

Subject: Re: [Seeking your concurrence on AI message to agency AI leaders]
Date: Tuesday, April 22, 2025 at 11:48:25 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Worthington, Charles
To: Brazell, Karen L., Pool, Eddie
CC: Jones, Luwanda F. (OIT), Lavingia, Sahil, McManus, Kimberly F.
Attachments: image001.png

Hi Karen and Eddie -

Re-raising this for you. I would love to get the agency's AI leaders moving out on executing the President's new AI policy, since they have been in a bit of a (b)(5)

The message is clear to me: be aggressive in seizing AI opportunity, while implementing common sense safeguards to ensure these tools are trustworthy when they are used in VA's most sensitive areas such as benefit determinations and health care.

Let me know if you have any thoughts / suggested improvements and thank you!
Charles

Pre-Decisional and Deliberative

From: Brazell, Karen L. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Date: Thursday, April 10, 2025 at 4:05 PM
To: Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)@va.gov>
CC: Jones, Luwanda F. (OIT) <(b)(6)@va.gov>, Lavingia, Sahil <(b)(6)@va.gov>, McManus, Kimberly F. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: Re: [Seeking your concurrence on AI message to agency AI leaders]

Thanks, Charles, let me review and get back to you tmw.
Best regards,
Karen

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From: Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2025 3:48:42 PM
To: Brazell, Karen L. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
CC: Jones, Luwanda F. (OIT) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Lavingia, Sahil <(b)(6)@va.gov>; McManus, Kimberly F. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: [Seeking your concurrence on AI message to agency AI leaders]

Hi (b)(6) - OMB has released its new AI policy document, and I would like to share the below update with the agency's AI leaders (members of the VA AI Governance Council).

I am seeking your concurrence, following the previous instruction to run all (b)(5)
(b)(5)

The new memos are helpful for us - they streamlines VA's requirements quite a bit and I love its emphasis on action and results, not studies and analysis. Totally in line with where we should be driving on AI.

Charles

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Subject: Release of OMB Guidance for Federal AI Use and Acquisition

PRE-DECISIONAL

Greetings AI Governance Council Members,

OMB released their updated guidance for federal use and acquisition of artificial intelligence on Thursday, April 3, 2025. Attached are copies for your convenience and to disseminate as appropriate. OMB memos M-25-21 and M-25-22 rescind and replace M-24-10 and M-24-18, respectively.

Background: President Trump signed [Executive Order \(EO\) 14179](#) on January 23, 2025, titled "Removing Barriers to American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence." The President's policy aims at advancing U.S. global AI dominance and promoting responsible AI innovation. The latest OMB guidance directs heads of all Executive Branch departments and agencies, including independent regulatory agencies, to leverage AI adoption to improve public services while safeguarding civil rights, civil liberties, and privacy.

Strategic Approach

- (b)(5)

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Key Priorities / Directives

• (b)(5)

- Continuous monitoring and human review of AI applications to ensure ongoing compliance and performance.

This memo gives us clear direction, and in the coming months we will refocus our CAIO activities to ensure use case owners understand and can meet these new streamlined requirements, and seek opportunities to accelerate the most promising AI use cases across the Department. The CAIO (b)(6) will continue to hold weekly office hours to help use case owners with specific AI adoption questions and issues.

I look forward to working with you all on this strategically important technology.



Charles Worthington
Chief Technology Officer & Chief Artificial Intelligence Officer
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

(b)(6) @va.gov | m: 202-430-(b)(6)

PRE-DECISIONAL

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Request to Retain (b)(6)
Date: Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at 3:56:36 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: (b)(6) Q2
To: Worthington, Charles
CC: (b)(6) @gsa.gov, Lavingia, Sahil
Category: Staff has for Action, Important
Attachments: img-880de572-68ec-4e8b-86a6-8fbb133586e0

Approved from my end

On Wed, Apr 16, 2025 at 3:15PM Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)> wrote:
Hi (b)(6) -

I'm writing to request that (b)(6) (Digital Corps Fellow) be retained by GSA while VA works to find (b)(6) a desk near her location (Louisville KY), consistent with VA's Return to Office Policy. (b)(6) is a valuable contributor to my AI team, which is working to deploy AI-assisted software development tools like Cursor, Windsurf, GitHub agent etc. This is an effort also strongly supported by Sahil (our DOGE engineering representative) cc'ed.

More details below, if needed.

Thanks for your consideration, and please let me know if you have any questions,
Charles Worthington



Charles Worthington
Chief Technology Officer & Chief Artificial Intelligence Officer
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

(b)(6) @va.gov | m: 202-430-(b)(6)

(b)(6) is a high-performing artificial intelligence (AI) expert with the Digital Corps Fellowship, assigned to the VA Chief AI Officer team. VA currently has very few AI experts & maintaining this expertise is crucial for VA to be successful in adopting AI to become more efficient & effective at serving Veterans.

(b)(6) is leading VA's AI-assisted software development effort. Thus far, this pilot has demonstrated over 4 hours/week of time savings per survey respondent - resulting in significant VA time & cost savings. (b)(6) is also a data scientist working on a project to decrease Veteran delays in the VA's disability claims process, and has a leadership role in implementing AI management & standards across VA, as required by the new administration in OMB M-25-21 and M-25-22 released April 3, 2025.

(b)(6) is a new mother living in Louisville, Kentucky. VA is in the process of finding a desk for (b)(6) near Louisville and, by VA policy, VA employees are instructed to work from home while VA works to identify and assign desks for employees. We are requesting that (b)(6) be allowed to follow VA RTO policy during this provisional time where VA is working to assign desks to everyone.



U.S. General Services Administration

(b)(6)
TTS Director & FAS Deputy Commissioner
202-816-1414
(b)(6) @gsa.gov

Subject: FW: Publication of OMB AI Memoranda
Date: Friday, April 4, 2025 at 5:52:34 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Worthington, Charles
To: Pool, Eddie, Orr, Martha; (b)(6) Larson, Merissa, Jones, Luwanda F. (OIT)

FYSA -

OMB has released the updated AI policy. We are still analyzing it, but at a high level it retains many of the same requirements as the old memo (but slimmed down). The memo:

- requires a Chief AI Officer responsible for:
 - o managing AI inventory
 - o cataloging / categorizing AI use cases
 - o setting overall AI strategy and encouraging adoption

Overall the memo says we should keep doing what we're doing, but go faster / focus on efforts that accelerate adoption. I think this is all very consistent with what we're doing now, except maybe indicates we need to resource the efforts even more.

From: (b)(6) @LISTSERV.GSA.GOV> on behalf of (b)(6) EOP/OMB (b)(6)
(b)(6) @LISTSERV.GSA.GOV>
Date: Friday, April 4, 2025 at 4:35 PM
To: (b)(6) @LISTSERV.GSA.GOV; (b)(6) @LISTSERV.GSA.GOV>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] [CAIOC-CAIO] Publication of OMB AI Memoranda

*** Sending on behalf of (b)(6) Federal CIO and Chair of the CIO Council and Chief AI Officer Council***

Colleagues,

In January, President Trump issued [Executive Order 14179](#), *Removing Barriers to American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence*, to "sustain and enhance America's global AI dominance in order to promote human flourishing, economic competitiveness, and national security." The order required updates to two OMB policies on AI use and acquisition.

Today, we are excited to share the issuance of [M-25-21](#), *Accelerating Federal Use of AI through Innovation, Governance, and Public Trust*, and [M-25-22](#), *Driving Efficient Acquisition of Artificial Intelligence in Government*! These memoranda direct Federal agencies to embrace AI innovation that provides efficient and improved services to the taxpayer, while protecting American values, privacy, civil rights, civil liberties, and safety.

We need to reduce the administrative burdens in the Executive Branch that inhibit our path to modernization for AI use or acquisition. Antiquated systems and manual processes do not serve American taxpayers and need to be adapted. To lead this change, the government must continue to be responsible stewards of technology and ensure that rapid adoption is not achieved at the expense of the American people. Together, OMB's revised policies will enable Federal agencies to better deliver on their missions, while also enhancing our global dominance in American AI innovation. I'm excited to work with all of you to achieve our shared goal of more agile, cost-effective, and efficient services for the public.

As your teams review these new requirements:

- (b)(5) DPP

Thanks,

(b)(6)

To unsubscribe from the CAIOC-CAIO list, create a new email message, addressed to (b)(6) @LISTSERV.GSA.GOV. The message content does not matter and the sender's email address will be removed from the list.

Subject: Re: Invitation for WH Press Conference on Release of OMB AI Memoranda
Date: Thursday, March 20, 2025 at 2:39:03 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Worthington, Charles
To: Smith, Nadia; (b)(6)
Attachments: image001.png, image002.png

We don't have the whole fact sheet, just our line which is:

The VA uses AI to support the identification and analysis of pulmonary nodules during lung cancer screening exams. The AI functionality improves detection of these nodules, assisting clinicians with life-saving diagnoses.

From: Smith, Nadia <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Date: Thursday, March 20, 2025 at 12:45 PM
To: Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: Invitation for WH Press Conference on Release of OMB AI Memoranda

Can I get a copy of the fact sheet, pls?

Nadia Smith, MBA
Acting Chief Digital Health Officer
Digital Health Office
Veterans Health Administration

(b)(6)@va.gov



Internal: (b)(6)
External: VA's Digital Health Office - Veterans Health Administration

From: Smith, Nadia
Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2025 12:38 PM
To: Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: Invitation for WH Press Conference on Release of OMB AI Memoranda

Noted. Thanks and will notify Dr. Lieberman and VHA comms.

Nadia Smith, MBA
Acting Chief Digital Health Officer
Digital Health Office
Veterans Health Administration

(b)(5)@va.gov



Internal: (b)(5)
External: VA's Digital Health Office - Veterans Health Administration

From: Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2025 11:51 AM
To: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Smith, Nadia <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: FW: Invitation for WH Press Conference on Release of OMB AI Memoranda

FYSA - no more press conference but we will still be in the fact sheet.

From: (b)(6) EOP/OMB <(b)(6)@omb.eop.gov>
Date: Thursday, March 20, 2025 at 11:01 AM
To: McManus, Kimberly F. <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: (b)(6) EOP/OMB <(b)(6)@omb.eop.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@omb.eop.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Invitation for WH Press Conference on Release of OMB AI Memoranda

Hi all, sincere apologies for the inconvenience, but we will be pulling down next week's press call. However, I do want to share that VA's AI use case will still be highlighted on our fact sheet and we're excited to amplify the exciting AI advancements at your agency.

Thank you for your understanding!

Best,

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) EOP/OMB <(b)(6)@omb.eop.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2025 4:42 PM
To: McManus, Kimberly F. <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) EOP/OMB <(b)(6)@omb.eop.gov>
Cc: (b)(6) EOP/OMB <(b)(6)@omb.eop.gov>
Subject: RE: Invitation for WH Press Conference on Release of OMB AI Memoranda

Wonderful, thanks Kimberly!

From: McManus, Kimberly F. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2025 4:40 PM
To: Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) EOP/OMB <(b)(6)@omb.eop.gov>; (b)(6) EOP/OMB <(b)(6)@omb.eop.gov>
Cc: (b)(6) EOP/OMB <(b)(6)@omb.eop.gov>
Subject: RE: Invitation for WH Press Conference on Release of OMB AI Memoranda

Hi (b)(6) & (b)(6)

The below fact sheet example has been approved by VA. (It is the same as your suggestion in the earlier email.)

The VA uses AI to support the identification and analysis of pulmonary nodules during lung cancer screening exams. The AI functionality improves detection of these nodules, assisting clinicians with life-saving diagnoses.



Kimberly McManus, PhD.
Deputy Chief AI Officer
Office of the VA CTO & CAIO
(b)(6)@va.gov

From: Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2025 4:42 AM
To: (b)(6) EOP/OMB <(b)(6)@omb.eop.gov>; McManus, Kimberly F. <(b)(6)@va.gov> (b)(6) EOP/OMB <(b)(6)@omb.eop.gov>
Cc: (b)(6) EOP/OMB <(b)(6)@omb.eop.gov>
Subject: Re: Invitation for WH Press Conference on Release of OMB AI Memoranda

Submitted! TPs coming shortly.

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From: (b)(6) EOP/OMB <(b)(6)@omb.eop.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 4:23:57 PM
To: Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)@va.gov>; McManus, Kimberly F. <(b)(6)@va.gov> (b)(6) EOP/OMB <(b)(6)@omb.eop.gov>
Cc: (b)(6) EOP/OMB <(b)(6)@omb.eop.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Invitation for WH Press Conference on Release of OMB AI Memoranda

Hey Charles,

While you continue to work through TPs, here's the [link for WAVES](#) to get on campus next Monday. Let me know if you run into any issues!

