



U.S. Small Business
Administration

Interagency Task Force on Veterans Small Business Development June 2022 Minutes

Members present:

- Timothy Green, Deputy Associate Administrator, Office Veteran Business Development (OVBD), Small Business Administration (SBA)
- Jonathan Wright, 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)
- Allen Hill, Deputy Commissioner, Category Management, Information Technology Category, Federal Acquisition Service (GSA)
- Mathew Blum, Associate Administrator, Office of Federal Procurement Policy, Office of Management and Budget (OMB)
- Cordell Smith, Deputy Director, Acquisition & Policy, Office of Small & Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
- Scott Jensen, Executive Director, National Veteran Small Business Coalition (NVSBC)
- Fran Perez-Wilhite, Program Manager, North Carolina Military Business Center (NCMBC)
- Victor Klingelhofer, Executive Committee Member, Veterans Entrepreneurship Task Force (VET-Force)

1. The regular meeting of the IATF was called to order at 1:01 PM on 06/02/2022 – Laura Wages, Director, Policy and Engagement, OVBD

2. Meeting highlights:

- a. Welcome Remarks –Tim Green
- b. Introduction – Laura Wages
- c. Presentation 1 – *OVBD Updates on Veterans Business Outreach Centers (VBOC), Interagency Engagements, and Center for Verification & Evaluation (CVE) Transfer Update* – Tim Green
 - i. **VBOC Expansion:**

Provided details on expanding the VBOC program. Currently, there are 22 VBOCs that serve all 50 states. OVBD is looking to expand by 12 to bring the total number to 34 VBOCs that will serve all 50 states and territories.
 - ii. **Interagency Engagements:**
 - Jan-Mar: White House DOL led initiative on Veterans in Trucking
 - April: Department of Energy OSDBU (SBA and OVBD Programs)

- April: Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) HUBZone/SDVOSB Brief
- May: HHS OSDBU Small Business National Virtual Conference Panel
- Quarterly: FDIC and CFPB Webinar Series
- June: DOD/SBA Training – Small Business Training Week 2022 (SBTW22)
- June: US Women's Chamber 2nd Women Veteran Small Business Summit (VA)
- On-going: Joint Task Force on Military Spouses

iii. **CVE Update:**

Updates regarding CVE transfer and where to find additional program information were provided. As of January 1, 2023, all functions from the VA's CVE will be transferred over to the SBA.

d. Presentation 2 – *IATF Annual Report*: Amy Garcia, Veterans Business Analyst, Policy & Engagement, OVBD. OVBD will be putting together a combined year report to be submitted by the end of FY22. A timeline was provided outlining month to month expectations. The structure and content areas of the IATF Report was emphasized including Background, Recent Highlights, Task Force Activities, Task Force Priority Areas, and Appendices.

3. Member updates:

a. DOL, Bill Metheny –

- Reported on how veterans are doing as workers/employees around the country. An April report came out showing the veteran unemployment rate is down to 3.0 percent. Overall compared that to their non-veteran counterparts at 3.6%. Last April, the unemployment rate was for FY21 was 5.4%; Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is where DOL gets a lot of employment information. Go to www.BLS.gov and type veterans in the search box to learn more about veterans employment status.
- Hiring Veterans Medallion Program – Talked about when and how the program started and explained that by law it is recognized nationally with one common standard, what makes a great employer who attracts, trains, hires, retains veterans. www.Hirevets.gov
- Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program Grants – The Secretary of Labor announced recipients of the next round of Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program Grants. These are grants that go out to organizations that help veterans who are homeless, experiencing homeless or at risk of being homeless, to get into employment. <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/vets/programs/hvrp>
- Government Accountability Office recently published a report where they visited DOL, Office of Federal Contract Compliance Program (OFCC). It shows that a number of veteran owned small businesses are great at working with the federal government as contractors and that there are requirements in there that OFCCP enforces and support to make sure that veterans are filling the ranks of these federal contractors.



