

Date: December 3, 2015

From: Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Procurement Policy, Systems, and Oversight and Deputy Senior Procurement Executive

Subj: Class Deviation, VA Acquisition Regulation (VAAR) 806.501, Requirements (VAIQ 7640793)

To: VA Heads of Contracting Activities

1. **Purpose:** This class deviation clarifies language in VAAR Part 806.501, in reference to providing the Deputy Senior Procurement Executive the ability to further delegate the Advocate for Competition authority.

2. **VA Acquisition Regulation (VAAR) Sections Impacted:** VAAR 806.501

3. **Effective Date:** December 15, 2015.

4. **Expiration Date:** This class deviation will remain in effect until incorporated into the VAAR or the VA Acquisition Manual (VAAM) or otherwise rescinded.

5. **Background:** The current language in the VAAR 806.501 is as follows:

**a. VAAR 806.501 Requirement.**

(a) The Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Acquisitions is the Agency Competition Advocate. The Agency Competition Advocate may further delegate authority to other VA officials in VA Administrations and staff offices.

(b) The Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, National Acquisition Center, is the Contracting Activity Competition Advocate for the Center.

(c) Each HCA (see subpart 802.1) will serve as the Contracting Activity Competition Advocate in all other cases.

(d) The authority in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section is not delegable.

**b. Need for Deviation:** The current VAAR language in 806.501 may be ambiguous, resulting in several different interpretations and misconceptions as to how this delegation authority may be applied. A Class Deviation is required to

ensure consistent application of the regulation. Therefore, it is recommended that the VAAR language is modified to remove different interpretations or misconceptions as to how the delegation authority is to be applied. In addition, the terminology has been changed from the “Agency Competition Advocate” to the “Advocate for Competition.”

**c. New Policy:** The current language from VAAR 806.501 will be removed and replaced with the following:

**VAAR 806.501 Requirement.**

The Deputy Senior Procurement Executive (DSPE) is designated as the Agency Advocate for Competition. The DSPE may further delegate this authority to other VA procurement officials.

**d. Required Action:** All delegations of authority for Advocates for Competition for VA procurement activities will initiate from the DSPE.

**6. Attachments:** VA Class Deviation from VAAR 806.501

**7. Additional Information:** Questions and concerns should be addressed to the Office of Acquisition and Logistics (003A), Procurement, Policy and Warrant Management Service (003A2A) at (202) 632-5288 or email: VA.Procurement.Policy@va.gov.

/s/

C. Ford Heard III

Attachment

## **Class Deviation from VA Acquisition Regulation (VAAR) 806.501 Requirements**

### **806.501 Requirement**

The Deputy Senior Procurement Executive (DSPE) is designated as the Agency Advocate for Competition. The DSPE may further delegate this authority to other VA procurement officials.