

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

A. Justification

1. This is a request for extension of OMB Control Number 0704-0332, that will expire on May 31, 2007. DoD proposes that OMB extend its approval for use through May 31, 2010. In order to evaluate whether the purposes of the Pilot Mentor-Protégé Program (established under Section 831 of Public Law 101-510, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1991, as amended) have been attained, Appendix I of the Defense FAR Supplement requires that contractors participating in the program as mentors keep records and report on progress in achieving the developmental assistance objectives under each mentor-protégé agreement. A supplemental information collection requirement is imposed on protégé firms to report on progress made under the mentor-protégé agreements. Participation in the Program is voluntary.

2. These reports are used by the Government to assess whether the purposes of the Pilot Mentor-Protégé Program have been attained. These reports provide data for several reports to Congress required by Section 822 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1998 and Section 811 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000.

3. Use of improved information technology would not reduce the burden of providing this information because standardized or repetitive data is not involved. However, contractors may submit the reports in formats that are compatible with their automated systems.

4. As a matter of policy, we review the Federal Acquisition Regulation to determine if adequate language already exists. The language in DFARS Appendix I applies solely to DoD and is not considered duplicative of the language in FAR Part 19. Similar information is not already available to the Government. Contractors are required to report progress under their individual agreements.

5. The burden applied to small business is the minimum consistent with applicable laws, Executive Orders, regulations, and prudent business practices.

6. The mentor contractor is asked to provide information semiannually and the protégé is asked to provide information annually. Without the mentor's semiannual report and the protégé's annual report, DoD would not be able to assess the effectiveness of the Pilot Mentor-Protégé Program.

7. Collection of this information does not require any of the characteristics of collection cited at 5 CFR 1320.5(d)(2).

8. Collection is consistent with the guidelines in 5 CFR 1320.8. Public comments were solicited in the Federal Register (72 FR 2662) on January 22, 2007 (TAB A).

9. No payment or gift will be provided to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors under their contracts.

10. This information is disclosed only to the extent consistent with prudent business practices and current regulations and statutory requirements.

11. No sensitive questions are involved.

12. Estimate of public burden.

The hours per response and per recordkeeper are the same as they were in the last request for clearance. The number of respondents is the number of mentor firms (78), plus the number of protégé firms (151), that are participating in the Program as of October 30, 2006. The responses per respondent is a weighted average. Mentor firms report twice a year on each protégé firm and protégé firms report once a year. Therefore, there are a total of 453 reports (151 X 2 for mentor firms plus 151 X 1 for protégé firms = 453), or 1.98 reports per respondent.

a. Estimates of the hour burden

1. Number of respondents	229
2. Responses per respondent	1.98
3. Total annual responses	453
4. Hours per response	1
5. Total Hours	453
6. Number of recordkeepers	229
7. Hours per recordkeeper	3.7
8. Total recordkeeping hours	847
9. Total public burden hours	1300

b. Estimate of the annual cost to the public

1. Total annual hours	1300
2. Cost per hour	\$33.32
3. Total annual cost to the public	\$43,361

Cost per hour is based on a GS-11 Step 5 hourly rate for 2006 with a 32.85% burden rate applied. The burden rate is based on the current OMB Circular A-76 (May 2003)

13. None.

14. Estimated annual cost to the Government. The time required for Government review is based on receiving, reviewing, and analyzing the information submitted by the contractor. The time estimate is 1 hour per response.

1. Number of responses	453
2. Average hours per response	1
3. Total hours	453
4. Cost per hour	\$33.32
5. Total annual cost to the Government	\$15,094

15. This is a request for extension of a currently approved collection. There is a reduction in the number of total public burden hours due to a change in the number of firms participating in the program. The hours are reduced from 1388 to 1300.

16. Results of this collection will not be published.

17. We do not seek approval to not display the expiration dates for OMB approval of the information collection.

18. There are no exceptions to the certification accompanying this Paperwork Reduction Act submission.

B. Collections of Information Employing Statistical Methods.

Statistical methods will not be employed.