Best,

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) EOP/OMB
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 12:08 PM
To: 'Worthington, Charles' <(b)(6)@va.gov>; McManus, Kimberly F. <(b)(6)@va.gov> (b)(6) EOP/OMB <(b)(6)@omb.eop.gov>
Cc: (b)(6) EOP/OMB <(b)(6)@omb.eop.gov>
Subject: RE: Invitation for WH Press Conference on Release of OMB AI Memoranda

Thanks for confirming Charles!

We're happy to switch out with your preferred chest exam use case. Are the small edits below for simplification okay with you and the team?

The VA uses AI to support the identification and analysis of pulmonary nodules during lung cancer screening exams. The AI functionality improves detection of these nodules, assisting clinicians with life-saving diagnoses.

Lastly, we're still aiming for 3 PM next Monday, the 24th. However, we'll plan to send over the formal calendar invite and WAVES link once those logistics are more fully finalized. In the meantime, whenever they're ready, would you be able to send over a courtesy copy of TPs for us?

Excited to have you, and thanks so much for making the time to highlight VA's AI work at this rollout!

Best,

(b)(6)

From: Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 10:37 AM
To: McManus, Kimberly F. <(b)(6)@va.gov> (b)(6) EOP/OMB <(b)(6)@omb.eop.gov>
Cc: (b)(6) EOP/OMB <(b)(6)@omb.eop.gov> (b)(6) EOP/OMB <(b)(6)@omb.eop.gov>
Subject: Re: Invitation for WH Press Conference on Release of OMB AI Memoranda

Hi Team -

I am cleared to attend to support this event next week. Thanks for thinking of us, and let us know what you're thinking on the fact sheet as per Kimberly's note below.

Do you know what time you're targeting yet?

Thanks!
Charles

From: McManus, Kimberly F. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2025 10:32:25 AM
To: Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)@va.gov>; EOP/OMB <(b)(6)@omb.eop.gov>
Cc: (b)(6) EOP/OMB <(b)(6)@omb.eop.gov>; (b)(6) EOP/OMB <(b)(6)@omb.eop.gov>
Subject: RE: Invitation for WH Press Conference on Release of OMB AI Memoranda

Hi (b)(6)

Thanks for including us! We are fine with including the wound care example below in the fact sheet. We are more excited about the below two use cases that I am including for alternative consideration:

The VA's Stratification Tool for Opioid Risk Mitigation (STORM) is an AI-driven clinical decision support system designed to help mitigate risk factors for overdose and suicide among Veterans who are prescribed opioids and/or with opioid use disorder. Implementation of this system is associated with a 20% decrease in mortality.

The VA uses AI to analyze chest exams and support identification and characterization of pulmonary nodules, especially for lung cancer screening exams. The AI functionality improves detection of pulmonary nodules, assisting clinicians with live-saving diagnoses.

Kimberly

From: Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2025 6:06 AM
To: (b)(6) EOP/OMB <(b)(6)@omb.eop.gov>
Cc: McManus, Kimberly F. <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) EOP/OMB <(b)(6)@omb.eop.gov>; (b)(6) EOP/OMB <(b)(6)@omb.eop.gov>
Subject: Re: Invitation for WH Press Conference on Release of OMB AI Memoranda

Also – we will review and clear the language for the Fact sheet and review with our colleagues in VHA closest to that work. We also may propose a few other similarly-situated ideas as alternatives to highlight for the fact sheet pending their feedback about the wound management use case.

From: Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Date: Thursday, March 13, 2025 at 8:58 AM
To: (b)(6) EOP/OMB <(b)(6)@omb.eop.gov>
Cc: McManus, Kimberly F. <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) EOP/OMB <(b)(6)@omb.eop.gov>; (b)(6) EOP/OMB <(b)(6)@omb.eop.gov>
Subject: Re: Invitation for WH Press Conference on Release of OMB AI Memoranda

Hi (b)(6) – thanks for thinking of us. I am in. I need to run it through our VA comms approval process, but I don't anticipate issues. I will follow up with confirmation.

Thanks again,
Charles

From: (b)(6) EOP/OMB <(b)(6)@omb.eop.gov>
Date: Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at 10:41 PM
To: Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: McManus, Kimberly F. <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) EOP/OMB <(b)(6)@omb.eop.gov>; (b)(6) EOP/OMB <(b)(6)@omb.eop.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Invitation for WH Press Conference on Release of OMB AI Memoranda

Hey Charles,

As part of the rollout for OMB's revised AI memoranda, the White House is planning to hold a press call on March 24th to highlight the Administration's AI priorities and breadth of Federal AI use. We would like to invite you to discuss VA's Parable 3D Wound Care Management System and other VA AI priorities.

You would have 3-5 minutes to speak about the use case, the impact of AI use such as this to improve Veteran's healthcare, and additional VA AI activities, as relevant. Some initial details are provided below as we finalize the run of show. **Please let us know if you are interested in participating by Monday, March 17th.** (If there is a lapse in appropriations, we'll be moving the press call but would still love to have you speak if you're available.)

Additionally, a White House Fact Sheet is being prepared and we'd like to highlight the main use case you'd be speaking to. The below language paraphrases VA's inventory submission. Can you let us know if you're comfortable with this and if you'd like to make any changes to the language? If you're not free for the event, we can still look to include the below language in the Fact Sheet if that works.

The VA is using AI to create 3D representations of a patient's wounds, enabling clinicians to more consistently and accurately measure wound size, collaboratively monitor healing progress with other care team members, and standardize treatment protocols.

Best,
(b)(6)
Director of Artificial Intelligence (Acting)
Office of the Federal Chief Information Officer
Office of Management and Budget

Executive Office of the President
Cell: 202-881-(b)(6)

Details

Date: March 24th

Time: To be finalized, but we're anticipating 3pm right now; 30-40min total

Format: Teleconference, press will not be in-person

Location: EEOB conference room for invited speakers

Speakers:

- Dr. Lynne Parker, OSTP, Deputy Director
- Greg Barbaccia, OMB, Federal CIO
- Dr. Kevin Rhodes, OMB Senior Advisor on Federal Procurement Policy
- Charles Worthington, VA, CAIO [TBC]
- Dave Salvagini, NASA, CAIO [TBC]

Subject: Re: For Senior Advisor Concurrence (3/25/2025) - Essential Travel - OSDDBU Travel Approval Request

Date: Wednesday, March 19, 2025 at 1:25:15 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Worthington, Charles

To: (b)(6)

Attachments: image001.jpg

Hi - I quickly reviewed and to me the justification looks solid from an alignment with VA AI strategy perspective. I think this administration will be aggressively seeking ways to use AI to accomplish our mission better / more efficiently.

Of course I defer to you about alignment with travel guidance etc.

Charles

From: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>

Date: Wednesday, March 19, 2025 at 12:30 PM

To: Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)@va.gov>

Subject: FW: For Senior Advisor Concurrence (3/25/2025) - Essential Travel - OSDDBU Travel Approval Request

Charles

Good afternoon. I hope this finds you doing well. I wanted to get your input on this travel request to attend 2025 Reuter Momentum AI conference. OSDDBU Deputy Executive Director has been identified to attend.

My concern is that attending this conference may be getting ahead of the Administration's use of AI. Please let me know if you have any concerns.

I appreciate your time and assistance.

(b)(6)
Senior Advisor to the Deputy Secretary
Office of the Secretary
810 Vermont Avenue NW
Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20420
Office: 202-461-(b)(6)
Mobile: 202-279-(b)(6)
Email: (b)(6)@va.gov

From: OSDDBU Correspondence <(b)(6)@va.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2025 12:04 PM

To: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>

Cc: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov> (b)(6) (VA OSDDBU) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; OSDDBU Correspondence <(b)(6)@va.gov>

Subject: For Senior Advisor Concurrence (3/25/2025) - Essential Travel - OSDDBU Travel Approval Request

Good afternoon (b)(6),

I hope you are doing great. Attached for your concurrence is OSDDBU's request for an essential travel to participate in the 2025 Reuter Momentum AI Conference. A premier event gathering global leaders in artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), and emerging technologies on April 28-29, 2025.

Subject: 2025 Reuter Momentum Artificial Intelligence (AI) Conference

Action: Email Approval
Due Date: 3/25/2025

- In accordance with guidance provided via memorandum, Updated Temporary Review of Certain Departments of Veterans Affairs Communications and Travel dated February 13, 2025, OSDBU is requesting approval for an essential travel.
- The Reuter Momentum AI Conference (April 28-29, 2025) will directly enable VA OSDBU to support national AI leadership objectives. The White House's Executive Order 14179, "Removing Barriers to American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence," calls on Federal agencies to eliminate obstacles to AI innovation to maintain U.S. leadership in this field.
- Attached justification is for your review and **your concurrence NLT March 25, 2025.**
- Upon your approval, VA OSDBU will be able to travel for the event.

Please feel free to contact us should you have any questions. Thank you very much.

Best Regards,

(b)(6)

Program Specialist, Shared Services Directorate
Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization
Department of Veterans Affairs

(b)(6) @va.gov

Office Phone: 202-461-(b)(6)

Cell: 240-344(b)(6)



I value your feedback. Please take a moment to take a survey about the service you received. Visit <https://survey.voice.va.gov/?osdbu-customer-service> and select **Shared Services**

Subject: Re: Probationary Exception - word version

Date: Friday, February 28, 2025 at 11:24:38 AM Eastern Standard Time

From: Worthington, Charles

To: Orr, Martha, Waddington, George

CC: Waddington, George

Attachments: [REDACTED] Exception Request 2025-02-21.pdf, [REDACTED] Exception Request 2025-02-21.pdf, [REDACTED] Exception Request 2025-02-21.pdf, [REDACTED] Exception Request 2025-02-21.pdf, [REDACTED] Exception Request 2025-02-21.pdf, [REDACTED] Exception Request 2025-02-21.pdf

It is the seven at the bottom of the list. Eddie previously reviewed these when they were presented as individual decision memos (also attached).

00934568	(b)(6)	(b)(6) is the IT manager for the critical VHA Beneficiary Travel Claim System, which enables Veterans to receive reimbursements for travel to and from VA clinics. The Beneficiary Travel Self Service System (BTSSS) is congressionally mandated and has also been under significant congressional scrutiny over the past year. Her in-depth knowledge of both the BTSSS product and the Veteran Travel Program are critical to the continued improvements to this system. Those improvements include a major modernization effort of the Veteran facing claims submission and management system. Despite (b)(6)'s short tenure, she possesses direct technical expertise with these Veteran benefit systems, including optimizing applications for Veterans' use, aligns seamlessly with the organization's mission to improve the lives of Veterans. Her ability to enhance system performance and deliver mission-critical features ensures operational continuity and improved Veteran satisfaction. Her role is critical to ensuring the continuous delivery and modernization of the travel claim reimbursement system and has direct impact Veterans. Given (b)(6)'s direct experience, specialized skills, and certifications, I request that (b)(6) be exempted from removal.	PDS
00928795	(b)(6)	(b)(6) is an Artificial Intelligence leader developing an AI-first claims process designed to dramatically speed the delivery of disability benefits to Veterans using advanced technology instead of manual labor. Today, Veterans wait an average of 146 days for VA to make a decision on their claim. The pilot (b)(6) is leading has an ambitious goal: finish 75% of all disability claims submitted within 7 days or less. This dramatic improvement in claim processing efficiency will also save money by reducing the amount of staff time required to process each claim and eliminating unnecessary medical appointments. We estimate AI-first claims processing has the potential to save VA over \$2.5 billion annually. (b)(6) is leveraging his extensive technical experience in artificial intelligence as the founder of an AI-enabled health care startup to lead this pilot initiative. He has designed the solution based on a deep understanding of insurance industry best practices and AI enabled automation tools such as those now in use at Humana Health and Cohere Health. The pilot (b)(6) is leading is creating an AI-led process	CTO

