



U.S. Small Business  
Administration

## Interagency Task Force on Veterans Small Business Development June 7, 2023 - Meeting Minutes

### Members Present:

- Tim Green, Acting Associate Administrator, Office of Veteran Business Development (OVBD), Small Business Administration (SBA)
- 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)
- Jonathan Wright, Associate Director, U.S. Department of Defense, Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP)
- 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 06/07/2023** – 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 Report:** Presented by Tim Green. Upcoming Engagements/Events, SBA Deputy Administrator, SBA Federal Procurement Scorecard, Administrator Guzman’s Supporting OVBDs Events, Report on VET-Cert, Expansion of Veteran Business Outreach Centers, and Military Spouses Entrepreneur Summit Report:

- i.** Acting Associate Administrator Tim Green Highlighted events and upcoming engagements that Administrator Isabel Guzman has attended and will be attending in support of the OVBD.
- ii. National Veterans Small Business Week** – This is SBA’s 10th Annual Event. The SBA normally has over 200 different events across the country that are hosted by the District Offices and SBA Partners. The SBA Administrator wants more federal agencies participating in the events to spread the word.
- iii. May 18, 2023** – SBA and The Chamber of Commerce - Partnered on the Military Spouses Employment Summit. Administrator Guzman attended this event and provided remarks. The Summit was hosted in collaboration with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation’s Hiring Our Heroes. It highlighted entrepreneurship training and counseling resources, and networking opportunities for military spouses interested in starting or growing a small business.

- iv. May 25, 2023** – SBA Virtual Military Spouses Entrepreneurship Summit - Administrator Guzman provided a video for the Military Spouses Entrepreneur Summit.
- v. May 22-25, 2023** – VETS23 Conference - The Administrator traveled to Orlando, FL for the VETS23 Federal Contracting Conference. The Administrator was able to do a fireside chat type of event and engage with many business owners for VETS23.
- vi. June 5, 2023 - The Citadel, Charleston, SC** – Administrator Guzman did the opening for our Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC) in South Carolina. Administrator Guzman along with Charleston, SC Lieutenant Governor Pamela Evette, and the President of the Citadel, General Glenn M. Walters USMC (retired), was able to engage with a Medal of Honor recipient of that event. The Administrator spoke about how impactful the Center will be.
- vii. July 7, 2023** – VBOC Grand Opening in Omaha, NE – The next VBOC grand opening ceremony will be on, July 7, 2023, at the Nebraska-Iowa VBOC, in Omaha, Nebraska.  
**July 20, 2023** - VBOC Grand Opening in Colorado Springs, CO - The Colorado Springs VBOC will have a grand opening ceremony. The Administrator will try to attend this event.  
**July 24 – 27, 2023** – Veterans Business Outreach Training Conference – Acting Associate Administrator Tim Green is scheduled to attend the VBOC Training Conference that will take place on July 24-27, 2023, at a facility in Dupont Circle. Training will be provided to the 6 new VBOCs as well as the other 22 existing VBOCs. The training conference will be held in conjunction with the Association Women’s’ Business Conference, which is also held in Washington, DC.
- viii. Vetcert Program Update** – On January 1, 2023, the Vetcert Program is doing extremely well. This function, formally known as 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 received well over 3,500 approved applications and continues to go through that. The SBA has received great feedback regarding the Vetcert Program. Please visit SBA’s website: [www.sba.gov/Vetcert](http://www.sba.gov/Vetcert) or email [Vetcert@sba.gov](mailto: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>.
- ix. Nominee for SBA Deputy Administrator** – A nominee for SBA’s Deputy Administrator is likely to be confirmed on June 9, 2023, and is expected to be on board later this summer.
- x. SBA Small Procurement Scorecard** – Our small business procurement scorecard should be coming out soon. Overall, the government did well on federal contracts as far as percentage-wise. There were about three agencies that did not meet their Federal Contracting Goal.
- xi. National Military Appreciation Month** – The month of May was recognized as the National Military Appreciation Month that started with the Small Business Week and the VBOC in the Seattle area, “Business Impact Northwest”, was recognized as a VBOC of the year by the Administrator Guzman at a ceremony in Washington, DC.
- xii. SBA 70th Anniversary** – SBA will start planning for its 70th anniversary and SBA will highlight some veteran-owned businesses that have been assisted by SBA and now are doing great work out in the communities, where they’re underserved, and how they progressed from going from a small business to a large business.

### 3. Member Reports:

#### a. **Mathew Blum, Associate Administrator, Office of Federal Procurement Policy – Report:**

- i. **OMB Memorandum 23-11** – , OMB continues to do outreach on Guidance and Tools Memorandum 23-11 on creating a more diverse and resilient workplace through increased participation of new entrants. The Guidance and Tools that OMB Memorandum 23-11 both provides a definition of a new entrant, that there is consistent understanding across agencies as they baseline and measure their ability to increase diversity, both in the federal marketplace at large as well as within their individual marketplaces.
- ii. **Federal Supplier-Based Dashboard** – Is designed for both the public and agency managers to be able to track the size of their supplier base and importantly, the mix of new entrants, recent entrants, and established vendors that are in the supplier base. A recent entrant is defined as an entity that has received a prime federal contract award during the three-year period, following the fiscal year in which it is a new or first-time entrant.
- iii. **The Procurement Equity Tool** – This tool is built on information both in the System for Award Management (SAM), as well as information in the Federal Procurement Data System. It 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. Memorandum 2311 is available on the OMB home page at [Memoranda | OMB | The White House](#).
- iv. **SBA and our Executive Office of the President, Policy Councils** – OMB continues to work closely with SBA and our Executive Office of the President, Policy Councils on ways to strengthen small business participation on our multiple award contracts which are often used to support enterprise/agency-wide contracts and the importance of providing improved access, and improved participation.

