



U.S. Small Business
Administration

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

Members Present:

- Larry Stubblefield, Associate Administrator, Office of Veteran Business Development (OVBD), Small Business Administration (SBA)
 - Jonathan Wright, Associate Director, Performance Management, Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP), Department of Defense (DOD)
 - 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
1. The regular meeting of the IATF was called to order at 1:00 PM ET on 12/07/2022 – Laura Wages, Director, Policy, and Engagement, OVBD
 2. **Meeting highlights:**
 - a. **Welcome Remarks** – Larry Stubblefield
 - b. **Veteran Small Business Certification Program Updates**, Larry Stubblefield
 - i. **The National Defense Authorization Act of 2021** officially requires CVE’s responsibilities to be transferred to the SBA as of January 1, 2023 and for the SBA to establish a government-wide certification program. The final rule was published in the federal register on November 29, 2022. The SBA program name for verifying VOSBs and SDVOSBs is the Veteran Small Business Certification Program.
 - ii. **What Does This Mean for VOSBs and SDVOSBs?** If you are a VOSB or SDVOSB that is VA CVE certified as of the January 1, 2023 transfer date: The SBA intends to grant a one-time, one-year certification extension. Once your certification expires, you can apply for re-certification through the SBA’s new certification program. If you are a VOSB or SDVOSB with an expired certification (or will expire before Jan 1, 2023): The recommended next step is to self-certify so that you have federal contracting opportunities through all federal agencies, aside from the VA,

until 2024. Once the SBA begins accepting applications in January 2023, you will be able to submit a new application through the program. If you are a self-certified SDVOSB: The 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of 2021 grants a one-year grace period for self-certified SDVOSBs until January 1, 2024. During the grace period, businesses have one year to file an application for SDVOSB certification and may continue to rely on their self-certification to compete for non-VA contracts. Self-certified SDVOSBs that apply before the expiration of the one-year grace period will maintain eligibility until the SBA makes a final eligibility decision.

- iii. **Policy Highlights – Key Changes** After January 1, 2023, SDVOSBs will need to be certified by SBA to receive sole-source or set aside contracts from any federal agency. SDVOSB government-wide goal is still 3%. Agencies can still rely on self-certification for goaling purposes. VOSBs continue to need to be certified for sole-source and set aside contracts from the VA under its Vets First Authority. Other federal agencies do not have a mandate or authority to award contracts to VOSBs. SBA has both the certification system (for small businesses to apply/reapply) and the search tool (for the public & acquisition professionals). SAM.gov will not accurately reflect SDVOSB/VOSB certification status. WOSB and 8(a) firms will have their certifications recognized if the qualifying individual(s) are the same across programs.
- iv. **One Year Extension** - Companies that were verified by the VA Center for Verification and Evaluation (VA CVE) prior to January 1, 2023 will automatically receive a 1 year extension to their program term (4 years instead of 3 years). Companies do not need to take any further action to receive this extension; the date will automatically be updated in the SBA Search Tool for SD/VOSBs. VA is working to process all applications/recertifications submitted prior to its closure of its system in October.
- v. **One Year Grace Period** - Companies may self-certify through 2023 but must also submit an application to SBA for a final determination. Self-certification will still take place in SAM.gov. Certification will not be for a specific NAICS code; as long as a business is small in one NAICS it has listed in its SAM.gov registration, it will meet the definition for “currently operates” and be certified. It also must be small & currently operate in the NAICS of any contract for which it is claiming SDVOSB status. The Final Rule takes steps to harmonize & simplify definitions of ownership, control, day to day operations, and standard hours across certification programs. SBA’s Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA) handles appeals & protests. GSA’s Surplus Property Program is available to certified VOSB & SDVOSB businesses.
- c. **IATF Annual Report Update** - Amy Garcia, Veterans Business Analyst, Office of Policy & Engagement, OVBD, OVBD delayed the September draft in order to include FY 22 SBA veteran data and will work on getting the draft out to members by the end of December.

