

Minutes of the Interagency Task Force on Veterans Small Business Development

Location of Meeting: Virtual – Microsoft Teams

Members present:

- Larry Stubblefield, Associate Administrator, Office Veteran Business Development, SBA
- Vicki Mundt, Associate Director, Office of Undersecretary of Defense Acquisition & Sustainment, DoD
- Bill Metheny, Director of Office of Field Operations, Veterans Employment & Training Service, DoL
- Cordell Smith, (Representing Sharon Ridley) Deputy Director, Acquisition & Policy, Office of Small & Disadvantaged Business Utilization, VA
- Jerome Greene, (Representing Houston Taylor) Supervisory Small Business Technical Advisor, GSA
- Fran Perez-Wilhite, Program Manager, North Carolina Military Business Center

The regular meeting of the IATF was called to order at 1:00 PM on 12/01/2021 by Stan Kurtz

1. Meeting Highlights:

- a. Introduction - Larry Stubblefield, Associate Administrator, Office Veterans Business Development, SBA - Update on status of programs at OVBD. In FY 2021, SBA's Boots to Business (B2B) provided training to more than 20,000 participants and 22 Veterans Business Outreach Centers (VBOCs) served nearly 59,000 clients. OVBD kicked off FY 2022 with SBA's 8th annual National Veterans Small Business Week (NVSBW) reaching close to 12,000 participants in nearly 200 events nationwide. Two notable NVSBW events attended by SBA Administrator Guzman include the opening of a new VBOC at University of Maryland, and the opening of University of Syracuse, Institute for Veterans and Military Families, National Veterans Resource Center.
- b. Presentation 1 - Amy Garcia, Veterans Business Analyst, Office of Veterans Business Development, SBA - Update VOSB Access to Surplus Property and Highlighting FY22 Program Accomplishments. FY 2021 accomplishments include \$9.5 million in surplus value distributed to VOSBs. 42 states have committed to participate via a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). Web content is now available to the public at <http://www.sba.gov/vetsurplus> providing program background and key contact information. A social media marketing and outreach kit is available to stakeholders upon request.
- c. Presentation 2 - Terrence Moultrie, Supervisor Business Opportunity Specialist, Office of Government Contracting & Business Development, SBA - CVE Transfer from VA to SBA. Any veteran-owned small businesses that is not verified currently as a CVE-certified firm is encouraged to do so as soon as possible via <https://www.vetbiz.va.gov/>. There are benefits if you are verified now, and the verification is good for three years. SBA has created web content with updates to the CVE transfer project and will refresh it as new information becomes available: <https://www.sba.gov/federal-contracting/contracting-assistance-programs/veteran-assistance-programs>

- d. Presentation 3 - Terry Sutherland, Program Manager, Office of Entrepreneurial Development, SBA - Community Navigator Program Update. Community Navigators (sba.gov) The Community Navigator Pilot Program is an American Rescue Plan initiative designed to reduce barriers that underrepresented and underserved entrepreneurs often face in accessing the programs they need to recover, grow, or start their businesses. The program will provide a total of \$100 million in funding to 51 organizations that will work with hundreds of local community groups to improve access to SBA and government resources for America's entrepreneurs. More information about the program can be found on SBA's website: <https://www.sba.gov/local-assistance/community-navigators>
- e. Member updates:
 - i. Vicky Mundt, Associate Director of Office of Undersecretary of Defense Acquisition and Sustainment, Department of Defense –
 - 1. DoD Fiscal Year Spending - FY 2021, DOD spent \$83 billion with small businesses, and achieved 25 percent of their spend with small businesses, which exceeded their goal. In socioeconomic goals, the small-disadvantaged business, DoD achieved 9.11 percent. For women-owned small businesses, 3.8 percent; service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses, 3.03 percent; and HUBZone, only 2.12 percent. In FY 2022, DoD is at 15.81 percent for small business overall; for small disabled businesses, 6.27; women-owned, 2.75; service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses, 2.26; and HUBZone, 1.31.
 - 2. Small Business Strategy - DoD's Small Business Strategy was written in 2019 and is available on DoD's website. DoD is developing an implementation plan with the goal to be to fulfill many of the executive orders that President Biden put out, specifically in equity in contracting and some of the other ones to make sure that they are hitting those goals.
<https://business.defense.gov/Portals/57/Documents/Small%20Business%20Strategy.pdf?ver=2019-11-19-115847-510>
 - 3. Doing Business with the DoD - Federal Register: Notice of Request for Comments on Barriers Facing Small Businesses in Contracting with the Department of Defense was out to get comments on barriers doing business with the Department of Defense. DoD received over 150 public comments and going through all of them and analyzing the data. DoD is looking at what they can do immediately to implement at the beginning of the calendar year and which of them need new policies. The policies will be developed, those that are in the harder categories may need statute or legislation to make it happen.
<https://www.acq.osd.mil/doing-business.html>
 - ii. Bill Metheny, Director of Office of Field Operations, Veterans Employment & Training Service, Department of Labor –
 - 1. Employment Navigator and Partnership Pilot - The DoL has employment navigators at 13 locations around the country at various military

