

*Respondents:* State and local government, business or other for-profit institutions, non-profit institutions, and small business organizations.

*Estimated Annual Burden on Respondents:* 14.6 hours for each of the 2,317 respondents.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden:* 33,883 hours.

*Frequency:* Annual.

Issued: April 26, 2000.

**Dorrie Y. Aldrich,**

*Associate Administrator for Administration.*

[FR Doc. 00-10919 Filed 5-1-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-57-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

#### **Voluntary Intermodal Sealift Agreement (VISA)/Joint Planning Advisory Group (JPAG)**

**AGENCY:** Maritime Administration, DOT.

**ACTION:** Synopsis of April 18-19, 2000, Meeting with VISA Participants.

On April 18-19, 2000, the Maritime Administration (MARAD) and the United States Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM) co-hosted a meeting of the VISA JPAG at USTRANSCOM, Scott Air Force Base, Illinois.

Meeting attendance was by invitation only, due to the nature of the information discussed and the need for a government-issued security clearance. Of the 48 U.S.-flag carrier corporate participants currently enrolled in VISA, 16 cleared VISA carrier representative companies participated in the JPAG. Representatives from the trucking and railroad industries were also present to explore their role in the movement of Department of Defense (DOD) cargoes. In addition, JPAG attendance included representatives from the DOD, the Military Traffic Management Command, Military Sealift Command, USTRANSCOM and MARAD.

Following opening remarks by Mr. Daniel F. McMillin, Deputy Director, Plans and Policy Directorate (TCJ5) USTRANSCOM, Government representatives provided participants with an overview of expected outcomes. The JPAG objectives included an exploration of the intermodal capability of VISA carriers to handle the loading of unit equipment and development of Concept of Operations (CONOPS) for moving ammunition from origin to port of debarkation. The VISA participants convened in separate work groups with Government analysts to discuss the above issues. Afterwards, the groups met together to discuss the results of

their analyses. At the conclusion of the JPAG, VISA participants were briefed on the results of Exercise Turbo Challenge 2000.

The full text of the VISA program is published in 64 FR 8214-8222, dated February 18, 1999. One of the program requirements is that MARAD periodically publish a list of VISA participants in the **Federal Register**. As of April 19, 1999, the following commercial U.S.-flag vessel operators were enrolled in VISA with MARAD: Alaska Cargo Transport Inc., American Automar, Inc., American President Lines, Ltd., American Roll-On Roll-Off Carrier, LLC, American Ship Management, L.L.C., Automar International Car Carrier, Inc., Beyel Brothers Inc., Central Gulf Lines, Inc., Cook Inlet Marine, Crowley American Transport, Inc., Crowley Marine Services, Inc., CSX Lines, LLC, Dixie Fuels II, Limited, Double Eagle Marine, Inc./Caribe USA, Inc., Farrell Lines Incorporated, First American Bulk Carrier Corp., First Ocean Bulk Carrier-I, LLC, First Ocean Bulk Carrier-II, LLC, First Ocean Bulk Carrier-III, LLC, Foss Maritime Company, Gimrock Maritime, Inc., Liberty Shipping Group Limited Partnership, Lykes Lines Limited, LLC., Lynden Incorporated, Maersk Line, Limited, Matson Navigation Company, Inc., Maybank Navigation Company, LLC, McAllister Towing & Transportation Company, Inc., Moby Marine Corporation, NPR, Inc., OSG Car Carriers, Inc., Osprey Shipholding Corporation, L.L.C., Resolve Towing & Salvage, Inc., Samson Tug & Barge Company, Inc., Seacor Marine International Inc., Sealift Inc., Smith Maritime, Stevens Towing Co., Inc., Superior Marine Services, Inc., Totem Ocean Trailer Express, Inc., Trailer Bridge, Inc., TransAtlantic Lines LLC, Trico Marine Operators, Inc., Troika International, Ltd., U.S. Ship Management, Inc., Van Ommeren Shipping (USA) LLC, Waterman Steamship Corporation, and Weeks Marine, Inc.

#### **CONTACT PERSON FOR ADDITIONAL**

**INFORMATION:** Mr. Raymond R. Barberesi, Director, Office of Sealift Support, (202) 366-2323.

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.

Dated: April 26, 2000.