3. Member Updates -

- i. **DOD OSBP, Jonathan Wright** – provided updates

- a. **DOD Mentor-Protégé Summit 2023**, March 27 – 30, 2023, Orlando, FL, will be the first one in about 4 years. More details will become available soon on the website.
 - b. **DOD's Small Business Strategy will be released in January 2023**. Information will soon be available on the website as well as through several roadshow events highlighting the details of the strategy and how it will impact DOD and its small business customers.
 - c. **Transition of PTAP from DLA to OSBP** - Effective October 1, 2022 the Procurement Technical Assistance Program (PTAP) and the Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (PTAC) transitioned from Defense Logistics Agency to Office of Small Business Programs allowing the department to integrate these centers into its broader industry engagement activities and leverage them to provide support to DOD suppliers looking to do business with the department and other federal agencies. Recently our leadership rebranded these centers to be named Apex and DOD is no longer using PTAP or PTAC. The Apex Accelerators will be led by Khalil Mack who is now the associate director for the APEX Accelerators. You can find him on our website at business.defense.gov.
- ii. **GSA OSBDU, Paul Martin** - introduced himself to the committee; he recently came on board to GSA's OSBDU with 32 years as a contracting officer.
- a. GSA issued the first of two draft Requests for Proposals (RFP) for the **OASIS+ Multi-Agency Contract (MAC)** on SAM.gov, bringing the agency one step closer to standing up the next generation Best-in-Class Multi-Agency Contracts for complex non-IT services. The first draft RFP will remain open for approximately 45 days, and the comment deadline is on December 31, 2022. A second draft RFP that incorporates feedback from the first draft RFP will be released in Q2 FY23 followed by a second comment period. Continue to monitor the OASIS+ Community of Interest on GSA Interact for the latest announcements.
 - b. Regarding professional IT services GSA is evaluating the **Polaris governmentwide acquisition contract (GWAC) for the service-disabled veteran owned small business and the HUBZone solicitations** which were released September 15, 2022 and closed November 18, 2022. Polaris aligns with Executive Order 13985, Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government. With the two new additions, the contract will be the first of its kind to have four pools of industry partners - Small Businesses, Women-Owned Small Businesses (WOSB), HUBZone, and SDVOSB. (GSA released the Small Business and WOSB RFPs earlier this year.)
- iii. **OMB, Mathew Blum** - provided updates from OMB.
- a. Updates were made to the **President's Management Agenda (PMA)** related to procurement which included the publication of a success metric that states that the PMA focused on increasing the number of new small business entrance within priority supply chains. This is again furtherance of OMB guidance that was issued last year and 2023 as discussed in prior Task Force meetings that there is a strong

All SBA programs and services are extended to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis.

commitment to reverse the decline in the supplier base including for new entrants. Determining the appropriate breadth and depth of the federal marketplace is complex; it will entail support from ongoing supply chain analysis and require workforce training. The number of entities entering the market in any given year is driven by a variety of factors including the level of need within specific supply chains and the types of barriers to entry. We also know it will take time because as a general matter agency outreach in most cases will not directly influence who receives an award only who gets to participate in the agency's competition. Having the metric helps to reinforce the Administration's commitment to increasing new entrance and building the breadth and depth of marketplace participation.

- b. **OMB is making important progress with colleagues at GSA and other agencies developing a supplier-based dashboard that will be available for managers to track the size and competition of the supplier base** (the mix of new entrants, recent entrants and established vendors in the supplier base) and there will be multiple displays in the dashboard including the total number of entities that have done business with the agency during a fiscal year, the breakdown of entities that are new, recent or established, the breakdown of entities that are small or other than small, the breakdown of entities that are veteran owned or service disabled veteran owned small businesses as well as small disadvantage businesses (SDB) and our other socioeconomic categories and any of those breakouts described for individual spend categories. This will be an important advance in the federal government's analysis of the health of its supply chains and the marketplace for individual agencies as they will now be able to look at the mix of new recent and established vendors and the socioeconomic mix within that breakout for different chunks of the supply chain whether that is done through product service codes or the way in which category managers look at spend categories and subcategories. Agencies can work with other agencies in looking at those with similar missions to see what their ratios look like as another data point or a data point that looks at opportunities where some agencies may be having greater success in attracting new entrants than others.
- c. **In addition to having this dashboard there will be a procurement equity tool that contracting offices will have to help them more easily find entrants.** For example, we know that there are a number of entities that have registered to do business with the government but have not received a federal contract. Making it easier to find those entities that have already signed up and said they want to be in the federal marketplace and haven't received dollars can be especially helpful to identify new entrants. We are also simultaneously working on the dashboard and on the tools to more easily find new entrants and continuing to conduct outreach and work in improving the quality and availability of procurement forecasting information because as we know there is currently no consistency in the content or format of agency forecast and no one place for contractors to search for forecasting

All SBA programs and services are extended to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis.

information. A focus will be on improving content, on improving the timing of information and also on improving access. This is going to be another component of building resilience and diversity that the PMA and OMB guidance speaks to; the sooner information can be provided to the business community and especially to our small and underserved community, the greater the likelihood that they will be able to position themselves to be competitive in an individual agency. Look for some additional guidance and other information coming out hopefully in the in the coming in the coming months and ahead of our next quarterly meeting.

