

From: [Wayne Gatewood, Jr](#)
To: [Wayne Gatewood, Jr](#)
Subject: Some Scoop and Wishing You All a Peaceful Memorial Day Weekend and Holiday
Date: Tuesday, May 21, 2013 8:30:47 PM
Attachments: [Memorial Day by Kylie.pdf](#)
[WALMART - veterans-welcome-home-fact-sheet.pdf](#)

Greetings all. Hope all is well with you and yours and you are enjoying Springtime!

Monday is Memorial Day. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memorial_Day We are to remember and honor those that served and made the ultimate sacrifice. It really is mind boggling to me; so very incomprehensible to think on the numbers that gave of their lives since the Revolutionary War up until today. Recently I was reading an historical account of the battle of Iwo Jima, and when I came across the information regarding the number of lives lost, it made me very sad...don't know how else to explain it folks, but I am sure that you know this feeling as well. Iwo Jima resulted in **26,747** lost souls. This is but one battle of one war. When we think on Iraq, Afghanistan, Vietnam, Korea, WWI, other WW II battles, and all of the loss experienced across all wars.....yes, it is incomprehensible. So, let us reflect on the bravery, honor, and selflessness of all that have fought for our way of life and laid down their lives. May the Souls of these thousands upon thousands of dear American Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Coast Guard, rest in Eternal Peace. *Wishing you all a peaceful and enjoyable Memorial Day.*

For you daring small business start ups and entrepreneurs:

"Every morning in Africa, a gazelle wakes up. It knows it must outrun the fastest lion or it will be killed. Every morning in Africa, a lion wakes up. It knows it must run faster than the slowest gazelle or it will starve. It doesn't matter whether you're a lion or a gazelle - when the sun comes up, you'd better be running."

The people who get on in this world are the people who get up and look for the circumstances they want, and, if they can't find them, make them.

"George Bernard Shaw"

Major Newspaper Seeking Input From Veterans That Have Been Hurt By Sequestration. Folks, if you or anyone you know of (Veterans) have been hurt by sequestration, please have them e-mail me and I will then refer them to the appropriate POC. Thanks....

DOD-Awarded Contracts from April 10 - May 21, 2013. You can also subscribe for the daily e-mail that announces all DOD awards. <http://www.defense.gov/news/LSContract.xml>

Memorial Day Letter (Attached) Written by 9-Year Old Kylie Kenny, Granddaughter of our good friend Steve White, Co-Founder, Veterans Business Network. <http://veteransbusinessnetwork.com>

Steve is a Vietnam Vet who served as a Combat Platoon Commander and a Company Commander. BTW folks, there is no cost for using the Veterans Business Network. Thanks for sharing Steve.

CBS 60 Minutes Segment On The EBV. From a great Veteran, Vets Advocate, and businessman,

Mike Zacchea. <http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=50146678n> Thanks Mike for sharing this, and for what you are doing in support of our fellow Vets and our Troops.

Walmart's Veteran Hiring Initiative - Begins May 27, 2013 - Memorial Day. Please see attached flyer sent in by Joe Salacki, Veteran with State of Maryland Department of Labor. Thanks Joe!

Prayers and blessings for you and your loved ones and for our dear Troops and their loved ones everywhere.

Best...Wayne

Maybe I previously missed something, but this is the first time I have heard of a SDVOSB award being overturned by SBA on the basis that the SDV did not have unconditional control of his Company. Remember folks, in terms of qualifying as a SDVOSB, it is all about "ownership" and "control." Personally, I am surprised that VA, CVE did not catch this during their verification process as they are sticklers on the control issue, but then again, this Company may have done up new Bylaws after CVE verification...who knows?

Verified SDVOSB Found Ineligible for Navy SDVOSB Set-Aside

Posted on May 16, 2013 by Steven Koprince

Despite its VA VetBiz verification, a small business was recently found ineligible for a Navy SDVOSB set-aside, in a decision issued by the SBA's Office of Hearings and Appeals.

The SBA's decision stands as a warning that SDVOSB verification does not guarantee SDVOSB eligibility—especially when an eligibility protest arises under a non-VA procurement.

