

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT
DRAFT (0704-TBD)**

“Qualification to Possess Firearms or Ammunition”

A. Justification

1. Need for Information Collection

In accordance with DoD Instruction 3020.pp, “Private Security Contractors Operating in Contingency Operations” written acknowledgement by the contract company and its individual Private Security Contractor (PSC) personnel, after investigation of background of PSC personnel by the contractor, shall be provided verifying such personnel are not prohibited under U.S. law (18 USC 922(g)) to possess firearms or ammunition.

2. Use of the Information

Written acknowledgements shall be used to verify that PSC personnel are not prohibited from possessing firearms or ammunition.

In the case of individuals found to have a qualifying conviction, the appropriate authority will immediately retrieve all government-issued firearms and ammunition. It will be requested that such individuals be removed from contracts supporting contingency operations.

3. Information Technology

The use of information technology is not considered appropriate for the purposes of this collection. PSC personnel must sign the acknowledgement. In addition, the information collected during the verification process is maintained by the contract company and not by the Agency.

4. Efforts to Identify Duplication

There is no duplication of data collection. This is the first time contractor data is collected for these specific purposes.

5. Methods to Minimize Burden on Small Entities

The information collection associated with small businesses is the minimum consistent with applicable laws, Executive orders, regulations, and prudent business practices.

6. Consequences of Not Collecting the Data

If this data is not collected, Agencies will not be able to accurately verify whether or not PSC personnel are prohibited under U.S. law to possess firearms or ammunition.

7. Special Circumstances

There are no special circumstances that require the collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with the guidelines in 5 CFR 1320.5 (d) (2).

8. Agency 60-Day Federal Register Notice and Consultations Outside the Agency

Public comments will be solicited in the Federal Register as required by 5 CFR 1320.8(d). A subsequent information collection package to be submitted under regular processing timeframes will address any comments received on the information collection.

9. Payments to Respondents

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

10. Assurance of Confidentiality

The information collected will be disclosed only to the extent consistent with prudent business practice, current regulations, and statutory requirements. No assurance of confidentiality is provided to respondents.

11. Sensitive Questions

Questions of a sensitive nature such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private are not asked in this collection.

12. Estimates of Response Burden and Annual Cost to Respondent

(a) Estimated Average Annual Respondent Burden:

- (1) Responses per Respondent: 5-2,500 employees (average of 120)
- (2) Number of Respondents: 125 companies
- (3) Hours per Response: 15 minutes
- (4) Total Annual Burden Hours: 3,750 (15,000 employees x .25 hrs)

A private security company is required to verify that its employees who are operating in either contingency operations (for DoD) or in a designated area of combat operations (for DoS and other federal agencies) are not prohibited under U.S. law (title 18, United States Code 922(g)) to possess firearms or ammunition. Based on current numbers of DoD and DoS armed private security contractors in Iraq and Afghanistan (DoS - 3,121 in Iraq and 599 in Afghanistan; DoD - 8,480 in Iraq and 3,172 in Afghanistan), we estimate that there could be a requirement for 125 companies to complete this action for 15,000 individuals per year.

(b) Respondent Cost

Total Annual Cost to Respondents: \$33,750 (3,750 total hours x \$9)
Cost to Individual Respondent: \$45 to \$22,500 (5 x \$9 to 2,500 x \$9)

The cost to respondent is based on the approximate salary of \$36.00 (rate per hour)/60 (minutes) = \$.6 per minute.

13. Estimates of Cost Burden for Collection of Information

DoD does not estimate any annual cost burden apart from the hour burden in Item 12, above.

14. Annual Cost to Government:

10 minutes for the contracting officer to verify information
15,000 total records x 10 minutes = 150,000 minutes
150,000 / 60 = 2,500 hours

Average Grade/Rank of contracting officer is GS-13 Step 1

| Average Grade/Rank | Average Salary/hr (DC area FY08) | Total Annual Hours | Total Annual Cost |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| GS-13 Step 1 | \$39.75 | 2,500 | \$ 99,375 = (\$39.75 X 2,500) |

Total Cost to the Government: \$99, 375.00

15. Changes in Burden

Increase in burden due to a collection in use without an OMB Control Number.

16. Plan for Tabulation or Publication

The information collected will not be tabulated or published.

17. Approval to Avoid Display of the Expiration Date of OMB Approval.

Approval is not sought for avoiding display of the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection.

18. Exception to Certification Statement

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

B. Collection of Information Employing Statistical Methods.

Statistical methods will not be employed.