#### b. **Jonathan Wright, Associate Director, Office of Small Business Programs, DoD – Report:**

- i. **Small Business Week Update** – This is a big event that the Department of Defense (DoD) host every year for all government employees to make sure that the DoD is staying abreast of the latest and greatest information and lets them learn synergies across all the small business organizations. [Agenda: DoD Small Business Training Week 2023 \(dodsbtw23.com\)](#)
- ii. **June 14, 2023** – Defense Logistics Agency Distribution Virtual Industry Day at [DLA Distribution Virtual Industry Day 2023 Tickets, Wed, Jun 14, 2023 at 12:30 PM | Eventbrite](#)

#### c. **Cordell Smith, Deputy Director of Acquisition Policy, OSDBU on behalf of Sharon Ridley, Executive Director, Acquisition Policy, Report:**

- i. **Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Goals and Performance** – The last small business goals for the FY23 report were for the period through the end of April 30th. The VA is running about a billion dollars ahead of where it was this time last year in terms of total spend and currently, the VA is good on all its goals. The small business service-disabled veteran is an administration priority this year. The VA is uncertain what the final impact will be on their goal numbers from the expenditures that they are making for non-VA care. It is an

important priority for the department to carry out those congressional mandates. The VA has several steps that they're implementing to try and improve transparency so that people can see how much they are spending in this area.

- ii. VA's Training and Outreach** – The VA continues to do training and outreach and provide business opportunity sessions. The strategic outreach and communications team within OSDDBU is the organization that spearheads this effort. The VA continues to work with the DoD on the Transition Assistance Program briefings. The VA is also working with the Veterans Institute for Procurement (VIP) in Maryland to help conduct training for service-disabled veteran small businesses.
  - iii. 32nd Annual Government Procurement Conference** – Sharon Ridley, Executive Director, OSDDBU, participated as a panelist in a discussion regarding opportunities for small businesses.
  - iv. Matchmaking Conference and Summit** – In May 2023, the VA participated along with the Virginia Apex Accelerator in their Matchmaking Conference and Summit. Apex Accelerators is the new name for the Procurement Technical Assistance Centers.
- d. Fran Perez-Wilhite, Program Manager, North Carolina Military Business Center (NCMBC) – Report:**
- i. The SAS Institute at of Cary, North Carolina** – The NCMBC will team up with the SAS Institute and Department of Veterans Affairs to conduct a free outreach session for the Veteran community on Tuesday, Jun 27, 2023, in person at the SAS Institute Headquarters in Cary, NC. For the event information, please visit [www.ncmbc.us/](http://www.ncmbc.us/).
  - ii. Medical, Biomedical and Bio Defense: Support to the Warfighter Symposium** – will be held June 13-14, Chapel Hill, NC. For questions regarding these events, please call (704) 806-6858.
- e. Mike Phipps, The American Legion - Report:** The American Legion's report will be provided by Joe Sharpe. Mr. Sharpe indicated the report would be provided at a later date. It was reported that The American Legion recently signed a Strategic Alliance Memorandum with OVBD to facilitate collaborating on future events.
- f. Victor Klingelhofer, Executive Committee Member, Veterans Entrepreneurship Task Force (VET-Force)– Report:**
- i. Interagency Task Force on Veterans Small Business Development (IATF)** – Discussed VET-Force stance that the IATF should remain in place and not be disposed of and the importance of having senior government officials and other participants represented at the Task Force meetings citing the need to conduct discussions on a high-level basis.
  - ii. The 3% Goal and Small Business in Categories** – Also, Issues with how the 3 % goal is affected by the practice of having a small business that falls in more than one category, and how that fits in with the computation of the 3% goals.
  - iii. How Are Agencies Computing Their 3% Goals** – VET-Force wants the IATF to investigate and address exactly how agencies are computing their 3 % goals. Their belief is that certain agencies exclude a number of contracts from the denominator on how the goals are being computed. He said that it is their understanding that the VA excludes from the computation, pharmaceutical company contracts. He gives the reason that with pharmaceutical, there are no SDVOSBC's, who can produce pharmaceuticals and it's also our understanding that certain major DoD ship or other contracts are excluded from major contracts, so excluded from how DoD and computes

its compliance with the 3% goal. He said that because these contracts are excluded from the total contracts used to compute compliance with the prescribed goals, this exclusion essentially results in overreporting on whether or not the overall goals are being met. He added that this appears to be a contradiction, but the plain language of the statute calls for a goal of 3% of contracts, not a 3% of non-excluded contracts. Mr. Klingelhofer further says that VET-Force would like to tie down which mathematics exactly are used by the various agencies, and on a government-wide basis. VET-Force believes that the Interagency Task Force would be a proper tool for determining how this is done.

- 4. Next meeting:** The next meeting will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams on September 6, 2023, at 1:00 PM ET.
- 5. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned by Laura Wages

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