



U.S. Small Business
Administration

Interagency Task Force on Veterans Small Business Development March 1, 2023 - Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

- Tim Green, Acting Associate Administrator, Office of Veteran Business Development (OVBD), Small Business Administration (SBA)
- Bill Metheny, Director of Office of Field Operations, Veterans Employment & Training Service (VETS), Department of Labor (DOL)
- Paul Martin, Division Director, Small Business Advocacy and Engagement Division East Office of Small and Disadvantaged Utilization (OSDBU), 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
- Victor Klingelhofer, Executive Committee Member, Veterans Entrepreneurship Task Force (VET-Force)

1. **The quarterly public meeting of the IATF was called to order at 1:00 PM on 03/01/2023:**

by Timothy Green, the Acting Associate Administrator of the Office of Veterans Business Development at SBA.

2. **Meeting highlights:**

a. Welcoming Remarks: Timothy Green, Acting Associate Administrator, OVBD welcomed members to the meeting.

b. Presentation 1 – OVBD Updates: Presented by Tim Green. Upcoming Engagements/Events, Center for Verification & Evaluation (CVE) Transfer, One Year Certification Extension, MySBA Loan Portal, Expansion of Veteran Business Outreach Centers, and Military Spouses Program Update:

- i.** Tim Highlighted upcoming engagements and events such as Women’s History Month, the SBA Advisory Committee on Veterans Business Affairs Meeting in Washington, DC, the Veteran Institute for Procurement (VIP) Graduation in Rockville, MD on March 30th, the 25th Conference of the Veteran Women Igniting the Spirit of Entrepreneurship (V-Wise) in San Antonio, TX in April and the Veterans Entrepreneurship Training Symposium (VTS23) hosted by the National Veterans Small Business Coalition (NVSBC) Orlando, FL in May.
- ii. Veteran Certification (VetCert) Update:** On January 1, 2023, the Center for Verification & Evaluation Program (CVE) was transferred to the SBA by the National Defense Authorization Act 2021. The SBA started taking applications on January 9, 2023 and now has 1100 applications completed in the system from a rollover of

1500 from the VA. Businesses that were previously verified by the VA, were granted a one-time, one-year extension by SBA's Administrator Isabella Guzman. After January 1, 2023, new applicants will get the three-year certification. Visit SBA's website: www.sba.gov/vetcert or email vetcert@sba.gov or toll-free call center at 800-862-8088. Visit the [Frequently Asked Questions](https://veterans.certify.sba.gov) on the Vet Cert platform at <https://veterans.certify.sba.gov>.

- iii. **SBA Loan Portal:** SBA borrowers can view loan details make payments, and access statements at [MySBA Loan Portal](#).
 - iv. **Expansion of Veteran Business Outreach Centers:** OVBD is planning on notifying the awardees in mid-March. The current 22 VBOCs will continue their grants of the same plus up to 6 VBOCs will be added. In all, 28 VBOCs will cover all 50 states and territories. The VBOCs are operational leads over 850 Boots-2-Business(B2B) Classes and supported over 150 B2B Reboot Classes.
 - v. **Military Spouses Program:** This is an initiative that supports military spouses of service members and veterans. OVBD will focus on ensuring military spouses receive training, mentoring, and networking opportunities.
- c. **Presentation 2 -IATF Annual Reports:** presented by Amy Garcia, Veterans Business Analyst, Office of Policy & Engagement, OVBD. OVBD has put together a combined year report through FY22 which outlines the background, recent highlights, task force activities and priority areas, and appendices. Any content that members want to include that covers fiscal years 2020 through 2022 should be sent no later than Wednesday, March 15, 2023.

3. Members Updates:

- a. **Bill Metheny, Director of Office of Field Operations, Veterans Employment & Training Service (VETS), Department of Labor (DOL) – Updates:**
 - i. Reports on How Veterans are Doing as Workers/Employees Around the Country- The unemployment rate for veterans in January 2023, was 2.5%. The previous month December, was 3.2%, Compare that to a year ago in January of 2022 when the unemployment rate was 3.4%. The current veteran unemployment rate as of January 2023 was 2.5% - less compared to their non-veteran counterparts and the non-veteran unemployment rate for the same time, January 23, was 3.4%. The Bureau of Labor Statistics is where DOL gets a lot of employment information. the next round of data comes out this Friday, March 3, 2023. If interested, go to www.BLS.gov and type veterans in the search box to learn more about veterans' employment status.
 - ii. **Hiring Veterans Medallion Program:** How do veteran business employers find veterans to hire? Through the Hire Veteran Medallion Program. It is the only family-recognized program that recognizes employers who do a great job in hiring, training, and retaining veterans in their workspace. For more information, go to www.Hirevets.gov.
 - iii. **The Transition Employment Assistance for Military Spouses (TEAMS):** Service members go through transition classes that are intense and it not the greatest fit for our military spouses based on availability. DOL has made it virtual and now has partnered with OVBD, to offer an entrepreneurial module and session that will be tailored specifically for military spouses. For more information, go to <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/vets/programs/tap/teams-workshops>
 - iv. **The Off Base Training Program (OBTT):** Is an off-base transition training program Congress instituted not long ago. DOL offers these transition offerings on military

installations. DOL is pairing up with boots to business reboot to use the same sort of platform to get the word out and register so that these offerings are available all over the country. The OB TT sessions are separate from Boots to Business reboot. Register at: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/vets/programs/tap/off-base-transition-training>.