		to automate significant parts of the claims workflow. The early results of single-issue claim processing automation on which this pilot is built reduced Veteran wait times by 65 days. If (b)(6) is separated from VA service, the pilot he is leading will end until VA can recruit and hire an AI expert with similar private sector skills. Veterans will continue to experience long and frustrating delays in receiving benefits.	
00912939	(b)(6)	(b)(6) is the Senior Technical Advisor for Product Delivery Service PDS, applying his over 10 years of industry experience in data analytics, engineering, architectural design, and artificial intelligence to his role. His expertise is instrumental in ensuring that VA's core computing infrastructure—over 1,000 products and services, such as VA Health Connect (VAHC) a clinical contact center serving millions of Veterans, Beneficiary Travel Self Service System (BTSSS) the travel reimbursement program for VA, and other critical benefits processing systems—remain secure, scalable, and reliable for the millions of Veterans who depend on them. (b)(6) is the lead for the PDS decommissioning effort, ensuring duplicate and excessive capabilities are rationalized, have decommissioning roadmaps, and cost savings are realized. He is leveraging deep engineering expertise in developing the decommissioning roadmaps and technical leadership in driving rationalization. (b)(6) is also using his data engineering expertise to redesign inefficient and costly data architectures and create scalable, resilient data architectures. Without (b)(6) leadership and technical expertise, the decommissioning work he is personally leading will stop. His deep technical and architectural knowledge is critical to address emerging incidents and risks among PDS products and services. His removal will significantly impede progress towards VA IT modernization goals, including rationalization, decommissioning, and product resiliency.	PDS
00907010	(b)(6)	(b)(6) serves as the Summit Data Platform (SDP) Director within the Digital Product Services Portfolio. His leadership over SDP is critical to sustaining and enhancing the mission-critical platform that powers VA's enterprise data. In addition, he leads data engineering and AI/ML efforts for the enterprise data platform, ensuring our data is AI-ready. This work is essential for the implementation of VA's AI efforts. His expertise is essential in ensuring that VA's next-generation data serves as a mission-critical foundation for enterprise data assets from across VA Administrations and Staff Offices – supporting use cases in clinical decision support, Veteran experience measurement and improvement, mental health/suicide prevention, and operational analytics. (b)(6) leads the modernization of VA's enterprise data hub, the Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW) on SDP. His leadership is crucial in establishing standardized approaches based upon the usage patterns of workgroups and end users across the VA user community. (b)(6) also plays a pivotal role in resolving critical data engineering challenges. His work has reduced cloud infrastructure costs by 15% through engineering improvements, and enhanced VA's ability to respond to complex data requests for technical teams across OIT. Without (b)(6) leadership, the Summit Data Platform's transformation will be severely disrupted. His removal will delay ongoing data migration efforts, weaken VA's AI readiness, and increase operational risk, jeopardizing critical data management and analytics initiatives that directly support improvements to Veteran healthcare and benefits administration.	PDS
00906980	(b)(6)	(b)(6) is the lead IT Manager over the Veteran Facing Clinical Contact Center Applications for all VISNs. She is directly responsible for the operation and management of the all the contact center applications that support medical scheduling, Virtual Clinic Care, Tele Emergency Care, and Pharmacy services. (b)(6) has been leading these areas and is the sole subject matter expert for these critical veteran services. As a Veteran and IT expert, she has provided invaluable contributions to the stand up of the clinical contact centers across VA which support 50+ Million calls a year. (b)(6) is a critical leader in VA's Veteran Relationship Management team, leveraging her experience as a product manager at Amazon and a Program Manager for the U.S. Army to develop the customer relationship management tools that power each VISN's Clinical Contact Center. Her expertise is instrumental in ensuring that the 50 million Veteran calls we receive annually through our clinical contact centers are handled promptly with low hold times. She also ensures that our contact center applications remain secure, scalable, and reliable for the VA employees who depend on them. Before (b)(6) service to the VA, the clinical	PDS

		<p>contact center VA Health Connect CRM application suffered from frequent outages, low adoption rates by our contact center staff, and high rates of call abandonment. Through (b)(6) leadership, she has stabilized the application and facilitated its adoption by every VISN. This work has reduced our call times across the clinical contact centers and helped achieve an 84% Veteran Satisfaction rate with our clinical contact centers. During her time with the VA, (b)(6) has received praise from her business partners in VHA and has been rated as fully successful in her performance review. She has also received a Special Contribution Award (SCA) for her hard work on stabilizing the VA Health Connect CRM application and her efforts in rolling out the Tele-Emergency Care application nationwide in FY24.</p>	
00902400	(b)(6)	<p>(b)(6) is a critical leader in VA's engineering team, applying his 15 years of experience as an engineering leader at Netflix to modernize and stabilize the platforms that power VA benefits and services. His expertise is instrumental in ensuring that VA's core computing infrastructure—supporting VA.gov, the VA mobile app, and critical benefits processing systems—remains secure, scalable, and reliable for the millions of Veterans who depend on it. VA.gov alone serves over 16 million unique users per month, facilitating hundreds of thousands of benefits applications, prescription refills, and secure messages between Veterans and their care teams. The underlying computing infrastructure that enables these services is highly complex, requiring seamless integration across more than 100 VA systems. (b)(6) is leveraging his deep engineering leadership with complex distributed systems to stabilize these integrations, which in recent years have experienced critical failures that led to unacceptable delays in Veteran benefits processing. (b)(6) plays a key role in managing and resolving critical engineering incidents. Earlier this year, he was instrumental in stabilizing the Master Person Index, a foundational VA system that was experiencing repeated outages, impacting Veteran health care and benefits delivery. His technical leadership was essential in restoring reliability to this vital system, preventing further disruptions in patient care and benefits processing. Without (b)(6) leadership, VA's technical platforms— and, in turn, the health care and benefits services they support—will be at greater risk of failure. His removal will significantly degrade VA's ability to maintain the stable and integrated systems necessary for delivering seamless, reliable services to the millions of Veterans who use VA's digital tools.</p>	CTO
00899710	(b)(6)	<p>(b)(6) is overseeing the operations and improvements to one of the most important Veteran-facing components in VA's digital benefits portfolio: the features that Veterans use to manage their dependents. Mistakes in dependent management are one of the most common ways that Veterans inadvertently accrue large debts to VA due to VA overpayments to Veterans based on incorrect / out of date dependent information. (b)(6) is directly targeting this problem with technology, which will help 100,000s of Veterans avoid going into debt when they fail to maintain accurate dependent information. The work (b)(6) is leading is directly aimed at avoiding these overpayments and related debts, by proactively reminding Veterans to check the status of their dependency information on the website, mobile app, and via text messages and emails. These reminders will replace the current paper mail reminder which VA only sends every seven years currently, which many Veterans receive too late or don't receive at all. Without (b)(6), who was hired under the authority of the PACT Act for the purpose of directly improving Veterans benefits delivery, the products involved in online dependent management will lack a leader. Improvements be stalled indefinitely, and VA will lack a manager of operational incidents or customer support issues with online dependent management tools. Veterans will continue to accrue unnecessary debts, and continue to miss out on benefits they are rightly owed.</p>	CTO

From: Orr, Martha <(b)(6)>@va.gov>

Date: Friday, February 28, 2025 at 10:03 AM

To: Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)>@va.gov>, Waddington, George <(b)(6)>@va.gov>

Cc: Waddington, George <(b)(6)>@va.gov>

Subject: RE: Probationary Exception - word version

Who are the people that were added? I would like to point those out so Eddie doesn't have to revisit the others, just the changes.

From: Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2025 9:51 AM
To: Waddington, George <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Orr, Martha <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: Waddington, George <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: Re: Probationary Exception - word version

Hello –

I have added the other six justifications of which I am aware to this memo, and proposed some small edits to the memo itself as tracked changes. I do not see (b)(6) or (b)(6) on the list so someone will need to add those if they would like to.

Charles

From: Waddington, George <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Date: Friday, February 28, 2025 at 9:43 AM
To: Orr, Martha <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: Waddington, George <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: Probationary Exception - word version

Thanks, Martha.

I would just ask that OPS review the memo to confirm the list of OIT employees to be exempted is comprehensive before we move the memo to Eddie. I submitted exemptions for (b)(6) and (b)(6) to Nathan to review before moving to Dewaine—I would like to ensure both names are captured in the list (Eddie approved both exceptions).

George

From: Orr, Martha <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2025 8:40 AM
To: Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Waddington, George <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: FW: Probationary Exception - word version

FYI—this is the last memo that Eddie reviewed regarding subject topic. I let him know we would be adding six people to the list for consideration. I'll coordinate the new justifications provided by (b)(6). Charles, please add the additional six individuals and highlight in yellow or something to show they are new adds. Then we'll finalize for Eddie's review and approval. Please send the revision directly to me.

Thanks!

Martha

Subject: RE: Update on OMB AI Memo
Date: Sunday, March 2, 2025 at 10:16:45 AM Eastern Standard Time
From: McManus, Kimberly F.
To: Worthington, Charles
Category: Urgent, Important

Michael Kratsios briefly discusses AI inventories in his confirmation hearing – around 2 hours 14 mins [Confirmation Hearing Link](#), which sounded reasonable.

Basically

- Still supportive of inventories
- Makes more sense to just inventory high risk/impact use cases instead of all of them
- The focus on impact is what matters

From: Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2025 12:36 PM
To: Smith, Nadia <(b)(6)@va.gov>; McManus, Kimberly F. <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Shute, Paul J. <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Rosenmerkel, Lisa S. <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Pool, Eddie <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Sanfilippo, Nathan T. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: Update on OMB AI Memo

Hi Colleagues:

Yesterday I attended a small meeting at OMB to discuss the upcoming M-24-10 policy changes regarding agency use of Artificial Intelligence. The meeting was designed for a select group of agency Chief AI Officers to provide OMB feedback on the upcoming policy. I represented as VA CAIO, along with CAIOs from State, DHS, DoD, DOJ, HHS and several others.

BLUF: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

- CAIO and Governance

(b)(5)

- o (b)(5)
- Risk Management
 - o (b)(5)
 - o
 - o
 - o
- (b)(5)
-

They are not expecting to (b)(5)

Let me know if you have any questions,
Charles

Subject: Re: [Approval Requested] Updating AI Website To Align with New EO
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2025 at 4:29:04 PM Eastern Standard Time
From: Worthington, Charles
To: Fulcher, Justin L.
CC: Brazell, Karen L., Beard, Dewaine L., Orr, Martha, Waddington, George, McManus, Kimberly F.

Closing the loop on this: the updates to our AI website have been completed. <https://department.va.gov/ai/>

From: Fulcher, Justin L. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Date: Thursday, February 13, 2025 at 7:17 PM
To: Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: Brazell, Karen L. <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Beard, Dewaine L. <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Orr, Martha <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Waddington, George <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: Re: [Approval Requested] Updating AI Website To Align with New EO

Thank you.

From: Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2025 7:16:59 PM
To: Fulcher, Justin L. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: Brazell, Karen L. <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Beard, Dewaine L. <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Orr, Martha <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Waddington, George <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: Re: [Approval Requested] Updating AI Website To Align with New EO

Copy that. I will get team started on the updates.

From: Fulcher, Justin L. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2025 7:04:03 PM
To: Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: Brazell, Karen L. <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Beard, Dewaine L. <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Orr, Martha <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Waddington, George <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: Re: [Approval Requested] Updating AI Website To Align with New EO

Approved.

Ideally we get rid of all minor EO references on the blueprint, but public facing changes you recommended first makes sense.

From: Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2025 3:43:11 PM
To: Fulcher, Justin L. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: Brazell, Karen L. <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Beard, Dewaine L. <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Orr, Martha <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Waddington, George <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: [Approval Requested] Updating AI Website To Align with New EO

Hi Justin –

As per Chief of Staff request to (b)(5)

- (b)(5)

I recommend (b)(5)

Charles

=====

BLUF: The current VA AI webpage ([VA Artificial Intelligence](#)) is out of date and requires edits/updates to align with Administration's new AI policy and to remove reference to the rescinded AI EO, and other outdated material.

Summary of Updates and courses of actions:

- Add a blanket statement to website "On January 23, 2025 President Trump signed [E.O. 14179: Removing Barriers to American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence](#). Consistent with that order, VA is investing in AI solutions that support the delivery of world-class benefits and services to Veterans. VA is closely monitoring for further policy updates as described in the Executive Order."

- Remove

- (b)(5)

- Keep

- Most of the rest of the website, including:

- (b)(5)

Subject: Re: Draft Message to AI Governance Council

Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 9:59:41 AM Eastern Standard Time

From: Worthington, Charles

To: Fulcher, Justin L.

Great. Sending today

From: Fulcher, Justin L. <(b)(6)@va.gov>

Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 9:22 AM

To: Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)@va.gov>

Subject: RE: Draft Message to AI Governance Council

Yes, I thought the AI remarks from the VP were quite clear as well. We definitely want to encourage our AI-focused team members that more can and should be done.