SBA OHA's decision in [*Reese Services, Inc., SBA No. VET-231 \(2013\)*](#) involved a Navy SDVOSB set-aside for the removal and replacement of asbestos duct work. After evaluating competitive proposals, the Navy announced that Reese Services, Inc. was the apparent successful offeror.

An unsuccessful competitor filed an eligibility protest, challenging Reese's status as a SDVOSB. The protester alleged that Reese was not controlled by a service-disabled veteran. Because the protest arose under a non-VA procurement, the protest was referred to the SBA's Office of Government Contracting, not the VA OSD/BU.

The SBA determined that Reese was 51% owned by Christopher Reese, a service-disabled veteran. Mr. Reese also served as the company's president, its highest officer. The remaining 49% was owned by Mr. Goel, who is not a service-disabled veteran. Mr. Goel served as the company's vice president, treasurer and secretary. Reese's board of directors consisted of two members: Mr. Reese and Mr. Goel.

Examining Reese's bylaws, the SBA noted that the bylaws specified that a "majority" of the company's directors were required to constitute a quorum. "Accordingly, as one of [Reese's] two directors, Mr. Goel could block a quorum," the SBA stated. Although the SBA's SDVOSB regulations say nothing about quorums, the SBA cited an 8(a) Program

regulation, which provides that a non-disadvantaged individual may be found to control a company where the non-disadvantaged individual has the power to “block a quorum.” **The Area Office determined that Mr. Reese did not unconditionally control Reese and found the company ineligible for the Navy contract.**

Reese appealed to SBA OHA. Reese complained, in part, that the SBA had erred by applying the 8(a) Program regulation to a SDVOSB eligibility case. Reese also alleged that the SBA’s determination was erroneous because it contradicted with the VA’s determination that Reese was an eligible SDVOSB, as evidenced by Reese’s VetBiz verification.

SBA OHA rejected both arguments. Citing prior cases, SBA OHA wrote that “SBA may apply the regulations and case law from the 8(a) program to analyze the issue of control in SDVO SBC programs.” Accordingly, it was proper for the SBA to consider the 8(a) quorum regulation in analyzing Reese’s bylaws.

Turning to Reese’s VetBiz verification, SBA OHA wrote, “under current law, VA determinations of SDVO SBC eligibility are binding only with respect to VA procurements. For non VA procurements, SBA conducts its own review of SDVO SBC eligibility under 13 C.F.R. part 125.” SBA OHA concluded, “the fact that [Reese] was found eligible under VA’s review does not establish that [Reese] also meets the requirements set forth in 13 C.F.R. part 125, or preclude the [SBA] from reaching a different conclusion.” SBA OHA denied Reese’s appeal.

The *Reese Services* case is a good example of the regulatory mess that the Government’s SDVOSB programs have become. As the case demonstrates, a small business like Reese may spend months trying to obtain its VetBiz verification, only to find that most procuring agencies do not recognize the verification. To make matters worse, SDVOSBs self-certifying on non-VA procurements cannot rely solely on the SBA’s SDVOSB regulations to determine their eligibility; they must also familiarize themselves with the far more complex requirements under the 8(a) Program, just in case the SBA decides to apply a particular 8(a) Program regulation in their case.

Perhaps one day Congress will clean up the SDVOSB regulatory mess. Until then, if you are a SDVOSB, *Reese Services* is just one more reason to be very, very careful out there.

SOURCE: <http://smallgovcon.com/service-disabled-veteran-owned-small-businesses/verified-sdvosb-found-ineligible-for-navy-sdvosb-set-aside/>

From: Kevin Secor, VA VSO Liaison
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2013 9:38 AM
Subj: VA and Veterans Service Organizations Announce Claims Initiative to Reduce Claims

Backlog

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 21, 2013

VA and Veterans Service Organizations Announce Claims Initiative to Reduce Claims Backlog Joint Effort Aimed at Promoting Use of Fully Developed Claims

WASHINGTON – Today, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Disabled American

Veterans (DAV), and The American Legion announced a new partnership to help reduce the compensation claims backlog for Veterans. The effort—the Fully Developed Claims (FDC) Community of Practice—is a key part of VA’s overall transformation [plan](#) to end the backlog in 2015 and process claims within 125 days at 98% accuracy. VA can process FDCs in half the time it takes for a traditionally filed claim.

