

VLER Support of VBA Transformation

Section I: Background

The paperless processing of Veterans' claims for disability benefits is central to the success of VBA's transformation and efforts to eliminate the backlog. To achieve paperless claims processing, VBA has undertaken a number of efforts driven through the implementation of new information technology systems, including the Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS). VLER is leading efforts to support VBA through the implementation of numerous systems and programs, including:

1. **VASRD Information Automation**: The VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities (VASRD) is used to evaluate Veterans' disability claims. Automating, to the extent possible, the collection of this information for use in rules-based processing of these claims is critical to VBA Transformation. VLER has the mission to automate the collection of medical information required to support disability claim processing (VCA-2). To accomplish this project VA will implement:
 - Enhancements to CAPRI to better capture VHA C&P exam data
 - An "IRS eFile"-like capability for VA contract examiner systems
 - Disability Benefits Questionnaire (DBQ) Web Forms for third-party clinicians without their own C&P systems (status update provided in *Section II: Project Status*)
 - An "IRS eFile"-like capability for 3rd party clinicians with their own C&P system
2. **Vow to Hire Heroes Act (VOW)/ Veterans Employment Initiative (VEI)**: The Veterans Opportunity to Work (VOW) to Hire Heroes Act of 2011 provides Service member with seamless transition, expands education and training opportunities for Veterans, and provides tax credits for employers who hire Veterans with service-connected disabilities. VLER has Implemented Phase I, which initiates integration of IT services providing employment and transition benefits into the eBenefits portal. This was a recommendation in a report to the White House developed by the VEI Task Force Information Technology (IT) Working Group, which ED VLER co-chairs.
3. **Interagency Care Coordination Committee (IC3)**: The goal of the Information Sharing Initiative (ISI) is to meet the cross-Departmental information sharing needs of case/care management /coordination personnel on providing integrated care to Service members and Veterans. Integrated care seeks to close the traditional division between health and social care. Through the interagency comprehensive plan (CP), authoritative data will be made available by leveraging the VLER Data Access Services (DAS) to connect to the multiple clinical and non-clinical systems used to support the broad scope of work of case/care management/coordination through the creation of a single repository for this information.
 - Successful data exchanges with the Department of Defense (DoD) Army Wounded Care and Transition System in a pilot project that shared patient profiles among care coordinators in both departments.
 - Successful transition of the Federal Recovery Coordination Program (FRCP) from the Veterans Tracking Application (VTA) to the Federal Case Management Tool (FCMT).
4. **Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES)**: The Electronic Case File Transfer (eCFT) module enables VA and the Military Services to meet the Secretary of VA and the Secretary of Defense's directive to create a paperless, searchable IDDES claims file transferred between VA and DoD. Previously, hard-copy case files—including service treatment records (STRs), commanders' letters, narrative summaries, and compensation and pension examination reports—were sent via FedEx or other delivery methods.
 - VA/DoD collaborated in the VLER Overarching Integrated Project Team (OIPT) to select and initially implement an IT solution to achieve the Secretaries' joint goal for IDDES.

VLER VBA Weekly Report

VAIQ#: N/A
(1 March 2013)

- eCFT, the original pilot period has been extended to allow for further evaluation of the system.
- On February 25, 2013, OIT Product Development (PD) leadership signed a Certification Letter allowing monies to become available through the Fund Certification Process. Executive Director (ED) Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record (VLER) previously directed OIT PD leadership to move funds within VLER to support prioritized efforts, including funding of VLER work to extend the option year of eCFT

Section II: Project Status

1. Disability Benefits Questionnaire Automation Solution (DBQ AS)

- DBQ Web Forms Tool Project and Health Data Repository (HDR)

