

Financial Control and Management, Office of Personnel Management, Room 4312, 1900 E. Street, NW., Washington, DC 20415.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Marc Flaster (202) 606-2115.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The computer matching program between OPM and OWCP will involve comparison of beneficiaries under the FECA and the CSRA or the FERSA. The match will identify beneficiaries receiving payment of compensation for wage loss or death under the FECA and those receiving retirement or death benefits under the CSRA or FERSA covering the same period of time.

The concurrent receipt of benefits under the FECA based on wage loss and under the CSRA or FERSA for retirement, or under the FECA, CSRA, or FERSA based on the death of the Federal employee is prohibited. It is the responsibility of OPM to monitor retirement annuity and survivor benefits paid under the CSRA or FERSA to ensure that its beneficiaries are not receiving benefits under the FECA which are prohibited during receipt of benefits under the CSRA or FERSA. Similarly, it is the responsibility of the OWCP to ensure that Federal employees or dependents of deceased Federal employees receiving benefits under the FECA are not also receiving benefits under the CSRA or FERSA which are prohibited.

By comparing the information received through this computer matching program on a recurring basis, the agencies will be able to make a timely and more accurate adjustment in the benefits payable. The match will prevent overpayments, fraud and abuse, thus assuring that benefit payments are proper under the appropriate Acts.

Additional information, regarding the matching program, including the authority for the program, a description of the matches, the personnel records to be matched, the dates of the program, security safeguards, and plans for disposition following completion of the matches are provided in the text below.

Office of Personnel Management.

James B. King,

Director.

Matching of Records between Office of Workers' Compensation Programs and Office of Personnel Management

**A. Authority:** The Civil Service Retirement Act (CSRA), U.S.C., 8331, et seq.; the Federal Employees' Retirement System Act (FERSA), 5 U.S.C., 8401, et seq.; and the Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA), 5 U.S.C., 8101, et seq.

**B. Description of Computer Matching Program:** OPM pays annuities or survivor benefits to individuals who may also receive benefits under the FECA. It is the responsibility of OPM as the administrator of the CSRA and the FERSA to assure that such benefit payments are proper and to prevent fraud and abuse. The computer matching program is an efficient and nonobtrusive method of determining whether these individuals are receiving benefits from both OWCP and OPM prohibited by the FECA, CSRA and FERSA. OWCP will provide OPM with extracts of its payment files containing data (names, social security numbers, dates of birth, claim numbers, payee relationship codes, addresses, zip codes, and payment data) needed to identify the individual and determine if he or she is receiving benefits from both organizations at the same time. OPM will match OWCP's extract of its payment files against its payment records for the same dates to determine if benefits were being paid on the same date by both agencies. OPM will provide OWCP with a list of valid matches. Both organizations will detect, identify, and follow-up on payment of prohibited dual benefits. An individual identified as receiving prohibited dual benefits will be offered an opportunity to contest the findings and proposed actions and the opportunity to elect the benefits he or she wishes to receive. The organization responsible for initiating the recovery of the overpayment of benefits will afford the individual due process before any payment modifications are made.

**C. Personal Records to be Matched:** The OPM system of records published as OPM-CENTRAL-1, Civil Service Retirement and Insurance Records, at 60 FR 63075, December 8, 1995, which contains payment data on recipients of CSRA and FERSA benefits disbursed by OPM will be matched to OWCP records published at 58 FR 49548, on September 23, 1993 with amendments published at 59 FR 47361 on September 15, 1994, which contains data pertinent to the payment of Federal employees and their dependents under the FECA.

**D. Dates:** Data exchanges will begin during calendar year 1996 at a mutually agreeable time and will be repeated every six months, until one of the parties to the agreement advises the other by written request to terminate or modify the agreement.

**E. Privacy Safeguards and Security:** The personal privacy of the individuals whose names are included in the tapes is protected by strict adherence to the provisions of the Privacy Act of 1974 and OMB's Guidance Interpreting the

Provisions of Pub. L. 100-503, the Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act of 1988 (54 FR 25818). Security safeguards include limiting access only to the files agreed to and only to agency personnel having a "need to know". All automated records will be password protected and the data listing will be locked in file areas after normal duty hours. Records matched or created by the match will be stored in an area that is physically safe from access by unauthorized persons during duty hours and nonduty hours or when not in use.

**F. Disposal of Records:** The files will remain the property of the respective source agencies and all records including those not containing matches will be returned to the source agency for destruction. "Hits," the records relating to matched individuals, will be disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Privacy Act and the Federal Record Schedules after serving their purpose. The data obtained from confirmed hits will be entered in the claims file, subject to release only in accordance with the provisions of the Privacy Act.

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### **Privacy Act of 1974; Computer Matching Program Between the Office of Personnel Management and the Social Security Administration**

**AGENCY:** Office of Personnel Management (OPM).

**ACTION:** Notice of a computer matching program between the OPM and the Social Security Administration (SSA) for public comment.

**SUMMARY:** OPM is publishing notice of its computer matching program with SSA to meet the reporting and publication requirements of Public Law 100-503, the Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act of 1988. In this match, SSA records are used in redetermining and recomputing certain annuitants' benefits where computations are based, in part, on military service performed after December 1956 under the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and for annuitants under the Federal Employees' Retirement System (FERS) who have a CSRS component in their FERS annuity computation. The purpose of this match is to identify these beneficiaries.

