

infrastructure retirement is planned for 2006.

**ADDRESSES:** E-mail requests from authorized IRS e-file Software Developers for the Interface Control Document entitled E-FILE ENCRYPTION ICD to [efile.transmission.encryption@irs.gov](mailto:efile.transmission.encryption@irs.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Questions or concerns will also be taken over the telephone. Call Carolyn Davis—202-283-0589 (not a toll-free number). You may write to Carolyn E. Davis, Senior Program Analyst, IRS, Electronic Tax Administration, OS:CIO:I:ET:S:SP, 5000 Ellin Road, Room C4-187, Lanham, MD 20706.

Dated: April 28, 2004.

**Jo Ann Bass,**

*Director Strategic Services Division,  
Electronic Tax Administration.*

[FR Doc. 04-10361 Filed 5-5-04; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Internal Revenue Service

#### Open Meeting of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel Multilingual Initiative (MLI) Issue Committee

**AGENCY:** Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** An open meeting of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel Multilingual Initiative (MLI) Issue Committee will be conducted in Brooklyn, NY. The Taxpayer Advocacy Panel is soliciting public comments, ideas, and suggestions on improving customer service at the Internal Revenue Service.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held Thursday, June 3, 2004, and Friday, June 4, 2004.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Inez E. De Jesus at 1-888-912-1227 (toll-free), or 954-423-7977 (non toll-free).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Notice is hereby given pursuant to section 10 (a) (2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. (1988) that an open meeting of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel Multilingual Initiative Issue Committee will be held Thursday, June 3, 2004, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. e.d.t. and Friday, June 4, 2004, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. e.d.t. in Brooklyn, NY at 625 Fulton Street, Conference Room 2 C, Brooklyn, NY 11201. For information, or to confirm attendance, notification of intent to attend the meeting must be made with Inez De Jesus. Ms. De Jesus may be reached at 1-888-912-1227 or (954)

423-7977, or write Inez E. De Jesus, TAP Office, 1000 South Pine Island Rd., Suite 340, Plantation, FL 33324, or post comments to the Web site: <http://www.improveirs.org>.

The agenda will include the following: various IRS issues.

Dated: May 3, 2004.

**Bernard Coston,**

*Director, Taxpayer Advocacy Panel.*

[FR Doc. 04-10364 Filed 5-5-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Special Medical Advisory Group; Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs gives notice under Public Law 92-463 (Federal Advisory Committee Act) that the Special Medical Advisory Group will meet on June 16, 2004, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The meeting will be held in Room 830 at Va Central Office, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC. The meeting is open to the public.

The purpose of the Group is to advise the Secretary and Under Secretary for Health on the care and treatment of disabled veterans, and other matters pertinent to the Department's Veterans Health Administration (VHA). The agenda for the meeting will include discussions on budget, legislative issues, CARES, research, special populations, trends in medical education and the role of VA, care coordination and responding to the needs of returning service men and women.

Any member of the public wishing to attend should contact Juanita Leslie, Office of Administrative Operations (10B2), Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs at (202) 273-5882. No time will be set aside at this meeting for receiving oral presentations from the public. Statements, in written form, may be submitted to Juanita Leslie before the meeting or within 10 days after the meeting.

Dated: April 29, 2004.

By Direction of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

**E. Philip Riggins,**

*Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 04-10255 Filed 5-5-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-M

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### VA Directive and Handbook 5021, Employee/Management Relations

**AGENCY:** Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice with request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** Section 302 of the Veterans Health Care, Capital Asset and Business Improvement Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-170), dated December 6, 2003, authorizes the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to appoint chiropractors as permanent full-time title 38 employees under 38 U.S.C. 7401(1). Also appointed under this authority are physicians, dentists, podiatrists, optometrists, nurses, nurse anesthetists, physician assistants and expanded-function dental auxiliaries. Upon successful completion of probationary status as required by 38 U.S.C. 7403(b), these title 38 employees may file an appeal to a Disciplinary Appeals Board if they are subjected to major adverse action that is based in whole or in part on a question of professional conduct and competence.

As part of its implementation of Public Law 108-170, the Department of Veterans Affairs proposes to revise its Directive and Handbook 5021, Employee/Management Relations, to clarify that chiropractors now have the same right to appeal major adverse actions to Disciplinary Appeal Boards as other title 38 employees. The revisions that are the subject of this notice will amend portions of the following regulations: VA Directive 5021, Appendix A, sections A.1., A.2., C.1. and C.2.; VA Handbook 5021, part II, chapter 1, sections 1 and 2; and VA Handbook 5021, part V, chapter 1, section 1. In some of these sections, the word "chiropractors" has been added to a listing of occupations appointed under 38 U.S.C. 7401(1). In the other sections, Public Law 108-170 has been added to an existing list of statutory references. In all cases, the words or phrases that are proposed to be added to the regulations are shown in brackets. Only those sections of the existing regulations that contain proposed changes are included in this notice.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before June 7, 2004. The effective date of these amendments is 30 days after publication of this notice.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments to: Director, Regulations Management (OOREG1), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420. All comments received will be available for public

inspection in the Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Room 1063 B.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jeanette Anderson, Employee Relations Specialist, Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Human Resources Management (051E), 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420. Ms. Anderson may be reached at (202) 273-9901.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Title 38 U.S.C. 7461(e) requires that “[w]henver the Secretary proposes to prescribe regulations [relating to Disciplinary Appeals Boards] under this subchapter, the Secretary shall publish the proposed regulations in the **Federal Register** for notice and comment not less than 30 days before the day on which they take effect.”