From: Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)@va.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 9:21 AM

To: Fulcher, Justin L. <(b)(6)@va.gov>

Subject: Re: Draft Message to AI Governance Council

Hi - re-raising this one. Ok to send?

I saw VP's AI remarks, which were pretty clear. I want to make sure our AI practitioners across the enterprise get the message they should not slow down.

From: Fulcher, Justin L. <(b)(6)@va.gov>

Sent: Monday, February 10, 2025 12:01:23 PM

To: Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)@va.gov>

Subject: Re: Draft Message to AI Governance Council

Let me double check on that out of respect for that previous comms. Will get back to you shortly.

From: Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)@va.gov>

Sent: Monday, February 10, 2025 12:00:13 PM

To: Fulcher, Justin L. <(b)(6)@va.gov>

Subject: Re: Draft Message to AI Governance Council

Over last two weeks, Chris Syrek had asked that (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Charles

From: Fulcher, Justin L. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Date: Monday, February 10, 2025 at 11:31 AM
To: Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: Draft Message to (b)(6)

Thanks. Message LGTM.

From: Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2025 11:30 AM
To: Fulcher, Justin L. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: FW: Draft Message to AI Governance Council

Hi Justin – this is the message I was hoping to send to AI Governance Council members.

From: Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2025 at 4:29 PM
To: Brazell, Karen L. <(b)(6)@va.gov>, Fulcher, Justin L. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: Beard, Dewaine L. <(b)(6)@va.gov>, McManus, Kimberly F. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: Draft Message to AI Governance Council

Hi Karen – as discussed.

BLUF: Seeking your recommendation / approval to send an update to the VA's AI leaders (members of the AI Governance Council) regarding the recent changes in AI policy.

Background:

- The VA is a leader in government use of AI, with over 200 AI use cases in production.
- The VA charted the AI Governance Council in 2024 (draft attached), to help the agency adopt AI while ensuring its trustworthiness and effectiveness. Establishing an AI Governance Council was a requirement of the M-24-10 OMB memo, which is being revised now.
- The President rescinded EO 14110, Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence, on 20 January 2025 (ref: [EO 14148](#)).
- Shortly thereafter, President Trump issued EO 14179 directing OMB to revise M-24-10 and M-24-18 within 60 days for consistency with the President's policy goal, "to sustain and enhance America's global AI dominance in order to promote human flourishing, economic competitiveness, and national security."
- VA's current AI use case inventory and AI Governance Council Charter are attached. Note the charter will require updating once OMB is has completed its M-24-10 policy updates.

Recommendation:

(b)(5)

Hello AI Governance Council Members,

I hope everyone had a wonderful New Year!

As you may have seen, on January 20 the President rescinded EO 14110, Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence. On January 23, 2025, the President issued EO 14179 titled, [Removing Barriers to American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence](#). Notably, the new EO directs the OMB Director to review memoranda M-24-10 and M-24-18 and make revisions necessary to ensure it complies with the President's stated AI policy goal, "to sustain and enhance America's global AI dominance in order to promote human flourishing, economic competitiveness, and national security." OMB has communicated that they are (b)(5)

(b)(5)

We will closely monitor this process so we can react quickly to any updates made to OMB policy in M-24-10 and M-24-18 that will impact VA's use or governance of AI.

While we wait for these updates, we are taking the following actions:

1. (b)(5)
- 2.
- 3.

I look forward to working with you all throughout 2025 to further VA's safe and effective use of this important technology.

Charles Worthington
Chief Technology Officer & Chief Artificial Intelligence Officer

25-08493-F 0067



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
(b)(6) b6, b7C | m: 202-430-(b)(6)

Subject: RE: AI Update
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2025 at 2:44:53 PM Eastern Standard Time
From: (b)(6)
To: Worthington, Charles
CC: McManus, Kimberly F., (b)(6)
Category: Important
Attachments: image001.png, Update on VA AI Governance Lines of Effort.eml

Good afternoon, Charles,

Attached is the updated email with AIGC members, proxies, advisors, and staff. I agree with Kimberly on removing the line about a March AIGC meeting in case we need to adjust right or left when new OMB guidance arrives.

Per your request, here is an executive summary to help with coordination. For consideration, highlighting CAIO Team weekly office hours would help channel any questions from AIGC members or their offices in the interim.

Executive Summary

BLUF: the attached message provides interim guidance and expectations for AI governance to VA's AI Governance Council (AIGC) members while VA awaits policy updates from Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

Background: The President rescinded EO 14110, Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence, on 20 January 2025 (ref: [EO 14148](#)). Shortly thereafter, the President issued EO 14179 directing OMB to revise M-24-10 and M-24-18 within 60 days for consistency with the President's policy goal, "to sustain and enhance America's global AI dominance in order to promote human flourishing, economic competitiveness, and national security." Just recently, OMB notified the CAIO Council that they 'paused implementation' of M-24-10 and M-24-18. While Federal agencies pause for changes to OMB guidance, a limited number of AI governance activities can and should continue to ensure the safe and trustworthy development and use of AI in furtherance of VA's mission.

Laws and policies for AI that continue in force (not all inclusive):

- AI in Government Act
- Advancing American Artificial Intelligence Act
- EO 13859
- EO 13960

Recommendation: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Regards,

(b)(6) **FAC P/PM Mid-Level, FAC COR I**
Governance Program Manager
IT Enterprise Governance
Compliance, Risk and Remediation
Office of Information and Technology
Department of Veterans Affairs
(202) 710-(b)(6)

Go to the [CRR Homepage](#).

Use the [E-RISK Portal](#) to submit potential enterprise risk concerns.

"CRR's Mission is to guide transformative change through governance, data integrity, transparency, quality and accountability to enhance Veteran outcomes and customer experiences."

From: Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2025 1:53 PM
To: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; McManus, Kimberly F. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: Re: AI Update

The letter looks good but I would delete the italics part.

(b)(6) can you put this in an email that also includes an (b)(5)
(b)(5)

From: McManus, Kimberly F. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Date: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 at 9:03 PM
To: Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: AI Update

Hi Charles,

External Website

On the website, the main additional items to consider taking down are: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

AIGC Messaging

Main things that have changed:

- (b)(5)

-

-

-

-

----- Some proposed updates based on the latest version -----

Hello AI Governance Council Members,

I hope everyone had a wonderful New Year!

As you may have seen, on January 20 the President rescinded EO 14110, Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence. On January 23, 2025, the President issued an EO titled, Removing Barriers to American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence. Notably, the new EO directs the OMB Director to review memoranda M-24-10 and M-24-18 and make revisions necessary to ensure it complies with the President's stated AI policy goal in EO 14176 "to sustain and enhance America's global AI dominance in order to promote human flourishing, economic competitiveness, and national security." **OMB has communicated that they are**

(b)(5)

Our understanding is that President Trump's 2020 EO 13960 remains in effect, which is what led VA to develop our initial Trustworthy AI framework. We also note that Section (b)(5)

We will closely monitor this process so we can react quickly to any updates made to OMB policy in M-24-10 and M-24-18 that will impact VA's use or governance of AI.

While we wait for these updates, we are taking the following actions:

1. (b)(5)

- 2.

- 3.

- 4.

I look forward to working with you all throughout 2025 to further VA's safe and effective use of this important technology.

From: Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)@va.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 10:36 AM

To: McManus, Kimberly F. <(b)(6)@va.gov>

Subject: AI Update

Hi – can you take another look at the note we wanted to send the AIGC about AI, make sure you like it based on what we know so far and any more recent updates (if any) from (b)(5)

I still have that on my list but hadn't had a chance to get to it. But I would like to raise that idea up.

Also same thing on any updates to AI website if that is still in flight?

Subject: RE: CIO FITARA Review Follow Up: TIS 2.0 Artificial Intelligence Management and Standards Team

Date: Wednesday, January 29, 2025 at 11:53:11 AM Eastern Standard Time

From: (b)(6)

To: Worthington, Charles, Beard, Dewaine L.

CC: Jones, Luwanda F. (OIT) (b)(6) McManus, Kimberly F. (h)(6) VA OSS (005G) ACO Compliance Team, (b)(6)

Thank you.

Regards,

(b)(6)

Director, Acquisition Compliance

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." — Maya Angelou

From: Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2025 11:51 AM
To: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Beard, Dewaine L. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: Jones, Luwanda F. (OIT) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; McManus, Kimberly F. <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; VA OSS (005G) ACO Compliance Team <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: Re: CIO FITARA Review Follow Up: TIS 2.0 Artificial Intelligence Management and Standards Team

In my review of these materials, I believe this can proceed not because the (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Charles

From: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at 10:46 AM
To: Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Beard, Dewaine L. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: Jones, Luwanda F. (OIT) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; McManus, Kimberly F. <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; VA OSS (005G) ACO Compliance Team <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: CIO FITARA Review Follow Up: TIS 2.0 Artificial Intelligence Management and Standards Team

Good Morning @Worthington, Charles,

Action requested: Approval to move forward.

During the January 22nd CIO FITARA Review, TIS 2.0- Artificial Intelligence Management and Standards Team was deferred. The following actions were requested:

Action 1: (b)(5)

Action 2:

Action 3:

Action 1:

(b)(5)

Action 2:

(b)(5)

Action 3:

(b)(5)

Regards,

(b)(6)

Director, Acquisition Compliance
FAC-P/PM (Senior), COR III
Excellence in Government-Senior Fellow
Direct: Microsoft Team
Cell: 202-815-(b)(6)
Email: (b)(6)@va.gov

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." — Maya Angelou

Subject: Re: Agency AI Webpage Updates Summary
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at 8:02:33 AM Eastern Standard Time
From: Worthington, Charles
To: McManus, Kimberly F. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Attachments: image001.png

I agree – can you propose some (b)(5)

(b)(5)

From: McManus, Kimberly F. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 at 11:51 AM
To: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>, Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: FW: Agency AI Webpage Updates Summary

Hi Lacey & (b)(6) My opinion is that these website changes are (b)(5)

From: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2025 7:24 AM
To: Smith, Nadia <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: McManus, Kimberly F. <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: Agency AI Webpage Updates Summary

Good morning All –

BLUF: The current VA Agency AI webpage (VA Artificial Intelligence) is out of date and requires updates; the requested updates are described in this email.

The VA Agency AI webpage has content that is out of date and needs to be updated. The NAIL team has reviewed the website in detail and noted required updates.
Summary of Updates and courses of actions:

- (b)(5)

Attached is a detailed summary of content changes with screenshots.

Request: (b)(6) and Charles – please let us know if you approve these changes or if this needs to go through additional leadership approval. We are happy to make updates to this request and the supporting documentation as required.

Sincerely,
(b)(6)

(b)(6)
Acting Director, National Artificial Intelligence Institute (NAIL)
Digital Health Office / AI & Emerging Technologies
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs



Subject: RE: OCTO Slide for Monday
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 at 8:10:38AM Eastern Standard Time
From: (b)(6)
To: Worthington, Charles, Waddington, George (b)(6)

Received.
V/r,

(b)(7)

From: Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2025 6:12 AM
To: Waddington, George <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: Re: OCTO Slide for Monday

Hello --

I made a few small edits to the (b)(6); (b)(5)

(b)(6)

Charles

From: Waddington, George <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2025 at 8:48 AM
To: Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: OCTO Slide for Monday

Thanks, Charles! Very much appreciated, especially given that you are on holiday. I hope you can report out and then promptly return to the beach!

From: Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Sunday, January 26, 2025 6:18 AM
To: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Waddington, George <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: OCTO Slide for Monday

Hi Team --

Here is our one slide for Monday. I also included two slides that give an overview of some of the work, though I wouldn't plan to actually present them but rather have them left ahead in the packet as a "teaser" of sorts.

Note: I am on vacation in Puerto Rico on Monday. I will plan to join this meeting virtually tomorrow. (b)(6) will be monitoring email Monday AM and can contact me if any quick revisions or clarifications are needed, and (b)(6) is acting CTO Monday so adding him here too.

Thanks!
Charles

Subject: RE: Potential AI Email for AIGC Members and Advisors
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at 8:54:25 AM Eastern Standard Time
From: (b)(6)
To: Worthington, Charles
CC: McManus, Kimberly F.; Smith, Nadia <(b)(6)>
Priority: High
Category: Action Needed From Charles, Important, Urgent
Attachments: image001.png

Good morning, Charles,

For your convenience, below is an updated draft with the consolidated changes applied.

