

notice solicits comments on information needed to determine a claimant's appropriate rate of pension.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before August 9, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20M35), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420 or e-mail irmnkess@vba.va.gov. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0138" in any correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nancy J. Kessinger at (202) 273-7079 or FAX (202) 275-5947.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13; 44 U.S.C. 3501-3521), Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. This request for comment is being made pursuant to Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

With respect to the following collection of information, VBA invites comments on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VBA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of VBA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways 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: Request for Details of Expenses, VA Form 21-8049.

OMB Control Number: 2900-0138.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: VA Form 21-8049 is used to gather the necessary information to determine the amounts of any deductible expenses paid by the claimant and/or commercial life insurance received in order to adjust the annual income. Pension is an income-based program, and the payable rate depends on annual income. Without this information, VA would be unable to authorize pension benefits.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 5,700 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent: 15 minutes.

Frequency of Response: One time.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 22,800.

Dated: May 28, 2004.

By direction of the Secretary:

Loise Russell,

Director, Records Management Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses; Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under Pub. L. 92-463 (Federal Advisory Committee Act) that the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses will meet on June 28-29, 2004, at the VA Medical Center located at 385 Tremont Avenue, East Orange, NJ. The meeting will be held in Room 11137, War Related Illness and Injuries Study Center (WRIISC). The session on June 28 will

convene at 9 a.m. and adjourn at 5:30 p.m. The session on June 29 will convene at 9 a.m. and adjourn at 2:30 p.m. Both sessions will be open to the public.

The purpose of the Committee is to provide advice and make recommendations to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on proposed research studies, research plans and research strategies relating to the health consequences of military service in the Southwest Asia theater of operations during the Gulf War.

On June 28, the Committee will be briefed on a number of research presentations from the staff of the East Orange WRIISC. In the afternoon there will be clinical presentations and a roundtable discussion. On June 29, the Committee will hear a presentation on "Understanding the Biochemical Basis of Gulf War Illnesses" by Sharon Mates, PhD, and Allen Feinberg, PhD, of Intra-Cellular Therapies, Inc. In the afternoon, the Committee will receive an update on recent research and discuss the Committee's 2004 report. Time will be available for public comment on both days.

Members of the public may submit written statements for the Committee's review to Ms. Laura O'Shea, Designated Federal Officer, Department of Veterans Affairs (008A1), 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420. Any member of the public seeking additional information should contact Ms. Laura O'Shea at (202) 273-5031.

Dated: June 1, 2004.

By Direction of the Secretary.

E. Philip Riggin,

Committee Management Officer.

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