**Joel C. Richard,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 00-10866 Filed 5-1-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-81-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### **Privacy Act of 1974; System of Records**

**AGENCY:** Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

**ACTION:** Report of New Systems of Records—Disaster Emergency Medical Personnel System—VA (98VA104).

**SUMMARY:** The Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552(e)(4)) requires that all agencies publish in the **Federal Register** a notice of the existence and character of their system of records. Notice is hereby given that VA proposes to establish a new system of records. The proposed system is entitled "Disaster Emergency Medical Personnel System (DEMPS)—VA" (98VA104).

**DATES:** Comments on the establishment of this new system of records must be received no later than June 1, 2000. If no public comment is received during the period allowed for comment or unless otherwise published in the **Federal Register** by VA, the system will become effective June 1, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments concerning the proposed new system of records may be submitted to the Office of Regulations Management (02D), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420. Comments will be available for public inspection at the above address in the Office of Regulations Management, Room 1158, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (except Holidays).

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Stephanie Putt, Veterans Health Administration Privacy Act Officer, at (727) 320-1839.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** DEMPS is to be used by the Emergency Management Strategic Healthcare Group (EMSHG) primarily in times of national emergencies caused by catastrophic events. This system may be used to respond to internal emergencies occurring within the Veterans integrated Service Networks (VISNs).

It is the Veterans Health Administration's (VHA) policy to use DEMPS to respond to internal emergencies occurring within the VISNs. In order to provide sufficient health care medical personnel to respond to disasters, it is necessary to develop a nationwide VHA system of special-skilled personnel. These persons would be available to serve for limited periods of time in response to Presidentially-declared and internal VA

national emergencies. VHA maintains a nationwide register of clinical personnel who volunteer their special medical skills in response to emergencies.

Information in DEMPS comes from VHA full-time employees who provide the information voluntarily. Information collected and maintained in DEMPS includes personal and demographic information initiated, provided, and authenticated by the employee and contains the necessary approvals and signatures of supervisory officials. Information includes the employee's full name, social security number, station and VISN assignment, station address and phone number, home address and phone number, emergency contact and phone number, professional/job series, grade, specialty, current job assignment, description of advanced degree/certification (if any); physical limitations (if any); prior experience in disaster response (if any); specialized training; related military medical training, other relevant training and dates thereof. DEMPS constitutes a system of records under the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552a) and data contained therein are considered private information.

A notice of intent and an advance copy of the new system notice have been sent to the appropriate Congressional committees and the Director, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) as required by 5 U.S.C. 552a(r) (Privacy Act) and guidelines issued by OMB (61 FR 6428), February 20, 1996.

Approved: April 18, 2000.

**Togo D. West, Jr.,**

*Secretary of Veterans Affairs.*

#### 98VA104

##### SYSTEM NAME:

Disaster Emergency Medical Personnel System—VA

##### SYSTEM LOCATION:

Records are maintained at each of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care facilities. The address locations for VA facilities were listed in VA Appendix I of the biennial publication of the VA systems of record. Information from these records or copies of records may be maintained at the Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420; Network Directors' Offices; Emergency Management Strategic Healthcare Group Headquarters, VA Medical Center, Martinsburg, WV 25401; or with the Area Emergency Managers located at VA facilities.

##### CATEGORIES OF INDIVIDUALS COVERED BY THIS SYSTEM:

VA employees who make application to VA and are considered for deployment as health care providers primarily in times of national emergencies in response to domestic disasters resulting from natural and technological hazards, terrorist attacks, and the employment of nuclear, biological, and/or chemical weapons of mass destruction. These individuals may include audiologists, dentists, dietitians, expanded-function dental auxiliaries, licensed practical vocational nurses, nuclear medicine technologists, nurse anesthetists, nurse practitioners, nurses, occupational therapists, optometrists, clinical pharmacists, licensed physical therapists, physician assistants, physicians, podiatrists, psychologists, registered respiratory therapists, certified respiratory therapy technicians, diagnostic and therapeutic radiology technologists, social workers, speech pathologists, contracting specialists, building maintenance, engineering, housekeeping, and other personnel associated with emergency management.

