

VLER Support of VBA Transformation

Section I: Background

The purpose of VLER is to enable VA and its partners to proactively provide the full continuum of services and benefits to Veterans through Veteran-centric processes made possible by effective, efficient, and secure standards-based information sharing. To achieve its goals, current VLER efforts are managed in VLER Capability Areas (VCAs):

<b>VCA 1</b>	Exchange medical information required to support clinical care between VA, DoD and private providers
<b>VCA 2</b>	Expand the exchange of medical benefits, military personnel and administrative data in order to support disability claims adjudication
<b>VCA 3</b>	Exchange additional medical, benefits, military personnel and administrative information required to proactively deliver the full spectrum of benefits and services including, but not limited to, compensation, housing, education, pension, insurance and memorials
<b>VCA 4</b>	Provide Service members and Veterans the ability to securely access and control the use and dissemination of their medical, benefits and personnel information via the eBenefits portal

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, through the implementation of VLER Capability Areas (VCA) 2, 3, and 4, is leading efforts to support VBA through the implementation of numerous systems and programs, including:

- 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
- 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 (VCA-4). 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.
- 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 (VCA-2). Integrated care seeks to close the traditional division between health and social care. Through the

**VLER VBA Weekly Report**

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

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 IDES 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 IDES.
  - 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. **VASRD Information Automation: Disability Benefits Questionnaire Automation Solution (DBQ AS)**

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

<b>Recent Accomplishment or Issues/Risks</b>	
XML Data Standards	No activities
Web Services	Finalized plans for sharing VLER DAS test environment during user acceptance testing for forms 41-60 scheduled to occur March 6 <sup>th</sup> thru March 12 <sup>th</sup>
Web Forms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Received fixes for 5 open defects from forms 1-20</li><li>• Received fixes for 4 open defects from forms 21-40</li><li>• Started user acceptance testing for forms 41-60</li><li>• Started user retesting defects fixed for forms 1-20 and forms 21-40</li></ul>
HDR Development	No activities
DBQ Integrated Project Team (IPT)	Held biweekly meeting to discuss DBQ schedule, user acceptance testing, plans for training, help desk support, operations and maintenance.
<b>Planned Events for Upcoming Weeks</b>	

**VLER VBA Weekly Report**

VAIQ#: N/A  
(1 March 2013)

XML Data Standards	Review of XML Schemas for forms 21-40 and forms 41-60 from contractor
Web Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate schedule for testing of DBQ AS forms 61-82 with VLER DAS</li> <li>Validate and verify data transmission from DBQ AS to HDR for DBQ forms 41-60</li> </ul>
Web Forms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Receive and retest fixes for open defects from forms 21-40</li> <li>Receive clarification for the 39 questions related to requirements for forms 61-82 and provide response to contractor</li> <li>Complete user acceptance testing for forms 41-60</li> <li>Complete user retesting of defects fixed for forms 1-20 and forms 21-40</li> <li>Complete DBQ AS forms 41-60</li> </ul>
HDR Development	No activities
DBQ Integrated Project Team (IPT)	Hold biweekly meetings
<b>Projected Capability Delivery Dates Within 180 Days</b>	
XML Data Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Release 3 (DBQ Forms 41-60) 19 March 2013</li> <li>Release 4 (DBQ Forms 61-82) 10 May 2013</li> </ul>
Web Forms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Release 3 (DBQ Forms 41-60) 19 March 2013</li> <li>Release 4 (DBQ Forms 61-82) 10 May 2013</li> </ul>

• VLER Data Access Services (DAS)

<b>Recent Accomplishment or Issues/Risks</b>	
DAS v4.1.1	Life Event Notification Service (LENS) –National Release Addendum and IOC completed and submitted.
DAS v4.2.0 & DAS v4.2.1	Merge: CDS Read Wrapper (CAPRI Interface/ Retrieve Exam Results by Status and Date Range) & ACA – Retrieve Health Coverage for CMS –Integration testing completed 3/5. System testing is in process.
DAS v4.2.2	Completion of the ACA Integration & MVI get Corresponding Ids service for Care Coordinator Profile retrievals – Development completed 3/5.
DAS v4.2.3	Basic Digits to Digits (D2D) Capability –Planning/Design in process.
DAS v4.3	Basic Audit Capability Service – Planning/Design Completed on 3/6. Development completion targeted for 3/27.
<b>Planned Events for Upcoming Weeks</b>	
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 System Testing (Gold). Start preparation of National Release Addendum and IOC.
DAS v4.2.2	Completion of the ACA Integration & MVI get Corresponding Ids Service for Care Coordinator Retrievals - Customer Acceptance demo planned for next week. Integration testing to follow.