- iv. **VA OSDBU, Cordell Smith** - Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Goals and Performance - FY 2023 (through October 31, 2022) - VA reported \$2.4B in total procurement to the Federal Procurement Data System, compared to \$2.3B for the same period in FY 2022. Comparing the same period year over year (October FY 22 vs October FY 23) VA has exceeded the percentage of small business goal dollars credited to SDVOSBs by 1.6% and to VOSBs by 2.9%. SBA and VA are expected to finalize FY 23 goal negotiations. VA is expecting the SDB goal to increase in accordance with the Office of Management and Budget's memorandum to increase the government wide goal to 12% as part of the president's initiative to increase dollars to small, disadvantaged businesses. VA will continue to be mindful of its Veterans First mandate.
 - a. **Strategic Outreach and Communications Update** – In FY 22, 87 events were held with 35,800 registrants including a “Business Fitness” webinar to provide recommendations for mental health as it relates to entrepreneurial success and partnering with the VA Transition Assistance Program (TAP). Participants are extremely satisfied with the quality and customer service they received.
 - b. **Direct Access Program (DAP) Events** - Recurring Business Opportunity Sessions with Regional Procurement Offices and Program Managers. CFM 1-on-1 Meetings: December 13, NCO 20: January 10, CFM 1-on-1 Meetings: February 10, NCO 21: March 7, Continued collaboration with Large Businesses, IBM: mid-January, To view the entire list of upcoming events, visit <https://www.vetbiz.va.gov/events/>
 - c. **Stay Connected With OSDBU**, OSDBU Help Desk: Phone: 866-584-2344, Email: vip@va.gov, OSDBU Website: <https://www.va.gov/osdbu> Direct Access Program Events: <https://www.vetbiz.va.gov/events>
- v. **NCMBC, Fran Perez-Wilhite** – provided updates on NCMBC activities.
 - a. NCMBC recently conducted specific federal contracting webinars for veteran owned businesses which was well attended. Please reach out directly to Fran at (704) 806-6858, for more information on events.
 - b. Upcoming business development events in 2023:
 - i. **Southeast Region Federal Construction Infrastructure and Environmental Summit**, April 12 – 13, 2023, Wilmington, NC. Event is capped 1000 attendees and it sells out quickly. Registration is already open at www.ncmbc.us.
 - ii. **Federal and Defense Textile Summit/FedTex**, May 23 - 24, 2023, Raleigh, NC.

All SBA programs and services are extended to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis.

- iii. **Medical Biomedical and Biodefense Support to the Warfighter Symposium**, June 13 – 14, 2023, Chapel Hill, NC. Registration will open shortly.
- vi. **American Legion, Michael Phipps** - provided updates
 - a. **Small Business Task Force** meeting is January 24, 2023 – those interested in attending can email Joe Sharpe or reach out to SBA for an invite.
 - b. **Legislative Activities** -
 - i. American Legion supported the **Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2022** which is stopping lawyers from praying on military families that have suffered from the toxins that they've been exposed to at Camp Lejeune.
 - ii. In October, the American Legion passed **Resolution No. 24: GI Bill Fairness for Activated National Guard and Reserve Servicemembers** saying they will seek and support any legislative or administrative proposals providing Post 9/11 GI Bill eligibility for the National Guard or reserve service.
 - c. The American Legion has launched a program resource **Be the One** initiative created for American Legion family members to always have on hand when they share with others and family members or other veterans initiatives to help save veterans' lives, and can be accessed through the main page of the American Legion website, or <https://www.legion.org/betheone>
 - d. Another big initiative is a **new interface of American Legion Digital Archive** for everything involved with the American Legion. The Digital Archive provides access to current resolutions, meeting proceedings and more than 200,000 pages of digitized historical publications. One of the most noticeable new features is the ability to view documents in an embedded file viewer with no downloading required. The archive continues to be accessible to all with no registration requirements.
 - e. US Department of Treasury has received \$1.5 billion to promote small business growth and entrepreneurship through the American rescue plan. In December 2022, Treasury announced the approval of seven additional state plans for up to \$1.5 billion in funding under the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI). **Treasury has announced the approval of state plans totaling up to \$6.3 billion in SSBCI funding**, newly added are: Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, North Dakota, Oklahoma, and Virginia.
- vii. **NVSBC, Scott Jensen** – provided updates
 - a. The National Veterans Small Business Coalition continues to host monthly events at the Army Navy Country Club in Arlington, VA, and welcome all who desire to attend. The next **Dinner and Boot camp on December 14**. It is filling up very fast; the Boot Camp is featuring Tiffany Hixson from GSA who will be discussing in-depth details on the Oasis contract platform. During our dinner Mr. Phil Christy, Deputy Executive Director, Office of Acquisition, Logistics, and Construction, US Dept. of VA will be on hand to conduct a fireside chat which promises to be a very informative and helpful business development event. Registrations are filling up fast and are expecting to

All SBA programs and services are extended to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis.

close within the next couple of days; if anyone is interested, please register as soon as possible.

- b. The NVSBC's **January 18, 2023, Dinner meeting** will feature GSA staff coming to discuss Polaris and several of the other GSA contract vehicles.
 - c. NVSBC is excited to announce a **special event** in Norfolk, VA on February 22, 2023, mark your calendars and more to follow.
 - d. NVSBC has announced **VETS23** is scheduled for May 22-25, 2023, in Orlando, FL, registration is expected to open January 15. 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.
 - e. NVSBC thanked Larry Stubblefield and Isabelle James and the whole team at SBA as well as the VA team for the progression made in a smooth transition of certification to the SBA. NVSBC applauded SBA's willingness to listen and participate with veterans look forward to January 9th and seeing the new certification coming online at SBA.
3. The **next meeting** will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams on March 1, 2023, at 1:00 PM ET.
 4. The **meeting was adjourned** at 3:00 PM by Laura Wages.

All SBA programs and services are extended to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis.