Department of Veterans Affairs

Memorandum

Date: DEC 1 9 2016

From: Assistant Secretary for Information and Technology (005)

Subj: Requirement of Two Factor Authentication for VA Network Access for Individuals with Dual Identities (VAIQ #7735690)

To: Under Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries and Other Key Officials

1. Consistent with Office of Management and Budget guidance, VA is required to ensure that two-factor authentication (2FA) credentials are used to access the VA network. I wish to emphasize the importance of following this federal guidance to ensure proper safeguards are in place to protect VA information.

2. For individuals with "multiple person categories" (also referred to as "second person categories"), VA policy requires unique 2FA credentials be issued for each personnel category for which they are eligible. The policy necessitates that the two statuses be distinguishable, and that all systems must enforce this standard in a consistent manner.

3. Individuals with a second person category, such as employees who have secondary employment as contractors delivering services to VA, shall be issued an eToken for their second person category, where the VA PIV is issued for their first category. The access rights assigned to eTokens shall be limited to the individual's role in their second person category (e.g. as a contractor as defined in their contract), so that there is clear distinction and separation from the roles, permissions and access rights of their primary person category (e.g. as an employee).

4. The issuance of eTokens to this population will provide 2FA to ensure their accounts can be locked down to 'smartcard required' and eliminate their current exemption.

5. If you have any questions, please contact Gary Stevens, Director, Office of Cyber Security Policy and Compliance (OCSPC) (005R2), at Gary.Stevens2@va.gov or 202-632-7538.

LaVerne H. Council

Requirement of Two Factor Authentication for VA Network Access for Individuals with Dual Identities

cc:
Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Information and Technology (005A)
Deputy Assistant Secretary, Information Security (005R)
Chief Financial Officer (005F)
Deputy Chief Information Officer, Architecture, Strategy and Design (005E)
Deputy Assistant Secretary, Enterprise Program Management Office (005Q)
Deputy Assistant Secretary, Service Delivery and Engineering (005OP)
Deputy Chief Information Officer, Quality, Privacy and Risk (005PR)
Deputy Director, Interagency Program Office (005J)
Deputy Chief Information Officer, Account Manager for Corporate (005C)
Deputy Chief Information Officer, Account Manager for Benefits (005C)
Deputy Chief Information Officer, Account Manager for Health (005C)