



U.S. Small Business
Administration

Interagency Task Force on Veterans Small Business Development September 7, 2022, Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

- Larry Stubblefield, Associate Administrator, Office of Veteran Business Development (OVBD), Small Business Administration (SBA)
- Jonathan Wright, Associate Director, Office of Undersecretary of Defense Acquisition & Sustainment, Department of Defense (DOD)
- Judith Stackhouse-Jordan, Zone 3 Supervisor, Regional Small Business Advocacy and Engagement Division, General Services Administration (GSA)
- Mathew Blum, Associate Administrator, Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP), 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)
- Michael Phipps, American Legion

1. The regular meeting of the IATF was called to order at 1:02 PM on 09/07/2022 – Laura Wages, Director, Policy, and Engagement, OVBD
2. Meeting highlights:
 - a. Welcome Remarks – Larry Stubblefield
 - b. OVBD Updates on VA Center for Verification & Evaluation (CVE) Transfer, Veterans Business Outreach Centers (VBOC) expansion, and MySBA.
Update – Larry Stubblefield
 - i. **VA Center for Verification & Evaluation to SBA** - FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act mandated the CVE transfer over to the SBA by January 1, 2023. A Tiger Team established by the SBA Administrator Isabella C. Guzman is working with the VA to make this a seamless transition. There are four quadrants for this process: (1) Funding - The VA has partnered with SBA in terms of funding, and the SBA has worked with OMB for funding for FY23; (2) Technology - The VA funding is being used to build a new system at SBA. SBA has elected not to bring over the VA system, but rather to build a new system,

that is going to be part of an overall initiative to increase customer experience. SBA wants this system to be heavily influenced by the veteran small business community; (3) Personnel – The statute that mandates the transfer allows for those at the VA associated with the CVE to move to the SBA. They will have the option of joining the SBA team or remain at the VA. The VA has four associated contracts with the CVE and those are being considered for transfer to the SBA as well; and (4) Policy – The proposed rule was out for public comment ending on August 5, 2022, and comments are being reviewed. The two areas being reviewed “Control and How should we approach sub-contracting?” OVBD is hoping to get the rule out for internal clearance in the next week and then out for interagency clearance. The final rule must be in place 30 days, which is December 1, 2022, before SBA can stand-up the new CVE. More information is available on SBA’s website: <https://www.sba.gov/federal-contracting/contracting-assistance-programs/veteran-assistance-programs>. For questions about CVE’s transfer to SBA, or if you would like to receive monthly email updates, please email: cvetransfer@sba.gov.

- ii. **Veterans Business Outreach Centers (VBOC) Expansion** - Currently, there are 22 VBOCs that serve all 50 states and territories. OVBD is looking to expand by 12 to bring the total number to 34 VBOCs that will serve all 50 states and territories. The proposed expansion timeline is from September 2022 to May 2023.
 - iii. **VBOC Programs** – Provides services such as: (1) Transition Assistance – ex: Boots to Business, and Boots to Business Reboot; (2) Business Training and Workshops – ex: Business planning, financing your business, small business and social media marketing, and human resources and hiring; (3) Business tools and resource referrals: connection to mentors, referrals to other SBA partners, access to market research databases, application assistance for federal contracting certification programs; and (4) Tailored business counseling and mentoring in-person and online.
 - iv. **MySBA** – The SBA Administrator’s vision is to have an agency-wide initiative to improve customer experience and unite all of SBA’s resources, where small business owners can go through a single portal making it easier to access all of SBA resources and programs. The SBA is working on a unified platform that will contain all of SBA’s certification programs such as 8(a), HUBZone, Women-Owned Small Businesses and the CVE which will be the first certification program that will be on the platform along with our lending programs.
- c. Update on IATF Annual Report Update- Amy Garcia, Veterans Business Analyst, Office of Policy & Engagement, OVBD, IATF Annual Report - OVBD is in the process of finishing the draft the Annual Report. Any final input about the combined content should be submitted by September 23, 2022. The report will need to be cleared by OMB and with expectations of delivering it to them by mid October 2022.