I added a link to President Trumps' new EO for AI, which I believe is number 14176, though I've only found one source for that number.

Hello AI Governance Council Members,

I hope everyone had a wonderful New Year!

As you may have seen, on January 20 the President rescinded EO 14110, Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence. On January 23, 2025, the President issued an EO titled, Removing Barriers to American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence. Notably, the new EO directs the OMB Director to review memoranda M-24-10 and M-24-18 and make revisions necessary to ensure it complies with the President's stated AI policy goal in EO 14176 "to sustain and enhance America's global AI dominance in order to promote human flourishing, economic competitiveness, and national security."

Our understanding is that President Trump's 2020 EO 13960 remains in effect, which is what led VA to develop our initial Trustworthy AI framework. We also note that Section (b)(5)

We will closely monitor this process so we can react quickly to any updates made to OMB policy in M-24-10 and M-24-18 that will impact VA's use or governance of AI.

While we wait for these updates, we are taking the following actions:

1. (b)(5)
- 2.

(b)(5)

3.

4.

I look forward to working with you all throughout 2025 to further VA's safe and effective use of this important technology,

Regards,

(b)(6) **FAC P/PM Mid-Level, FAC COR I**

Governance Program Manager
IT Enterprise Governance
Compliance, Risk and Remediation
Office of Information and Technology
Department of Veterans Affairs
(202) 710-(b)(6)

Go to the [CRR Homepage](#).

Use the [E-RISE](#) Portal to submit potential enterprise risk concerns.

"CRR's Mission is to guide transformative change through governance, data integrity, transparency, quality and accountability to enhance Veteran outcomes and customer experiences."

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2025 9:28 AM
To: Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: McManus, Kimberly F. <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Smith, Nadia <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: Potential AI Email for AIGC Members and Advisors

Good morning, Charles,

The message looks good to me too. I've added updates in blue.

As Kimberly mentioned, the next AIGC meeting has not been scheduled. It would tentatively occur in mid-to-late March per the council's bi-monthly cadence.

For scheduling purposes, ExecSec advised us to schedule VA-level governance meetings after 18 Feb 2025.

One correction to the references section in the draft email pertains to the (b)(5)

I could not find a (b)(5)

Regards,

(b)(6) **FAC P/PM Mid-Level, FAC COR I**

Governance Program Manager
IT Enterprise Governance
Compliance, Risk and Remediation
Office of Information and Technology
Department of Veterans Affairs
(202) 710-(b)(6)

Go to the [CRR Homepage](#).

Use the [E-RISE](#) Portal to submit potential enterprise risk concerns.

"CRR's Mission is to guide transformative change through governance, data integrity, transparency, quality and accountability to enhance Veteran outcomes and customer experiences."

From: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Saturday, January 25, 2025 9:58 AM
To: Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; McManus, Kimberly F. <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Smith, Nadia <(b)(6)@va.gov>; P. (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: Potential AI Email for AIGC Members and Advisors

This looks good on my end. One highlight below: wasn't sure if that was the intended word.

From: Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Saturday, January 25, 2025 6:14 AM
To: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; McManus, Kimberly F. <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Smith, Nadia <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: Potential AI Email for AIGC Members and Advisors

Hi Team –

I am considering sending a short email to the AI Governance Council members and advisors regarding the new AI EO. Before sending this, I will clear it with (b)(5)

(b)(5) I would appreciate any feedback on the below.

=====

Hello AI Governance Council Members,

I hope everyone had a wonderful New Year!

As you may have seen, on January 20 the President rescinded the 2023 EO 14110, *Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence*. On January 23, the President issued a new Executive Order 14176, *Removing Barriers to American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence*. Notably, the new EO directs the OMB Director to review memoranda M-24-10 and M-24-18 and make (b)(5) (revisions?) necessary to ensure it complies with the President's stated AI policy goal to *sustain and enhance America's global AI dominance in order to promote human flourishing, economic competitiveness, and national security*.

Our understanding is that President Trump's 2020 EO 13960 remains in effect, which is what led VA to develop our initial Trustworthy AI framework. We also note that Section (b)(5)

We will closely monitor this process so we can react quickly to any updates made to the M-24-10 policy that will impact VA's use or governance of AI.

While we wait for these updates, we are taking the following actions:

1. (b)(5)
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

I look forward to working with you all throughout 2025 to further VA's safe and effective use of this important technology,
Charles



Charles Worthington
Chief Technology Officer & Chief Artificial Intelligence Officer
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
(b)(6) gov | m: 202-434-(b)(6)

Subject: Re: Presidential Transition Website Consolidated Update 20250124
Date: Friday, January 24, 2025 at 7:32:14 AM Eastern Standard Time
From: Worthington, Charles
To: Waddington, George

Thanks for the heads up. I was tracking the AI order but not the others.

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From: Waddington, George <(b)(6)>
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2025 7:24:32 AM
To: Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)>
Subject: FW: Presidential Transition Website Consolidated Update 20250124

GM Charles,
Flagging some recent WH actions because they target AI. I'm sure you are keeping up, but there is a lot going on so I just wanted to ensure you are aware.
George

From: (b)(6) <(b)(6)>
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2025 7:19 AM
To: Waddington, George <(b)(6)>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)>
Subject: Presidential Transition Website Consolidated Update 20250124

White House Presidential Actions and Executive Orders <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/>

Removing Barriers to American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence [Charles Worthington]
Presidential Actions January 23, 2025

Sec. 2. Policy. It is the policy of the United States to sustain and enhance America's global AI dominance in order to promote human flourishing, economic competitiveness, and national security.

Sec. 4. Developing an Artificial Intelligence Action Plan. (a) Within 180 days of this order, the Assistant to the President for Science and Technology (APST), the Special Advisor for AI and Crypto, and the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs (APNSA), in coordination with the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy, the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB Director), and the **heads of such executive departments and agencies (agencies) as the APST and APNSA deem relevant**, shall develop and submit to the President an action plan to achieve the policy set forth in section 2 of this order.

Sec. 5. Implementation of Order Revocation. (a) The APST, the Special Advisor for AI and Crypto, and the APNSA shall immediately review, in coordination with the heads of all agencies as they deem relevant, all policies, directives, regulations, orders, and other actions taken pursuant to the revoked Executive Order 14110 of October 30, 2023 (Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence). The APST, the Special Advisor for AI and Crypto, and the APNSA shall, in coordination with the heads of relevant agencies, identify any actions taken pursuant to Executive Order 14110

that are or may be inconsistent with, or present obstacles to, the policy set forth in section 2 of this order. For any such agency actions identified, the heads of agencies shall, as appropriate and consistent with applicable law, suspend, revise, or rescind such actions, or propose suspending, revising, or rescinding such actions. If in any case such suspension, revision, or rescission cannot be finalized immediately, the APST and the heads of agencies shall promptly take steps to provide all available exemptions authorized by any such orders, rules, regulations, guidelines, or policies, as appropriate and consistent with applicable law, until such action can be finalized.

(b) Within 60 days of this order, the OMB Director, in coordination with the APST, shall revise OMB Memoranda M-24-10 and M-24-18 as necessary to make them consistent with the policy set forth in section 2 of this order.

PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL OF ADVISORS ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Presidential Actions January 23, 2025

Sec. 2. Establishment. (a) There is hereby established the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST).

Sec. 3. Functions. (a) The PCAST shall advise the President on matters involving science, technology, education, and innovation policy. The Council shall also provide the President with scientific and technical information that is needed to inform public policy relating to the American economy, the American worker, national and homeland security, and other topics.

Sec. 4. Administration. (a) The heads of executive departments and agencies shall, to the extent permitted by law, provide the PCAST with information concerning scientific and technological matters when requested by the PCAST Co-Chairs and as required for the purpose of carrying out the PCAST's functions.

Strengthening American Leadership in Digital Financial Technology

Presidential Actions January 23, 2025

Section 1. Purpose and Policies. (a) The digital asset industry plays a crucial role in innovation and economic development in the United States, as well as our Nation's international leadership. It is therefore the policy of my Administration to support the responsible growth and use of digital assets, blockchain technology, and related technologies across all sectors of the economy, including by:

- (i) protecting and promoting the ability of individual citizens and private-sector entities alike to access and use for lawful purposes open public blockchain networks without persecution, including the ability to develop and deploy software, to participate in mining and validating, to transact with other persons without unlawful censorship, and to maintain self-custody of digital assets;

OPM Memos: <https://www.chcoc.gov/transmittals>

No updates

(b)(6)

Senior Advisor

Office of Information and Technology (005)

(727) 904(b)(6)

Subject: Re: VA Agency AI Webpage updates
Date: Thursday, January 23, 2025 at 9:53:10 PM Eastern Standard Time
From: Worthington, Charles
To: Smith, Nadia (b)(6); he/him/his), McManus, Kimberly F.
Attachments: image001.png

I'll add that I don't personally recognize any of our current actions in obvious conflict with the new stated policy, except perhaps some of the requirements OMB was attempting to impose on the vendor ecosystem.

I don't see anything we should necessarily stop doing immediately, do you all?

From: Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)>
Date: Thursday, January 23, 2025 at 9:50 PM
To: Smith, Nadia <(b)(6)>, (b)(6) <(b)(6)>, McManus, Kimberly F. <(b)(6)>
Subject: Re: VA Agency AI Webpage updates

New AI EO just dropped – let's all read it and absorb and then come back to the question of what to do next.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/removing-barriers-to-american-leadership-in-artificial-intelligence/>

Notably it initiates a WH review of actions taken under EO 14110 to ensure they are consistent with the stated policy of:

Sec. 2. Policy. It is the policy of the United States to sustain and enhance America's global AI dominance in order to promote human flourishing, economic competitiveness, and national security.

It also initiates a review of M-24-10 and M-24-18 memos "to revise them as necessary to make them consistent with" the above policy.

To me this indicates we may not need to urgently change things, and instead can wait for revisions to policy which will be coming soon. I think we could still add a note or language to the site referencing this forthcoming change if someone has some language they think would be good.

From: Smith, Nadia <(b)(6)>
Date: Thursday, January 23, 2025 at 6:09 PM
To: Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)>, (b)(6) <(b)(6)>, McManus, Kimberly F. <(b)(6)>
Subject: RE: VA Agency AI Webpage updates

I agree Charles.

Nadia Smith, MBA
Acting Chief Digital Health Officer
Digital Health Office
Veterans Health Administration

(b)(6) [va.gov](#)
VA  U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Digital Health Office
Internal: (b)(6)
External: VA's Digital Health Office - Veterans Health Administration

From: Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)>
Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2025 5:59 PM
To: (b)(6) <(b)(6)>; Smith, Nadia <(b)(6)>; McManus, Kimberly F. <(b)(6)>
Subject: Re: VA Agency AI Webpage updates

I think perhaps we should request guidance from our (b)(5)

(b)(5)

From: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Date: Thursday, January 23, 2025 at 5:49 PM
To: Smith, Nadia <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)@va.gov>; McManus, Kimberly F. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: Re: VA Agency AI Webpage updates

Thanks Nadia - I will work on that first thing tomorrow am (I am out rest of day at medical appointments today)

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

(Sent from mobile - please excuse spelling errors)

From: Smith, Nadia <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2025 1:59:00 PM
To: Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)@va.gov>; McManus, Kimberly F. <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: VA Agency AI Webpage updates

Adding (b)(6) to this thread. I would hate to pull all the content down so if there is a way to do a quick analysis on what content would be best to pull down immediately and do that, I'd vote for that.

Nadia Smith, MBA
Acting Chief Digital Health Officer
Digital Health Office
Veterans Health Administration

(b)(6) [va.gov](#)
VA  U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Digital Health Office
Internal: (b)(6)
External: VA's Digital Health Office - Veterans Health Administration

From: Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2025 3:29 PM
To: Smith, Nadia <(b)(6)@va.gov>; McManus, Kimberly F. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: Re: VA Agency AI Webpage updates

I think we could generate a set of proposed (b)(5)

(b)(5)

From: Smith, Nadia <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Date: Thursday, January 23, 2025 at 3:09 PM
To: Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)@va.gov>; McManus, Kimberly F. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: Fw: VA Agency AI Webpage updates

Charles/Kimberly -

Let us know if you have any concerns with this request to remove content on VA AI webpage.