- b. DOD, Jonathan Wright – Discussed DOD goals in terms of hitting the mark for reaching their SDVOSB goal, and was close for making the year end goal. The goal is 2.7% and DOD is only .3% below their goal and he says they are on track. Mr. Wright said that he started looking at all the services in the Syscoms and seeing where they are in terms of hitting goals. Many of them have already exceeded goals in that area.
- c. VA, Cordell Smith on behalf of Sharon Ridley, Executive Director, Acquisition Policy –
 - i. Outreach efforts are ongoing to help veterans and exiting service members navigate through all of the processes, and learn how to setup small businesses and how to compete for contracts.
 - ii. VA Events - April 21, 2022, the VA hosted 38 service members from the Joint Base Andrews and passed out materials regarding the verification process, what the OSDDBU does, and their areas of support and the resources to help them get started.
 - iii. In May 2022, the OSDDBU facilitated a business opportunity session with Schneider Electric, LLC. to help attendees learn about energy savings performance contracts for capital improvement projects. Schneider Electric was looking to identify VOSBs that were potential candidates for contracting relationships with relevant past performance area on energy savings. VA also hosted a showcase for VOSBs and trucking industry in early May.
- d. GSA, Allen Hill –
 - i. GSA sees challenges in NAICS codes sighting that NAICS codes are based on dollar values, not size of the organization.
 - ii. GSA is moving forward and focusing on “Polaris” women owned small business and small business pools are going to be service-disabled veteran owned small business pool along with a HUBZone small business pool. The focus is on disadvantage businesses.
 - iii. Outreach to the veteran community includes having more engagements to increase awareness of how OSDDBU can support not just SBA, but across all the OSDDBUs and connect with them to create awareness across all agencies and DoD for veteran opportunities to participate and support the federal government.
- e. OMB, Mathew Blum – Discussed the Executive Order on Equity 13985 and the memo that OMB issued at the end of last year on Advancing Equity and Procurement (M-2203) and how they continue to serve as an important springboard for a series of actions that hold the promise of transforming how OMB uses the power of procurement to advance equity. OMB continues to meet regularly with agencies to review strategies that can help to ensure that agencies are achieving their SDVOSB goals as well as their SDV goals.



- f. NCMBC, Fran Perez-Wilhite –
 - i. April 6-7, 2022 – NCMBC held the Southeast Regional Federal Construction Summit in Wilmington, North Carolina.
 - ii. April 26-May 19 – Defense Contractor Academy (Virtual Meeting).
 - iii. May 24-25 – 2022 Federal and Defense Textile Summit in Charlotte, North Carolina.
 - iv. June 8, 2022 – Medical, Biomedical and Bio Defense: Support to the Warfighter Symposium, Chapel Hill, North Carolina. To attend or participate as a governmental agency or private sector, please contact (704) 806-6858.

- g. VET-Force, Victor Klingelhofer – Reported that a member of VET-Force wanted to know if they can review the data that goes into whether or not to what extent agencies are meeting their 3% SDVOSB goals.

- h. NVSBC, Scott Jensen –
 - i. May 8, 2022 – Veteran Entrepreneur Training Symposium (VETS22) Conference in Orlando, FL.
 - ii. June 8, 2022 – Washington DC Networking Dinner at the Army Navy Country Club in Arlington, Virginia.
 - iii. Charlie Mike Virtual Training Series 2022 – There are 30 throughout the year and anyone can participate.
 - iv. August 22, 2022 – NVSBC Charity Golf Tournament at the Army Navy Country Club in Arlington, Virginia.
 - v. September 13, 2022 – Frist Annual Awards Gala – Recognizing any federal agency, our large government prime who meet their 3% and 8% goals for SDVOSB and VOSB.
 - vi. NVSBC interacts with VOSBs throughout the year with a concentration in Orlando, FL that has challenges that are being faced by small businesses with economic price adjustments and the issues with the current economy and the price to do business based on contracts that may have been written two or three years ago.
 - vii. Federal Government back to work initiatives – The workforce that has become use to remote work and not necessarily being onsite, is being forced to go back to work and some of the federal contractors are losing quality employees and quality workforce support.
 - viii. Set-aside policies that have increased particularly the SDV goals to heights, the tradeoff is going to be in veteran owned businesses and women owned businesses. Agencies who might be exceeding their 3% so that they can meet the SDV goals that have been mandated to them.

- 4. The next meeting will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams on September 7, 2022, at 1:00 PM ET.
- 5. The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 PM by Laura Wages.