“VA prides itself on our ongoing partnership with organizations that represent Veterans throughout the claims process,” said Undersecretary for Benefits Allison A. Hickey. “A Fully Developed Claim is the most effective way to ensure a Veteran’s claim never reaches the backlog—and is the basis for this new initiative between VA and what we expect will be an ever-increasing number of Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) and others who represent Veterans at various points of the claims process.”

“This new initiative takes a common-sense approach to working smarter to better serve our injured and ill Veterans,” said [DAV](#) Washington Headquarters Executive Director Barry Jesinoski “DAV is pleased to be working with the VA to help improve the disability compensation system.”

“We have been working with VA since last December on its fully developed claims process,” said James E. Koutz, national commander of [The American Legion](#). “Teams of our experts have already gone to VA regional offices in Denver, Pittsburgh, Baltimore and other cities to help identify best practices for FDCs, and to further train our own service officers.” Koutz said the Legion’s next visit in support of the FDC program is planned for June at the VA regional office in Reno, Nev.

Claims are considered to be “fully developed” when Veterans submit all available supporting evidence, like private treatment records and notice of federal treatment records, to VA at the time they first file a formal claim and certify they have no more evidence to submit. This is the information that VA needs to make a determination on a disability claim. The FDC program supports the sharing of best practices across Veterans Service Organizations, who help thousands of Veterans each year with their compensation claims, to identify up front all evidence necessary to support a Veteran’s claim. Veterans then certify that they have no additional evidence to submit, and VA can process the claim in half the time it takes for a traditionally filed claim.

VSOs have long played an integral role in submitting Veterans claims - often with representatives working within VA regional offices. VA has consulted with them throughout the development and implementation of VA’s plan to end the backlog in 2015 to ensure best practices and their unique insights were incorporated. The American Legion and DAV are the first to step forward to work with VA on the FDC program, and that program has led to a much more efficient process. Meaningful progress will be felt by increasing numbers of Veterans as more VSOs participate with VA in the FDC program. This initiative is just the latest example of the collaboration between VA and VSOs. In July, VA held a workshop to obtain the views of VSO representatives and to provide them with information on the effort to eliminate the claims backlog. The main focus of the workshop was VA’s emphasis on the shared goal of better serving Veterans and positive impact of filing Fully Developed Claims. These workshops will be replicated in VBA regional offices across the country.

“VA will continue to work with our VSO partners to provide the world-class health care and benefits that Veterans have earned through their service,” said Undersecretary Hickey.

This is the latest effort in support of the Secretary's plan to reduce the backlog. Last month, VA announced an initiative to expedite compensation claims decisions for Veterans who have waited one year or longer. On April 19, VA began prioritizing claims decisions for Veterans who have been waiting the longest, by providing provisional decisions that allow eligible Veterans to begin collecting compensation benefits quickly. With a provisional decision, a Veteran has a year to submit additional information to support a claim before the decision becomes final.

On May 15, VA announced that it is mandating overtime for claims processors in its 56 regional benefits offices through the end of fiscal year 2013 to help eliminate the backlog, with continued emphasis on high-priority claims for homeless Veterans and those claiming financial hardship, the terminally ill, former Prisoners of War, Medal of Honor recipients, and Veterans filing Fully Developed Claims. As of May 17, the paperless claims processing system known as the Veterans Benefits Management System, or VBMS, has been deployed to 46 out of 56 regional office locations, and about 18% of VA's current claim inventory is in an electronic format.

Claims for Wounded Warriors separating from the military for medical reasons will continue to be handled separately and on a priority basis with the Department of Defense through the Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES). On average, Wounded Warriors separating through IDES currently receive VA compensation benefits in 2 months following their separation from service.

