

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA)
ENTERPRISE ARCHITECTURE (EA)**

1. REASON FOR ISSUE: This directive establishes mandatory policy for the establishment of an integrated Department-wide One-VA Enterprise Architecture (EA).

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS: This directive prescribes Department-wide policy for the establishment and implementation of an integrated One-VA EA to be used for the development and management of all information assets. The One-VA EA is an ongoing activity intended to keep the VA's information technology (IT) contemporaneous with the critical needs of the Department's mission. This policy:

a. Establishes mandatory compliance with the following three authorities documents: (1) Department of Veterans Affairs Enterprise Architecture Strategy, Governance and Implementation; (2) Department of Veterans Affairs One-VA Enterprise Architecture Implementation Plan; and (3) Department of Veterans Enterprise Architecture; and

b. Defines the role of the VA Chief Enterprise Architect as managing the VA EA and ensuring compliance with this directive.

3. RESPONSIBLE OFFICE: The Office of Information and Technology is responsible for the contents of this directive.

4. RELATED HANDBOOK: None.

5. RESCISSION: None.

CERTIFIED BY:

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

/s/
John A Gauss
Assistant Secretary for
Information and Technology

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA) ENTERPRISE ARCHITECTURE (EA)

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE. This directive establishes mandatory policy for the establishment of an integrated Department-wide One-VA Enterprise Architecture (EA) to be used for the development and management of all information assets. The One-VA EA is not a product or activity with a specific arbitrary end date; rather, it is an ongoing activity intended to keep the VA's information technology (IT) contemporaneous with the critical needs of the Department's mission. This directive also prescribes the mandatory compliance with the following three documents as authorities to be used within VA in connection with the EA: (a) Department of Veterans Affairs Enterprise Architecture Strategy, Governance and Implementation; (b) Department of Veterans Affairs One-VA Enterprise Architecture Implementation Plan; and (c) Department of Veterans Enterprise Architecture.

2. POLICY

a. VA's Enterprise Architecture (EA) is the explicit description and documentation of the current and desired relationships among program/business and management processes and information technology. It describes the current architecture and target architecture to include the rules, standards, and systems life cycle information to optimize and maintain the environment, which the VA wishes to create and maintain by managing its information technology portfolio.

b. All VA IT systems must comply with the Department's Enterprise Architecture.

c. VA officials will develop, follow, and enforce policies and procedures that define and maintain its Enterprise Architecture.

d. VA officials will support the EA with a complete inventory of agency information resources, including personnel, equipment, and applications and data devoted to information resources management and information technology, at an appropriate level of detail.

e. VA officials will implement the EA consistent with the following principles:

(1) Develop information systems that facilitate interoperability, application portability, and scalability of applications across networks of heterogeneous hardware, software, and telecommunications platforms;

(2) Meet information technology needs through cost effective intra-agency and interagency sharing, before acquiring new information technology resources; and

(3) Establish a level of security for all information systems that is commensurate to the risk and magnitude of the harm resulting from the loss, misuse, unauthorized access to, or modification of the information stored or flowing through these systems.

f. VA officials will comply with all applicable statutes, Federal regulations, policies and guidelines, and VA regulations and policies pertaining to IT resources, including the three authorities previously referenced (see par. 1), when implementing the policies contained in this directive.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES

a. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs. The Secretary will:

(1) Serve as Chairperson of VA's Executive Board.

(2) Designate the Assistant Secretary for Information and Technology as the Department's Chief Information Officer (CIO), who is responsible for the Department's IT program.

b. The Deputy Secretary. The Deputy Secretary will serve as Chairperson of the Strategic Management Council.

c. The Assistant Secretary for Information and Technology, as the VA CIO, will:

(1) Serve as the principal advisor to the Secretary on all VA IT matters;

(2) Ensure Department wide compliance with the policies contained in this directive, and with the guidance contained in the three authorities documents (see par. 1);

(3) Maintain and update, as appropriate, the information contained in the three authorities documents (see par. 1);

(4) Ensure that all IT projects are evaluated for compliance with the EA by the Project Decision Authority as part of the Milestone Review Process at milestones 0, I, II, and III;

(5) Chair the VA Information Technology Board; and

(6) Designate a Chief Architect.

d. Under Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, and Other Key Officials. These individuals will:

(1) Implement the policies contained in this directive within their organization;

(2) Ensure the VA Enterprise Architecture alignment and integration between information technology and program/business goals and processes;

(3) Ensure adequate funding and commitment to the One-VA EA efforts and the enterprise information technology infrastructures; and

(4) Serve on VA's Information Technology Board.

(5) The Assistant Secretary for Information and Technology is responsible for preparing the Information Technology (IT) Portfolio for the Department, in accordance with Section 53 of OMB Circular A-11, to ensure compliance with the Enterprise Architecture. Each project in the IT Portfolio is supported with documentation in accordance with Section 300 of OMB Circular A-11. This supporting documentation identifies all project costs including personnel, contract support and capital assets, as defined in OMB Circular A-11. The Assistant Secretary for Management is responsible for tracking and reporting VA's Department wide capital asset portfolio. All IT capital assets, as defined in OMB Circular A-11, shall be reported to the Assistant Secretary for Management so they may be tracked, evaluated and reported as part of the VA Department wide capital asset portfolio.

e. VA Chief Enterprise Architect. This individual will:

(1) Report directly to the VA CIO;

(2) Chair the EA Council and thereby steward the development of VA's Enterprise Architecture;

(3) Ensure the integrity of the architectural development processes and the content of the Enterprise Architecture products;

(4) Act as ombudsman to the information technology and program/business lines, and ensure that program/business line unit processes are emphasized in the Enterprise Architecture; and

(5) Provide the best possible information and guidance to information technology projects and stakeholders, and that systems development efforts are properly aligned with program/business unit requirements.

4. REFERENCES

a. A Practical Guide to Federal Enterprise Architecture, dated February 2001

b. Architecture Alignment and Assessment Guide, dated October 2000

c. Clinger-Cohen Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-106, Div. E)

d. Executive Order 13011, Federal Information Technology

e. Federal Enterprise Architecture Framework (FEAF), dated September 1999

f. Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552

g. Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) of 1993 (Public Law 103-62)

h. Office of Management and Budget Circulars:

(1) A-11, Preparation and Submission of Budget Estimates

(2) A-130, Management of Federal Information Resources

i. Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35