##### CATEGORIES OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:

Information on VA employees who make application to be deployed as health care providers primarily in times of national emergencies. This source document provides personal and demographic information initiated, provided and authenticated by the employee and contains the necessary approvals and signatures of officials in the supervisory chain for the employee's inclusion in the data base. Information is provided on a voluntary basis. Information related to identifying and selecting individuals by the Emergency Management Strategic Healthcare Group, networks and medical centers eligible to support specific job tasking and assignments during either disasters internal to the Veterans Health Administration health care system, or external to VHA for which the VA is tasked to provide support, under applicable authorities. Requests for issuance of travel orders and necessary reimbursement to VA for subsequent allocation of funds to home stations of deployed personnel are required to cover costs of travel, overtime and other expenses associated with individual deployments. This information is necessary to account for personnel deployed to support disasters, to identify personnel with specific job skills and experience that may be required to support contingency missions tasked to VA under the VA/ Department of Defense (DoD)

Contingency Plan, and for the development of plans at the corporate, network and medical center level for utilization of VHA personnel in support of VA internal and external disasters.

##### AUTHORITY FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE SYSTEM:

Authority for maintenance of this system of records is Executive Order 12656 dated November 18, 1988.

##### PURPOSE(S):

The records may be used for such purpose as to provide information on sufficient health care medical personnel to respond to disasters, to provide information to the Emergency Management Strategic Healthcare Group primarily in times of national emergencies caused by catastrophic events, and to respond to internal emergencies occurring within the Veterans Integrated Service Networks.

##### ROUTINE USES OF RECORDS MAINTAINED IN THE SYSTEM, INCLUDING CATEGORIES OF USERS AND THE PURPOSES OF SUCH USES:

Information may be disclosed for routine uses as indicated below:

1. Selected information (such as name, social security number, home station and telephone numbers) may be disclosed to other Federal departments and agencies that have an interest in or obligation to track or otherwise audit transfer of funds to VA for reimbursement of tasks.
2. Statistical information and other data may be disclosed to Federal, State and local government agencies to assist in disaster planning and after-action reports.
3. When a record on its face, or in conjunction with other records, indicates a violation or potential violation of law, whether civil, criminal or regulatory in nature, and whether arising by general statute or particular program statute, or by regulation, rule or order issued pursuant thereto, disclosure may be made to the appropriate agency, whether Federal, foreign, State, local, or tribal, or other public authority responsible for enforcing, investigating or prosecuting such violation or charged with enforcing or implementing the statute, or rule, regulation, or order issued pursuant thereto, if the information disclosed is relevant to any enforcement, regulatory, investigative or prosecutive responsibility of the receiving entity.
4. Disclosure may be made to any source, such as a police department or the Federal Bureau of Investigation, from which additional information is requested to the extent necessary to identify the individual, inform the source of the purpose(s) of the request,

and to identify the type of information requested such as DEMPS personnel present at a crime scene caused by terrorists.

5. Disclosure may be made to an agency in the executive, legislative, or judicial branch, or the District of Columbia's Government in response to its request, or at the initiation of VA, for information in connection with the selection of an employee for the deployment and future training of an individual, the letting of a contract, the issuance of a license, grant, or other benefits by the requesting agency, or the lawful statutory, administrative, or investigative purpose of the agency to the extent that the information is relevant and necessary to the requesting agency's deployment/Federal Response Plan needs.

6. Disclosure may be made to a Member of Congress or to a congressional staff member in response to an inquiry of the congressional office made at the written request of the constituent about whom the record is maintained.

7. Disclosure may be made to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in records management inspections conducted under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906.

8. Disclosure may be made to a Federal agency or to a State or local government licensing board, and/or to the Federation of State Medical Boards, or a similar non-government entity, provided the entity maintains records concerning individuals' employment histories, is engaged in the issuance, retention or revocation of licenses, certifications, or registration necessary to practice an occupation, profession or specialty. The disclosure is for the Department to obtain information relevant to a Department decision concerning the hiring, retention or termination of an employee, or to inform a Federal agency, licensing boards or to the appropriate non-government entities about the health care practices of a terminated, resigned, or retired health care employee whose professional health care activity so significantly failed to conform to generally accepted standards of professional medical practice as to raise reasonable concern for the health and safety of patients receiving medical care in the private sector or from another Federal agency. These records may also be disclosed as part of an ongoing computer matching program to accomplish these purposes.

