

routine use (9) is added to read as follows:

“(9) Provide information or records to United States intelligence agencies in the conduct of intelligence or counterintelligence activities, including analysis, to protect against international terrorism.”

* * * * *

Dated: April 8, 2002.

W. Earl Wright, Jr.,

Chief Management and Administrative Programs Officer.

[FR Doc. 02-13053 Filed 5-23-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4810-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Office of Thrift Supervision

Proposed Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request

AGENCY: Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice and request for comment.

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 comment on proposed and continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3507. The Office of Thrift Supervision within the Department of the Treasury will submit the proposed information collection requirement described below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act. Today, OTS is soliciting public comments on the proposal.

DATES: Submit written comments on or before July 23, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Send comments, referring to the collection by title of the proposal or by OMB approval number, to Information Collection Comments, Chief Counsel's Office, Office of Thrift Supervision, 1700 G Street, NW., Washington, DC 20552; send a facsimile transmission to (202) 906-6518; or send an e-mail to infocollection.comments@ots.treas.gov. OTS will post comments and the related index on the OTS Internet Site at www.ots.gov. In addition, interested persons may inspect comments at the Public Reading Room, 1700 G Street, NW., by appointment. To make an appointment, call (202) 906-5922, send an e-mail to publicinfo@ots.treas.gov, or send a facsimile transmission to (202) 906-7755.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: You can request additional information about this proposed information collection from Nadine Washington, Information Systems, Administration & Finance, (202) 906-6706, Office of Thrift Supervision, 1700 G Street, NW., Washington, DC 20552.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

OTS may not conduct or sponsor an information collection, and respondents are not required to respond to an information collection, unless the information collection displays a currently valid OMB control number. As part of the approval process, we invite comments on the following information collection.

Comments should address one or more of the following points:

a. Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of OTS;

b. The accuracy of OTS's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection;

c. Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected;

d. Ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including through the use information technology.

We will summarize the comments that we receive and include them in the OTS request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. In this notice, OTS is soliciting comments concerning the following information collection.

Title of Proposal: Voluntary Dissolution.

OMB Number: 1550-0066.

Form Number: OTS Form 1499, also known as Form DV.

Regulation Requirement: 12 CFR 546.4.

Description: 12 CFR 546.4 provides for Federal associations to voluntarily dissolve through the submission of a statement of reasons and plan of dissolution. Approval is required by the board of directors, OTS, and the association's members. Plans for dissolution may be denied if OTS believes the plan is not in the best interests of concerned parties.

Type of Review: Renewal.

Affected Public: Savings Associations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 4.

Estimated Frequency of Response: Event-generated.

Estimated Burden Hours Per

Response: Plan for dissolution—80 hours; disclosure to customers—10 minutes per customer.

Estimated Total Burden: 3,080.

Clearance Officer: Sally W. Watts, (202) 906-7380, Office of Thrift

Supervision, 1700 G Street, NW., Washington, DC 20552.

OMB Reviewer: Alexander Hunt, (202) 395-7860, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10202, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: May 16, 2002.

Deborah Dakin,

Deputy Chief Counsel, Regulations and Legislation Division.

[FR Doc. 02-13066 Filed 5-23-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6720-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Cost-of-Living Adjustments and Headstone or Marker Allowance Rate

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: As required by law, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is hereby giving notice of cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) in certain benefit rates and income limitations. These COLAs affect the pension, parents' dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC), and spina bifida, and birth defects programs. These adjustments are based on the rise in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) during the one-year period ending September 30, 2001. VA is also giving notice of the maximum amount of reimbursement that may be paid for headstones or markers purchased in lieu of Government-furnished headstones or markers in Fiscal Year 2002, which began on October 1, 2001.

DATES: These COLAs are effective December 1, 2001. The headstone or marker allowance rate is effective October 1, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul Trowbridge, Consultant, Compensation and Pension Service (212B), Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 273-7218.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under 38 U.S.C. 2306(d), VA may provide reimbursement for the cost of non-Government headstones or markers at a rate equal to the actual cost or the average actual cost of Government-furnished headstones or markers during the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year in which the non-Government headstone or marker was purchased, whichever is less.

Section 8041 of Pub. L. 101-508 amended 38 U.S.C. 2306(d) to eliminate the payment of the monetary allowance in lieu of VA-provided headstone or

marker for deaths occurring on or after November 1, 1990. However, in a precedent opinion (O. G. C. Prec. 17-90), VA's General Counsel held that there is no limitation period applicable to claims for benefits under the provisions of 38 U.S.C. 2306(d).

