



Interagency Task Force (IATF) on Veterans Small Business Development September 10, 2024 – Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Dilawar A. Syed, Deputy Administrator, U.S. Office of Small Business Administration (SBA), Chair Robert Yannuzzi, Assistant Administrator, Office of Veterans Business Development (OVBD), SBA, Co-chair

- Mathew Blum, Associate Administrator, Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP), U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB)
- Scott Jensen, Executive Director, National Veteran Small Business Coalition (NVSBC)
- Carla Johnson, Associate Director, Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP), Acquisition & Sustainment (A&S), U.S. Department of Defense (DOD)
- Victor Klingelhofer, Executive Committee Member, Veterans Entrepreneurship Task Force (VET-Force)
- Paul Martin, Director, Office of Small & Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU), U.S. General Services Administration (GSA)
- Charles McCaffrey, Director, Veterans Career Program, Paralyzed Veterans of America
- Melissa Oliva, Deputy Director, OSDBU, U.S. Department of the Treasury
- Kimberly Osborne, Acting Executive Director, OSDBU, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
- Michael Phipps, Representative, The American Legion
- Julian Purdy, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Policy, Veterans' Employment and Training Service, U.S. Department of Labor (DOL)

- 1. The quarterly public meeting of the IATF was called to order at 1:07 p.m. on September 10, 2024,** by Mr. Stan Kurtz, Director, Policy and Engagement, OVBD.
- 2. Welcoming Remarks** – Mr. Kurtz welcomed and thanked the members and the public for attending the IATF Meeting.
- 3. Introduction** – Mr. Robert Yannuzzi, Assistant Administrator, OVBD, and Designated Federal Official, introduced SBA Deputy Administrator Dilawar Syed.
- 4. Comments by the Honorable Deputy Administrator Dilawar Syed** – Deputy Administrator Syed stated that the SBA has increased the government-wide contracting goals for utilizing Service-

Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (SDVOSBs) from three percent to five percent. He stressed that there's a lot of work ahead to make sure that when people get access to these contracts, they are successful, and it leads to more business. The work of SBA as a whole—from our support of these entrepreneurs through our Veteran Business Outreach Centers (VBOCs) to the agency work that many of the committee members do—is very important.

- a. Veteran Small Business Certification (VetCert) Platform** – Deputy Syed emphasized that the SBA is very proud of its impact through the VetCert Program. There has been terrific collaboration with colleagues at VA. The VetCert platform was launched on January 9, 2024, and as of August 2024, there have been 17,750 applications approved over this eight-month period. The average processing time for certification approval is now around 20 days, and SBA will keep working to reduce that turnaround time. Deputy Syed said the approval rate is 96%. The call center received 47,000 calls and emails from veterans during this first year of its operation.
- b. Unified Certification Platform** – SBA will launch a Unified Certified Platform for small business owners to view all of their certifications in one place.
- c. Veterans Business Outreach Centers (VBOC)** – In August 2024, the SBA announced one million dollars in grants to three organizations in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Puerto Rico for VBOC expansion. He stated that this increases funding for VBOCs from 28 to 31. The SBA is proud to have extended its investment in VBOCs in this Administration, and it is something they will continue to do more of. Also, he emphasized that VBOCs are a hub where the SBA can bring all of its resources in one place and get people connected to things such as contracting, mentorship, advice, and other efforts that our interagency colleagues provide. The SBA can also provide navigational ability to veteran business owners who become VBOCs.
- d. Loans to Veteran Small Business Owners** – In fiscal year 2023, the SBA backed 2,800 loans to veteran-owned small businesses totaling \$1.2 billion. Deputy Syed said that veteran loans are up in volume by 33% under this Administration, and the total volume of loans under this Administration is up 40% since the President took office. The numbers for fiscal year 2024 will be released in the coming months, and his expectation is that they will do even better than they did last year. He said this is a reminder that their work to make sure they're reaching out to veteran entrepreneurs—they are giving them the funding they need when they get access to these contracts when they start a business—remains a work in progress.
- e. Interagency Colleagues** – Deputy Syed said it is a great opportunity for us to come together to give updates as interagency colleagues and also an opportunity to give feedback on what the SBA could do better—especially for those who are partners in terms of outreach, and in terms of getting awareness of various programs—so they can make sure that they improve awareness-building and access to resources from the SBA.

