

SUPPORTING STATEMENT
VA FORM 29-357
CLAIM FOR DISABILITY INSURANCE BENEFITS
2900-0016

JUSTIFICATION:

1. This form is used by the policyholder to claim disability insurance benefits on NSLI and USGLI policies. The information requested is authorized by law, 38 U.S.C. sections 1912, 1915, 1942 and 1948.
2. The information collected on the form is used by Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to establish the insured's eligibility for disability insurance benefits. This application is to be completed by veterans who have government life insurance and become totally disabled.
3. VA Form 29-357 has been added to VBA website for downloading. The insured can complete the form electronically, print and submit the claim by mail.
4. The information is not contained in any other VA records. Similar information is not available elsewhere.
5. The information does not involve any small businesses.
6. This form is designed for use by the insurance activity to determine the insured's eligibility for disability insurance benefits.
7. There are no special circumstances requiring that the collection of information be conducted in a manner inconsistent with the guidelines in 5 CFR Section 1320.6.
8. The Department notice was published in the Federal Register on June 19, 2008, Volume 73, Number 119, Pages 34992-34993. There were no comments received.
9. The information collected is supplied by the respondent. No remuneration is made.
10. The information collection conforms with the Privacy Act of 1974 and is subject to the conditions of disclosure contained therein. The records are maintained in the system identified as 36VA00, "Veterans and Armed Forces Personnel United States Government Life Insurance Records - VA" as contained in the Privacy Act Issuances, 1993 Compilation.
11. There are no questions of a sensitive nature.

12. VA estimates that approximately 8,100 forms a year will be received. It is also estimated that it will take approximately one hour and 45 minutes to complete this form. VA arrived at this estimate by initiating a trial with a VA staff member unfamiliar with the form. The annual burden is 14,175 hours.

13. This submission does not involve any record keeping costs.

14. Cost to Government:

\$3,948.00	Estimated mailing cost (8,100 X 2 minutes per form X \$6.25/hour (average salary for station mail personnel) plus 8,100 X 27.9 cents each (presort discount)).
\$4,271.00	Estimated cost for collections (8,100 X 4 minutes per X \$7.91/hour (average salary of station collections personnel)).
\$31,131.00	Estimated cost for processing (8,100 forms X 20 minutes per form X \$11.53/hour (average salary for reviewers)).
\$600.00	Estimated printing costs (10,000 X \$60/1,000 forms).
\$39,950.00	Total cost to the Government.
\$212,625.00	Cost to reporting public (14,175 hours X \$15/hour).

15. There is no change in respondent burden.

16. The information is collected for insurance purposes only and there are no plans for publication.

17. The collection instrument, VA Form 29-357, may be reproduced and/or stocked by the respondents and veteran service organizations. This VA form does not display an expiration date, and if required to do so would result in unnecessary waste of existing stock of this form. This form is submitted to OMB for approval every three years. As such, this date requirement would also result in an unnecessary burden on the respondents and would delay Department action on the benefit being sought. VA also seeks to minimize its cost to itself of collecting, processing and using the information by not displaying the expiration date. For the reasons stated, VA continues to seek an exemption that waives the displaying of the expiration date on this VA form.

18. There are no exceptions to the certification statement identified in Item 19 of OMB Form 83-I.

Statistical Methods

The collection of information does not employ statistical methods.