Thanks,
Nadia

(b)(6) va.gov

From: (b)(6) <(b)(6)>

Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2025 2:45 PM

To: OCTO Communications <(b)(6)@va.gov>; VHA 10DH02 NAI Communications <(b)(6)@va.gov>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@va.gov>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@va.gov>; [REDACTED]
 <[REDACTED]@va.gov>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@va.gov>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@va.gov>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
 [REDACTED] @va.gov>; Smith, Nadia <[REDACTED]@va.gov>

Subject: VA Agency AI Webpage updates

Hello All –

The current VA agency AI website has content that I believe needs to be rapidly updated.

Here is the link:

VA Artificial Intelligence

I think we should take down some links ASAP until we receive further guidance/develop approved comms strategies around AI.

Specifically, I think we should remove any links/content referencing:

- Executive orders that have been rescinded and associated guidance
- Currently posted AI Strategy documents that are older or otherwise inconsistent with current known guidance

We can always restore content at a later date after review.

I am including my leadership chain here for awareness.

Sincerely,

(b)(7)(C)

(b)(6) PhD

Acting Director, National Artificial Intelligence Institute (NAII)

Digital Health Office / AI & Emerging Technologies

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs



Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] 3/13 Speaking Invitation: Federal Forum @ Waldorf Astoria

Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at 9:53:53 AM Eastern Standard Time

From: Worthington, Charles (he/him/his)

To: (b)(6) (governmentcio Llc)

CC: (b)(6)

I would like to attend this event, despite their objections, in part to build better connections with (b)(6) and as a part of a broader play for us to increase visibility during transition period. You can leave the explanation out, but please ask comms to push it through.

From: (b)(6) (governmentcio Llc) <(b)(6)@va.gov>

Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at 8:50 AM

To: Worthington, Charles (he/him/his) <(b)(6)@va.gov>

Cc: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] 3/13 Speaking Invitation: Federal Forum @ Waldorf Astoria

Hi Charles,

This is on your board & comms has given their recommendation!

<https://planner.cloud.microsoft> (b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(6)

Executive Assistant to the Chief Technology Officer
Office of Information and Technology | Department of Veterans Affairs

Email: (b)(6) @va.gov Phone: 832-371-(b)(6)

From: Alisha Gillis <(b)(6)>

Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 6:41:00 AM

To: Worthington, Charles (he/him/his) <(b)(6)@va.gov>

Cc: (b)(6) <(b)(6)>@va.gov; (b)(6) <(b)(6)>@va.gov; (b)(6) he/him/his

(b)(6)@va.gov>;(b)(6)<(b)(6)@va.gov>;(b)(6)<(b)(6)@va.gov>;(b)(6)

From: Cashour, Curtis E.
Sent: Fri, 14 Mar 2025 21:45:01 +0000
To: Syrek, Christopher D.; (b)(6) EOP/OMB;
(b)(6)@who.eop.gov
Cc: Porter, Macaulay V.
Subject: RE: Invitation for WH Press Conference on Release of OMB AI Memoranda

+ Macaulay from our team.

From: Syrek, Christopher D. (b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2025 11:48 AM
To: (b)(6) EOP/OMB (b)(6)@omb.eop.gov> (b)(6)@who.eop.gov
Cc: Cashour, Curtis E. (b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: FW: Invitation for WH Press Conference on Release of OMB AI Memoranda

(b)(6) -

Does OMB really want our participation in this?

Just us on this email, but Charles Worthington is a career. He can speak to this topic if you wish, but I want to make sure (b)(5)

From: Cashour, Curtis E. (b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2025 11:45 AM
To: Porter, Macaulay V. (b)(6)@va.gov>; Kasperowicz, Peter I. (b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: Syrek, Christopher D. (b)(6)@va.gov>; Burch, Jennifer A. (b)(6)@va.gov>; Owens, Darrell R. (b)(6)@va.gov>; Gartland, Lavin (b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: Re: Invitation for WH Press Conference on Release of OMB AI Memoranda

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From: Porter, Macaulay V. (b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2025 11:37 AM
To: Cashour, Curtis E. (b)(6)@va.gov>; Kasperowicz, Peter I. (b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: Fw: Invitation for WH Press Conference on Release of OMB AI Memoranda

FYI.....IT WH engagement request. I'm going to say (b)(5)

(b)(5)

From: (b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2025 11:25 AM
To: Porter, Macaulay V. (b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: (b)(6)@va.gov> (b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6)

From: Syrek, Christopher D.
Sent: Mon, 17 Mar 2025 13:24:54 +0000
To: Porter, Macaulay V.; Cashour, Curtis E.
Subject: Re: Invitation for WH Press Conference on Release of OMB AI Memoranda

Yes

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From: Porter, Macaulay V. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 8:55:41 AM
To: Cashour, Curtis E. <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Syrek, Christopher D. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: Fw: Invitation for WH Press Conference on Release of OMB AI Memoranda

Given the note below, I will tell them to (b)(5)

Thanks

From: Cashour, Curtis E. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2025 9:09 PM
To: (b)(6)@va.gov; EOP/OMB <(b)(6)@omb.eop.gov>; Syrek, Christopher D. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: (b)(6)@va.gov; EOP/WHO <(b)(6)@who.eop.gov>; Porter, Macaulay V. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: Re: Invitation for WH Press Conference on Release of OMB AI Memoranda

+ Macaulay

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From: (b)(6)@va.gov; EOP/OMB <(b)(6)@omb.eop.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2025 8:43 PM
To: Syrek, Christopher D. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: (b)(6)@va.gov; EOP/WHO <(b)(6)@who.eop.gov>; Cashour, Curtis E. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Invitation for WH Press Conference on Release of OMB AI Memoranda

Chris,

Thanks for checking in. I discussed with Greg our CIO and he confirmed that Chuck is the right person for this event.

Have a great weekend!

(b)(6)

OMB | PAD Defense Programs | (202) 881-(b)(6)

On Mar 14, 2025, at 11:50 AM, Syrek, Christopher D. <(b)(6)@va.gov> wrote:

(b)(6)

Does OMB really want our participation in this?

Just us on this email, but Charles Worthington is a career. He can speak to this topic if you wish, but I want to make sure (b)(5)

From: Cashour, Curtis E. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2025 11:45 AM
To: Porter, Macaulay V. <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Kasperowicz, Peter I. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: Syrek, Christopher D. <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Burch, Jennifer A. <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Owens, Darrell R. <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Gartland, Lavin <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: Re: Invitation for WH Press Conference on Release of OMB AI Memoranda

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From: Porter, Macaulay V. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2025 11:37 AM
To: Cashour, Curtis E. <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Kasperowicz, Peter I. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: Fw: Invitation for WH Press Conference on Release of OMB AI Memoranda

FYI.....IT WH engagement request. I'm going to say (b)(5)

(b)(5)

From: (b)(6)@va.gov
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2025 11:25 AM
To: Porter, Macaulay V. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: (b)(6)@va.gov; (b)(6)@va.gov; (b)(6)@va.gov
Subject: FW: Invitation for WH Press Conference on Release of OMB AI Memoranda

Hi Macaulay,

OIT received a request for one of our IT leaders to participate in a White House Press Conference. OIT recommends approval.

This is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate VA's AI leadership.

The Director of Artificial Intelligence at OMB asked Charles Worthington, the Department's Chief Artificial Intelligence Officer and Chief Technology Officer, to participate in a March 24 White House press briefing to highlight the Administration's AI priorities and breadth of Federal AI use. They would like Charles to discuss VA's Parable 3D Wound Care Management System and other VA AI priorities. He

will have 3-5 minutes to speak about the use case, the impact of AI use such as this to improve Veteran's healthcare, and additional VA AI activities. **We need to let them know by Monday, March 17th.**

Details

Date: March 24th

Time: To be finalized, but we're anticipating 3pm right now; 30-40min total

Format: Teleconference, press will not be in-person

Location: EEOB conference room for invited speakers

Speakers:

- Dr. Lynne Parker, OSTP, Deputy Director
- Greg Barbaccia, OMB, Federal CIO
- Dr. Kevin Rhodes, OMB Senior Advisor on Federal Procurement Policy
- Charles Worthington, VA, CAIO [TBC]
- Dave Salvagini, NASA, CAIO [TBC]

Let us know if you need anything else.

Kind regards,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Communication Specialist
Office of Communication
Office of Information and Technology
Department of Veterans Affairs
<https://vawww.oit.va.gov/>

From: Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)@va.gov>

Date: Thursday, March 13, 2025 at 9:03 AM

To: Jones, Luwanda F. (OIT) <(b)(6)@va.gov> (b)(6)

(b)(6)@va.gov>

Cc: Pool, Eddie <(b)(6)@va.gov>

Subject: FW: Invitation for WH Press Conference on Release of OMB AI Memoranda
Hi Jose / Luwanda:

OMB is going to be announcing the update to the AI policy March 24. They would like me to join a press briefing about this update to represent some of the good AI work VA is doing. I think this is a great opportunity to demonstrate VA's AI leadership.

Can you please review and ensure OPIA is OK with this appearance?

I will work to approve the specific talking points with our normal process that CoS comms group runs (which will also involve coordinating with VHA AI group). We will also review the specific fact sheet language they propose with VHA.

Charles

From: (b)(6) EOP/OMB <(b)(6)@omb.eop.gov>
Date: Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at 10:41 PM
To: Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: McManus, Kimberly F. <(b)(6)@va.gov>, (b)(6) EOP/OMB <(b)(6)@omb.eop.gov>, (b)(6) EOP/OMB <(b)(6)@omb.eop.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Invitation for WH Press Conference on Release of OMB AI Memoranda
Hey Charles,

As part of the rollout for OMB's revised AI memoranda, the White House is planning to hold a press call on March 24th to highlight the Administration's AI priorities and breadth of Federal AI use. We would like to invite you to discuss VA's Parable 3D Wound Care Management System and other VA AI priorities.

You would have 3-5 minutes to speak about the use case, the impact of AI use such as this to improve Veteran's healthcare, and additional VA AI activities, as relevant. Some initial details are provided below as we finalize the run of show. **Please let us know if you are interested in participating by Monday, March 17th.** (If there is a lapse in appropriations, we'll be moving the press call but would still love to have you speak if you're available.)

Additionally, a White House Fact Sheet is being prepared and we'd like to highlight the main use case you'd be speaking to. The below language paraphrases VA's inventory submission. Can you let us know if you're comfortable with this and if you'd like to make any changes to the language? If you're not free for the event, we can still look to include the below language in the Fact Sheet if that works.

The VA is using AI to create 3D representations of a patient's wounds, enabling clinicians to more consistently and accurately measure wound size, collaboratively monitor healing progress with other care team members, and standardize treatment protocols.

Best,

(b)(6)

Director of Artificial Intelligence (Acting)
Office of the Federal Chief Information Officer
Office of Management and Budget
Executive Office of the President
Cell: 202-881-(b)(6)

--

Details

Date: March 24th

Time: To be finalized, but we're anticipating 3pm right now; 30-40min total

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- Dr. Lynne Parker, OSTP, Deputy Director
- Greg Barbaccia, OMB, Federal CIO
- Dr. Kevin Rhodes, OMB Senior Advisor on Federal Procurement Policy
- Charles Worthington, VA, CAIO [TBC]
- Dave Salvagini, NASA, CAIO [TBC]

From: Cashour, Curtis E.
Sent: Thu, 10 Apr 2025 19:53:06 +0000
To: Owens, Darrell R.; Brazell, Karen L.; Burch, Jennifer A.; Syrek, Christopher D.
Subject: RE: surveillance tools RFI

Hold please.

From: Owens, Darrell R. (b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2025 3:51 PM
To: Brazell, Karen L. (b)(6)@va.gov>; Burch, Jennifer A. (b)(6)@va.gov>; Syrek, Christopher D. (b)(6)@va.gov>; Cashour, Curtis E. (b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: surveillance tools RFI

Fair point. Revised to (b)(5)

From: Brazell, Karen L. (b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2025 2:22 PM
To: Owens, Darrell R. (b)(6)@va.gov>; Burch, Jennifer A. (b)(6)@va.gov>; Syrek, Christopher D. (b)(6)@va.gov>; Cashour, Curtis E. (b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: Re: surveillance tools RFI

I think we need to (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Owens, Darrell R. (b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2025 1:58:08 PM
To: Burch, Jennifer A. (b)(6)@va.gov>; Syrek, Christopher D. (b)(6)@va.gov>; Brazell, Karen L. (b)(6)@va.gov>; Cashour, Curtis E. (b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: surveillance tools RFI

Curt – recommended language: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

*** PRE-DECISIONAL ***

From: Burch, Jennifer A. (b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 9, 2025 8:39 PM
To: Syrek, Christopher D. (b)(6)@va.gov>; Brazell, Karen L. (b)(6)@va.gov>; Owens, Darrell R. (b)(6)@va.gov>; Cashour, Curtis E. (b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: surveillance tools RFI

Let's chat tomorrow about this.

