



(December 4, 2015)

In order to further improve the lines of communication and to respond to the concerns between the National VA Council and you our members, I have established a National VA Council Briefing. This NVAC Briefing will bring you the latest news and developments within DVA and provide you with the current status of issues this Council is currently addressing. I believe that this NVAC Briefing will greatly enhance the way in which we communicate and the way in which we share new information, keeping you better informed.

Alma L. Lee
National VA Council, President

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## **In This Briefing:** Find out if your info was stolen in OPM hack

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Aaron Boyd, Senior Staff Writer 10:18 a.m. EST December 3, 2015

OPM acting Director Beth Cobert asked users to wait until mid-December before taking advantage of the new verification center.

I was at a party with friends over the Thanksgiving weekend, a number of whom work for the government, either as federal employees or contractors. All of them were well aware of the breach of Office of Personnel Management networks announced earlier this year but none were sure whether their personal information had been compromised.

OPM is still sending out letters informing people their data has been stolen but those who aren't sure whether they're part of the 21.5 million compromised records can take advantage of a new verification center.

[FEDERAL TIMES](#)

[The OPM data breach](#)

"We want to make sure that all those impacted are notified and have the opportunity to take advantage of" credit monitoring services, OPM acting Director Beth Cobert wrote in [a Dec. 1 blog post](#) announcing the launch of the verification center. "I urge anyone who has not received a

letter by the middle of this month and who believes his or her data may have been taken to reach out to the verification center so we can confirm your correct address and send you a letter."

Users can access the verification center online or by phone at 866-408-4555 (international: 503-520-4453).

Resource: [Verification Center Online Portal](#)

While the verification portal is up and running, Cobert urged people to wait until mid-December for the final letters to be sent so as not to overwhelm the center unnecessarily. The agency is sending out more than 800,000 letters a day and expects to mail the last by the second week of December.

[FEDERAL TIMES](#)

[OPM starts notifying breach victims — by mail](#)

"If you do not receive a letter by the middle of December, either the government could not identify a valid address for you after using both government and commercial data sources or our records indicated that your Social Security number was not compromised in the intrusion," Cobert said.

Those who submit a request should receive a letter within two to four weeks informing them of their status.

Affected persons can also contact the center if they received a letter and subsequently lost their PIN code.