

OA&L Monthly Conference Call  
Wednesday, February 27, 2008

1. The New Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Acquisition and Logistics Programs and Policy – Freddie Martinez

Many of you may recall back in October that the Office of Acquisition and Materiel Management reorganized and became the Office of Acquisition and Logistics. As a result, my shop “Logistics Policy Division”, Acquisition Policy, Acquisition training, Acquisition Reviews and site assistance, Warranting Program and Risk Management Compliance all became under the direction of the Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Acquisition and Logistics Programs and Policy.

At the beginning of February, a selection for the head of this new organization was selected. Our new boss is Mr. Maurice Stewart. Mr. Stewart or “Mo” as he likes to be called is a senior logistics manager with 28 years of experience in acquisition, logistics, and supply chain policy development. He joins us from the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) where he most recently served as the Chief of the Logistics Enterprise Data Services Office. Maurice has served in increasingly responsible supply management and logistics positions in the Department of Defense and DLA. He earned masters degrees in Public Administration and in National Resource Strategy (with a major in supply chain management and an industry concentration in health care). He also holds Acquisition Level II program management certification and a certificate in supply chain management. Mr. Stewart will be responsible for policy development of department-wide acquisition and logistics programs. He will lead formulation of VA-wide acquisition and logistics doctrine and policy; develop acquisition and logistics training programs; and oversee risk management, quality assurance, and compliance activities. He reports to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Acquisition and Logistics.

2. Computers for Learning (CFL) Registration Changes – Bridget Canada

The General Services Administration has changed the way schools can be registered for the CFL program. The previous process required the schools that met the criteria outlined in E.O. 12999 to self register on the CFL website in order to participate in the program and to obtain good usable computers to assist in the higher learning education for children. The requirement for schools K through 12 remains in effect however, property managers will have the ability to access the system and register schools meeting the same criteria outlined in E.O. 12999. This process may assist to eliminate accumulation of more computers, provide needed storage space in VA, accommodate local schools, and maintain compliance with E.O. 12999. Executive Order 12999 asks Federal agencies to make an extra effort to transfer excess computer equipment to eligible schools and educational nonprofit organizations in Federal Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities (EZ/ECs). Established by law in 1993, EZ/ECs create self-sustaining, long-term

economic development in areas of pervasive poverty and unemployment. Schools and educational nonprofit organizations indicate whether they are located within an EZ/EC when they register for the program. The new method will also assist VA in providing accurate numbers that are also required for year end reporting.

The websites pertaining to this are: <http://www.ezec.gov> and <http://www.computersforlearning.gov> .

### 3. (3) Main Issues Regarding Vehicles – Virginia Boyett

Over the past few years, Jesse Beaman has provided assistance pertaining to motor vehicles. Jesse has identified the following questions as the most frequently asked.

#### 1. Do we need to register the donated vehicles?

No, if the vehicle displays U.S. government license plates and motor vehicle identification, you do not need to register the motor vehicle in the jurisdiction where the vehicle is operated.

#### 2. Where do we obtain U.S. government license plates?

To obtain a new license plate for your donated vehicle, you must submit a license plate action request using the on-line vehicle license plate action request form provided by VHA's CEOSH (intranet web site <http://vaww.ceosh.med.va.gov>).

The vehicle license plate coordinator at CEOSH is Mr. Stan Taylor and he can be reached at (314) 543-6726.

#### 3. Does the facility need to buy insurance for our vehicles?

No. The U.S. government self-insures. Therefore, no "proof of insurance" will be available in the vehicles.

### 4. Maximizing Utilization and Return-On-Investment of Federal Property – Freddie Martinez

Federal property managers have the responsibility for property stewardship (i.e., cradle to grave). Often, we don't consider our full responsibility for excess property. As a result, the General Services Administration (GSA) has issued Bulletin B-17 that re-enforces the requirement for screening excess property prior to authorizing procurement of new property in accordance with (IAW) Federal Management Regulation (FMR) 102-36.45 and the Federal Acquisition Regulation Subpart 8.1. Furthermore, Bulletin B-17 emphasizes that agencies must make a concerted effort to advertise, screen, and to provide proper care and handling of excess property all the way through the disposition cycle IAW FMR 102-37.110(f).

Also, as a reminder, IAW FMR 102-36.28 5(b) and 102-37.115, may be reimbursed for care and handling expenses for surplus sales. When advertising through the Agency Asset Management System or GSAXcess, VA property managers should include the correct description and Federal Supply Classification code along with other critical information which enhance the sales process (i.e., procurement cost, proper condition code, location, contact information, etc.). Finally, Bulletin B-17 (attached) states that when agencies exercise their abandonment and destruction authority under FMR 102-36.305, that they must not misuse the authority to expedite the disposal process. Are there any questions on this issue at this time?