9. Information may be disclosed to private sector (i.e., non-Federal, State, or local governments) agencies,

organizations, boards, bureaus, or commissions (e.g., the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations) when the disclosure is in the best interest of the government (e.g., to obtain accreditation or other approval rating). When cooperation with the private sector entity, through the exchange of individual records, directly benefits VA's completion of its mission, enhances personnel management functions, or increases the public confidence in VA's or the Federal government's role in the community, then the government's best interests are served. Further, only such information that is clearly relevant and necessary for accomplishing the intended uses of the information as certified by the receiving private sector entity is to be furnished.

10. Information may be disclosed to a State or local government entity or national certifying body that has the authority to make decisions concerning the issuance, retention or revocation of licenses.

11. Information may be disclosed to the Department of Justice and United States Attorneys in defense or prosecution of litigation involving the United States, and to Federal agencies upon their request in connection with review of administrative tort claims filed under the Federal Tort Claims Act, 28 U.S.C. 2672.

12. Information on deployment to Federal/VHA emergencies, performance, or other personnel-related material may be disclosed to any facility with which there is, or there is proposed to be, an affiliation, sharing agreement, contract, or similar arrangement, for purposes of establishing, maintaining, or expanding any such relationship.

13. Information concerning a health care provider's professional qualifications and clinical privileges may be disclosed to a VA/emergency disaster-served client patient, or the representative or guardian of a patient who, due to physical or mental incapacity, lacks sufficient understanding and/or legal capacity to make decisions concerning his/her medical care, who is receiving or contemplating receiving medical or other patient care services from the provider when the information is needed by the patient or the patient's representative or guardian in order to make a decision related to the initiation of treatment, continuation or discontinuation of treatment, or receiving a specific treatment that is proposed or planned by the provider. Disclosure will be limited to information concerning the health care provider's professional qualifications (professional education, training and

current licensure/certification status), professional employment history, and current clinical privileges.

14. Information may be disclosed to officials of labor organizations recognized under 5 U.S.C. chapter 71, when relevant and necessary to their duties of exclusive representation concerning personnel policies, practices, and matters affecting working conditions.

15. Information may be disclosed to the VA-appointed representative of an employee of all notices, determinations, decisions, or other written communications issued to the employee in connection with an examination ordered by VA under medical evaluation (formerly fitness-for-duty) examination procedures or Department-filed disability retirement procedures.

16. Information may be disclosed to officials of the Merit Systems Protection Board, including the Office of the Special Counsel, when requested in connection with appeals, special studies of the civil service and other merit systems, review of rules and regulations, investigation of alleged or possible prohibited personnel practices, and such other functions, promulgated in 5 U.S.C. 1205 and 1206, or as may be authorized by law.

17. Information may be disclosed to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission when requested in connection with investigations of alleged or possible discrimination practices, examination of Federal affirmative employment programs, compliance with the Uniform Guidelines of Employee Selection Procedures, or other functions vested in the Commission by the President's Reorganization Plan No. 1 of 1978.

18. Information may be disclosed to the Federal Labor Relations Authority (including its General Counsel) when requested in connection with investigation and resolution of allegations of unfair labor practices, and in connection with the resolution of exceptions to arbitrator awards when a question of material fact is raised.

19. Disclosure may be made to agency contractors, grantees, or volunteers who have been engaged to assist the agency in the performance of a contract service, grant, cooperative agreement, or other activity related to this system of records and who need to have access to the records in order to perform the activity. Recipients shall be required to comply with the requirement of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, 5 U.S.C. 552a.

**DISCLOSURE TO CONSUMER REPORTING AGENCIES:**

Reports of all transactions dealing with data will be used within VA and will not be provided to any consumer-reporting agency.

Policies and Practices for Storing, Retrieving, Accessing, Retaining and Disposing of Records in the System:

**STORAGE:**

Automated records are maintained at all levels of management outlined in system location. Automated information may be stored on microfilm, magnetic tape, disk, or call down data bases.

**RETRIEVABILITY:**

Records are retrieved from the system by the name, professional title, social security number, VISN, home station, professional specialty, job position title, etc., of the individuals on whom they are maintained.

