

to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

Title and Form Number: Request for and Consent to Release of Medical Records Protected by Section 7332, VA Form 10-5345(R).

OMB Control Number: 2900-0260.

Type of Review: Reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired.

Abstract: Section 7332, Title 38, United States Code, requires the VA to obtain prior written consent from a patient before information concerning treatment for alcoholism or alcohol abuse, drug abuse, sickle cell anemia, or infection with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) can be disclosed from a patient medical record. This special consent must indicate the name of the facility permitted to make the disclosure, the name of the individual or organization to whom the information is being released, specify the particular records or information to be released, be under the signature of the veteran and dated. It must reflect the purpose for which the information is to be used, and include a statement that the consent is subject to revocation and the date, event or condition upon which the consent will expire if not revoked before. The Privacy Act of 1974 and VA confidentiality statute, Section 5701, Title 38, United States Code, also requires a written patient consent.

The information is collected from the patient. VA personnel complete 50% of the total number of forms used and the patient must simply sign and date the form. Patients complete the remaining 50% of the total number of forms. The information is usually handwritten. If the VA did not collect this information, medical records protected Title 38, U.S.C., Section 7332, could not be released from a patient's records. This would have a negative impact on patients who need and want information released to private insurance companies, physicians and other third parties.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 8,069 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent: 2 minutes.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 242,070.

Dated: August 20, 1997.

By direction of the Secretary.

Donald L. Neilson,

Director, Information Management Service.

[FR Doc. 97-24057 Filed 9-10-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0045]

Agency Information Collection Activities Under OMB Review

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 et seq.), this notice announces that the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of Veterans Affairs, has submitted the collection of information abstracted below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The PRA submission describes the nature of the information collection and its expected cost and burden; it includes the actual data collection instrument.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before October 14, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR A COPY OF THE SUBMISSION CONTACT: 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. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0045."

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title and Form Number: VA Request for Determination of Reasonable Value, VA Form 26-1805.

OMB Control Number: 2900-0045.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: VA Form 26-1805 is used to collect data necessary for VA compliance with the requirements of Title 38 U.S.C. 3710 (b) (4), (5), and (6). These requirements prohibit the VA guaranty or making of any loan unless the suitability of the security property for dwelling purposes is determined, the loan amount does not exceed the reasonable value, and if the loan is for purposes of alteration, repair, or improvements, the work substantially improves the basic livability of the property. The data supplied by persons and firms completing VA Form 26-1805 is used by VA personnel to identify and locate properties for appraisal and to make assignments to appraisers. The VA

is required to notify potential veteran-purchasers of such properties of the VA-established reasonable value. The VA will also use VA Form 26-1843, Certificate of Reasonable Value, as a notice to requesters of the reasonable (appraised) value or an authorized lender will issue a notice of value in connection with the Lender Appraisal Processing Program.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on this collection of information was published on June 12, 1997 at page 32148.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 64,000 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent: 12 minutes.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 320,000.

Send comments and recommendations concerning any aspect of the information collection 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. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0045" in any correspondence.

Dated: August 14, 1997.

By direction of the Secretary.

Donald L. Neilson,

Director, Information Management Service.

[FR Doc. 97-24055 Filed 9-10-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0548]

Agency Information Collection Activities Under OMB Review

AGENCY: Board of Veterans' Appeals, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), this notice announces that the Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA), Department of Veterans Affairs, has submitted the collection of information abstracted below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The PRA submission describes the nature of the information collection and its

expected cost and burden; it includes the actual data collection instrument. In addition, OMB is being requested to:

a. Grant the BVA a 3-year generic clearance approval authority.

b. Allow the BVA to establish a maximum number of annual burden hours against which burden will be charged for each survey actually used.

c. Allow for the submission of a summary of objectives, specific burden estimates, and all final or near final survey instruments covered by the generic clearance for inclusion in the OMB public docket prior to their use.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before October 14, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR A COPY OF THE SUBMISSION CONTACT: 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. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0548."

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Generic Clearance for the Board of Veterans' Appeals Customer Satisfaction Surveys.

OMB Control Number: 2900-0548.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: Executive Order 12862, Setting Customer Service Standards, requires Federal agencies and departments to identify and survey its customers to determine the kind and quality of services they want and their level of satisfaction with existing service. The BVA uses customer satisfaction surveys to gauge customer perceptions of VA services as well as customer expectations and desires. The results of these information collections lead to improvements in the quality of BVA service delivery by helping to shape the direction and focus of specific programs and services.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on this collection of information was published on June 12, 1997 at pages 32149-32150.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 400 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent: 6 minutes.

Frequency of Response: Annually.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 4,000.

The surveys will consist of no more than 4,000 appellants in whose cases

final Board decisions were issued during the 180-day period immediately preceding the survey or whose appeals have been placed on the Board's docket but have not yet been decided. To facilitate data analysis, three customer categories will be targeted: appeals allowed; appeals denied; and current appeals. The anticipated rate of response is 80%.

The areas of concern to the BVA and its customers may change over time, and it is important to have the ability to evaluate customer concerns quickly. Participation in the surveys will be voluntary and the generic clearance will not be used to collect information required to obtain or maintain eligibility for a VA program or benefit. In order to maximize the voluntary response rates, the information collection will be designed to make participation convenient, simple, and free of unnecessary barriers. Baseline data obtained through these information collections will be used to improve customer service standards. The BVA will consult with OMB regarding each specific information collection during this approval period.

Send comments and recommendations concerning any aspect of the information collection 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. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0548" in any correspondence.

Dated: September 22, 1997.

By direction of the Secretary.

William T. Morgan,

Program Analyst.

[FR Doc. 97-24056 Filed 9-10-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0365]

Agency Information Collection Activities Under OMB Review

AGENCY: National Cemetery System, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that the National Cemetery System (NCS), Department of Veterans Affairs, has submitted the collection of information abstracted below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The

PRA submission describes the nature of the information collection and its expected cost and burden; it includes the actual data collection instrument.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before October 14, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR A COPY OF THE SUBMISSION CONTACT: 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. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0365."

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title and Form Number: Request for Disinterment, VA Form 40-4970.

OMB Control Number: 2900-0365.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: Interments made in national cemeteries are permanent and final. Disinterments will be permitted for cogent reasons, and then with prior written authorization only, usually by the Cemetery Director. Approval can be granted when all immediate family members of the decedent, including the person who initiated the interment, give their written consent. An order from a court of local jurisdiction can be accepted in lieu of submitting VA form 40-4970. The form is used to allow a person to request removal of remains from a national cemetery for interment at another location. The information is used for approving or disapproving the disinterment request.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on this collection of information was published on May 27, 1997 at page 28755.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 33 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent: 10 minutes.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 199.

Send comments and recommendations concerning any aspect of the information collection 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. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0365" in any correspondence.

Dated: August 20, 1997.