

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):

VCA 1	Exchange medical information required to support clinical care between VA, DoD and private providers
VCA 2	Expand the exchange of medical benefits, military personnel and administrative data in order to support disability claims adjudication
VCA 3	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
VCA 4	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:

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

VLER VBA Weekly Report

VAIQ#: N/A
(22 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.
- eCFT, the original pilot period has been extended to allow for further evaluation of the system.
 - VA/DoD collaborated in developing and analyzing Service-specific work processes to identify efficiencies and capture new functional requirements
 - On March 20, 2013, VLER completed onboarding elements of compensation and pension contract examiners onto the electronic case file transfer pilot for IDES.
 - This capability allows contracted exam providers to electronically access medical information so that they may complete C&P exams for service members in the IDES process, and instantly transfer exam information to expedite the transition of a service member.

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)

Recent Accomplishment or Issues/Risks	
XML Data Standards	No activities
Web Services	Held discussions to coordinate schedule for testing of DBQ AS forms 21-40 with VLER DAS
Web Forms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Received and retested fixes for open defects from forms 21-40• Categorized the 37 observations identified during user acceptance testing for forms 41-60. Of the 37 observations, 27 were defects, 7 were change requests (new requirements) and 3 were closed as training issues.• Received and retested 22 fixes for open defects from forms 41-60• Met with business stakeholder to discuss disposition of 7 open defects from forms 1-20.• Received clarification for 36 of 39 questions on requirements for forms 61-82 and provided to contractor.

VLER VBA Weekly Report

VAIQ#: N/A
(22 March 2013)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed DBQ AS forms 41-60. Received source code and XML data standards
HDR Development	No activities
DBQ Integrated Project Team (IPT)	Held meeting to discuss schedule, user acceptance testing, change requests, authorization and user access
Planned Events for Upcoming Weeks	
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"> Coordinate schedule for testing of DBQ AS forms 61-82 with VLER DAS Validate and verify data transmission from DBQ AS to HDR for DBQ forms 41-60
Web Forms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receive clarification for the 3 questions related to missing requirements for 3 forms included in forms 61-82 and provide response to contractor. Receive and retest fixes for open defects from forms 41-60. Complete user retesting and analysis of results for defects fixed for forms 1-20, 21-40, and 41-60
HDR Development	No activities
DBQ Integrated Project Team (IPT)	Hold bi-weekly meetings
Projected Capability Delivery Dates Within 180 Days	
XML Data Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DBQ Forms 61-82 10 May 2013
Web Forms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DBQ Forms 61-82 10 May 2013

• VLER Data Access Services (DAS)

Recent Accomplishment or Issues/Risks	
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 –National Release Addendum and IOC submitted on 3/18. Cutover meeting with SDE completed on 3/20.
DAS v4.2.2	Completion of the ACA Integration & MVI get Corresponding Ids service for Care Coordinator Profile retrievals – Integration testing to start 3/22.
DAS v4.2.3	Basic Digits to Digits (D2D) Capability –Sprint/Development started on 3/19.
DAS v4.3	Development is in process.
DAS v4.4	Veteran Affairs Schedule for Rating Disabilities (VA SRD)* Enhancements [Retrieve] – Planning/Design is in process.
DAS v4.5	Veteran Affairs Schedule for Rating Disabilities (VA SRD)* Enhancements [Status] – Planning/Design is in process.
*VASRD was previously referred to as DBQ	
Note: A continuing resolution induced funding delay will likely affect planned events and targeted deliveries. The product owner will modify scope as required once the duration of the gap is known	

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VLER VBA Weekly Report

VAIQ#: N/A
(22 March 2013)

Planned Events for Upcoming Weeks	
DAS v4.2.0 & DAS v4.2.1	Merge: Preparation of National Release Addendum and IOC is targeted for completion on 3/22
DAS v4.2.2	System Testing targeted for week of 3/25
DAS v4.2.3	Customer acceptance targeted for April 2013
DAS v4.3	Customer acceptance targeted for April 2013
Projected Capability Delivery Dates Within 180 Days	
DAS v4.2.0 & DAS v4.2.1	Release to production targeted for 29 March
DAS v4.2.2	Release to production targeted for 31 May
DAS v4.2.3	Release to production targeted for 31 May
DAS v4.3	Release to production targeted for FY13, Q4.
DAS v4.4	Release to production targeted for FY13, Q4
DAS v4.5	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)

Recent Accomplishment or Issues/Risks
Currently co-chairing sub-working groups focus on TAP Portfolio Management and TAP Data Sharing. TAP PfM is focused on selecting “best of breed” websites for Job Banks, 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.
Planned Events for Upcoming Weeks
Continue IT Sub-working Group Efforts
Projected Capability Delivery Dates Within 180 Days
Deliver report on “best of breed” sites in July

3. Interagency Care Coordination Committee (IC3):

- Federal Case Management Tool (FCMT)

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

VLER VBA Weekly Report

VAIQ#: N/A
(22 March 2013)

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.
Planned Events for Upcoming Weeks
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.
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)

Recent Accomplishment or Issues/Risks
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.
Completed eCFT onboarding activities with contract exam providers.
Continued to work through server firewall/latency problems for the Seattle DRAS and VA Regional offices.
Planned Events for Upcoming Weeks
Complete trouble shooting of product latency issues and capture best practices/lessons learned with VA staff NLT end of March.
Projected Capability Delivery Dates Within 180 Days
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)

Recent Accomplishment or Issues/Risks
Confirmed three new business change requests.
Planned Events for Upcoming Weeks
Complete Independent Government Cost Estimate for outstanding change requests NLT end of April.
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-	Release 2 (DBQs 21-	Release 3 (DBQs 41-
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VLER VBA Weekly Report

VAIQ#: N/A
(22 March 2013)

	20)	40)	60)
Open	0	1	5
Closed	72	17	9
Pending Retesting	64	58	22
Change Requests	80	9	14
Total Observations	216	85	50

Update on Release 1 (DBQs 1-20)

1. Business provided the following disposition for the 7 open defects:
 - a. 4 will be closed. The 'yes/no' design for questions is needed.
 - b. 3 will be categorized as change requests.
2. All 64 defects pending retesting have been tested by the IT PMO and confirmed as fix. They are currently being retested by users. Analysis of results from user retesting is pending.
3. The 80 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.

Update on Release 2 (DBQs 21-40)

1. All 58 defects pending retesting have been tested by the IT PMO and confirmed as fix. They are currently being retested by users. Analysis of results from user retesting is pending.
2. 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.

Update on Release 3 (DBQs 41-60)

1. There were 50 observations found during user acceptance testing and retesting conducted by the IT PMO.
2. There were 27 confirmed defects. Fixes have been received and retested by the IT PMO for 22 of the defects. The fixes are pending retesting by the users.
3. Of the 50 observations, 14 were classified as change requests because they were new requirements and not originally included in requirements provided to the contractor.
4. Of the 50 observations, 9 were closed because they were classified as training issues, errors with the testing scripts, duplicates, or could not be reproduced.
5. Of the DBQ Forms (41-60), 18 are defect free.

Action Required: None, information only

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VLER VBA Weekly Report

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