

Supporting Statement for
VA Form 21-0820, Report of General Information
VA Form 21-0820a, Report of Death of Veteran/Beneficiary
VA Form 21-0820b, Report of Nursing Home Information
VA Form 21-0820c, Report of Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS)
VA Form 21-0820d, Report of Lost Check
VA Form 21-0820e, Report of Incarceration
VA Form 21-0820f, Report of Contact - Month of Death Check

2900-XXX

A. Justification

1. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) through its Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), administers an integrated program of benefits and services, established by law, for veterans, service personnel, and their dependents and/or beneficiaries. 38 Code of Federal Regulations 3.217 provides that action affecting entitlement to benefits may be taken based on oral information or statements provided to VA by a beneficiary or his or her fiduciary.
2. VA Form 21-0820, 21-0820a, 21-0820b, 21-0820c, 21-0820d, 21-0820e and 21-0820f will be used VA Regional Office and Pension Maintenance Center employees to meet VA's requirement to document verbal evidence obtained telephonically from VA beneficiary or claimant that will be used as part of the evidence for a claim for benefits. Without this information action can not be taken on any information received orally.
3. VA Form 21-0820, 21-0820a, 21-0820b, 21-0820c, 21-0820d, 21-0820e and 21-0820f are new forms which will become available on the One-VA web site in a fillable electronic format and VBA's Virtual VA application. VBA maintains a secure server for forms of this type, but does not currently have the technology in place to allow for the complete submission of the form. Validation edits are performed to assure data integrity. Efforts within VA are underway to provide a mechanism to allow the information to be submitted electronically with a recognized signature technology. There currently is no utility process in place that will allow the data submitted on the form to be incorporated with an existing centralized legacy database.
4. Program reviews were conducted to identify potential areas of duplication; however, none were found to exist. There is no known Department or Agency which maintains the necessary information, nor is it available from other sources within our Department.
5. The collection of information does not involve small businesses or entities.
6. This form is designed in a "user friendly" format, incorporating plain English, to comply with the President's Memorandum of June 1, 1998, Plain Language in Government Writing.
7. There is no special circumstance requiring collection in a manner inconsistent with 5 CFR 1320.6 guidelines.

8. The Department notice was published in the Federal Register on January 5, 2009, pages 336-337. There were no comments received in response to this notice.

9. No payments or gifts to respondents have been made under this collection of information.

10. The records are maintained in the appropriate Privacy Act System of Records identified as 58VA21/22, "Compensation, Pension, Education and Rehabilitation Records - VA" as set forth in Privacy Act Issuances, 1993 compilation found in 42 Fed. Reg. 49726 (9/27/1977).

11. There are no questions of a sensitive nature.

12. Estimate of Information Collection Burden.

a. Number of Respondents is estimated at 2,550,000 per year.

VA Form 21-0820, Report of General Information – 236,000.

VA Form 21-0820a, Report of Death of Veteran/Beneficiary – 80,000.

VA Form 21-0820b, Report of Nursing Home Information – 30,000.

VA Form 21-0820c, Report of Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) – 30,000

VA Form 21-0820d, Report of Lost Check – 30,000.

VA Form 21-0820e, Report of Incarceration – 10,000.

VA Form 21-0820f, Report of Contact - Month of Death Check – 10,000.

b. Frequency of Response is one time for most beneficiaries.

c. Annual burden is 35,501 hours.

VA Form 21-0820, Report of General Information – 19,668.

VA Form 21-0820a, Report of Death of Veteran/Beneficiary – 6,667.

VA Form 21-0820b, Report of Nursing Home Information – 2,500.

VA Form 21-0820c, Report of Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) – 2,500.

VA Form 21-0820d, Report of Lost Check – 2,500.

VA Form 21-0820e, Report of Incarceration – 833.

VA Form 21-0820f, Report of Contact - Month of Death Check – 833.

d. The estimated completion time of 5 minutes is based on review by staff personnel.

e. The total estimated cost to respondents is \$532,515 (35,501 hours x \$15/hour).

13. This submission does not involve any recordkeeping costs.

14. Estimated Costs to the Federal Government:

a. Processing/Analyzing costs \$62,916,975

(GS-9/5 @ \$27.37x 2,550,000 x 5 minutes = \$58,161,225)

(GS-7/5 @ \$22.38 x 2,550,000 x 5 minutes = \$4,755,750)

b. Printing and production cost \$284

c. Total cost to government \$62,917,259

15. This is a new data collection.

16. The information collection is not for publication or tabulation use.

17. The collection instrument, VA Form 21-0820 series, may be reproduced and/or stocked by the respondents and veterans service organizations. This VA form does not display an expiration date, and if required to do so would result in unnecessary waste of existing stocks of this form. This form will be submitted to OMB every 3 years. As such, this date requirement would also result in an unnecessary burden on the respondents and would delay Department action. 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 seeks an exemption that waives the displaying of the expiration date on VA Form 21-0820 series.

18. This submission does not contain any exceptions to the certification statement.

B. Collection of Information Employing Statistical Methods

This data collection does not employ statistical methods.