The average actual cost of Government-furnished headstones or markers during any fiscal year is determined by dividing the sum of VA costs during that fiscal year for procurement, transportation, and miscellaneous administration, inspection and support staff by the total number of headstones and markers procured by VA during that fiscal year and rounding to the nearest whole dollar amount.

The average actual cost of Government-furnished headstones or markers for Fiscal Year 2001 under the above computation method was \$109. Therefore, effective October 1, 2001, the maximum rate of reimbursement for non-Government headstones or markers purchased during Fiscal Year 2002 is \$109.

Cost of Living Adjustments

Under the provisions of 38 U.S.C. 5312 and section 306 of Pub. L. 95-588, VA is required to increase the benefit rates and income limitations in the pension and parents' DIC programs by the same percentage, and effective the same date, as increases in the benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act. The increased rates and income limitations are also required to be published in the **Federal Register**.

The Social Security Administration has announced that there will be a 2.6 percent cost-of-living increase in Social Security benefits effective December 1, 2001. However, the actual increase reflected in this document will be slightly greater than 2.6% to compensate for an error in the calculation of the 1999 Consumer Price Index (CPI). The 2.6% COLA effective December 1, 2001, has been recalculated

on the basis of a 2.5% (as opposed to 2.4%) December 1, 1999, COLA. This adjustment was mandated by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2001 (Pub. L. 106-554) which requires that each Federal agency that administers an applicable Federal benefit program compensate beneficiaries for the shortfall caused by the December 1, 1999 CPI error. Therefore, applying the COLA factors as indicated above and rounding up in accordance with 38 CFR 3.29, the following increased rates and income limitations for the VA pension and parents' DIC programs will be effective December 1, 2001:

TABLE 1.—IMPROVED PENSION
[Maximum annual rates]

(1) Veterans permanently and totally disabled (38 U.S.C. 1521):	
Veteran with no dependents	\$9,556
Veteran with one dependent	12,516
For each additional dependent	1,630
(2) Veterans in need of aid and attendance (38 U.S.C. 1521):	
Veteran with no dependents	15,945
Veteran with one dependent	18,902
For each additional dependent	1,630
(3) Veterans who are housebound (38 U.S.C. 1521):	
Veteran with no dependents	11,679
Veteran with one dependent	14,639
For each additional dependent	1,630
(4) Two veterans married to one another, combined rates (38 U.S.C. 1521):	
Neither veteran in need of aid and attendance or housebound	12,516
Either veteran in need of aid and attendance	18,902
Both veterans in need of aid and attendance	24,628
Either veteran housebound	14,639
Both veterans housebound	16,763
One veteran housebound and one veteran in need of aid and attendance	21,022
For each dependent child	1,630

TABLE 1.—IMPROVED PENSION—
Continued
[Maximum annual rates]

(5) Surviving spouse alone and with a child or children of the deceased veteran in custody of the surviving spouse (38 U.S.C. 1541):	
Surviving spouse alone	6,407
Surviving spouse and one child in his or her custody	8,389
For each additional child in his or her custody	1,630
(6) Surviving spouses in need of aid and attendance (38 U.S.C. 1541):	
Surviving spouse alone	10,243
Surviving spouse with one child in custody	12,221
Surviving Spouse of Spanish-American War veteran alone	10,905
Surviving Spouse of Spanish-American War veteran with one child in custody	12,882
For each additional child in his or her custody	1,630
(7) Surviving spouses who are housebound (38 U.S.C. 1541):	
Surviving spouse alone	7,832
Surviving spouse and one child in his or her custody	9,810
For each additional child in his or her custody	1,630
(8) Surviving child alone (38 U.S.C. 1542)	1,630

Reduction for income. The rate payable is the applicable maximum rate minus the countable annual income of the eligible person. (38 U.S.C. 1521, 1541 and 1542).

Mexican border period and World War I veterans. The applicable maximum annual rate payable to a Mexican border period or World War I veteran under this table shall be increased by \$2,166. (38 U.S.C. 1521(g))

Parents' DIC

DIC shall be paid monthly to parents of a deceased veteran in the following amounts (38 U.S.C. 1315):

TABLE 2.

[One parent. If there is only one parent, the monthly rate of DIC paid to such parent shall be \$457 reduced on the basis of the parent's annual income according to the following formula:]

For each \$1 of annual income		
The \$457 monthly rate shall be reduced by	Which is more than	But not more than
\$0.00	\$0	\$800
.08	800	10,871

No DIC is payable under this table if annual income exceeds \$10,871.