5. **Robert Yannuzzi, Assistant Administrator, OVBD, SBA** – Mr. Yannuzzi spoke on the importance of the Interagency’s Task Force work to drive greater success for veteran-owned small businesses and meeting the President’s 13% Service-Disabled Veteran (SDV) goal this year, with the increase of 5% for Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Small Businesses (SDVOSB). Mr. Yannuzzi encouraged the Task Force members to ask their senior agency leadership to communicate the importance of achieving this goal at their respective agencies.
- a. **VetCert Program** – Mr. Yannuzzi talked about the success of the VetCert Program and the 17,750 applications approved, and that they are in the closing days of the comment period to update the VetCert API to significantly reduce false negatives. The latest improvements and updates to SBA’s entire certification platform bring all certification, lending, and available resources under one integral portal, ultimately enhancing the customer experience for business owners involved in one or more of these programs.
 - b. **Veterans Business Outreach Centers (VBOC)** – SBA has opened three new VBOCs located in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Puerto Rico. VBOC programs serve all 50 states. Mr. Yannuzzi said he would like to encourage IATF partners to refer stakeholders and partners to the VBOCs as a one-stop resource for veterans looking to start or grow their own businesses.
 - c. **Loans to Veterans** – Mr. Yannuzzi stated that it’s important to acknowledge the difficulties many veterans have in securing capital, and the Administration’s priority is breaking down those barriers so that veterans can more easily obtain loans. He said loans to veteran-owned small businesses are up by a third since 2020, and the SBA’s priority of getting capital into the hands of veterans is something he would like to highlight.
 - d. **Agency Collaboration** – Mr. Yannuzzi also highlighted the interagency collaboration between OVBD and the VA Veterans Benefits Administration for signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to improve access to self-employment assistance, SBA training, and counseling for active-duty service members and service-disabled veterans participating in the Veterans Readiness and Employment Program (VR&E). He celebrated the collaboration between the two agencies to promote veteran entrepreneurship and highlighted that with the agreement, VR&E participants will have increased access to SBA resources nationwide.
 - e. **National Veterans Small Business Week** – Mr. Yannuzzi recognized SBA’s upcoming National Veterans Small Business Week and invited the IATF members to host their own celebrations and collaborate on a local level with SBA resource partners to put on impactful events throughout the country for veterans, service members, and military spouse entrepreneurs. Also, he underscored the importance of strengthening communities for veteran business owners and uniting agencies to make our appreciation of veterans’ service to our country as business owners known.