3. Member Updates -

i. DOD, Jonathan Wright – No major updates. DOD major focus right now is setting the small business procurement goals for FY23 and looking forward to engaging with SBA.

ii. VA, Cordell Smith –

- The VA has scored an “A” on SBA procurement scorecard for FY 2021. For service-disabled veteran’s small businesses, the VA reached a 23.8% of their contract dollars and for all veterans, it was 24.2% of their total procurement. The VA has been working on Executive Order 13985 dealing with equity and the support for underserved communities trying to expand our outreach.
- June – August 2022, the VA held 24 virtual outreach events dealing with a variety of products and services. There were 2,538 small business owners from HUB Zone, 8A, women-owned businesses, service-disabled, and veteran-owned small businesses. The VA has created a quarterly series of webinars with training that offers focuses on specific program or social economic class within the purview of the Executive Order.
- As of August 2nd, there are 12,350 SDVOSB’s and 2927 veteran-owned small businesses in the VIP vendor information pages. There is a 90-day processing requirement under the regulation and there are 630 applications on average every month.

iii. OMB, Mathew Blum –

- OFPP partnered with SBA, DOD and others on a memorandum discussing strategies to help agencies meet their small, disadvantaged business (SDB) goals.
- OMB is committed in partnership with the agencies in coming up with a common definition of new entrants and re-entrants that can be used as a baseline and benchmark progress in rebuilding the federal supplier base.
- A White House webinar on procurement equity was viewed by thousands of members of the workforce, that highlighted some of the strategies for reaching the socioeconomic small businesses.
- OMB has been working toward piloting tools that agencies can use to get information about SDVOSB's.
- OMB has conducted outreach on how to strengthen agency procurement forecasts with improving content and improving the timing of information.

iv. GSA, Judith Stackhouse-Jordan -

- The small business and women-owned small business solicitation is active on SAM.gov. and will close on September 9.
- The pre-solicitation for the service-disabled veteran owned small business, and HUBZone pools is active on SAM.gov and the solicitation should be issued in September.
- STARS has reached a \$691M ordering level of participation with small businesses and post-award engagement strategy to increase the participation of small businesses post-award on the GSA schedule as well as Public Building Services (PBS) IDIQ contracts.

- Research is being conducted to determine how GSA can help those firms to be more active post award and on what factors might impact their ability to compete once they receive either mass contracts or PBS IDIQ contracts and to determine ways to support them.
 - GSA is updating their supplier and diversity plan looking to increase the number of new entrants into the federal market but also new entrants into GSA as it relates to small businesses that can provide goods and services that not only GSA procures, but what they offer to their federal customers agencies.
 - The first governmentwide IDIQ construction contract was awarded to support EDS infrastructure that was awarded in zones as well as a small business award to provide the infrastructure for the electronic vehicle stations, enhance their forecast tool that serves as a gateway to small businesses, and work with other agencies to on-board their forecast information into the GSA forecasting tool.
- v. NCMBC, Fran Perez-Wilhite –
- June 8-9, 2022 – NCMBC conducted the 2022 Medical, Biomedical and Bio Defense: Support to the Warfighter Symposium, Chapel Hill, North Carolina with maximum capacity of attendees with a very high percentage of veteran owned small businesses.
 - September 28-30, 2022 - Defense Contractor Academy (DCA). The DCA offers intermediate level instruction to provide the tools needed to grow your federal market. Additionally, NCMBC will be conducting multiple federal small business trainings in October and November 2022.
 - April 12-13, 2023 - Southeast Regional Federal Construction Infrastructure and Environmental Summit in Wilmington, NC. The registration is already open.
 - May 23-24, 2023 - Federal and Defense Textile Summit in Raleigh, NC.
 - June 13-14, 2023 - The Medical, Bio Medical and Biodefense: Support to the Warfighters Symposium will be held in Chapel Hill, NC. To attend or if you have any questions, please call Fran Perez-Wilhite anytime at (704) 806-6858.
- vi. NVSBC, Scott Jensen –
- Next week, NVSBC celebrates its first annual awards gala at the Army Navy Country Club in Arlington, VA. NVSBC will be celebrating federal agencies and prime government contractors who have met their SBA scorecard goals for 2021, as well as recognizing individuals for their advocacy and work in veterans’ small business space.
 - October 11, 2023 - NVSBC will host their monthly Washington, DC boot camp and dinner. NVSBC invites anyone interested in this unique networking and training opportunity to visit its website at <https://nvsbc.org/>
 - November 2, 2023 - NVSBC is sponsoring and supporting a Veterans Entrepreneurship through Acquisition Program, from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM. This is a virtual event, free to anyone who wants to participate.
 - Next Year in 2023 - NVSBC is extending their monthly dinners in DC to include new geographic locations

- May 22 – 25, 2023 - The Vets23 in Orlando, FL – Anyone can contact NVSBC through its website <https://nvsbc.org> or scott.jensen@nvsbc.org if you have any questions or to explore any more of these opportunities.
4. The next meeting will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams on December 7, 2022, at 1:00 PM ET.
 5. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM by Laura Wages.