

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 IRS is soliciting comments concerning Notice 97-19 and Notice 98-34, Guidance for Expatriates under Internal Revenue Code sections 877, 2501, 2107 and 6039F.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before March 27, 2006 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Glenn Kirkland, Internal Revenue Service, room 6512, 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20224.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the regulations should be directed to Larnice Mack at Internal Revenue Service, room 6512, 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20224, or at (202) 622-3179, or through the Internet at Larnice.Mack@irs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: *Title:* Guidance for Expatriates under Internal Revenue Code section 877, 2501, 2107 and 6039F.

OMB Number: 1545-1531.

Notice Number: Notice 97-19 and Notice 98-34.

Abstract: Notice 97-19 and Notice 98-34 provide guidance regarding the federal tax consequences for certain individuals who lose U.S. citizenship, cease to be taxed as U.S. lawful permanent residents, or are otherwise subject to tax under Code section 877. The information required by these notices will be used to help make a determination as to whether these taxpayers expatriated with a principal purpose to avoid tax.

Current Actions: There are no changes being made to the notices at this time.

Type of Review: Extension of currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 12,350.

Estimated Time per Respondent: 32 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 6,525.

The following paragraph applies to all of the collections of information covered by this notice:

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a collection of information must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any internal revenue law. Generally, tax returns and tax return information are confidential, as required by 26 U.S.C. 6103.

Request 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.

Approved: January 17, 2006.

Glenn Kirkland,

IRS Reports Clearance Officer

[FR Doc. E6-896 Filed 1-24-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-P

U.S.-CHINA ECONOMIC AND SECURITY REVIEW COMMISSION

Notice of Open Public Hearing

AGENCY: U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission.

ACTION: Notice of open public hearing.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the following hearing of the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission.

Name: Carolyn Bartholomew, Acting Chairman of the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission.

The Commission is mandated by Congress to investigate, assess, evaluate and report to Congress annually on "the national budget of the People's Republic of China, and the fiscal strength of the People's Republic of China in relation to internal instability in the People's Republic of China and the likelihood of the externalization of problems arising

from such internal instability." Pursuant to this mandate, the Commission will be holding a public hearing in Washington, DC on February 2-3, 2006.

Background

This event is the second in a series of public hearings the Commission will hold during its 2006 report cycle to collect input from leading experts in academia, business, industry, government and the public on the impact of U.S.-China trade and economic relations. The February 2-3 hearing is being conducted to obtain commentary about issues connected to the major domestic challenges facing Chinese leaders. Information on upcoming hearings, as well as transcripts of past Commission hearings, can be obtained from the USCC Web site <http://www.uscc.gov>.

The February 2-3 hearing will be Co-chaired by Commissioners William A. Reinsch and Dr. Larry M. Wortzel.

Purpose of Hearing

The hearing is designed to assist the Commission in fulfilling its mandate by examining the issues to identify the major challenges facing the Chinese leadership, how those challenges manifest themselves in a growing frequency of public protests, how China's state bureaucracies are responding to the protests, and what actions the United States is taking or should be taking as a consequence of the challenges confronting the Chinese leadership. Invited witnesses include administration officials, academic experts, and research fellows.

Copies of the hearing agenda will be made available on the Commission's Web site <http://www.uscc.gov>. Any interested party may file a written statement by February 3, 2005, by mailing to the contact below.

DATES: Thursday, February 2, 2006, 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m., and Friday, February 3, 2006, 9 to 11:30 a.m., Eastern Standard Time. A detailed agenda for the hearing will be posted to the Commission's Web site at <http://www.uscc.gov> in the near future.

ADDRESSES: The hearing will be held on Capitol Hill in Room 1310 of the Longworth House Office Building, Independence and New Jersey Avenues, SE., Washington, DC. Public Seating is limited to about 50 people on a first come, first served basis.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Any member of the public wishing further information concerning the hearing should contact Kathy Michels, Associate Director for the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission, 444

North Capitol Street, NW., Suite 602, Washington, DC 20001; phone 202-624-1409, or via e-mail at kmichels@uscc.gov.

Authority: The Commission was established in October 2000 pursuant to the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act Section 1238, Pub. L. 106-398, 114 Stat. 1654A-334 (2000) (codified at 22 U.S.C. section 7002 (2001), as amended by Public Law 109-108 dated November 16, 2005, and the "Consolidated Appropriations Resolution of 2003," Pub. L. No. 108-7 dated February 20, 2003.

Dated: January 19, 2006.

Kathleen J. Michels,

Associate Director, U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission.

[FR Doc. E6-931 Filed 1-24-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 1137-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0013]

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. 3501-21), 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 and includes the actual data collection instrument.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before February 24, 2006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Denise McLamb, Records Management Service (005E3), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 565-8374, FAX (202) 565-6950 or e-mail denise.mclamb@mail.va.gov. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0013."

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. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0013" in any correspondence.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Application for United States Flag for Burial Purposes, VA Form 21-2008.

OMB Control Number: 2900-0013.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: VA Form 21-2008 is used to determine a family member or friend of a deceased veteran eligibility for issuance of a burial flag.

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 November 2, 2005 at page 66487.

Affected Public: Individuals or households, Federal Government, and State, Local or Tribal Government.

Estimated Annual Burden: 162,500 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent: 15 minutes.

Frequency of Response: One-time.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 650,000.

Dated: January 10, 2006.

By direction of the Secretary.

Denise McLamb,

Program Analyst, Records Management Service.

[FR Doc. E6-852 Filed 1-24-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0034]

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. 3501-21), 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 and includes the actual data collection instrument.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before February 24, 2006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Denise McLamb, Records Management

Service (005E3), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, ((202) 565-8374, fax (202-565-6950 or e-mail denise.mclamb@mail.va.gov. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0034."

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. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0034" in any correspondence.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Trainee Request for Leave—Chapter 31, Title 38 U.S.C., VA Form 28-1905h.

OMB Control Number: 2900-0034.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: Claimants complete VA Form 28-1905h to request leave from their Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program training. The trainer or authorized school official must verify on the form that the absence will or will not interfere with claimant's progress in the program. Claimants will continue to receive subsistence allowance and other program services during the leave period as if he or she were attending training. Disapproval of the request may result in loss of subsistence allowance for the leave period.

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 November 02, 2005 at pages 66486—66487.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 7,500 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent: 15 minutes.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 30,000.

Dated: January 12, 2006.

By direction of the Secretary.

Denise McLamb,

Program Analyst, Records Management Service.

[FR Doc. E6-853 Filed 1-24-06; 8:45 am]

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