6. **Stan Kurtz, Director, Policy and Engagement, OVBD** – Mr. Kurtz introduced Mr. Michael Thornton, Chief Operating Officer/Co-owner, Visionary Consulting Partners LLC, as the guest speaker.
7. **Guest Speaker – Michael Thornton, Chief Operating Officer/Co-owner, Visionary Consulting Partners LLC** – After they both retired from the Air Force, Mr. Thornton and his wife started their business, Visionary Consulting Partners LLC. This company is described as a professional management and technical consulting firm in the healthcare arena and has been in business for 16 years. Mr. Thornton said if you envision the healthcare delivery system—all of the things that happen in healthcare, such as telehealth, information technology, and organizational development—that they provide professional and technical consulting services in all those domains with the exception of insurance and payments.
 - a. **Business Ownership: The Highs and Lows** – One of the highs was earning his 8(a). Mr. Thornton explained that it didn't work for the first two years, but when the third year and a half came, everything was fine due to SBA's assistance. He explained that the 8(a) contracts were rolling in very comfortably, and they had a wonderful pipeline, experiencing exceptional growth from 2014 to 2017. However, then one of the lows occurred. In 2018, he was notified that their company incurred embezzlement and had been since 2017. He describes the company as "limping" along from 2017 to 2019. He said that he received advice telling him to file for Chapter 13 or drop it. He and his wife explained to their staff that the company had maybe one or two payrolls remaining and that they would help their staff members transition from the company to find gainful employment. He said that the staff didn't leave, so he and his wife put everything they had into the business and kept going. As the company was starting to recover, COVID hit. He said that SBA programs were instrumental in their survival. They were able to obtain an Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) and Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan assistance and regained contracts.
 - b. **VetCert Portal** – Mr. Thornton spoke about how pleased he was with the VetCert Portal. They launched their joint venture, VCPI, under the VetCert Portal. Now they have their SDVOSB joint venture certified through the system and are able to launch new business opportunities under it. As of now, with their primary client, the VA, they are competing for six pieces of work by virtue of the joint venture, which gives them additional capability and strength and the opportunity to do more work.
8. **Melissa Oliva, Deputy Director, OSDBU, U.S. Department of the Treasury** – Highlighted Treasury's OSDBU path forward as an organization on their strategic approach for service-disabled veteran-owned businesses. Ms. Oliva acknowledged and thanked her colleagues for the support they gave in accomplishing Treasury's critical objectives as it relates to small businesses.
 - a. **50 States Initiative** – Ms. Oliva stated that the U.S. Department of Treasury OSDBU is excited to announce their new initiative called 50 States Initiative, which aims to maximize

opportunities for small businesses across the country. The goal of the 50 States Initiative is to ensure that small businesses, no matter where they are—in our rural communities, and in our underserved and under-resourced communities, in every region—have access to the resources, information, and opportunities they need to thrive. Treasury merits its regions in alignment with the SBA and has 10 regions. By actively engaging with small business owners and bureau stakeholders who are anchored in different states, they can better understand the unique challenges and provide tailored support to address their specific needs. She also explained that through data analysis, in some states, they realized there's a higher proportionate share of IT modernization contractual requirements, whereas in some states, they're more squarely aligned in tax compliance and other program management support opportunities. Treasury's OSDBU is currently working with the National Veterans Small Business Coalition, and together, they can be working better. One of the series they have anchored under the 50 States Initiative that is squarely aligned with veterans is their SDVOSB Connect Series. She said they are trying to tailor all of the technical assistance and resources that businesses need.

- b. Workforce Development** – Treasury's OSDBU is trying to implement and bolster creative strategies with human capital. Ms. Oliva said that they're leveraging veterans and interns from the Operation Warfighter Program within the Treasury, and they have two Operation Warfighters who are working with them and helping them with grassroots SDVOSBs. She said one of the key focuses of the program is to underscore selections from communities with high unemployment rates and veterans who are located in underserved communities. By targeting these communities, they are championing Executive Order 13985 and Executive Order 14091.

9. Carla Johnson, Associate Director, Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP), Acquisition & Sustainment (A&S), U.S. Department of Defense – Ms. Johnson highlighted areas the Department is working on to improve outreach and awareness of programs.

- a. DOD Small Business Training Week** – This event took place in Chicago, Illinois, with more than 800 small business and acquisition professionals who participated in the program within DOD and with more than 50 speakers to share their knowledge. Ms. Johnson thanked the SBA for their collaboration and partnership in this event.
- b. Mentor Protégé Summit** – This event was held in August 2024 in Detroit, Michigan. Ms. Johnson said the Mentor Protégé program is a platform for fostering collaboration and relationships between businesses, and they try to provide businesses with opportunities to get federal contracts and also empower small enterprises to thrive through using the defense industrial supplies, advancing a lot of DOD's mission. She explained that the event, with a little more than 700 participants, was instrumental because those who participated were likely to be made up of small businesses.

