



VA CIO Conference Framing IT Success



Enterprise Architecture

Breakout Session Results
October 31, 2001



Enterprise Architecture Is...



- A Business Planning process that enables Business and IT to work together and ensures VA-wide standardization & Interoperability.



Compelling Reasons For EA



- One VA providing good business and excellent service to the veteran;
- The need and desire to share information and collaborate within all aspects of the organization as a seamless, accessible information systems to and for our veterans;
- Business needs linked to technology.



EA's Supporting Forces



- Top agency and management support
- Commitment to serve veterans
- Benefits of standardization



EA's Hindering Forces

- Funding of EA (short and long-term)
- Transition to EA while maintaining current services
- Reluctance to streamline current business processes to meet changing business needs
- Current staff may not have the skill sets to support the new systems and processes



EA Critical Success Factors

- Clear definition of the problem and proposed solution/project
- Clear vision, expectation, value, and efficiency seen in advance
- Input and Buy-in from Management
- Up and down communication
- Empower teams to make decisions and decide how to resolve problems-stand back



EA Critical Success Factors (con't)

- Early user involvement in requirements, design testing and implementation
- ✎ Having needed funding, resources and support
- ✎ Training, Training, Training Plan



EA Next Steps

- Clear definition of problems: do an assessment of current operational processes
- Identify opportunities for collaboration and communication across agencies
- Identify common infrastructure needs
- Define EA in detail
- Do a gap and impact analysis



EA Next Steps (cont'd)

- Do a project plan to implement EA
- Obtain Buy-in from stakeholders and management at RO/VISN/VAMC levels
- Do a prototype or demonstration project assured of success
- Communication among all stakeholders at each step



Messages to the Top

- Provide Timely Budget Requirements
- Provide Technology Standards Quickly
- Keep up two-way Communications
- Train existing staff on VISTA program Language