Veterans can learn more about disability benefits on the joint Department of Defense-VA web portal eBenefits at <http://www.ebenefits.va.gov> and find information about filing Fully Developed Claims here: <http://www.benefits.va.gov/transformation/fastclaims/>. Servicemembers returning from active duty in combat theatres are eligible for five years of VA medical care – regardless of the status of any disability claim submitted. Medical care is not withheld while disability claims are under review. For more information on enrolling in VA health benefits, please visit <http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/>.

From Kevin Secor, USMC (Ret), VSO Liaison at VA HQ. Thanks Kevin!

Now you can help the Veterans we serve to become career ready and find jobs. VA for Vets is an innovative new career management program from VA's Veteran Employment Services Office in the Office of Human Resources and Administration. This high-tech, high-touch career management program helps Veterans prepare for or secure careers in the fields they choose. And it gives Veterans and transitioning Military Service Members the tools and resources they need to launch or advance their careers in the civilian workforce. Share this tool with the Veterans and Service Members you know and ask them to visit www.vaforvets.va.gov to see how they can translate their military skills into resumes, speak with career coaches or access job opportunities in VA or the federal government. VA for Vets is ideal for Veterans employed by VA, too.

From: Kevin Secor, VA VSO Liaison
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2013 1:52 PM
Subj: VA, DoD and HHS Partner to Expand Access to Mental Health Services for Veterans, Service Members and Families

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 21, 2013

VA, DoD and HHS Partner to Expand Access to Mental Health Services for Veterans, Service Members and Families

Inter-Agency Effort to Increase Access to Mental Health Services Responds to Executive Order

WASHINGTON – Today, the Departments of Veterans Affairs (VA), Defense (DoD) and Health and Human Services (HHS) announced the progress made to date on initiatives called for in President Obama’s August 31, 2012, Executive Order to Improve Access to Mental Health Services for Veterans, Service Members, and their families.

“We have made strong progress to expand Veterans’ access to quality mental health services, and President Obama has challenged us to do even more,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. “Our ongoing, joint efforts reflect our commitment to the health and well-being of the men and women who have served the Nation.”

"One of the great challenges we face as a nation is how to provide quality, accessible, long term, mental health care for service members, veterans and their families. Using the combined resources and expertise from across the government we are advancing services for those who have sacrificed so much for our nation," said Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel.

President Obama’s Executive Order directed VA, DoD, and HHS, in coordination with other federal agencies, to take a number of steps to ensure that Veterans, Service Members, and their families receive the mental health services and support they need.

"There’s no more important work than taking care of those who protect our nation," said Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. "By working together, we can make sure our service men and women, our veterans, and their families have the behavioral health services they need to build healthy and fulfilling lives."

Today, the Departments released an interim report, found [here](#), outlining progress on this initiative, including:

- Increasing the capacity of the Veterans Crisis Line by 50 percent to help ensure that Veterans in crisis can readily reach help.
- Establishing 15 pilot projects in seven states where VA is working with community-based mental health providers to help Veterans access mental health services in a timely way.
- Increasing VA mental health services capacity through VA hiring of nearly 1,400 mental health providers and 248 new peer specialists.
- Implementing a national suicide prevention campaign to connect Veterans and Service Members to mental health services.

The Departments are actively working on additional deliverables called for in the Executive Order, including the development of a National Research Action Plan. Federal Department actions to date include:

Suicide Prevention: VA and DoD jointly developed and are implementing a national suicide prevention campaign to connect Veterans and Service Members to mental health services. This year-long effort began Sep. 1, 2012. The program continues to save lives and link Veterans with effective ongoing mental health services on a daily basis. As of March 2013, the Veterans Crisis Line (1-800-273-8255, press 1) has received over 814,000 calls, over 94,000 chats, as well as over 7,200 texts, and has helped more than 28,000 Veterans in imminent danger. VA has also completed the hiring and training of additional staff to increase the capacity of the Veterans Crisis Line that were called for in the Executive Order. In addition, the DoD has initiated a thorough review of its mental health and substance abuse prevention, education and outreach programs informed by the expertise of the Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Enhanced Partnerships Between the VA and Community Providers: VA worked with HHS to help identify potential local community resources to improve Veterans access to mental health services. VA has enhanced access to mental health care by establishing 15 VA pilot agreements with clinics in local communities to improve access to mental health service.

