



U.S. Small Business
Administration

Interagency Task Force on Veterans Small Business Development March Minutes

Location of Meeting: Virtual – Microsoft Teams

Members present:

- Timothy Green, Deputy Associate Administrator, Office Veterans Business Development (OVBD), Small Business Administration (SBA)
- Vicki Mundt, Associate Director, Office of Undersecretary of Defense Acquisition & Sustainment, Department of Defense (DoD)
- Bill Metheny, Director of Office of Field Operations, Veterans Employment & Training Service (VETS), Department of Labor (DOL)
- Mathew Blum, Associate Administrator, Office of Federal Procurement Policy, Office of Management and Budget (OMB)
- Christopher Weaver, Department of Treasury (Treasury)
- Cordell Smith, Deputy Director, Acquisition & Policy, Office of Small & Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU), Department of Veteran Affairs (VA)
- Fran Perez-Wilhite, Program Manager, North Carolina Military Business Center (NCMBC)
- Michael Phipps, American Legion (Legion)

1. The regular meeting of the IATF was called to order at 1:01 PM on 03/02/2022 – Laura Wages, Director, Policy and Engagement, OVBD
2. Meeting highlights:
 - a. Welcome Remarks – Laura Wages
 - b. Introduction – Timothy Green
 - c. Presentation 1 – *OVBD Updates on Special Initiatives and Ongoing Programs*: Laura Wages provided updates on special initiatives and on-going programs including the White House Initiative on Trucking, the White House Child Care Initiative, the National Center for Veteran Institute for Procurement’s (VIP) new VIP Advance program, the SBA Boots to Business (B2B) / B2B Reboot update and Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC) support.
 - d. Presentation 2 – *Veteran-Owned Small Business (VOSB) Access to Surplus Property*: Amy Garcia, Veterans Business Analyst, Office of Policy & Engagement, OVBD, and Steve Ekin, Director, Surplus Division, Georgia Department of Administrative Services, provided program updates and where to find additional program information. The briefing began with a quick overview of regulatory history and program implementation and concluded with examples and successes from the state of Georgia.
 - i. The [Final Rule](#) for Surplus Property for Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (VOSB) was published in November 2020 and went into effect in December

2020. SBA regulation's authorizing the program is found [here](#). More information about the program can be found online at www.sba.gov/vetsurplus.

- ii. As of FY2022 Q1, 43 states have signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and VOSBs have received \$22.8 million in acquisition value. In the program's first year of implementation, VOSBs received approximately \$9 million in acquisition value.
 - iii. The State of Georgia has been working with the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) and SBA from the inception of the law and was the second state to sign an MOA and begin distributing property. The State is working with 55 VOSBs who have received \$447,690.87 in acquisition value. State Agency for Surplus Property (SASP) feedback from the states of Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Oregon, Texas, West Virginia, and other states was highlighted.
- e. Presentation 3 – *CVE Transfer Update*: Terrence Moultrie, Supervisor Business Opportunity Specialist, Office of Government Contracting & Business Development, SBA, and Cordell Smith provided an update on the Center for Verification Evaluation (CVE) Transfer project. As of January 1, 2023, all functions for the VA's CVE will be transferred over to the SBA. The SBA Administrator and the VA Secretary have prioritized this project.
- i. The SBA Administrator stood up a tiger team focusing on four areas: funding, technology, policy and personnel.
 - ii. SBA is currently tracking VA's expiring verifications and anticipated reverifications as well as understanding the number of VOSBs registered in the System for Award Management (SAM) and SBA's Dynamic Small Business Search (DSBS) databases.
 - iii. More information is available on SBA's [veteran assistance programs](#) web page. For questions about CVE's transfer to SBA, or if you would like to receive monthly email updates, please email: cvetransfer@sba.gov.
3. Member updates:
- a. DoD: Vicky Mundt reported on the Department's small business procurement achievement.
 - i. DoD closed out FY21 and the data has been locked. 25% of all government contracts were spent on small businesses totaling \$83 billion and of that, 9.1% went to small-disadvantaged businesses, well exceeding DoD's goal of 5%. 3.3% went to service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses. Two socioeconomic categories where goals fell short are women-owned small businesses (3.85%) and HUBZone (2.13%). DoD is on track in FY22 to meet their overall small business goal; currently at 20%, with 8.4% for small-disadvantaged businesses, and 2.3% for the service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses.
 - ii. The DoD recently released a report on the state of competition in the defense industrial base. Results show that the number of businesses that used to do business with the DoD has decreased significantly. DoD is still doing a lot of

business with small businesses and with large businesses, but it's going to a lot of the same firms. DoD's goal over the next year is to increase that competition using the following 5 recommendations: 1) strengthen merger oversight; 2) address intellectual property and the limitations associated with that; 3) increase new entrants; 4) increase the opportunities for small businesses; and 5) implement sector-specific supply chain resiliency plans.

