

Department of Veterans Affairs Strategic Policy Agenda

- 1. REASON FOR ISSUE.** To establish the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) policy on developing and coordinating the VA Strategic Policy Agenda.
- 2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS/MAJOR CHANGES.** This directive sets forth policies, roles, and responsibilities for developing and coordinating the VA Strategic Policy Agenda.
- 3. RESPONSIBLE OFFICE.** Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy (008A), Office of Policy and Planning (008).
- 4. RELATED HANDBOOK.** None.
- 5. RESCISSION.** None.

CERTIFIED BY:

**BY DIRECTION OF THE SECRETARY
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:**

/s/
Stephen W. Warren
Executive in Charge and
Chief Information Officer
Office of Information and Technology

/s/
Robert D. Snyder
Acting Assistant Secretary
Office of Policy and Planning

Distribution: Electronic Only

Department of Veterans Affairs Strategic Policy Agenda

1. PURPOSE. This directive establishes Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) policy for developing and coordinating the VA Strategic Policy Agenda (VASPA). The VASPA is not replicated in this directive, but is developed as a separate document.

2. DEFINITIONS.

a. **Administration.** A generic term used to identify one of the three major VA operational elements:

- (1) Veterans Health Administration (VHA);
- (2) Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA); and
- (3) National Cemetery Administration (NCA).

When VHA, VBA, and NCA are referred to as a group, the term "Administrations" may be used.

b. **Department.** A generic reference to the entire Department of Veterans Affairs, which includes VA Central Office and all field facilities.

c. **Staff Office.** A generic term used to identify one of the offices included under VA Central Office. This does not refer to VHA, VBA, NCA, nor does it refer to medical facilities, regional offices, or cemeteries.

d. **VA Strategic Policy Agenda (VASPA).** An internal Department document that provides a general road map for coordinated, comprehensive policy analysis and formulation on broad, multidisciplinary issues requiring collaboration across VA.

3. POLICY. The VASPA helps VA achieve its Strategic Goals and associated Objectives as described in the Department's Strategic Plan.

a. **General.** The VASPA is an internal Department document, developed every four (4) years and updated annually, that provides a general road map for coordinated, comprehensive policy analysis and formulation on broad, multidisciplinary issues requiring collaboration across VA. Following the policy priorities outlined in the document, Department work groups are formed to analyze each priority and develop recommendations for moving forward with new policies, procedures, and/or programs and services, and outcome-based metrics to gauge their success.

b. **Development.** The VASPA will be developed by the Office of Policy and Planning (OPP) with input from VA Senior Leadership, subject matter experts (SMEs) from across the Department, VA's strategic planning process, and VA's environmental scanning process.

c. **Coordination.** OPP will coordinate the Department's concurrence and Secretary's final approval of the VASPA. OPP will also act as the executive agent for Department work groups by leading the prioritization of policy issues and providing updates to VA Senior Leadership.

d. **Dissemination.** The VASPA will be disseminated across the Department using standard correspondence and communication methods.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES.

a. **Secretary of Veterans Affairs, or designee,** will approve the VASPA and provide guidance.

b. **Under Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, and Other Key Officials** will:

(1) Ensure that Administrations and Staff Offices work with OPP to develop and update the VASPA annually, as needed;

(2) Designate staff to coordinate work groups analyzing policy priorities where they are listed as a "Coordinating Office;" and

(3) Ensure all appropriate offices provide SMEs for work groups analyzing policy priorities where they are listed as "Key Stakeholders."

c. **Office of Policy and Planning (OPP)** will:

(1) Develop and coordinate concurrence of the VASPA;

(2) Update the VASPA annually in concert with VA's Annual Planning Guidance;

(3) Provide quarterly updates to VA senior leadership.

(4) Ensure the VASPA is widely disseminated throughout the Department; and

(5) Review and update this directive, as necessary, every four (4) years.

5. REFERENCES.

a. VA Strategic Policy Agenda

b. VA Strategic Plan

c. VA Annual Planning Guidance