- c. **Apex Accelerator Program** – Ms. Johnson stated that the DOD is working on improving their Apex Accelerator Program, with a goal to expand the number of businesses capable of participating in government contracts. She says expanding small business suppliers to the federal government marketplace is the goal. They're trying to provide additional opportunities for companies that are new to federal government contracting to acquire the skills they need to compete for federal contracts. One Accelerator has been added in Dearborn, Michigan.

10. Julian Purdy, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Policy, Veterans' Employment and Training Service, U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) – Mr. Purdy said that he was really impressed by the stats of the 33% increase in business loans, and he thinks that SBA and the DOL share a common goal of not just creating businesses where it's a single person entity, but eventually they'll get to the place where the business can hire employees. He said that's where the DOL comes in, and they can help provide resources and coaching to those business owners, and then employers, as their employees now fall under some of the guidance and regulations of the DOL.

- a. **Registered Apprenticeship** – This program is a way to get qualified people into your organization at an escalating rate of pay. He explains that as they are working and learning from your organization, they'll start off at a reduced rate, and the longer they stay, the more they earn. They'll eventually make it to that full-time employment rate that every other employee gets on that site. Also, they offer guidance and technical assistance for anyone who wants to set up a Registered Apprenticeship Program with the Department of Labor. He reinforced that they provide all that for free. They also pay what they call apprenticeship intermediaries to support and give technical assistance to not only entrepreneurs and employers but also to folks who want to become those future apprentices in all these organizations out there.
- b. **The Veterans' Employment and Training Services** – Congress has given an unfunded mandate to the Veterans' Employment and Training Services that will be used to run an off-base transition training program. Mr. Purdy explained that this means that the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) curriculum will be removed from the bases and provided in communities around the U.S. Mr. Purdy said that they have come alongside SBA colleagues as they are doing their Reboot Program. He said they are providing links on their web pages and platforms that talk about the DOL off-base training program. DOL is also talking about the Reboot Program as well, and he believes that SBA may have DOL courses and curriculum on their website. He said that for anybody who's interested in benefits that they may have forgotten from those TAP courses, they can go to SBA's website and DOL VETS' website and see both of their resources. There are resources for VA, and they are now doing 45-minute virtual courses that will talk about benefits through VA.

11. Kimberly Osborne, Acting Executive Director, OSDBU, VA – Ms. Osborne spoke about two things that VA is doing. She said that VA is taking two significant steps forward to improve performance on their small business subcontracting plans:

- a. Training** – The VA has developed an end-to-end training program on all aspects of small business contracting, from planning to monitoring performance to evaluating results. She said developing this course started as a response to GAO’s recommendation, where they recommended that VA and other agencies provide better guidance on how a contracting officer should assess a contractor’s good faith effort to implement subcontracting plans. She said that they developed training to address that as well as other matters, such as when plans are required and what they should contain. They also covered reporting requirements to the Electronic Subcontracting Reporting System (ESRS) and the need for contracting officers to review and act upon reports when they receive them as part of evaluating the implementation of plans; VA considers the meaning of good faith efforts, the potential of liquidated damages, and the documentation of past performance. This one-hour training course is undergoing review in anticipation of being provided on a regular basis by VA’s Acquisition Academy.
- b. Data-Driven Criteria** – VA’s OSDBU has developed a data-driven criteria for reviewing subcontracting plans. Ms. Osborne said that based on examining ESRS data for FY19 to FY23, they have identified three product and service codes where the OSDBU can apply past performance to recommend stronger subcontracting goals going forward. She said using existing data will provide both OSDBU and their contracting officers with stronger information they can use and push for consistently higher performance outcomes. She said that they will be applying these new benchmarks in their pilot program, and they are carrying this out as part of the mandate under the Small Business Act to review subcontracting plans.