**SAFEGUARDS:**

1. Access to VA working and storage areas in VA health care facilities is restricted to VA employees on a need-to-know basis; strict control measures are enforced to ensure that disclosure to these individuals is also based on this same principle. Generally, VA file areas are locked after normal duty hours, and the health care facilities are protected from outside access by the Federal Protective Service or other security personnel.

2. Access to the Veterans Health Information Systems Technology Architecture (VISTA) computer room within the health care facilities is generally limited by appropriate security devices and restricted to authorized VA employees and vendor personnel. ADP peripheral devices are generally placed in secure areas (areas that are locked or have limited access) or are otherwise protected. Authorized VA employees may access information in the VISTA system. Access to file information is controlled at two levels: The system recognizes authorized employees by a series of individually unique passwords/codes as a part of each data message, and the employees are limited to only that information in the file which is needed in the performance of their official duties.

**RETENTION AND DISPOSAL:**

An automated database of DEMPS personnel will be maintained at the employing VA facility. If the individual transfers to another VA facility location, the name will be added to the database at the new location. Information stored on electronic storage media is maintained and disposed of in

accordance with the records disposition authority approved by the Archivist of the United States.

**SYSTEMS MANAGER(S) AND ADDRESS:**

Official responsible for maintaining the system: Director, Emergency Management Strategic Healthcare Group (EMSHG) (104), VA Medical Center, Martinsburg, West Virginia, 25401.

**NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE:**

Individuals who wish to determine whether this system of records contains information about them should contact the VA facility location at which they made application as a deployment volunteer, or are or were employed. Inquiries should include the employee's full name, social security number, date of application for employment or dates of employment, and return address.

**RECORD ACCESS PROCEDURES:**

Individuals seeking information regarding access to and contesting of records in this system may write, call or visit the VA facility location where they made application for employment or are or were employed.

**CONTESTING RECORD PROCEDURES:**

(See Record Access Procedures above.)

**RECORD SOURCE CATEGORIES:**

The information will be provided by the individual VA employee and the VA medical facility (home station) or other VA location at which the employee was employed. EMSHG Headquarters will also provide information for updates of deployment status and availability.

[FR Doc. 00-10910 Filed 5-1-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-M

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS****Privacy Act of 1974; New System of Records—Automated Electronic Document Management System (EDMS)—VA (92VA045)**

**AGENCY:** Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice, New System of Records.

**SUMMARY:** The Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 522a(e)(4)) requires that all agencies publish in the *Federal Register* a notice of the existence and character of their systems of records. Notice is hereby given that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is adding a new system of records entitled "Electronic Document Management System (EDMS)—VA (92VA045)."

EDMS is used to process replies to correspondence and other inquiries

(received via hard copy, e-mail, fax, Internet, telephone, or in person) that originate from Members of Congress; other Federal agencies; state, local and tribal governments; Foreign governments; veterans service organizations; representatives of private or commercial entities; veterans and their beneficiaries; other private citizens; and VA employees. EDMS is also used for some categories of correspondence and records internal to VA. EDMS does not duplicate any other system of records within the Government.

Records maintained in this system of records in electronic and paper form vary, depending on the nature of the materials received, background information compiled, and/or response sent. Each may include the names, social security numbers, mailing addresses, telephone numbers and other personal identifiers routinely required to identify a correspondent or subject. Other record items maintained may include personal facts about medical, financial, or memorial benefits related to the correspondent, veteran or beneficiary. Internal VA records may include (but are not limited to) VA administrative, financial and personnel information.

Release of information from these records will only be made in accordance with the provisions of the Privacy Act of 1974, for investigatory, judicial and administrative uses. This includes disclosure to third parties acting on a claimant's behalf; to law enforcement agencies when records in the system pertain to a violation or possible violation of law; to answer congressional inquiries initiated by individuals; to the National Archives and Records Administration during records management inspections; to requests for statistical data to be disclosed to other VA facilities; Members of Congress; other Federal agencies; state, local and tribal governments for statistical analyses. VA has determined that release of information for these purposes is a necessary and proper use of information in this system of records and that specific routine uses for transfer of this information are appropriate.

**DATES AND ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit written comments, suggestions and or objections regarding the proposed system of records to the Director, Office of Regulations Management (02D), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Ave., NW, Room 1154, Washington, DC 20420. All relevant material received before June 1, 2000