

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Office of the Secretary****Proposed Collection; Comment Request**

AGENCY: Office of the Special Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Defense for Gulf War Illnesses.

ACTION: Notice.

In compliance with section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Office of the Special Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Defense for Gulf War Illnesses announces the proposed extension of a public information collection that was submitted for emergency review and approved in concept on November 21, 1997, and seeks public comment on the provisions thereof. Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed 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 proposed information collection; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Consideration will be given to all comments received by April 27, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed information collection should be sent to the Office of the Special Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Defense for Gulf War Illnesses, 5113 Leesburg Pike, Suite 901, Falls Church, VA 22041, ATTN: Lieutenant Colonel Art Nalls.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request more information on this proposed information collection or to obtain a copy of the proposal and associated collection instruments, please write to the above address, or call the Office of the Special Assistant for Gulf War Illnesses at (703)-578-8500.

Time and OMB Number: Department of Defense M256A1 Outreach; OMB Number 0704-0399.

Needs and Uses: The information collection is necessary to facilitate the investigation of possible, positive M256A1 chemical warfare agent detections at different dates and locations in the Kuwait Theater of Operations. The information collected will be used to determine which Gulf War units and veterans may have

further information about these incidents, to discover if there any other observed detections, to contribute to a better understanding of the events during and after the Gulf War, and to encourage veterans to enroll in a Department of Defense or Veterans Affairs medical program.

Affected Public: Individuals or Households.

Annual Burden Hours: 583.

Number of Respondents: 777.

Responses per Respondent: 1.

Average Burden per Response: 45 minutes.

Frequency: On occasion.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Summary of Information Collection**

Respondents are Gulf War veterans who are not serving on active duty and whose units were in the vicinity of the detection. Through this outreach, veterans will contact the Office of the Special Assistant on their own initiative. Veterans who call will be called back by Contact Managers who will collect basic information. This information will be passed on to investigators/analysts, who will pursue more in-depth questions. The information sought by the outreach letter will allow the Office of the Special Assistant to determine which Gulf War units and veterans may have further information that could contribute to the investigation of specific, possible M256A1 chemical detections; if there were any other M256A1 chemical detections observed; and, if veterans are enrolled in either the DoD or Department for Veteran Affairs medical programs. Relevant historical accounts provided by veterans will be integrated in case narratives from which private information will be removed. When approved for publication, these case narratives will appear on the Office of the Special Assistant's website, GulfLINK, which is fully open to the public.

Dated: February 20, 1998.

Patricia L. Toppings,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 98-4850 Filed 2-25-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5000-04-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Department of the Air Force****Proposed Collection; Comment Request**

AGENCY: Center for Character Development, United States Air Force Academy (USAFA)

In compliance with Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Center for Character Development, United States Air Force Academy, announces the proposed public information collection and seeks public comment on the provisions thereof. Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed 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 proposed information collection; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Consideration will be given to all comments received by April 27, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed information collection should be sent to Center for Character Development, ATTN: Lt Col Lynn Stone, 2354 Fairchild Hall, Suite 4A, USAF Academy, CO 80840-6260.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request more information on this proposed information collection or to obtain a copy of the proposal and associated collection instruments, please write to the above address or call Lt Col Stone at 719-333-2987/4904, DSN 333-2987/4904.

Title, Associated Form, and OMB Number: USAFA Character Development Survey.

Needs and Uses: The information collection requirement is a necessary part of outcomes validation research, and program evaluation and management related to the Center's eight character development outcomes. This approval is specified by Title 37, United States Code, Section 908. This statute delegates such approval authority of Congress to the respective service secretaries and to the Secretary of State.

Affected Public: Individuals
Annual Burden Hours: 10,000
Number of Respondents: 30,000
Responses Per Respondent: 1
Average Burden Per Response: 10 minutes

Frequency: Once

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Summary of Information Collection**

Respondents are United States Air Force Academy graduates (active duty, retired, and separated). Information in

the survey asks questions about eight character development outcomes (i.e. integrity, selfless service, excellence, human dignity, decisiveness, taking responsibility, self-discipline, and spirituality). The information solicited will be collected via U.S. mail, using scan sheets to record responses. It will be used as part of outcomes validation research, and program evaluation and management.

Barbara A. Carmichael,

Alternate Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 98-4924 Filed 2-25-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3910-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Submission for OMB review; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Deputy Chief Information Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, invites comments on the submission for OMB review as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before March 30, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Danny Werfel, Desk Officer, Department of Education, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW., Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503. Requests for copies of the proposed information collection requests should be addressed to Patrick J. Sherrill, Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 5624, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202-4651.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patrick J. Sherrill (202) 708-8196.

Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. OMB may amend or waive the requirement for public

consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The Deputy Chief Information Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, publishes this notice containing proposed information collection requests prior to submission of these requests to OMB. Each proposed information collection, grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, e.g., new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. OMB invites public comment at the address specified above. Copies of the requests are available from Patrick J. Sherrill at the address specified above.

Dated: February 23, 1998.

Gloria Parker,

Deputy Chief Information Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

Office of Educational Research and Improvement

Type of Review: New

Title: The Blue Ribbon Schools

Program

Frequency: One-time

Affected Public: Not-for-profit institutions; State, local or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs

Reporting Burden and Recordkeeping:

Responses: 515

Burden Hours: 25,750

Abstract: The Blue Ribbon Schools award is a national school improvement strategy with a threefold purpose: (1) to identify and give public recognition to outstanding public and private schools across the nation; (2) to make available a comprehensive framework of key criteria for school effectiveness that can serve as a basis for participatory self-assessment and planning in schools; (3) to facilitate communication and sharing of best practices within and among schools based on a common understanding of criteria related to success. The information collected will be used to determine by peer review which schools receive the award and information on their exemplary practices and policies will be made available to other schools.

Office of the Under Secretary

Type of Review: New

Title: Institutional Survey of the Operation of the Federal Work-Study Program

Frequency: One time

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 850

Burden Hours: 1,700

Abstract: This study will describe the operation of the Federal Work-Study program at postsecondary education institutions nationwide. This survey will provide, for the first time, nationally-representative data on the workings of this program. Results will be used by Congress during the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act and for other oversight responsibilities.

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BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Energy Outreach; Electric and Magnetic Field Effects Research and Public Information Dissemination Program; Solicitation for Non-Federal Financial Contributions for Fiscal Year 1998

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy solicits financial contributions from non-Federal sources to at least match \$3,446,500 in Federal funding, in support of the national, comprehensive Electric and Magnetic Field Effects Research and Public Information Dissemination Program, described in the Notice of Intent to Solicit Non-Federal Contributions, published November 9, 1993 (58 FR 59461). Section 2118 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13475) requires the Department of Energy to solicit funds from non-Federal sources to offset at least 50 percent of the total funding for all activities under this program. Section 2118 also precludes the Department of Energy from obligating funds for program activities in any fiscal year unless funds received from non-Federal sources are available in an amount at least equal to 50 percent of the amount appropriated by Congress. Appropriations for expenditure under section 2118 have been enacted under the Energy and Water Development Appropriation Act, 1998 (Pub. L. 105-271) in the amount of \$3,446,500 for fiscal year 1998. Fiscal year 1998 is the final year of the Electric and Magnetic Field Effects Research and Public Information Dissemination Program.