One parent who has remarried. If there is only one parent and the parent has remarried and is living with the

parent's spouse, DIC shall be paid under Table 2 or under Table 4, whichever shall result in the greater benefit being

paid to the veteran's parent. In the case of remarriage, the total combined annual income of the parent and the parent's

spouse shall be counted in determining the monthly rate of DIC.

Two parents not living together. The rates in Table 3 apply to (1) two parents

who are not living together, or (2) an unmarried parent when both parents are living and the other parent has remarried. The monthly rate of DIC paid

to each such parent shall be \$329 reduced on the basis of each parent's annual income, according to the following formula:

TABLE 3.

For each \$1 of annual income		
The \$329 monthly rate shall be reduced by	Which is more than	But not more than
\$0.00	0	\$800
.06	800	900
.07	900	1,100
.08	1,100	10,871

No DIC is payable under this table if annual income exceeds \$10,871.

Two parents living together or remarried parents living with spouses. The rates in Table 4 apply to each parent living with another parent; and

each remarried parent, when both parents are alive. The monthly rate of DIC paid to such parents will be \$309 reduced on the basis of the combined

annual income of the two parents living together or the remarried parent or parents and spouse or spouses, as computed under the following formula:

TABLE 4.

For each \$1 of annual income		
The \$309 monthly rate shall be reduced by	Which is more than	But not more than
\$0.00	0	\$1,000
.03	1,000	1,500
.04	1,500	1,900
.05	1,900	2,400
.06	2,400	2,900
.07	2,900	3,200
.08	3,200	14,612

No DIC is payable under this table if combined annual income exceeds \$14,612.

The rates in this table are also applicable in the case of one surviving parent who has remarried, computed on the basis of the combined income of the parent and spouse, if this would be a greater benefit than that specified in Table 2 for one parent.

Aid and attendance. The monthly rate of DIC payable to a parent under Tables 2 through 4 shall be increased by \$246 if such parent is (1) a patient in a nursing home, or (2) helpless or blind, or so nearly helpless or blind as to need

or require the regular aid and attendance of another person.

Minimum rate. The monthly rate of DIC payable to any parent under Tables 2 through 4 shall not be less than \$5.

TABLE 5.—SECTION 306 PENSION INCOME LIMITATIONS

(1) Veteran or surviving spouse with no dependents	\$10,871	(Pub. L. 95-588, section 306(a)).
(2) Veteran with no dependents in need of aid and attendance	11,371	(38 U.S.C. 1521(d) as in effect on December 31, 1978).
(3) Veteran or surviving spouse with one or more dependents	14,612	(Pub. L. 95-588, section 306(a)).
(4) Veteran with one or more dependents in need of aid and attendance	15,112	(38 U.S.C. 1521(d) as in effect on December 31, 1978).
(5) Child (no entitled veteran or surviving spouse)	8,886	(Pub. L. 95-588, section 306(a)).
(6) Spouse income exclusion (38 CFR 3.262)	3,468	(Pub. L. 95-588, section 306(a)(2)(B)).

TABLE 6.—OLD-LAW PENSION INCOME LIMITATIONS

(1) Veteran or surviving spouse without dependents or an entitled child	\$9,516	(Pub. L. 95-588, section 306(b)).
(2) Veteran or surviving spouse with one or more dependents	13,719	(Pub. L. 95-588, section 306(b)).

Spina Bifida Benefits

Section 421 of Public Law 104-204 added a new chapter 18 to title 38, United States Code, authorizing VA to provide certain benefits, including a monthly monetary allowance, to

children born with **spina bifida** who are natural children of veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam era. Pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 1805(b)(3), **spina bifida** rates are subject to adjustment under the provisions of 38

U.S.C. 5312, which provides for the adjustment of certain VA benefit rates whenever there is an increase in benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 *et*

seq.). Effective December 1, 2001, **spina bifida** monthly rates are as follows:
 Level I—\$228
 Level II—\$792
 Level III—\$1,354

Birth Defects Benefits

Section 401 of Public Law 106-419 authorizes the payment of monetary benefits to, or on behalf of, children of female Vietnam veterans born with certain birth defects. Rates are subject to adjustment under the provisions of 38 U.S.C. 5312, which provides for the adjustment of certain VA benefit rates whenever there is an increase in benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 *et seq.*). Effective December 1, 2001, birth defects monthly rates are as follows:
 Level I—\$100
 Level II—\$228
 Level III—\$792
 Level IV—\$1,354

Dated: May 16, 2002.