From: Syrek, Christopher D. (b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 9, 2025 6:56 PM
To: Brazell, Karen L. (b)(6)@va.gov>; Owens, Darrell R. (b)(6)@va.gov>; Cashour, Curtis E. (b)(6)@va.gov>; Burch, Jennifer A. (b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: surveillance tools RFI

I am not aware of any (b)(5)

(b)(5)

From: Brazell, Karen L. (b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 9, 2025 2:35 PM
To: Owens, Darrell R. (b)(6)@va.gov>; Syrek, Christopher D. (b)(6)@va.gov>; Cashour, Curtis E. (b)(6)@va.gov>; Burch, Jennifer A. (b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: surveillance tools RFI

We use Microsoft 365 Office tools to ensure the integrity of VA pre-decisional documents

From: Owens, Darrell R. (b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 9, 2025 2:32 PM
To: Brazell, Karen L. (b)(6)@va.gov>; Syrek, Christopher D. (b)(6)@va.gov>; Cashour, Curtis E. (b)(6)@va.gov>; Burch, Jennifer A. (b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: FW: surveillance tools RFI

FYI- SVAC minority is asking about VA surveillance. I have an idea for this.

*** PRE-DECISIONAL ***

From: (b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 9, 2025 1:50 PM
To: OCLA Front Office (b)(6)@va.gov> (b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: FW: surveillance tools RFI

Good afternoon,

Wanted to alert you of an RFI received from SVAC minority and copied the rest of the corners. How do you wish to handle.

Thanks,
Darrell

(b)(6)

Congressional Relations Officer
Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of Veterans Affairs

Email (b)(6)@va.gov

Ph. (202) 461-(b)(6) Cell (202) 256-(b)(6) Fax (202) 273-(b)(6)

Web www.va.gov



Choose VA

PREDECISIONAL & DELIBERATIVE

From: (b)(6) (Veterans Affairs) (b)(6)@vetaff.senate.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 10:26 PM

To: (b)(6)@va.gov>

Cc: (b)(6) (Veterans Affairs) (b)(6)@vetaff.senate.gov>; (b)(6)

(b)(6)@mail.house.gov>; (b)(6)@mail.house.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] surveillance tools RFI

Hi (b)(6)

There have been numerous public reports alleging the increased use of surveillance tools at Executive Branch agencies.

I would like to know:

1. What surveillance or monitoring tools have been put into place at VA since January 20, 2025? Those could include, but not be limited to:
 - a. Those mentioned in the below article
 - b. Tools that monitor employee emails and chats in Teams
 - c. Tools that monitor employee voicemails
 - d. Tools that monitor text messages on government cell phones
 - e. Tools that monitor outgoing / incoming calls on government cell phones or land lines
 - f. Tools that monitor employee system access (e.g. an employee logging in to VIEWS)
2. If new surveillance tools were added, at whose direction were they added? And when were they deployed and what is the scale of the deployment – enterprise wide?
3. If none have been deployed, are deployments of these tools under consideration? If so, which tools are under consideration?

Thanks

(b)(6)

(b)(6) (he/his)

Senior Policy Advisor

Ranking Member Richard Blumenthal (D-CT)

U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs

(202) 860-(b)(6) (work cell)



UPDATE 1-EXCLUSIVE-Musk's DOGE using AI to snoop on U.S. federal workers, sources say

*

DOGE uses AI to monitor communications for anti-Trump sentiment, sources say

*

DOGE's use of Signal app raises data security and transparency concerns

*

Musk's DOGE team accused of bypassing vetting processes, operating in secrecy

By Alexandra Ulmer, Marisa Taylor, Jeffrey Dastin and Alexandra Alper

April 8 (**Reuters**) - Trump administration officials have told some U.S. government employees that Elon Musk's DOGE team of technologists is using artificial intelligence to surveil at least one federal agency's communications for hostility to President Donald Trump and his agenda, said two people with knowledge of the matter.

While much of Musk's Department of Government Efficiency remains shrouded in secrecy, the surveillance would mark an extraordinary use of technology to identify expressions of perceived disloyalty in a workforce already upended by widespread firings and severe cost cutting.

The DOGE team is also using the Signal app to communicate, according to one other person with direct knowledge of the matter, potentially violating federal record-keeping rules because messages can be set to disappear after a period of time.

And they have "heavily" deployed Musk's Grok AI chatbot – an aspiring ChatGPT rival – as part of their work slashing the federal government, said that person. Reuters could not establish exactly how Grok was being used.

The White House, DOGE and Musk did not respond to requests for comment.

The use of AI and Signal reinforces concerns among cybersecurity experts and government ethicists that DOGE is operating with limited transparency and that billionaire Musk or the Trump administration could use information gathered with AI to further their own interests, or to go after political targets.

Kathleen Clark, a government ethics expert at Washington University in St. Louis, said DOGE's use of privacy-focused Signal adds to growing concerns over data security practices after top Trump administration officials came under fire last month for the mistaken inclusion of a journalist in a group chat about high-level planning for military operations in Yemen.

"If they're using Signal and not backing up every message to federal files, then they are acting unlawfully," she said. Reuters' interviews with nearly 20 people with knowledge of DOGE's operations – and an examination of hundreds of pages of court documents from lawsuits challenging DOGE's access to data – highlight its unorthodox usage of AI and other technology in federal government operations.

At the Environmental Protection Agency, for instance, some EPA managers were told by Trump appointees that Musk's team is rolling out AI to monitor workers, including looking for language in communications considered hostile to Trump or Musk, the two people said.

The EPA, which enforces laws such as the Clean Air Act and works to protect the environment, has come under intense scrutiny by the Trump administration. Since January, it has put nearly 600 employees on leave and said it will eliminate 65% of its budget, which could require further staffing reductions.

Trump-appointed officials who had taken up EPA posts told managers that DOGE was using AI to monitor communication apps and software, including Microsoft Teams, which is widely used for virtual calls and chats, said the two sources familiar with these comments. "We have been told they are looking for anti-Trump or anti-Musk language," a third source familiar with the EPA said. Reuters could not independently confirm if the AI was being implemented.

The Trump officials said DOGE would be looking for people whose work did not align with the administration's mission, the first two sources said. "Be careful what you say, what you type and what you do," a manager said, according to one of the sources.

After publication of this story, the EPA acknowledged in a statement that it was "looking at AI to better optimize agency functions and administrative efficiencies" but said it was not using AI "as it makes personnel decisions in concert with DOGE." It did not directly address whether it was using AI to surveil workers.

Musk has depicted DOGE as a tech-driven effort to make the U.S. federal government more efficient by targeting waste, fraud and abuse. He has said the goal was to trim \$1 trillion in spending, or 15% of the U.S. annual budget.

Few dispute the U.S. government and its aging computer systems are due for modernization. But Democrats say Musk and Trump are purging the government of non-partisan public servants and installing loyalists who would turn a blind eye to corruption. Many Republicans and independents are also critical of DOGE's actions.

Clark, the ethics specialist, said the prospective surveillance was worrisome. It "sounds like an abuse of government power to suppress or deter speech that the president of the United States doesn't like," she said.

Last year, before Trump was elected, Musk suggested AI could be used to replace government workers, according to a person with direct knowledge of his comments. "The concept was that through taking the government data that they could build the most dynamic AI system ever," the person said, adding that AI could then "do the work."

The complex endeavor would entail teaching AI systems to automate some of the work currently done by federal employees. As a special government employee, Musk is prohibited under ethics laws from involving himself in government activities that would benefit him or his companies.

TRANSPARENCY QUESTIONS

In addition to the use of Signal, some DOGE staffers are bypassing other vetting processes and chains of custody for official government documents by working simultaneously out of Google Docs instead of circulating single copies of drafts, a source briefed by a government official said.

"There's multiple people in one Google Doc editing things simultaneously," the source said, referring to the online word processing software. That was partly how DOGE was working so quickly, the source added.

The Trump administration has argued that DOGE, as an arm of the Executive Office of the President, is not subject to laws that allow the public to seek access to records produced by government agencies.

Citing DOGE's "unusual secrecy," including its use of Signal, a federal judge on March 10 ordered the group to start handing records to Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, an ethics watchdog that had sued to request DOGE documents under federal freedom of information laws. As of Monday, the watchdog said, no records had been turned over.

As Musk embeds his young DOGE team of engineers and aides deep inside the government's digital infrastructure, accusations that DOGE is deliberately operating in secrecy have emerged in court cases challenging the authority of Musk, the world's richest man, to remake the federal government.

DOGE employees have dramatically tightened administrative controls at some agencies, keeping staffers in the dark while making significant operational changes, according to interviews and court filings.

When Musk's team took control of the government's human resources agency, the Office of Personnel Management, in late January, they shut OPM employees out of a database containing sensitive personal information of tens of millions of current and former federal workers, according to court filings and Reuters' previous reporting.

OPM is at the heart of the administration's vision to shrink the government, issuing government-wide directives that are seen as blueprints for downsizing the civil service. Since late January, more than 100 tech staff at OPM have lost access to the cloud where key applications are stored, according to two people familiar with the matter.

Only two people still have access — one career staffer and Greg Hogan, a political appointee who worked at an AI startup and is now OPM's chief information officer, the sources added. Hogan did not respond to a request for comment. (Ulmer and Dastin reported from San Francisco; Taylor and Alper reported from Washington. Additional reporting by Joseph Tanfani, Valerie Volcovici and Humeyra Pamuk. Editing by Jason Szep)

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From: Syrek, Christopher D.
Sent: Thu, 17 Apr 2025 12:29:36 +0000
To: Kasperowicz, Peter I.; Burch, Jennifer A.; Cashour, Curtis E.
Cc: Brazell, Karen L.
Subject: RE: WIRED question on VA use of AI

Cleared

From: Kasperowicz, Peter I. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 17, 2025 8:25 AM
To: Burch, Jennifer A. <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Syrek, Christopher D. <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Cashour, Curtis E. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: Brazell, Karen L. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: WIRED question on VA use of AI

Thanks Jen. Will send the statement along this morning.

From: Burch, Jennifer A. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 17, 2025 8:23 AM
To: Kasperowicz, Peter I. <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Syrek, Christopher D. <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Cashour, Curtis E. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: Brazell, Karen L. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: WIRED question on VA use of AI

Good morning,

Yes we used AI to assist us with finding sub-regulatory documents.

From: Kasperowicz, Peter I. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 16, 2025 8:27 PM
To: Syrek, Christopher D. <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Cashour, Curtis E. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: Brazell, Karen L. <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Burch, Jennifer A. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: WIRED question on VA use of AI

Thanks Chris. My understanding is that this has happened and AI helped sift through 7,000+ documents and policies into a pile of a few hundred that we looked at for adjustments.

Jen let me know if that agrees with your understanding.

From: Syrek, Christopher D. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 16, 2025 8:11 PM
To: Kasperowicz, Peter I. <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Cashour, Curtis E. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: Brazell, Karen L. <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Burch, Jennifer A. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: WIRED question on VA use of AI

Jen ran this effort and Karen likely has some intel.

Did we actually successfully use AI to do this, if so I am ok with the statement. I just want to make sure we used it, and didn't end up actually having to do the searches manually.

From: Kasperowicz, Peter I. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 16, 2025 5:40 PM
To: Syrek, Christopher D. <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Cashour, Curtis E <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: WIRED question on VA use of AI

WIRED is asking about one way VA is using AI... to quickly assess policies for consistency with the WH.

They got a leaked memo describing this, so worth describing it in a brief answer:

With your OK we'll send the following:

VA is using AI to search thousands of documents from previous administrations to identify any policies that aren't in Veterans' best interests or are otherwise unconstitutional, unlawful, or inconsistent with Trump Administration priorities. VA staff are reviewing these policies and deciding which to revise, rescind, or reverse to better serve Veterans.

From: Elliott, Vittoria <(b)(6)@wired.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 15, 2025 2:55 PM
To: Kasperowicz, Peter I. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Time Sensitive Media Request from WIRED

Hi Peter,

Wanted to follow up. A couple of things about the memorandum.

It is dated April 3 and is signed by Nathan Sanfilippo, Acting Assistant Secretary for Enterprise Integration. The subject line is: "Office of Management and Budget's Office of Information and Regulatory Analysis (OMB/OIRA) request analysis of all existing VA sub-regulatory materials to determine if they are inconsistent with the Administration's priorities and Executive Orders (EOs) for potential rescission."