**DATES:** This proposed action will become effective 40 days after the agreements by the parties participating in the match have been submitted to

Congress and the Office of Management and Budget unless either the Congress or the Office of Management and Budget objects thereto. Any public comment on this matching program must be submitted within the 30-day public notice period, which begins on the publication date of this notice.

**ADDRESS:** Any interested party may submit written comments to Kathleen M. McGettigan, Assistant Director for Financial Control and Management, Retirement and Insurance Service, Office of Personnel Management, 1900 E Street, NW, Room 4312, Washington, DC 20415.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Marc Flaster, (202) 606-2115.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** OPM and SSA have concluded an agreement to conduct a computer matching program between the two agencies. The purpose of the agreement is to establish the conditions under which SSA agrees to the disclosure of Social Security benefit and/or tax return information to the OPM. OPM, as specified in 5 U.S.C. 8332(j)(1), has an obligation to use post 1956 earnings data in redetermining and recomputing annuities for certain CSRS and FERS annuitants. Section 1106 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.) requires that SSA disclose the needed data to OPM.

Office of Personnel Management.  
James B. King,  
*Director.*

Report of Computer Matching Agreement Between the Office of Personnel Management and the Social Security Administration

#### *A. Participating Agencies*

OPM and SSA.

#### *B. Purpose of the Matching Program*

Chapters 83 and 84 of title 5, United States Code (U.S.C.), provide the basis for computing annuities under the Civil Service Retirement System and the Federal Employees' Retirement System respectively, and require release of information by SSA in order to administer post 1956 data exchanges. In this match, SSA records are used in redetermining and recomputing certain annuitants' benefits where computations are based, in part, on military service performed after December 1956 under the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and for annuitants under the Federal Employees' Retirement System (FERS) who have a CSRS component in their FERS annuity computation. The purpose of this match is to identify these beneficiaries.

#### *C. Authority for Conducting the Match Program*

Chapters 83 and 84, title 5, United States Code, section 1106 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1306), and the Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. 6103).

#### *D. Categories of Records and Individuals Covered by the Match*

SSA will disclose data from its Master Beneficiary Record and Master Earnings Files, and manually extracted post 1956 military wage information from SSA's "1086" microfilm file when required. SSA has published routine uses for these systems of records, published at 59 FR 62407, December 5, 1994 and 60 FR 2144, January 6, 1995, last revised at 60 FR 52948, on October 1, 1995.

OPM's records consist of annuity data from its system of records entitled OPM/Central-1—Civil Service Retirement and Insurance Records, last published in the Federal Register at 60 FR 63075, December 8, 1995.

#### *E. Description of Matching Program*

OPM provides a monthly magnetic tape to SSA containing data on those individuals for whom OPM requests post 1956 military service benefit information. These elements will be matched against SSA records. SSA furnishes OPM by magnetic tape benefit information on these individuals, including the amount of the SSA benefit attributable to the post 1956 military service (which constitutes the CSRS or FERS annuity reduction amount).

#### *F. Privacy Safeguards and Security*

The personal privacy of the individuals whose names are included in the tapes are protected by strict adherence to the provisions of the Privacy Act of 1974 and OMB's "Guidance Interpreting the Provisions of Public Law 100-503, the Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act of 1988". Access to the records used in the data exchange is restricted to only those authorized employees and officials who need it to perform their official duties. Records matched or created will be stored in an area that is physically safe from access by unauthorized personnel during duty hours as well as nonduty hours or when not in use. Records used in this exchange and any records created by this exchange will be processed under the immediate supervision and control of authorized personnel in a manner which will protect the confidentiality of the records.

Both SSA and OPM have the right to make onsite inspections or make other provisions to ensure that adequate

safeguards are being maintained by the other agency.

#### *G. Inclusive Dates of the Matching Program*

This computer matching program is subject to review by the Congress and the Office of Management and Budget. OPM's report to these parties must be received at least 40 days prior to the initiation of any matching activity. If no objections are raised by either Congress or OMB, and the mandatory 30 day public notice period for comment for this Federal Register notice expires, with no significant receipt of adverse public comments resulting in a contrary determination, then this computer matching program becomes effective. By agreement between OPM and SSA, the matching program will be in effect and continue for 18 months with an option to renew for 12 additional months under the terms set forth in 5 U.S.C. 552a(o)(2)(D).

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## POSTAL SERVICE

### Sunshine Act Meeting; Board of Governors

The Board of Governors of the United States Postal Service, pursuant to its Bylaws (39 CFR Section 7.5) and the Government in the Sunshine Act (5 U.S.C. Section 552b), hereby gives notice that it intends to hold a meeting at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 8, 1996, in Anchorage, Alaska. The meeting is open to the public and will be held at the Hotel Captain Cook, 4th and K Streets, Anchorage, in the Mid Deck Room. The Board expects to discuss the matters stated in the agenda which is set forth below. Requests for information about the meeting should be addressed to the Secretary of the Board, Thomas J. Koerber, at (202) 268-4800.

There will also be a session of the Board on Monday, October 7, 1996, but it will consist entirely of briefings and is not open to the public.

#### Agenda

##### *Tuesday Session*

October 8—8:00 a.m. (Open)

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting, September 9-10, 1996.
2. Remarks of the Postmaster General and CEO. (Marvin Runyon)
3. Board of Governors 1997 Meeting Schedule. (Chairman del Junco)
4. Office of the Governors FY 1997 Budget. (Chairman del Junco)