

VA ACQUISITION CORPS (VAAC)

- 1. REASON FOR ISSUE:** This directive establishes the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Acquisition Corps (VAAC), member roles and responsibilities, and policy for the management of VA's program critical management and contracting professionals.
- 2. SUMMARY OF CONTENT/MAJOR CHANGES:** The VAAC will develop, promote, and sustain a high performing, competent and well trained acquisition workforce in support of VA's mission and goals. VAAC membership are highly qualified applicants who meet the education, experience, training, and performance requirements to successfully execute VA goals and achieve product, service, project, or program, outcomes.
- 3. RESPONSIBLE OFFICE:** The Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Acquisition and Logistics (003A) is responsible for the contents of this Directive.
- 4. RELATED HANDBOOK:** VA Handbook 7349, Department of Veterans Affairs VA Acquisition Corps (VAAC) Program.
- 5. RESCISSIONS:** None.

CERTIFIED BY:

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

/s/

Dat P. Tran
Acting Assistant Secretary for
Office of Enterprise Integration

/s/

Stella S. Fiotes, AIA
Acting Principal Executive Director
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1. PURPOSE: This directive establishes the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Acquisition Corps (VAAC), member roles and responsibilities, and policy for the management of VA's critical program management and contracting professionals.

2. POLICY:

a. In accordance with the Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP) Act, section 16(b)(6) as amended in 41 U.S.C. § 1702 (b)(3)(G), the Chief Acquisition Officer (CAO) is responsible to develop and maintain a career management program that ensures the development of a competent, professional acquisition workforce (AWF).

b. On April 1, 2010, under the Acquisition Transformation Initiative, the VA Secretary authorized the Principal Executive Director, Office of Acquisitions, Logistics, and Construction (PED OALC), as the Acting CAO, to establish a professional Acquisition Corps as part of the Acquisition Transformation Model. The VAAC sets an elevated standard required for incumbents of critical acquisition positions, and helps ensure programs are led by highly-credentialed individuals, who have the education, training, and experience commensurate to their program duties. Accordingly, VAAC requirements are outlined in this Directive.

3. VAAC MEMBERSHIP: VAAC membership is voluntary for individuals who aspire to achieve the pinnacle of their profession and seek the most challenging assignments offered by the VA. Acquisition Decision Authorities (ADAs) may provide waivers for specific requirements based on case by case situation. Applicants to VAAC must meet the requirements below or receive a waiver from an authorized ADA. VAAC members will minimally possess the following:

- a.** A grade of GS-14 or above;
- b.** Eight (8) hours of leadership training within the previous two (2) years (of application);
- c.** Baccalaureate degree;
- d.** Twenty-four (24) semester credit hours in the following disciplines: accounting, business, finance, law, contracts, purchasing, economics, industrial management, marketing, quantitative methods, organization management (the 24 hours may be included in, or in addition to, coursework taken to complete the baccalaureate degree);
- e.** Four (4) years of acquisition experience (government or private industry);
- f.** Federal Acquisition Certification in Contracting (FAC-C) Level III or Federal Acquisition Certification for Program and Project Managers (FAC-P/PM) Senior; and
- g.** VA Performance Appraisal rating of Excellent or greater during last rating period.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES: The responsibilities for the successful management of VA's Acquisition Corps program are as follows:

a. The Principal Executive Director, Office of Acquisitions, Logistics and Construction is VA's Acting CAO and is responsible for developing and maintaining an acquisition career management program in the executive agency to ensure that there is an adequate professional workforce as outlined in Title 41, Subtitle 1, Sec. 1702 and OFPP Act, 16(b) (6), as amended in 41 U.S.C. § 1702 (b)(3) (G).

b. Administrations and Staff Offices are responsible for the identification, oversight, and management of their respective VAAC members and candidates. The VA Acquisition Executive Council (AEC) is comprised of senior acquisition leaders from the VA Central Office and various levels of executive leaders from across the enterprise. The AEC will provide oversight of the VAAC to include approval of VAAC policy and maintaining visibility on VAAC members and candidates. The PED OALC serves as the chairperson of the AEC with the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Acquisition and Logistics (DAS OAL) as the co-chairperson.

c. The Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary (ADAS) for Acquisition Program Support (APS) administers the VAAC program and is responsible for management and execution of the program.

d. VA's Acquisition Career Manager (ACM), as delegated by PED OALC, executes the VAAC program on behalf of the CAO and ADAS APS. Specifically, the ACM reviews applications for VAAC membership from incumbents and VA employees who aspire to qualify for VAAC membership.

e. Managers/Supervisors are responsible for ensuring individuals aspiring for membership in the VAAC under their supervision receive the necessary education, training, and experience to obtain or retain VAAC membership.

5. REFERENCES.

a. Title 41 U.S.C. § 1702 (b)(3)(G).

b. Administrator, OFPP, December 16, 2013, Memorandum, "Revisions to the Federal Acquisition Certification for Program and Project Managers."

c. Secretary of Veterans Affairs, April 29, 2010, Memorandum, "Approval to Implement the Acquisition Transformation Initiative (Phased Model)."

d. Acting Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning, May 10, 2013, Decision Memorandum, "Acquisition Program Management Framework."