Recent Accomplishment or Issues/Risks	
XML Data Standards	No activities
Web Services	Discussed plans for sharing VLER DAS test environment during user acceptance testing for Release 3 (forms 41-60) scheduled to occur March 6 th thru March 12 th
Web Forms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Received additional questions from vendor requesting more information on requirements for Release 4 (forms 61-82) • Provided VLER EPMO list of 39 questions received from the vendor regarding unclear requirements for Release 4 (forms 61-82) to assist with obtaining clarification from Business Stakeholders prior to March 6th when vendor is scheduled to be coding.
HDR Development	No activities
DBQ Integrated Project Team (IPT)	No activities
Planned Events for Upcoming Weeks	
XML Data Standards	Review of XML Schemas for Release 2 (forms 21-40) from contractor
Web Services	Coordinate schedule for testing of DBQ AS Release 3 (forms 41-60) with VLER DAS Release 4.1
Web Forms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive and retest fixes for open defects from Release 2 (forms 21-40) • Receive clarification for the 39 questions related to requirements for Release 4 (forms 61-82) and provide response to contractor • Receive fixes for open defects from Release 1 (forms 1-20) • Start user acceptance testing for Release 3 (forms 41-60) • Start user retesting of defects fixed for Release 1 (forms 1-20) and Release 2 (21-40)
HDR Development	No activities
DBQ Integrated Project Team (IPT)	Hold biweekly meetings
Projected Capability Delivery Dates Within 180 Days	

VLER VBA Weekly Report

VAIQ#: N/A
(1 March 2013)

XML Data Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Release 3 (DBQ Forms 41-60) 19 March 2013 • Release 4 (DBQ Forms 61-82) 10 May 2013
Web Forms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Release 3 (DBQ Forms 41-60) 19 March 2013 • Release 4 (DBQ Forms 61-82) 10 May 2013

• VLER Data Access Services (DAS)

Recent Accomplishment or Issues/Risks	
DAS v4.1.0	DBQ Performance and Capability Improvements – Received Approval to Release letter on 2/25/2013. Release to production completed on 2/28/2013.
DAS v4.1.1	Life Event Notification Service (LENS) – System testing completed. Final TES published. National Release Addendum and IOC completed and submitted.
DAS v4.2.0 & DAS v4.2.1	Merge: CDS Read Wrapper (CAPRI I/F) & ACA – Retrieve Health Coverage for CMS and CDS Read Wrapper (Retrieve Exam Results by Status and Date Range) -Customer acceptance received. Development complete. Integration testing is in process
DAS v4.2.2	Redesign of Soap Services – Planning and Design completed 2/27/2013.
DAS v4.2.3	Basic Digits to Digits (D2D) Capability (note: New reprioritized release for D2D) – Planning and Design completed 2/28/2013.
Planned Events for Upcoming Weeks	
DAS v4.1.1	Life Event Notification Service (LENS) – Respond to any questions on the National Release Addendum and prepare for release to Production.
DAS v4.2.0 & DAS v4.2.1	Merge: Complete Integration Testing (Silver). Start System Testing (Gold) 3/6/2013
DAS v4.2.2	Redesign of Soap Services & MVI: get corresponding Ids Service for Care Coordinator Retrievals - Development in process. Customer Acceptance targeted for March 2013
DAS v4.2.3	Basic Digits to Digits (D2D) Capability - Development in process.
DAS v4.2.3	Basic Audit Capability Service- Customer Acceptance targeted for March 2013
Projected Capability Delivery Dates Within 180 Days	
DAS v4.1.1	Life Event Notification Service (LENS) – release to production targeted for March 19 2013
DAS v4.2.0 & DAS v4.2.1	Merge – Release to production targeted for March 29, 2013.
DAS v4.2.2	Maintenance: Redesign of Soap Services & MVI get Corresponding Ids Service for Care Coordinator Retrievals – Release to production targeted for April 30, 2013.
DAS v4.2.3	Basic Digits to Digits (D2D) Capability – Release to production targeted for May 31, 2013.

VLER VBA Weekly Report

**VAIQ#: N/A
(1 March 2013)**

DAS v4.3	Basic Audit Capability Service – Release to production targeted for FY13, Q4.
DAS v4.4	DBQ Enhancements [Retrieve] – Release to production targeted for FY13, Q4.
DAS v4.5	DBQ Enhancements [Status] - Release to production targeted for FY13, Q4.
DAS v5.0	Basic STR Exchange – Release to production targeted for FY13, Q4.
DAS v5.1	Enhance DBQ Data Retrieval - Release to production targeted for FY13, Q4.

