

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE****Defense Logistics Agency****Privacy Act of 1974; Notice of a Computer Matching Program**

**AGENCY:** Defense Manpower Data Center, Defense Logistics Agency, DoD.  
**ACTION:** Notice of a Computer Matching Program.

**SUMMARY:** Subsection (e)(12) of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, (5 U.S.C. 552a) requires agencies to publish advance notice of any proposed or revised computer matching program by the matching agency for public comment. The DoD, as the matching agency under the Privacy Act is hereby giving notice to the record subjects of a computer matching program between VA and DoD that their records are being matched by computer. The purpose of this match is to identify disability compensation recipients who return to active duty to insure benefits are adjusted or terminated, if appropriate, and steps taken to collect any resulting overpayment.

**DATES:** This proposed action will become effective October 5, 1998, and matching may commence unless changes to the matching program are required due to public comments or by Congressional or by Office of Management and Budget objections. Any public comment must be received before the effective date.

**ADDRESSES:** Any interested party may submit written comments to the Director, Defense Privacy Office, Crystal Mall 4, Suite 920, 1941 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202-4502.  
**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Vahan Moushegian, Jr. at telephone (703) 607-2943.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant to subsection (o) of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, (5 U.S.C. 552a), the DMDC and VA have concluded an agreement to conduct a computer matching program between the agencies. The purpose of the match is to exchange personal data between the agencies to identify disability compensation recipients who have returned to active duty and are therefore ineligible to receive VA compensation.

The parties to this agreement have determined that a computer matching program is the most efficient, expeditious, and effective means of obtaining and processing the information needed by the VA to identify ineligible VA disability compensation recipients who have returned to active duty. Using the computer matching program, information on successful matches (hits)

can be provided to VA within 90 days of receipt of a magnetic tape of VA benefits record data. A computer match is the most efficient method, other than a manual search of all active duty military personnel records, to identify such cases if an individual does not report his/her own return to active duty.

A copy of the computer matching agreement between VA and DMDC is available upon request to the public. Requests should be submitted to the address caption above or to the Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefit Administration, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420.

Set forth below is the notice of the establishment of a computer matching program required by paragraph 6.c. of the Office of Management and Budget Guidelines on computer matching published in the **Federal Register** at 54 FR 25818 on June 19, 1989.

The matching agreement, as required by 5 U.S.C. 552a(r) of the Privacy Act, and an advance copy of this notice was submitted on August 21, 1998, to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Governmental Affairs of the Senate, and the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget pursuant to paragraph 4d of Appendix I to OMB Circular No. A-130, 'Federal Agency Responsibilities for Maintaining Records about Individuals,' dated February 8, 1996 (61 FR 6435).

Dated: August 31, 1998.

**L.M. Bynum,**

*Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.*

**NOTICE OF A COMPUTER MATCHING PROGRAM BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FOR VERIFICATION OF DISABILITY COMPENSATION**

**A. Participating Agencies:**

Participants in this computer matching program are the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) of the Department of Defense (DoD). The VA is the source agency, i.e., the activity disclosing the records for the purpose of the match. The DMDC is the specific recipient activity or matching agency, i.e., the agency that actually performs the computer matching.

**B. Purpose of the Match:** The purpose of this agreement is to establish the conditions for a computer matching program between VA as the source

agency and the DMDC as the recipient agency. The goal of this match is to identify VA disability benefit recipients who return to active duty and to ensure benefits are terminated if appropriate. VA will provide identifying information on disability compensation recipients to DMDC to match against a file of active duty (including full-time National Guard and Reserve) personnel. The purpose is to identify those recipients who have returned to active duty and are ineligible to receive VA compensation so that benefits can be adjusted or terminated, if in order.

**C. Authority for Conducting the Match:** The legal authority for conducting the matching program for use in the administration of the VA's Compensation and Pension Benefits Program is contained in 38 U.S.C. Part 5304(c), Prohibition Against Duplication of Benefits, which precludes pension, compensation, or retirement pay on account of any person's own service, for any period for which he receives active duty pay. The head of any Federal department or agency shall provide, pursuant to 38 U.S.C. Part 5106, such information as requested by VA for the purpose of determining eligibility for, or amount of benefits, or verifying other information which respect thereto.

**D. Records to be Matched:** The systems of records maintained by the respective agencies under the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, 5 U.S.C. 552a, from which records will be disclosed for the purpose of this computer match are as follows:

The VA will use the system of records identified as 'VA Compensation, Pension and Education and Rehabilitation Records - VA (58 VA 21/22)' first published at 41 FR 924 (March 3, 1976), and last amended at 60 FR 20156, April 24, 1995, with other amendments as cited therein.

DoD will use the system of records identified as S322.10 DMDC, entitled 'Defense Manpower Data Center Data Base,' published at 62 FR 55609, October 27, 1997.