12. Paul Martin, Director, OSDBU, U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) – Mr. Martin reported on the following:

- a. FY24 Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business (SDVOSB)** – GSA’s FY24 SDVOSB goal and achievement is currently at 8.5 percent, representing \$545 million of the GSA spend.
- b. Revamping the GSA D2D Dashboard** – GSA has revamped the small business achievement D2D dashboard assisting GSA services, the Federal Acquisition Service, the Public Building Service, and the Office of Administrative Services with updated and current small business goal achievements.
- c. The Veterans Technology Services 2 (VETS 2) Government-Wide Acquisition Contract (GWAC)** – The GWAC experienced significant growth in its sixth contract year, with a cumulative total of 228 task orders issued and securing \$3.6 billion. He said that projections indicate that GSA will reach 80% of the original ceiling of the VETS 2 GWAC of \$5 billion within this fiscal year. Mr. Martin explained that in order to maintain the contract viability and avoid

disruptions, GSA has increased the ceiling to \$6.1 billion. He said this adjustment also aligns with the FY24 National Defense Authorization Act, which raised the government-wide goal for SDVOSB participation from 3% to 5%, making the availability of the VETS2 to the federal government more critical.

- d. **Offer Extension Amendment** – On September 4, 2024, GSA released the Offer Extension Amendment for the Polaris Small Business, women-owned small business, SDVOSB, and HUBZone small business pools. Mr. Martin said that Polaris offers are encouraged to review the proposal validity extension amendment and take necessary action. Also, Polaris GWAC SDVOSB planned awards for later in FY25.

13. Mathew Blum, Associate Administrator, Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP), U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) – Mr. Blum acknowledged Mr. Martin’s comments for speaking to initiatives that OMB is seeking to lift up and expand on with respect to using OMB’s GWAC authorities and executive agent designations to create and enhance opportunities for SDVOSBs.

- a. **Prime/Subcontracting** – Mr. Blum also referenced comments made by Ms. Osborne and stated that OMB has been working with agencies on lifting up promising practices and reminders to make sure that we are taking full opportunity of our subcontracting understanding, which is one of the most important gateways into the federal marketplace. He said the more we can do to improve the experience of entities as subcontractors will only create a “stronger bullpen” for prime contracting opportunities. For a variety of economic and national security reasons, we want to make sure that we are understanding our supply chains and bringing those markets closer to us. He said that the importance of what the VA is doing to improve subcontracting participation for small businesses is reinforced by some of the data that SBA colleagues have shared, evaluating some of the plans that are reported in ESRS in terms of those that had zero goals. He said not every contracting opportunity with subcontracting plans means that there will be opportunities for all of the socioeconomic groups, but OMB, working with the agencies, knows that there are a number of agencies that have been taking more proactive steps to challenge zero or near-zero goals.
- b. **Registered Apprenticeships** – In addition, Mr. Blum spoke regarding comments made by Mr. Purdy related to registered apprenticeships. He states that Executive Order 14119 provides directions for agencies in the procurement space to take steps and look for opportunities to increase the use of consideration of registered apprenticeships. OMB has an interagency sub-working group that is looking at ways to increase those incentives. OMB is partnering with DOL and a number of agencies participating in this space and plans to do outreach with contractors as OMB moves forward in that space.
- c. **Multiple Award Contracts** – OMB issued guidance on steps that agencies can take to increase the participation of small businesses on multiple-award contracts. He said there has been

progress since the last IATF meeting, both with SBA and its rulemaking as well as the Federal Acquisition Regulatory (FAR) Council in a parallel rulemaking to implement the OMB guidance and regulation. Both the SBA and FAR Council are working towards the issuance of proposed rules. He said that SBA's rule is currently at the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA), and the FAR Council agencies are working towards submitting their rule to OIRA in the near future.

d. OMB's Initiative to Strengthen Procurement Forecasting – Mr. Blum said that the earlier all small businesses get access to information, it helps them position themselves for competition and interest, that more robust competition leads to better results and greater small business participation can increase an agency's ability to meet and exceed their small business/socioeconomic small business goals. To do this, Mr. Blum said it is a three-pronged effort:

- i. Improving the quality of data elements that go into the forecast,
- ii. Making sure we can improve the timeliness of forecast information by encouraging or ensuring that agencies are updating their forecasts on a regular basis, and
- iii. Working towards improved access to forecasts by making the data available in a centralized view.

e. Forecast of Contracting Opportunities (FCO) – Mr. Blum said that GSA currently manages the FCO, which is a platform that a number of agencies are already using to share information about their forecast. He said they want to be able to take the improved content and make sure that vendors can go to one place to access information across the federal enterprise related to those forecasts, rather than having to go agency-by-agency and, in many cases, bureau-by-bureau.

14. Charles McCaffrey, Director, Veterans Career Program, Paralyzed Veterans of America

a. Initiatives Into Self-Employment – Mr. McCaffrey said his organization, Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), has worked with agencies throughout the year on health care and benefits and employment, and they are excited about their initiatives into self-employment. He said that they just launched their fourth cohort of a 10-week program on education, training, and access to capital for veterans with severe disabilities, and his organization was excited to learn more about the programs and services that they could use to re-enter from the self-employment aspect. Mr. McCaffrey said that his organization has seen veterans, especially the ones with severe disabilities, who have left the workforce altogether. He said that they're excited about the initiative to bring them back, from a self-employment standpoint.

- b. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Collaboration for Self-Employment Track** – Mr. McCaffrey spoke about the SBA and Veterans Benefits Administration signing an MOU on collaboration for the self-employment track and stated that he is looking forward to the great things that will be coming out of it.

15. Michael Phipps, Representative, The American Legion –

- a. The American Legion Small Business Task Force** – Mr. Phipps stated that The American Legion Small Business Task Force plays a crucial role in supporting veteran-owned businesses, and it's facilitated by the Legion's Veteran Employment and Education Division (VE&E). It is comprised of Legionnaires who helped define the fundamental best practices for developing small businesses and government procurement policy. Mr. Phipps said that the task force promotes an entrepreneurial ecosystem, supports the growth and development of veteran-owned small businesses, and remains committed to advocating for veteran business centers, lawmakers, and government agencies. Throughout the year, The American Legion has received many calls from veterans and service members and their families who are either looking to grow or launch their businesses. They have been able to reach out to them and provide them with the proper resource tools to do so.
- b. H.R. 7401 – Contract Our Veterans Act of 2024** – Between June and August 2024, The American Legion met with representatives on Capitol Hill to discuss H.R. 7401, Contract Our Veterans, and many other legislative initiatives. The American Legion has been sponsoring these bills:
 - i. **H.R. 7988** – Small Business Procurement Utilization Reform (SPUR) Act of 2024
 - ii. **H.R. 8014** – Transparency and Predictability in Business Opportunities Act
 - iii. **H.R. 7987** – Plain Language in Contracting Act
 - iv. **H.R. 7985** – Entrepreneurs with Disability Reporting Act of 2024
 - v. **H.R. 5333** – Investing in All of America Act of 2023
 - vi. **H.R. 7103** – Agency Accountability Act of 2024
 - vii. **S.4417** – Service-Disabled Veteran Opportunities in Small Business Act
 - viii. **S.4414** – The Step Modernization Act of 2024
 - ix. **S.3772** – Simplifying Subcontracting Act
 - x. **S.3971** – Small Business Contracting Transparency Act 2024

Mr. Phipps said all of these will contribute to veteran entrepreneurship and The American Legion's commitment to that goal.