Anthony J. Principi,
Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

[FR Doc. 02-13095 Filed 5-23-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Scientific Review and Evaluation Board for Health Services Research and Development Service; Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs gives notice under Public Law 92-463 (Federal Advisory Committee Act) that a meeting of the Scientific Review and Evaluation Board for Health Services Research and Development Service will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 14th and K Streets, NW., Washington, DC, from June 19 through 21, 2002. The Nursing Research Initiative review will convene on June 19, from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. The investigator Initiated Research review will convene on June 19, from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m., on June 20, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. and on June 21, from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to review research and development applications concerned with the measurement and evaluation of health care services and with testing new methods of health care delivery and management, and nursing research. Applications are reviewed for scientific and technical merit. Recommendations regarding funding are prepared for the Chief Research and Development Officer.

This meeting will be open to the public at the start of the June 19 session for approximately one half-hour to cover

administrative matters and to discuss the general status of program. The closed portion of the meeting involves discussion, examination, reference to, and oral review of staff and consultant critiques of research protocols and similar documents. During this portion of the meeting, discussion and recommendations will include qualifications of the personnel conducting the studies (the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy), as well as research information (the premature disclosure of which would be likely to frustrate significantly the implementation of proposed agency action regarding such research projects). As provided by the subsection 10(d) of Public Law 92-463, as amended by Public Law 94-409, closing portions of these meetings is in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(c)(6) and (9)(B).

Those who are planning to attend the open session or wishing further information should contact Dr. Martha Bryan, Assistant Director, Scientific Review (124F), Health Services Research and Development Service, Department of Veterans Affairs, 1400 Eye Street, NW., Suite 780, Washington, DC at (202) 408-3665.

Dated: May 20, 2002.

Nora E. Egan,
Committee Management Officer.
 [FR Doc. 02-13099 Filed 5-23-02; 8:45 am]
 BILLING CODE 8320-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

National Research Advisory Council; Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under Public Law 92-463 (Federal Advisory Committee Act) that the National Research Advisory Council will meet at the Hyatt Dulles, 2300 Dulles Corner Boulevard, Herndon, VA 20171, on June 20, 2002, from 8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. The meeting is open to the public. The purpose of the Council is to provide external advice and review for VA's research mission.

The meeting will begin with opening remarks and an overview by the Council Chairman. The Council will receive informational briefings on the VA Health Services Research Program, human subjects protection issues in VA and the peer review process.

Any member of the public wishing to attend the meeting or further information should contact Ms. Karen Scott, Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Research and Development

(12C2), 801 I Street, NW., Washington, DC at (202) 565-8381.

Dated: May 20, 2002.

By Direction of the Secretary.

Nora E. Egan,
Committee Management Officer.
 [FR Doc. 02-13098 Filed 5-23-02; 8:45 am]
 BILLING CODE 8320-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

President's Task Force To Improve Health Care Delivery for Our Nation's Veterans; Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under Public Law 92-463 (Federal Advisory Committee Act) that a meeting of the President's Task Force to Improve Health Care Delivery for Our Nation's Veterans is scheduled for Wednesday, June 5, 2002, beginning at 9 a.m. and adjourning at 4 p.m. and Thursday, June 6, 2002, beginning at 8:30 a.m. and adjourning at 11:30 a.m. The June 5 session will be held in the Horizon Ballroom of the Ronald Reagan Building International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC. The June 6 session will be held in the First Floor Conference Room of the VFW Memorial Building, 200 Maryland Avenue, NE., Washington, DC. Both sessions are open to the general public.

The purpose of the President's Task Force to Improve Health Care Delivery for Our Nation's Veterans is to:

(a) Identify ways to improve benefits and services for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) beneficiaries and Department of Defense (DoD) military retirees who are also eligible for benefits from VA, through better coordination of the activities of the two departments;

(b) Identify opportunities to remove barriers that impede VA and DoD coordination, including budgeting processes, timely billing, cost accounting, information technology, and reimbursement; and

(c) Identify opportunities through partnership between VA and DoD, to maximize the use of resources and infrastructure, including buildings, information technology and data sharing systems, procurement of supplies, equipment and services.

On the morning of June 5, the Vision Work Group and the Leadership Work Group will brief the Committee. During the afternoon session, the Benefits and Services Work Group, Resources and Budgeting Work Group, and Pharmaceuticals Work Group will brief the Committee. On the morning of June 6, the Acquisition and Procurement