2. Vow to Hire Heroes Act (VOW)/ Veterans Employment Initiative (VEI)

Recent Accomplishment or Issues/Risks
N/A
Planned Events for Upcoming Weeks
N/A
Projected Capability Delivery Dates Within 180 Days
N/A

3. Interagency Care Coordination Committee (IC3):

- Federal Case Management Tool (FCMT)

Recent Accomplishment or Issues/Risks
Completed prototyping for Inc 4, FCMT 2.0 (Migration of VHA Liaisons/VBA Casualty and Chapter 63)
Completed Initial Product Build for FCMT 1.1.1 (508 remediation Maintenance Release)
Completed Transition of FCMT Tier I Help Desk capabilities to the National Service Desk (NSD)
Planned Events for Upcoming Weeks
Continue supporting User Story Review Sessions and planning efforts for Inc 5, FCMT 2.1 (Migration of VBA Liaisons)
Complete SQA testing for FCMT 1.1.1
Complete testing with 508 office for FCMT 1.1.1
Continue phased transition of FCMT Tier II Help Desk capabilities to Benefits Product Service (BPS)
Continue Tier III Support of FRCP users
Projected Capability Delivery Dates Within 180 Days
Delivery of FCMT 1.1.1 to production in Q3FY13
Delivery of FCMT 2.0 to production in Q4FY13

4. Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES)

- Electronic Case File Transfer (eCFT)

VLER VBA Weekly Report

VAIQ#: N/A
(1 March 2013)

Recent Accomplishment or Issues/Risks
Air Force will continue to use eCFT at pilot sites for new IDES cases. Awaiting VBMS Technical SMEs to be identified (first request for VBMS Technical SMEs submitted on 1/24/2013)
Planned Events for Upcoming Weeks
Discussion between eCFT technical SMEs and VBMS technical SMEs
Projected Capability Delivery Dates Within 180 Days
Awaiting technical discussion to see if auto-population of VBMS by eCFT can occur.

- Veterans Tracking Application (VTA)

Recent Accomplishment or Issues/Risks
Release VTA v2.1.1 (Maintenance Release adding additional fields to the weekly IDES extract)
Completed the transition of the VTA Help Desk to the National Service Desk
Planned Events for Upcoming Weeks
Product Build for VTA v2.1.2 (508 remediation Maintenance Release phase 1)
Support AITC in Windows 2008 Service Upgrade
Perform regression testing for Windows 2008 Service Upgrade
Continue Tier III Support of VTA users
Projected Capability Delivery Dates Within 180 Days
VTA v2.1.2 (508 remediation Maintenance Release phase 1) in Q3FY13
VTA v2.1.3 (508 remediation Maintenance Release phase 1) in Q3FY13

Section III: Key Issues and Risks

DBQ User Acceptance Testing

Status Type	Release 1 (DBQs 1-20)	Release 2 (DBQs 21-40)
Open	12	5
Closed	67	21
Pending Retesting	59	51
Change Requests	78	8
Total Observations	216	85

Update on Release 1 (DBQs 1-20)

1. The 12 open defects are comprised of the following:
 - a. 5 are pending discussion with the Business concerning impact to business processes and policy on "yes/no" questions
 - b. 2 will be recommended for adding to list of change request to be prioritized by Business Stakeholders since the fix involves custom coding that is not permitted under current contract.
 - c. 5 are pending delivery of fix from contractor.
2. All 59 defects pending retesting have been tested by the IT PMO and confirmed as fix. They are pending retesting with users.

VLER VBA Weekly Report

**VAIQ#: N/A
(1 March 2013)**

3. The 78 change requests are comprised mainly of observations related to changes to the forms, changes to requirements, and clarification of business processes. All change requests will be presented to Business Stakeholders for prioritization.
4. Of the 12 open defects, only 1 is critical.
5. Of the DBQ Forms (1-20), 14 are defect free. There are 6 forms affected by the 15 open defects.

Update on Release 2 (DBQs 21-40)

1. All 51 defects pending retesting have been tested by the IT PMO and confirmed as fix. They are pending retesting with users.
2. Of the 5 open defects, all have a low severity level.
3. Of the DBQ Forms (21-40), 16 are defect free. There are 4 forms affected by 4 of the open defects.
4. There is one defect identified in Release 2 that will be recommended for adding to list of change requests to be prioritized by the Business Stakeholders. The defect is the omission of middle name from the form and it affects all DBQ forms.

Action Required: None, information only

Joshua Lawton-Belous, Senior Program Analyst, VLER/005C/202-604-5808

APPROVED BY:

Joe Paiva
Executive Director
Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record