

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE VETERANS AFFAIRS ACQUISITION LIFECYCLE FRAMEWORK

1. **PURPOSE.** This Notice rescinds the VA Acquisition Program Framework (APMF) and establishes the Acquisition Lifecycle Framework (ALF) as the policy and structure for modernizing Enterprise Acquisition Management.
2. **POLICY.** In response to Congressional scrutiny, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) officially designated VA acquisition management as a GAO High-Risk Area in March 2019. In addition, the [Program Management Improvement Accountability Act \(PMIAA\)](#), and the [Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act \(FITARA\)](#) require agencies to develop and implement strategies to improve program/project management and ensure quality results are achieved. ALF provides a strategic approach for modernizing Enterprise Acquisition Management from an end-to-end acquisition lifecycle perspective. ALF includes stage gates that inform senior leadership decisions at various phases of the acquisition lifecycle. ALF will also perform as a foundational component of VA's Acquisition Management Program.

NOTE: GAO's High-Risk List focuses attention on government operations that it identifies as high risk due to their greater vulnerabilities to fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement or the need for transformation to address economy, efficiency, or effectiveness challenges.

- a. ALF is being incrementally deployed across the VA enterprise, initially focusing on major acquisition programs identified by executive leadership for implementation or by early adopters requesting a sound program management approach. VA Administrations and Staff Offices are encouraged to become familiar with the ALF process and templates, and to adopt their use in advance of being so directed. Programs interested in being considered for more formal adoption may contact Acquisition Lifecycle Framework (ALF) Office at ALF@va.gov.
- b. ALF is a phased process for acquisition lifecycle management. It facilitates documenting quality evidence to support decisions. The ALF has five phases: (1) Conceptualization, (2) Program Definition, (3) Development, (4) Execution/Delivery and (5) Closeout. Each phase has templates to support critical analysis, document key information, and enable prompt decision-making required for effective program planning, management, and delivery. Multi-disciplinary Acquisition Review Boards accomplish governance and oversight at prescribed and predefined Acquisition Decision Event meetings following each phase.
- c. Acquisition Program is defined as the coordination of activities and resources for a specific mission need where some analysis has resulted in a concept of a bona fide need from a lifecycle cost perspective – results for the analysis should:

- d. include evidence which documents a strategy and comprehensive path forward using Federal employees, grants, shared-services from other Federal agencies, and/or acquiring support/services from industry. The goal is to identify an evidence-based solution capability focused on needs related to people, process, technology/information systems, facilities, and services required to respond to a documented evidence based bona fide mission need.
 - e. The ALF process, principles, tools, roles, and responsibilities coalesce VA's mission support lines of business (acquisition, finance, human capital, and technology) and associated lifecycles to deliver program objectives and are available for enterprise adoption in the [VA Acquisition Knowledge Portal](#). Additionally, the portal and [ALF Overview](#) provide ALF tools, templates, an electronic playbook, and skill enhancement sessions to guide users through the critical thinking necessary to effectively use the ALF to manage acquisitions throughout the lifecycle. For assistance, please contact the Acquisition Lifecycle Framework (ALF) Office at ALF@va.gov.
3. **RESPONSIBLE OFFICE.** The Office of Acquisition, Logistics, and Construction, Office of Acquisition, and Logistics (003A).
 4. **RELATED HANDBOOK/DIRECTIVE.** [VA Directive and Handbook 7402, VA Acquisition Program Management Framework, dated June 2, 2017](#), will be rescinded upon publication of the subject directive.
 5. **RESCISSION.** This notice will be rescinded and guidance incorporated into the appropriate directive/handbook no later than 1 year after the date of publication.

CERTIFIED BY:

/s/
Guy T. Kiyokawa
Assistant Secretary for
Enterprise Integration

**BY DIRECTION OF THE SECRETARY
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:**

/s/
Michael D. Parrish
Principal Executive Director, Office of
Acquisition, Logistics, and Construction
and Chief Acquisition Officer

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