLamb, Records Management Service (005E3), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 273-8030, FAX (202) 273-5981 or e-mail: denise.mclamb@mail.va.gov. Please refer to OMB Control No. 2900-New.

Send comments and recommendations concerning any aspect of the information collection to VA's OMB Desk Officer, OMB Human Resources and Housing Branch, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503 (202) 395-7316

or FAX (202) 395-6974. Please refer to OMB Control No. 2900-New.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Conflicting Interests Certification for Proprietary Schools, VA form 22-1919.

OMB Control Number: 2900-New.

Type of Review: Existing collection in use without an OMB control number.

Abstract: VA pays education benefits to veterans and other eligible person pursuing approved programs of education. 38 U.S.C. 3683 prohibits employees of VA and State approving agency enrolled in a proprietary profit school from owning any interest in the school.

Veterans or eligible person who is an official authorized to sign certificates of enrollment or verification/certifications of attendance, an owner or an officer are prohibited from receiving educational assistance based on their enrollment in any proprietary school. The information contained on VA Form 22-1919 completed by proprietary school officials certifying that the institution and enrollees do not have any conflict of interest.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 213,137 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent: 23 minutes.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 557,040.

Dated: February 9, 2005.

By direction of the Secretary.

Loise Russell,

Director, Records Management Service.

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BILLING CODE 8320-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-New]

Agency Information Collection: Emergency Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 (44 U.S.C., 3501-3521), this notice announces that the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) the following emergency proposal for the collection of information under the