- b. DOL: Bill Metheny provided updates on veterans' employment and other DOL VETS programs.
 - i. The veteran unemployment rate for January 2022, the most recent month available, was 3.5%, which is lower than their non-veteran counterparts. Soon to be released is the Employment Situation of Veterans, results from an in-depth survey.
 - ii. DOL has adjusted and add extra offerings to their Transition Assistance Program. DOL will provide services and offerings away from military installations through a program called the Off-Base Transition Training (OBTT). It will be available to veterans, military spouses, and Reserve component service members. DOL is offering it virtually and there are 10 different two-hour sessions. DOL is also providing in-person offerings for several of the training modules, starting off in five states: California, Texas, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, and North Carolina.
 - iii. DOL's Hire Vets Medallion Program is now open for applications through the end of April. More information can be found at www.hirevets.gov

- c. OMB: Mathew Blum briefed the IATF on one of their priorities and focus on Memorandum 2203, or "M-2203 Advancing Equity in Procurement", that came out at the beginning of December 2021. M-2203 instructs agencies to take a series of management actions to implement the commitment made by the President on the first day of his administration to use the federal government's purchasing power as a catalyst to build back better which includes supporting small business growth and building generational wealth. OMB's goal is to strengthen our supplier base while simultaneously continuing to promote effective and efficient contracting practices. M-2203 suggests federal agencies take five management actions to address equity in procurement:
 - i. Agree with SBA on an agency-specific SDB contracting goal for FY22 that will allow the Federal Government to cumulatively award at least 11% of Federal contract spend to SDBs in FY22,
 - ii. Review and adjust category management stewardship practices to boost contracting,
 - iii. Increase the number of new entrants to the Federal marketplace and reverse the general decline in the small business supplier base,
 - iv. Include the achievement of small business contracting goals as a part of the performance plans for key Senior Executive Service (SES) officials, and
 - v. Ensure agency small business contracting offices have access to senior leadership.

- d. VA: Cordell Smith, on behalf of Sharon Ridley, Executive Director, Acquisition Policy, VA, provided updates on VA's procurement goal achievement and other program information.
 - i. Service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses and veteran-owned small business contracting is well over 20% in both categories. The small-disadvantaged business goal is right around 15%. VA numbers normally drop over the course of the year as some of the large business dollars get reported to the Federal Procurement Data System. VA has a large number of transactions reported for such things as non-VA care, where a veteran wants to seek care outside of the VA network that generates 8(a) Business Development Program subcontracting activity that has to be reported. There's some lag time toward data. Normally, by the end of the year, VA has done typically about 99.5% for small, disadvantaged businesses, but as part of SBA's negotiation to get the government as a whole to 11%, VA has agreed to a goal of 10.2% for SDB's in FY22.
 - ii. In response to Executive Order 13985, VA is expanding contracting with women-owned small businesses. The VA's Women Veteran-Owned Small Business Initiative has some targeted outreach in that area and in January, VA had an outreach session with its Office of Construction and Facilities Management that brought 100 women-owned small businesses together with five prime contractors to explore opportunities to work together.
 - iii. On February 7, VA had a graduation for the participants in the Vet Biz Lady Program and graduated 20 women veterans with new insights into how to do contracting.
 - iv. As a follow-up to the earlier CVE Transfer project briefing, VA has verified 12,330 SDVOSBs and 3,082 veteran-owned small businesses as of mid-February.

- e. NCMBC: Fran Perez-Wilhite provided updates on NCMBC engagements.
 - i. The Southeastern Regional Federal Construction 2022 Summit, also known as the "Summit", usually held in October each year, will be held in person on the April 6 and 7 in Wilmington, NC. The summit brings together representation of the Corp of Engineers, Fort Bragg, Marine Corp Installation East, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, other Military Installations, U.S. Coast Guard, VA, GSA, and other federal agencies, and prime contractors from around the United States. There are business development sessions, networking, trade shows and some private one-on-one(s). To present or attend, register now as there is a cap of 1000 attendees to register.
 - ii. The Defense Contractor Academy will be held starting April 26 and it will be virtual. The Defense Contractor Academy, also known as DCA, offers an intermediate level of instruction to existing small business defense contractors to provide the tools needed to grow the federal portion of their business portfolios.

- iii. The Federal and Defense Textile Summit, also known as FEDTEX Summit, will be held May 24 and 25, 2022, in person in Charlotte, NC. FEDTEX connects DoD clothing, textiles, individual equipment, and organizational equipment.
 - iv. The Medical and Biodefense Support to the Warfighter Symposium will be held in person June 8 and 9, 2022, in Chapel Hill, NC. To register for any of the listed events, go to <https://www.ncmbc.us/> or call 704-806-6858.
- f. The American Legion: Michael Phipps indicated a lot of their updates were in the form of questions to the agencies. Other initiatives are ongoing:
- i. Using the GI Bill as access to capital for veteran entrepreneurship is an issue AL is still pushing to get moving via an SBA pilot program.
 - ii. The Legion is also on the Hill trying to talk about having DoD adopt the Vets First Contracting Program set aside criteria for DoD.
 - iii. The Legion is looking very closely at the transfer of CVE to the SBA.
 - iv. The Legion continues to understand the impact of Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) and how that's going to affect businesses, whether they're in the federal marketplace looking to do it or just on the periphery and how that's going to affect them.
4. The next meeting will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams on June 1, 2022, at 1:00 PM ET.
5. The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 PM by Laura Wages.