Expanded VA Mental Health Staffing: As of May 7, 2013, VA has hired a total of 1,360 mental health clinical providers towards the goal of 1,600 new mental health professionals outlined in the Executive Order. Additionally, VA has hired 2,036 mental health clinical providers to fill existing vacancies. VA has also hired nearly 250 new peer specialists in support of the specific goal of 800 peer specialists outlined in the Executive Order. The interim report indicated that as of Jan. 29, 2013, VA had hired 1,058 mental health clinical providers in support of the specific goal of 1,600 mental health professionals, and over 100 peer specialists in support of the specific goal of 800 peer specialists.

Improved Research and Development: The development of a National Research Action Plan to better understand and develop treatments for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), and co-occurring conditions; and identify strategies to support collaborative research efforts to address suicide prevention is underway. VA, DoD and HHS and the Department of Education have collaborated and submitted the plan on time. DoD and VA are investing more than \$100 million in new research to improve diagnosis and treatment of Traumatic Brain Injury (mTBI) and Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). They have launched two initiatives to establish joint DoD/VA research consortia with academia and industry partnerships to study the chronic effects of mild TBI and PTSD. Working together, the Departments will continue to expand the public health approach to providing optimal support for the mental health needs of Veterans, Service Members and their families. They also will continue to provide updates on their work as it progresses.

From: Southwest Veterans' Business Resource Center

[admin@wheremunitiesserveveterans.org]

Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2013 10:54 AM

**Subject: Event Announcement: How to Certify Before meeting Buyers on June 25th;
Part 1 of 2-part Series, Thursday, May 23, 2013**

Upcoming event information:

How to Certify Before meeting Buyers on June 25th; Part 1 of 2-part Series 227 N D Street
Perris CA 92570

Date: Thursday, May 23, 2013 09:00

[View video on Youtube](#)



**The Southwest Veterans' Business Resource Center
(SWVBRC) Presents**

**How to Certify Before Meeting Buyers on
June 25th**

A must attend event for veterans and those who support the veteran community!

No Cost to Attend!

When: May 23, 2013

Where: 227 N D Street Perris CA 92570, north side of the Chamber of Commerce Building and next door to Code Enforcement

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Mission:

We believe we can make a great positive impact to those businesses that are committed to succeed. The way we help you succeed is by providing the right tools, networks, resources, & education to help you get to where you need to be and succeed financially.

What We Will Cover:

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. – Certifications for your Business

Presented by Karla V. Gonzalez, MBA – IE SBDC · Learn about the different State, Utility and Federal certifications

- · Learn how to locate procurement opportunities
- · A glimpse of marketing strategies for doing business with the agencies

11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Access to Capital

- · How to Plan/Prepare for Business Loans/Lines of credit & what lenders look for
- · How can Banks provide value to your business & avoid the notion (misconception) “banks are banks”
- · What are available financial products you can take advantage of to help your business operate more efficiently by adding convenience, improving cash-flow, managing risk, and more.

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. - Networking, Answering questions.

End Result:

By the end of this meeting you will learn how to certify your business in preparation for meeting the buyers on June 25th. And you will learn how best to leverage access to capital when selling to the government and public utility organizations.

Please go to www.WhereCommunitiesServeVeterans.org to RSVP for the Event

Call for more details and directions:

For questions about the workshop, please contact Mohammad Salem
909- 644-5934 mohammad.salem@wellsfargo.com

or

Kathrine Latta, VP Community Relations
951.722.4941 or klatta@swvbrc.org

Sponsored by:



Space is limited so please register early.

[Click here to RSVP for June 25 Event](#)

More information and online registration: [How to Certify Before meeting Buyers on June 25th; Part 1 of 2-part Series](#)

Don't forget to set aside November 12th 2013 to attend our next [Small Business Summit!](#)
Invite your friends and RSVP!

Best regards,
Southwest Veterans' Business Resource Center

Godspeed all....Wayne

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"The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional as to how they perceive the Veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their Nation." - George Washington