**E. Description of Computer Matching Program:** The VA, as the source agency, will provide DMDC with a magnetic tape which contains the VA benefit record data of individual VA disability compensation recipients. Upon receipt of the computer tape file of recipient accounts, DMDC will perform a computer match using all nine digits of the SSNs in the VA file against a DMDC computer database. The DMDC database will consist of employment records of active duty military members. Matching records, 'hits' based on the SSN, will

produce the member's name, branch of service, and unit designation. The hits will be furnished to the Veterans Benefits Administration which is responsible for verifying and determining that the data on the DMDC reply tape file are consistent with the source file and for resolving any discrepancies or inconsistencies on an individual basis. The Veterans Benefits Administration will also be responsible for making final determinations as to eligibility for benefits or verifying any other information with respect thereto.

The magnetic computer tape provided by VA will contain information on approximately 2.2 million disability compensation recipients.

The DMDC computer database file contains approximately 1.5 million records of active duty military members, including full time National Guard and Reserve.

DMDC will match the SSN on the VA electronic file by computer against the DMDC database. Matching records, hits based on SSNs, will produce data elements of the member's name, SSN, branch of service, unit designation and date of entry (DOE) on active duty.

**F. Inclusive Dates of the Matching Program:** This computer matching program is subject to public comment and review by Congress and the Office of Management and Budget. If the mandatory 30 day period for comment has expired and no comments are received and if no objections are raised by either Congress or the Office of Management and Budget within 40 days of being notified of the proposed match, the computer matching program becomes effective and the respective agencies may begin the exchange at a mutually agreeable time on a quarterly basis. By agreement between VA and DMDC, the matching program will be in effect for 18 months with an option to renew for 12 additional months unless one of the parties to the agreement advises the other by written request to terminate or modify the agreement.

**G. Address for Receipt of Public Comments or Inquiries:** Director, Defense Privacy Office, Crystal Mall 4, Suite 920, 1941 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202-4502. Telephone (703) 607-2943.

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

#### Chief of Engineers Environmental Advisory Board

**AGENCY:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

**ACTION:** Notice of open meeting.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with section 10(a)(2) of Public Law 92-463, The Federal Advisory Committee Act, this announces the 57th Meeting of the Chief of Engineers Environmental Advisory Board (EAB):

*Name of Committee:* Chief of Engineers Environmental Advisory Board.

*Dates of Meeting:* October 20-23, 1998.

*Place:* Ramada Plaza Hotel, Old Town, Alexandria, VA.

*Time:* 9:00-5:00 p.m. (October 20, 1998); 8:00-5:00 p.m. (October 21, 1998); 8:00-5:00 p.m. (October 22, 1998); 8:00-1:00 p.m. (October 23, 1998).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Lloyd Saunders, CECW-AG, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 20 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20314-1000, phone (202) 761-8731.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The meeting will be divided into an Executive Session and technical program. The Executive Session, October 20, will be a business and planning opportunity among the Board members and will be limited to a review of the previous meeting on the watershed perspective and selection of the topics for future meetings. The technical program, October 21-23, will be a continuation of our discussion on the Watershed Perspective in Water Resources Development.

The meeting will be open to the public to the extent that space limitations of the meeting location permit. Because of these limitations, interested parties are requested to notify our office (above address) in writing at least five days prior to the meeting of their intent to attend.

**Gregory D. Showalter,**

*Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

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BILLING CODE 3710-93-M

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Navy

#### Meeting of the Ocean Research Advisory Panel

**AGENCY:** Department of the Navy, DOD.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Ocean Research Advisory Panel will meet to acquaint Panel members with National Oceanographic Partnership Program activities. The session of the meeting from 9:00 a.m. through 11:30 a.m. will be open to the public. The remaining session of the meeting from 1:30 p.m. through 4:00 p.m. will be closed to the public.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 9, 1998, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. In order to maintain the meeting time schedule, members of the public will be limited in their time to speak to the Panel. Members of the public should submit their comments one week in advance of the meeting to the meeting Point of Contact.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the White House Conference Center, The Eisenhower Room, 726 Jackson Place, Washington, DC.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Steven E. Ramberg, Office of Naval Research, 800 North Quincy Street, Arlington, VA 22217-5660, telephone number (703) 696-4358.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice of meeting is provided in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. 2) and 10 U.S.C. section 7903. The purpose of this meeting is to acquaint Panel members with the National Oceanographic Partnership Program (NOPP) activities and discuss FY 2000 and out-year NOPP research funding opportunities. The open session of the meeting will include a briefing and discussion that address current issues in the ocean sciences community and NOPP activities to date. The remaining session of the meeting will involve proprietary information and sensitive information that would be likely to significantly frustrate proposed agency action if it is disclosed to the public prematurely. In accordance with 5 U.S.C. App. 2, section 10(d), the Secretary of the Navy has determined in writing that the public interest requires that this meeting will be partially closed to the public because it will be concerned with matters listed in 5 U.S.C. section 552b(c)(4) and (9)(b). Due to unavoidable delay in administrative processing, the normal 15 days notice could not be provided.

Dated: September 1, 1998.

**Ralph W. Corey,**

*Lieutenant Commander, Judge Advocate General's Corps, U.S. Navy, Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

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