b. Cordell Smith, Deputy Director of Acquisition Policy, OSDDBU on behalf of Sharon Ridley, Executive Director, Acquisition Policy, Updates:

- i. Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Goals and Performance:** The data from October 2022 through the end of January 2023, was \$8.7B to the federal procurement data system, almost \$3B ahead of where the VA was a year ago. However, the small business results for the end of January 2023 were somewhat less than last year (January 2022) — where VA was at 30.5%, but still exceeding their goal of 27%.
- ii. The Community Care Integrated Veteran Care Program:** a relatively new initiative that the VA is still working to get off the ground and to get the full capacity of that program.
- iii. The Strategic Outreach and Communications Team:** continues to provide online trainings to small businesses. VA is having a workshop on “Preparing to do Business with VA” and “How to create a capability statement.” Other training is the “Forecast of Contracting Opportunities,” “Mentor Protegee Joint Ventures; How to make those arrangements work for participating in Contracting.
- iv. The Intelligence Committee Career Fair:** On February 8, 2023, the VA OSDDBU hosted at SRU Fort Belvoir, VA.
- v. The National 8(a) Association Small Business Conference:** On February 13, 2023, the VA OSDDBU hosted the National 8 (a) Association Small Business Conference in New Orleans.
- vi. The Direct Access Program:** continues to provide opportunities for small businesses to get in touch directly with the procurement decision makers. The VA continues to work with our Veterans Health Administration and Regional Procurement offices to conduct outreach business opportunity sessions.
- vii. Women Owned Veteran Owned Small Business Initiative:** is continuing to make progress. Upcoming VA Direct Access Program events are located at <https://www.vetbiz.va.gov/events>.

c. Mathew Blum, Associate Administrator, Office of Federal Procurement Policy – Updates:

- i. OMB Memorandum 23-11:** On February 17, 2023, OMB released Guidance and Tools OMB Memorandum 23-11. The guidance provides instructions on two new tools that will support agencies’ efforts to better understand the makeup of its space and find potential sources, including SDVOSBs who may be interested in competing for work and it outlines how agencies should identify supply chains that will receive priority attention for strengthening.
- ii. Federal Supplier-Based Dashboard:** the first tool is housed on the acquisition gateway and designed to help managers track and total within specific supply chains, the number of entities that have done business with the agency during the prior fiscal year.
- iii. The Procurement Equity Tool:** is the second tool that is designed to help our contracting personnel gather information on small business contractors who sell and sectors or geographic areas where the agency seeks increased representation in its contracting base and has never received the contract. M-23-11 is available in the White House’s [media release page](#).

- d. Scott Jensen, Executive Director, National Veterans Small Business (NVSBC) – Updates:**
- i. The NVSBC:** is staying focused and engaging with Congress to make sure that the funding stays available to sustain certification at the SBA. Also, NVSBC is monitoring, as it pertains to certification, the impacts of subcontracting not being included in the initial certification process. The ongoing discussion that exists relates to ensuring all veterans who are taking set-aside dollars be accounted for and are being certified appropriately and ensuring that the set-aside percentages are being represented in the parity amongst those set-aside percentages.
 - ii. Upcoming events:** NVSBC is hosting: The monthly Academies and Engagement Dinners at the Army- Navy Country Club on March 8, April 12, and May 10 and the VETS23 Conference on May 22- 25. For more information, please visit www.nvsbc.org.
- e. Fran Perez-Wilhite, Program Manager, North Carolina Military Business Center (NCMBC) – Updates:**
- i. NCMBC:** recently teamed with the North Carolina Veterans Business Association to give some targeted training for veteran-owned businesses and are also in the preliminary stages of teaming up with the prime contractor for specialized training for veteran-owned businesses.
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 - iii. The SAS Institute of Cary, North Carolina:** will join us for training based on NAICS codes.
 - iv. The Southeast Regional Federal Construction Infrastructure and Environmental Summit:** will be held on April 12th and 13th, in Wilmington, North Carolina. Register at www.ncmbc.us.
 - v. Federal and Defense Textile (FEDTEX):** Summit will be held May 23-24, Raleigh, NC
 - vi. Medical, Biomedical and Biodefense:** Support to the Warfighter Symposium - will be held June 13-14, Chapel Hill, NC. For questions regarding these events, please call (704) 806-6858.
- f. Michael Phipps, Director, Small Business Task Force, American Legion – Update:**
- i. The American Legion Small Business Task Force Task Force:** thriving and doing well. More updates to come at the next meeting.
 - ii. The American Legion National Commander:** testified on March 1, 2023, in front of the House and Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs. The details will be available later.
 - iii. The American Legion National Conference:** is currently taking place in Washington, DC, and will end today, March 1, 2023.
- 4.** The next meeting will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams on June 7, 2023, at 1:00 PM ET
- 5.** The meeting was adjourned at 2:57 PM by Laura Wages