**VLER VBA Weekly Report**

VAIQ#: N/A  
(1 March 2013)

DAS v4.2.3	Basic Digits to Digits (D2D) Capability - Planning/Design completion targeted for 3/11
DAS v4.3	Basic Audit Capability Service- Customer Acceptance targeted for March 2013
<b>Projected Capability Delivery Dates Within 180 Days</b>	
DAS v4.1.1	Life Event Notification Service (LENS) – release to production targeted for March 19 2013
<b>Note:</b> A continuing resolution induced funding delay will likely affect targeted deliveries. The product owner will modify scope as required once the duration of the gap is known	
DAS v4.2.0 & DAS v4.2.1	Merge – Release to production targeted for April 30, 2013.
DAS v4.2.2	Completion of the ACA Integration & MVI get Corresponding Ids Service for Care Coordinator Retrievals – Release to production targeted for May 31, 2013.
DAS v4.2.3	Basic Digits to Digits (D2D) Capability – Release to production targeted for May 31, 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 Capability (Part 1) – 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)**

<b>Recent Accomplishment or Issues/Risks</b>
Currently co-charing sub-working groups focus on TAP Portfolio Management and TAP Sharing. TAP PfM is focused on lecting “best of breed” websites for Job Nanks, MOS/MOC Crosswalk, and Resume Building. TAP Data Sharing is focused on providing VEI partners with the SM data they need to be vOW Compliant.
<b>Planned Events for Upcoming Weeks</b>
Continue IT Sub-working Group Efforts
<b>Projected Capability Delivery Dates Within 180 Days</b>
Deliver report on “best of breed” sites in July

**3. Interagency Care Coordination Committee (IC3):**

- Federal Case Management Tool (FCMT)

<b>Recent Accomplishment or Issues/Risks</b>
Approved the FCMT 2.0 Project Charter, Acceptance Criteria Plan (ACP), Requirements

**VLER VBA Weekly Report**

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

Specification Document (RSD), and System Design Document (SDD)
Completed PMAS milestone 1 review to obtain an approved schedule for migration of VA Liaisons for Healthcare, VBA Chapter 63, and VBA Casualty programs
Conducted stakeholder interviews of 2 VA programs to understand current processes/future needs, (2) held a Comprehensive Plan requirements kick-off meeting with Community of Practice (CoP) Working Group
Held requirements kick-off meeting in support of the migration of CMTRA users to VA's enterprise case management platform
Held a Comprehensive Plan requirements kick-off meeting with Community of Practice (CoP) Working Group
Developed the CP Information Technology Support recommendation which resulted in Services agreeing to pilot of a single IT system to support DoD exchange of CP data with VA.
<b>Planned Events for Upcoming Weeks</b>
Begin requirements sessions in support of the Interagency CP, under the direction of the IC 3 Comprehensive Plan IT-sub group.
VLER will begin requirements sessions for the migration of additional VA case management systems such as the Care Management Tracking and Reporting System (CMTRA) and meeting with key business stakeholders.
<b>Projected Capability Delivery Dates Within 180 Days</b>
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)

<b>Recent Accomplishment or Issues/Risks</b>
Continued stakeholder weekly calls to capture trouble shoot business issues and capture additional requirements from Armed Services, VHA, and VBA related to the eCFT pilot.
Held working sessions to develop Service specific process models and information exchange architectures.
Hosted the VLER OIPT and briefed Benefits Executive Council on pilot status.
<b>Planned Events for Upcoming Weeks</b>
Execute Interagency Agreement (IAA) with Army National Guard (ANG) to extend current level of product support to IDES eCFT pilot.
Execute site visit at Providence DRAS to trouble product latency issues and capture best practices/lessons learned with VA staff NLT end of March.
<b>Projected Capability Delivery Dates Within 180 Days</b>
Solve download latency with IDES case files by modifying firewall hurdles. Support go/no decision on extending capability to additional IDES sites.

- Veterans Tracking Application (VTA)

<b>Recent Accomplishment or Issues/Risks</b>
Currently completing activities for Milestone 3 briefing (Program Closure).
Executed IDES weekly extract from VADIR (Separation Data).

<b>Planned Events for Upcoming Weeks</b>
VADIR found an issued with Retirement Type that will be fixed in its release schedule fr the week of March 25. After the new release is complete, VTA will work with VADIR to load historical data.
<b>Projected Capability Delivery Dates Within 180 Days</b>
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**

**Disability Benefits Questionnaire Automation Solution (DBQ AS) User Acceptance Testing**

<b>Status Type</b>	<b>Release 1 (DBQs 1-20)</b>	<b>Release 2 (DBQs 21-40)</b>
Open	7	3
Closed	67	17
Pending Retesting	64	56
Change Requests	78	9
<b>Total Observations</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>85</b>

**Update on Release 1 (DBQs 1-20)**

1. The 7 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.
2. All 64 defects pending retesting have been tested by the IT PMO and confirmed as fix. They are currently being retested by users.
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 7 open defects, none are critical.
5. Of the DBQ Forms (1-20), 14 are defect free. There are 6 forms affected by the 7 open defects.

**Update on Release 2 (DBQs 21-40)**

1. All 56 defects pending retesting have been tested by the IT PMO and confirmed as fix. They are currently being retested by users.
2. The 3 open defects all have a low severity level. Fixes for 2 of the open defects will be delivered for retesting.
3. Of the DBQ Forms (21-40), 18 are defect free.
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.

VLER VBA Weekly Report

VAIQ#: N/A  
(1 March 2013)

Action Required: None, information only

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APPROVED BY:

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