installations and some overseas, who are there to meet with transitioning service members through the process of the transition and to connect them with various partners based on their goals and needs. DoL has nine partners that have joined in MOUs with them, and they're expanding.

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/vets/programs/tap/employment-navigator-partnership>

2. Transition Training Pilot - In January, DoD will roll out its off-base transition training pilot at the military installations, where employment resources and training are provided, starting with five states around the country including: California, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Texas, and North Carolina. DoD will put employment resource coordinators in each of those states. <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/vets/programs/tap>
 3. Veterans in the Workplace - The veteran unemployment rate as of October was 4.2 percent, which was slightly up from September 2021, 3.9 percent. But still lower than their nonveteran counterparts, which is 4.6 percent for October 2021. For veteran unemployment numbers, please subscribe to the DOL: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/vets>
 4. The HIRE Vets Medallion Program - Is a program that recognizes employers who do a great job of hiring, training, and retaining veterans. It is the only federally national recognized program that does this. <https://www.hirevets.gov/>
- iii. Cordell Smith, Deputy Director, Acquisition and Policy, Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization
1. Federal Procurement Data System - The VA has a record high for contracting with SDVOSB and VOSBs. 8.1 billion to SDVOSBs and 8.3 billion to all 4 VOSBs. Right around \$34.3 billion in contract spend for FY 2021. <https://www.va.gov/osdbu/>
- iv. Fran Perez-Wilhite, Program Manager, North Carolina Military Business Center
1. NCMBU engagements report: The First Health Initiative - is a project that was created so that veteran-owned small businesses can meet the head clinicians and decision-makers from First Health Medical Center in Pinehurst, North Carolina was canceled due to Covid-19 surge and is rescheduled for 2022. The Southeast Regional Federal Construction Summit was virtually held in October with over 500 attendees, federal agencies, and prime contractors. The Medical, Biomedical, and Biodefense Support to the Warfighter Symposium was virtually held on September 29-30, 2021, with over 400 attendees including federal agencies and prime contractors.
 2. Upcoming engagements - The Construction Summit for 2022 will be held on April 6-7, in Wilmington, North Carolina. www.ncmbc.us or call (704) 806-6858. The 2022 Medical Event will be held in-person at its regular location in Chapel Hill, North Carolina at the regularly scheduled month of June 8-9, 2022. www.ncmbc.us or call (704) 806-6858

v. Jerome Greene, Supervisory Small Business Technical Advisor, General Services Administration

1. A-Plus Scorecard - GSA received an A-plus scorecard from SBA. In the support of the COVID pandemic alone, current data shows that GSA spent over \$515 million and of that spend, 115 went to small business; 29 million went to SDBs; 25 million went to women-owned small businesses; 4 million went to HUBZone; another 15 million went to service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses.
2. Virtual Training Sessions - GSA has implemented several initiatives in conducting virtual training sessions to their 11 regions, including central office. GSA Nationwide Training Events – GSA matched primes with small businesses to give them additional opportunities, either on the subcontracting level or on the joint venture and want individuals to form good alliances and relationships so that they have a competitive opportunity when competing for GSA’s acquisitions.
3. FY 22 first quarter, from full and open acquisitions to small business, GSA has changed over \$3 billion already and anticipates, based on the Biden-Harris initiative that SDB increases go from where they are to 50 percent increase, that the numbers will increase drastically.
<https://www.gsa.gov/about-us/organization/office-of-small-and-disadvantaged-business-utilization>

2. The next meeting will be held at: Virtual Microsoft Teams on March 2, 2022, at 1:00 PM
3. The meeting was adjourned at 2:33 PM by Stan Kurtz