- c. **Small Business Workshop** – The American Legion has developed a Small Business Workshop that provides comprehensive information on starting businesses, securing federal contracts, and understanding available government benefits. The program has had speakers from the SBA, VA, private partners, and the Veteran Institute for Procurement (VIP). Mr. Phipps said this workshop includes creating a small business portfolio training guide, which outlines all available small business programs for service members, veterans, spouses, and disabled veterans.
- d. **Stakeholders** – Mr. Phipps said The American Legion is engaged with several stakeholders, including the Chief Business Officer of 20/20 GeneSystems, Inc. He stated that they have explored the possibility of incorporating their FDA-approved One Test premium cancer screening product using their AI detection technology for multiple types of cancer.

16. Victor Klingelhofer, Executive Committee Member, Veterans Entrepreneurship Task Force (VET-Force) – Mr. Klingelhofer said that in earlier years of this Task Force, they would often focus on specific items that were harming veterans or adversely affecting SDVOSBs and other small businesses. VET-Force proposes the Task Force examine whether agencies can be required to ensure that small business subcontracting plans are complied with and how actual compliance can be required. He said that VET-Force believes one very serious and large area adversely affecting small businesses involves small business subcontracting plans that are simply ignored by large prime contractors immediately after the contract award. In fact, he said small businesses are regularly blocked from even reporting to the agencies the unfair practices of large business primes. He said one of the areas that very specifically he believes the task force should look at is the fact that small businesses are regularly blocked from reporting to agencies by subcontract nondisclosure agreement provisions. Mr. Klingelhofer said that he has presented over the years a number of small businesses that fought as best they could to be protected against predatory large businesses. He further stated that there are instances he is personally aware of that the same day of prime contract award, the subcontractor would receive notice that the subcontract is just over with, and they canceled subcontracts, ignoring the plain goals, the plain subcontracting plans, which govern the prime contract.

17. Scott Jensen, Executive Director, National Veteran Small Business Coalition (NVSBC) –

- a. **On-Site Local and Regional Programs** – Mr. Jensen announced that the NVSBC has expanded their On-Site Local and Regional Programs and Engagements beyond the Washington, D.C., area to include Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Hampton Roads, Virginia, Tampa, Florida, Huntsville, Alabama, Dayton, Ohio, Colorado Springs, Colorado, San Antonio, Texas, and San Diego, California. Mr. Jensen said that they're using the nine hubs as regional footprints to help them get closer to the on-the-ground needs of those who desire to be federal contractors

or those who are federal contractors and are looking to grow or expand or get better access to opportunities. He explained as part of that, those regional locations are establishing a mentoring cohort in support of those locations for companies and business owners, veteran-owned, that might be struggling to get access to the right opportunities, the right education, or the right people.

- b. Consulting Program** – Mr. Jensen mentioned that in addition to the On-Site Local and Regional Program, the NVSBC stood up a Consulting Program to refer people to the resources that are needed. He said they are providing some of that internal to NVSBC or with the subject matter experts they know but also just serving as a hub and a resource to point out to the other resources that are represented by all the other members here on the call, both federal reps as well as the nonprofit and private reps who are on the call.
- c. Curated Matchmaking Opportunities** – Mr. Jensen reported that the NVSBC has strengthened Curated Matchmaking Opportunities, partnering with both fed reps and large primes to start looking for better opportunities to bring small businesses to where the opportunities exist with agencies and large primes.
- d. The Veteran Small Business Advocate Awards Gala 2024** – This event will take place on November 7, 2024, at the Falls Church Marriott Fairview Park, Falls Church, Virginia. Nominations for this event are closed.
- e. Veteran Access to Capital Symposium** – The symposium will be held on March 18, 2025, at the George Mason University, Arlington Campus, 3351 Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia. This in-person event will be held in collaboration with JPMorgan Chase, the Institute for Veterans & Military Families, and George Mason University Baroni Center for Government Contracting.
- f. The VETS25 Conference** – The VETS25 Conference will take place on May 13–16, 2025, in Orlando, Florida.

18. The meeting was adjourned at 2:32 p.m. EST by Robert Yannuzzi, Assistant Administrator, OVBD.

The next virtual Interagency Task Force meeting will be held on December 11, 2024.

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