#### 5. VA Notice Restricting Local Sales Released – Freddie Martinez

This is a follow up to the January 27, 2008, conference call. On February 1, 2008, VA Notice 08-1, Asset Sales Within The Department Of Veterans Affairs, was released for publication. The new notice clearly identifies that local sales are now prohibited for VA property and that the General Services Administration (GSA) will conduct the sales on behalf of VA. Property managers should continue to utilize sound business practices that maximize return-on-investment for VA property through the exchange/sales method, as such; we encourage property managers to increase interactions with their respective acquisition teams to ensure the continued use of trade-ins or sales of replaced equipment through GSA. Are there any questions on this issue at this time?

#### 6. The Logistics Transformation Study – Chris Joseph

During the past decade, there have been many changes in commercial and industrial logistics practices. As an example, VA's logistics system has been unable to apply these improvements for a number of reasons. VA's automation systems are outdated. Furthermore, logistics is continually evolving and the traditional area of interest may no longer be the most important.

As a result, VA OA&L, in conjunction with VHA, VBA, and NCA logistics office has issued a contract with Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC) to conduct a VA logistics study for the entire department. The study began in December 2007 and since that time PWC has been gathering data and conducting interviews with several logistics staff members. PWC personnel have recently met with VISN CLOs, at their meeting earlier this month in Florida. The CLOs were given a briefing on the study and were eager to be involved in the process.

The next phase of the study will be for PWC to visit several facilities for additional data gathering and interviews. Remember, this is not an audit or inspection of any kind, only a fact finding mission. The Office of Acquisition and Logistics ask those of you who are visited to give PWC staff your full cooperation. A list of selected facilities will be announced in the near future.

The study is currently scheduled to be completed by the end of September 2008, the Office of Acquisition and Logistics will keep everyone updated with periodic reports.

7. Logistical Support to Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) and National Cemetery Administration (NCA) – James Teal

Recently, there has surfaced a question from the field as to whether or not Veterans Health Administration (VHA) facilities should be providing logistical support, and more specifically, property management support to VBA and NCA facilities. To help answer this we have to point out: 1) Does NCA or VBA have access to the Automated Engineering Management System/Medical Equipment Reporting System (AEMS/MERS)?, and, 2) Does VBA or NCA have property managers? The answers to these questions is no. It has always been understood for years that VHA is the sole source for providing property management support to VBA and NCA. Only VHA has access to AEMS/MERS or has property managers. Consequently, logistical support has to come from VHA for NCA and VBA. At a minimum, VHA facilities should provide NCA and VBA with EIL maintenance and the handling and reporting of excess property. This issue becomes even more important since VA has recently received negative audits concerning the accounting for and the tracking of its property. We all need to do everything possible to ensure that all VA owned equipment and supplies are accounted for within the Department. Part of this effort would be to provide logistical support to those entities that desperately need it.

8. Allocation Agreement with Talecris for IVIG and Albumin – Sherri Clark

The Federal Supply Schedule (FSS) Service negotiated a VA-only allocation agreement with Talecris under their FSS contract V797P-5820X to ensure VA has a consistent supply of IVIG and Albumin. Albumin, produced only in the liver, is the major plasma protein that circulates in the bloodstream and is essential for maintaining the oncotic pressure in the vascular system. IVIG is a blood product administered intravenously and is used to treat immune deficiencies. We were notified by Talecris that they are experiencing a shortage of the raw materials necessary to make IVIG and Albumin, specifically, blood plasma. In response, Talecris has requested to modify the allocation agreement to reflect the shortage for both products. Once the revised allocation amount is received, the agreement will be updated and the field facilities will be notified of the new amount. At this time, we are querying other FSS suppliers to determine if this is an industry-wide issue.

9. March 2008 Tentative Direct Delivery Consolidation Timeline – Eric Lee

Mar 3rd - Deadline for new requests to be received in Direct Delivery (Obligated Purchase Order and vendor quote are required)

Mar 17th - Benchmarks posted to vendors

Apr 14th - Vendor offers due in Direct Delivery

Apr 16th – Contracting Logistic Officers receive vendor offers

May 7<sup>th</sup> - Selections and justification due in Direct Delivery

Jun 4<sup>th</sup> - Awards issued

Although not preferred and cautiously granted, schedule adjustments may occur for legitimate requests made by customer, vendor, and/or the National Acquisition Center. Whenever an adjustment occurs, Peggy Thames (VACO/10F) will be promptly provided a revised timeline schedule for dissemination to field activities.