**Proposed Revisions to VA Directive 5021, Employee/Management Relations Appendix A. Disciplinary and Grievance Procedures**

*Section A. Disciplinary and Major Adverse Actions*

1. Scope and Authority

a. This section governs disciplinary and major adverse actions based on conduct or performance in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The provisions of this section apply to VA employees holding a full-time, permanent appointment under 38 U.S.C. 7401(1) who have satisfactorily completed the probationary period required by 38 U.S.C. 7403(b). Included in this category are: physicians, dentists, podiatrists, [chiropractors,] optometrists, nurses, nurse anesthetists, physician assistants, expanded-function dental auxiliaries. Henceforth, “employee(s)” will be the term used to refer to the above categories in this section, unless otherwise specified.

b. This chapter does not apply to employees appointed under 38 U.S.C., chapters 3, 71 or 78, or to employees appointed under 38 U.S.C. 7306, 38 U.S.C. 7401(3), 38 U.S.C. 7405, or 38 U.S.C. 7406.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 501(a), 7401, 7403(b), 7405, [7421,] 38 U.S.C. 7461-7464.)

2. References

a. Section 203 of the Department of Veterans Affairs Health-Care Personnel Act of 1991 (Pub. L. 102-40).

b. Section 302 of the Veterans Health Care, Capital Asset and Business Improvement Act of 2003 (Pub. L. 108-170).

c. Title 38, United States Code, chapter 74.

*Section C. Appeals to the Disciplinary Appeals Board*

1. Scope, Authority and Definitions

This section governs appeals of major adverse actions which arise out of, or which include, a question of professional conduct or competence in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Major adverse actions are suspensions (including indefinite suspensions), transfers, reductions in grade, reductions in basic pay, and discharges. A question of professional conduct or competence involves direct patient care and/or clinical competence. The term clinical competence include issues of professional judgment. This section applies to VA employees holding a full-time, permanent appointment under 38 U.S.C. 7401(1) who have satisfactorily completed the probationary period required by 38 U.S.C. 7403(b). Included in this category are: physicians, dentists, podiatrists, [chiropractors,] optometrists, nurses, nurse anesthetists, physician assistants and expanded-function dental auxiliaries. The (preceding) categories of individuals are included in the term “employee(s)” as used in this section unless otherwise specified.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 501(a), 7401, 7403(b), 7421, 38 U.S.C. 7461-7464.)

2. References

a. Section 203 of the Department of Veterans Affairs Health-Care Personnel Act of 1991 (Pub. L. 102-40).

[b. Section 302 of the Veterans Health Care, Capital Asset and Business Improvement Act of 2003 (Pub. L. 108-170).]

[c.] 38 U.S.C. 501(a), 7421, 7461, 7462, 7464.

**Proposed Revisions to VA Handbook 5021, Employee/Management Relations**

*Part II. Disciplinary Procedures Under Title 38 Chapter 1. Disciplinary and Major Adverse Actions*

1. Scope

a. This part governs disciplinary and major adverse actions based on conduct or performance in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

(1) The provisions of this chapter apply to VA employees holding a full-time, permanent appointment under 38 United States Code (U.S.C.) 7401(1) who have satisfactorily completed the probationary period required by 38 U.S.C. 7403(b). Included are:

- (a) Physicians,
- (b) Dentists,
- (c) Podiatrists,
- [(d)] [Chiropractors,]
- [(e)] Optometrists,

- [(f)] Nurses,
- [(g)] Nurse anesthetists,
- [(h)] Physician assistants, and
- [(i)] Expanded-function dental auxiliaries.

(2) Henceforth, “employee(s)” will be the term used to refer to the covered occupations in this chapter, unless otherwise specified.

(3) This part should be used in conjunction with VA Directive 5021.

b. This chapter does not apply to employees appointed under 38 U.S.C., chapters 3, 71 or 78, or to employees appointed under 38 U.S.C. 7306, 38 U.S.C. 7401(3), 38 U.S.C. 7405, or 38 U.S.C. 7406.

2. Authority

a. Section 203 of the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Personnel Act of 1991 Public Law (Pub. L.) 102-40.

[b. Section 302 of the Veterans Health Care, Capital Asset and Business Improvement Act of 2003 (Pub. L. 108-170).]

[c.] 38 U.S.C. 501(a), 38 U.S.C. 7304 [7421].]

d. Title 38, U.S.C., chapter 74.

*Part V. Title 38 Appeals to the Disciplinary Appeals Board Chapter 1. General*

1. Scope, Authority and Definitions

This chapter applies to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) employees holding a full-time, permanent appointment under 38 U.S.C. 7401(1) who have satisfactorily completed the probationary period required by 38 U.S.C. 7403(b). Included in this category are: physicians, dentists, podiatrists, [chiropractors,] optometrists, nurses, nurse anesthetists, physician assistants and expanded-function dental auxiliaries. These categories of individuals are included in the term “employee(s)” as used in this chapter unless otherwise specified. This chapter governs appeals of major adverse actions which arise out of, or which include, a question of professional conduct or competence in VA. Major adverse actions are suspensions (including indefinite suspensions), transfers, reductions in grade, reductions in basic pay, and discharges. A question of professional conduct or competence involves direct patient care and/or clinical competence. The term clinical competence includes issues of professional judgment.

Dated: April 29, 2004.

**Anthony J. Principi,**

*Secretary of Veterans Affairs.*

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