Best,

Vittoria

On Tue, Apr 15, 2025 at 9:55 AM Kasperowicz, Peter I. <(b)(6)@va.gov> wrote:
Just tried you by phone. I'm in and out all day, let me know if there's a good time for you.

From: Elliott, Vittoria <(b)(6)@wired.com>
Sent: Monday, April 14, 2025 1:30:21 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)
To: VA Public Affairs <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Time Sensitive Media Request from WIRED

Dear VA Press Team,

I hope you're doing well. My name is Vittoria Elliott and I am a reporter with WIRED. I am reaching out because I am working on a story about the VA's use of AI to analyze its documents. My deadline is ASAP and my questions are below.

Best,

Vittoria

According to a memo viewed by WIRED, the VA is collecting sub-regulatory documents and guidance materials that may be rescinded if they are inconsistent with the current administration's priorities for review by OMB. According to the memo, they will be analyzed by AI tools to flag certain documents for review.

1. What tools will be used in analyzing these documents for legality/the possibility of being rescinded?
2. How are those tools trained, and on what data?
3. Have these tools been reviewed by legal or policy professionals?
4. Who is making the final decision about whether a memo or policy is rescinded?

From: Owens, Darrell R.
Sent: Fri, 2 May 2025 21:26:22 +0000
To: Syrek, Christopher D.; Cashour, Curtis E.; Brazell, Karen L.; Burch, Jennifer A.
Subject: RE: surveillance tools RFI

Yes – just trying to close out RFI's. And it also might be a question for SECVA at the hearing. (Unlikely, but possible).

From: Syrek, Christopher D. (b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 2, 2025 5:24 PM
To: Owens, Darrell R. (b)(6)@va.gov>; Cashour, Curtis E. (b)(6)@va.gov>; Brazell, Karen L. (b)(6)@va.gov>; Burch, Jennifer A. (b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: surveillance tools RFI

Can we just (b)(5)

Its an email RFI

From: Owens, Darrell R. (b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 2, 2025 5:01 PM
To: Cashour, Curtis E. (b)(6)@va.gov>; Brazell, Karen L. (b)(6)@va.gov>; Burch, Jennifer A. (b)(6)@va.gov>; Syrek, Christopher D. (b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: surveillance tools RFI

FYI – this RFI is still outstanding from Blumenthal. Thoughts?

From: Cashour, Curtis E. (b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2025 3:53 PM
To: Owens, Darrell R. (b)(6)@va.gov>; Brazell, Karen L. (b)(6)@va.gov>; Burch, Jennifer A. (b)(6)@va.gov>; Syrek, Christopher D. (b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: surveillance tools RFI

Hold please.

From: Owens, Darrell R. (b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2025 3:51 PM
To: Brazell, Karen L. (b)(6)@va.gov>; Burch, Jennifer A. (b)(6)@va.gov>; Syrek, Christopher D. (b)(6)@va.gov>; Cashour, Curtis E. (b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: surveillance tools RFI

Fair point. Revised to (b)(5)

From: Brazell, Karen L. (b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2025 2:22 PM
To: Owens, Darrell R. (b)(6)@va.gov>; Burch, Jennifer A. (b)(6)@va.gov>; Syrek,

From: Volpert, Cary P.
Sent: Fri, 14 Mar 2025 01:47:01 +0000
To: (b)(6)@doe.eop.gov
Subject: FW: Document on (b)(5) Attached: Please Assist with Access 3/11/25: VA Form 9957: Admin Access (b)(5)
Attachments: VA HR Systems_v4_Final.docx

From: Syrek, Christopher D. (b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2025 7:51 PM
To: Volpert, Cary P. (b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: FW: Document on (b)(5) Attached: Please Assist with Access 3/11/25: VA Form 9957: Admin Access (b)(5)

Defer to you on (b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

From: Therit, Tracey (b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2025 7:48 PM
To: Volpert, Cary P. (b)(6)@va.gov>; Syrek, Christopher D. (b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: Burnam, Dexter P. (b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: Document on (b)(5) Attached: Please Assist with Access 3/11/25: VA Form 9957: Admin Access (b)(5)

Chief Syrek and Mr. Volpert,

Attached is the document requested on (b)(5) earlier this week. It is intended to answer the highlighted questions below.

If more is needed, please ask.

Thank you

Tracey Therit
Chief Human Capital Officer
Office of Human Resources and Administration/Operations, Security and Preparedness
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave., NW, Room (b)(6) Washington, DC
Office: (202) 461-(b)(6)
Mobile: (202) 359-



VA Core Values: Integrity Commitment Advocacy Respect Excellence

VA Core Characteristics: Trustworthy | Accessible | Quality | Innovative | Agile | Integrated



From: Therit, Tracey

Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2025 7:07 PM

To: Volpert, Cary P. (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Syrek, Christopher D. (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>

Cc: Burnam, Dexter P. (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov> (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>

Subject: Please Assist with Access 3/11/25: VA Form 9957: Admin Access (b)(5)

Hi Chief Syrek,

Please find attached the VA Form 9957 for system access. I reached out to both Dexter and (b)(6) knowing the goal is to provide some level of access tonight. I am waiting to hear back.

Thank you

Tracey Therit

Chief Human Capital Officer

Office of Human Resources and Administration/Operations, Security and Preparedness

Department of Veterans Affairs

810 Vermont Ave., NW, Room (b)(6) Washington, DC

Office: (202) 461-(b)(6)

Mobile: (202) 359-(b)(6)



VA Core Values: Integrity Commitment Advocacy Respect Excellence

VA Core Characteristics: Trustworthy | Accessible | Quality | Innovative | Agile | Integrated



From: Therit, Tracey
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2025 6:13 PM
To: Volpert, Cary P. (b)(6)@va.gov>; Syrek, Christopher D. (b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: Burnam, Dexter P. (b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: Admin Access (b)(5)

Good day,

Please see information below and attached. I am providing a partial response today and will follow with more information Wednesday morning.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Thank you

Tracey Therit
Chief Human Capital Officer
Office of Human Resources and Administration/Operations, Security and Preparedness
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave., NW, Room (b)(6), Washington, DC
Office: (202) 461-(b)(6)
Mobile: (202) 359-



VA Core Values: Integrity Commitment Advocacy Respect Excellence

VA Core Characteristics: Trustworthy | Accessible | Quality | Innovative | Agile | Integrated

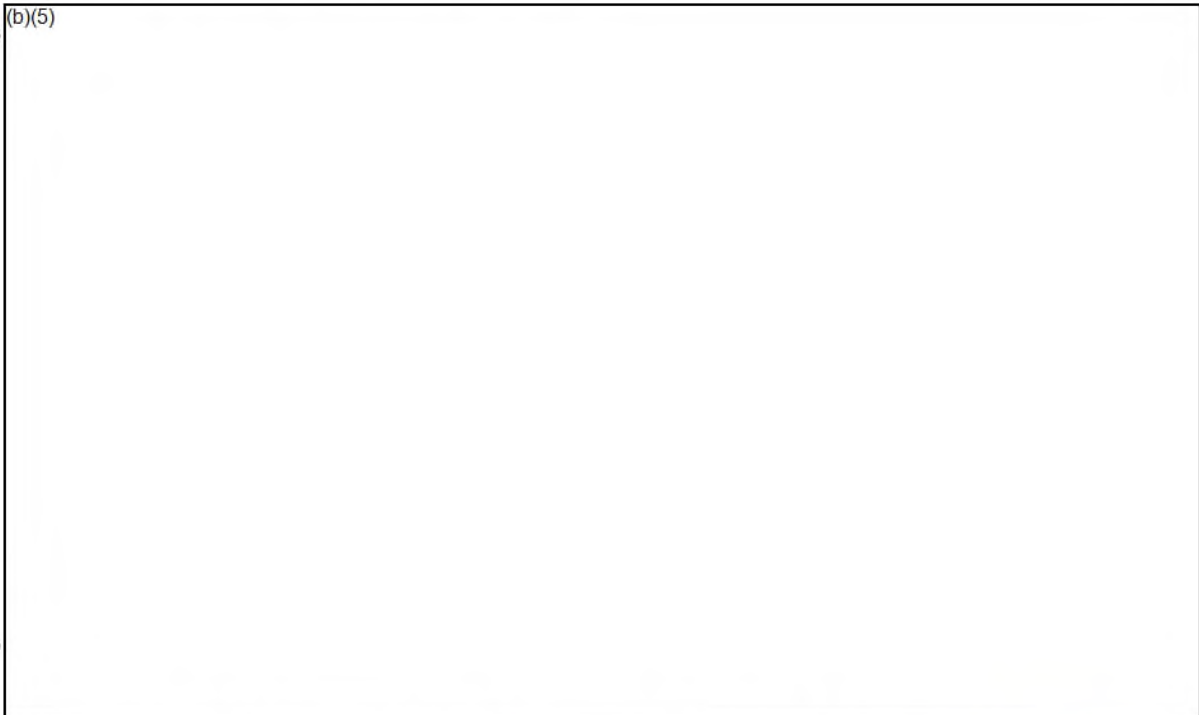


From: Volpert, Cary P. (b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2025 4:02 PM

To: Therit, Tracey (b)(6)@va.gov>; Syrek, Christopher D. (b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: Admin Access (b)(5)

Hi Tracey,

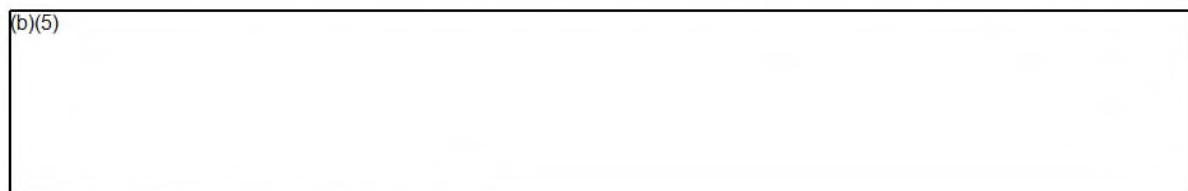
Thanks for your help. We really need the following EOD:

- (b)(5)
- 

(b)(6) is the POC and his number is (b)(6) and email is (b)(6)@ibm.com

- (b)(5)
- 

Attached is a slide with initial information and Dexter Burnam, Executive Director, Center for Enterprise Human Resources Information Services (CEHRIS) will supplement Wednesday.

- (b)(5)
- 

Mr. Burnam will provide on Wednesday.

From: Therit, Tracey <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2025 3:50 PM
To: Syrek, Christopher D. <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Volpert, Cary P. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: Admin Access (b)(5)

Yes, Sir. I will draft and provide by COB Wednesday unless needed sooner.

Thank you

Tracey Therit
Chief Human Capital Officer
Office of Human Resources and Administration/Operations, Security and Preparedness
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave., NW, Room (b)(6) Washington, DC
Office: (202) 461-(b)(6)
Mobile: (202) 351-(b)(6)



VA Core Values: Integrity Commitment Advocacy Respect Excellence

VA Core Characteristics: Trustworthy | Accessible | Quality | Innovative | Agile | Integrated



From: Syrek, Christopher D. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2025 3:49 PM
To: Therit, Tracey <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Volpert, Cary P. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: Re: Admin Access (b)(5)

Tracey - can you (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Therit, Tracey <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2025 3:43:21 PM
To: Volpert, Cary P. <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Syrek, Christopher D. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: Admin Access (b)(5)

Good day,

(b)(5)

As you can see, we have huge potential to improve our systems, data, and reporting. Look forward to working with you and pulling in SMEs as needed.

Any questions in the interim, please ask.

Tracey Therit
Chief Human Capital Officer
Office of Human Resources and Administration/Operations, Security and Preparedness
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave., NW, Room (b)(6) Washington, DC
Office: (202) 461-(b)(6)
Mobile: (202) 359-



VA Core Values: Integrity Commitment Advocacy Respect Excellence

VA Core Characteristics: Trustworthy | Accessible | Quality | Innovative | Agile | Integrated



From: Volpert, Cary P. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2025 2:43 PM
To: Syrek, Christopher D. <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: Therit, Tracey <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: Admin Access (b)(5)

Hey Chris,

Just wanted to put this in an email in prep for later so we have the action items laid out and can get going on revolutionizing/modernizing our HR system!

(b)(5)



Thanks,

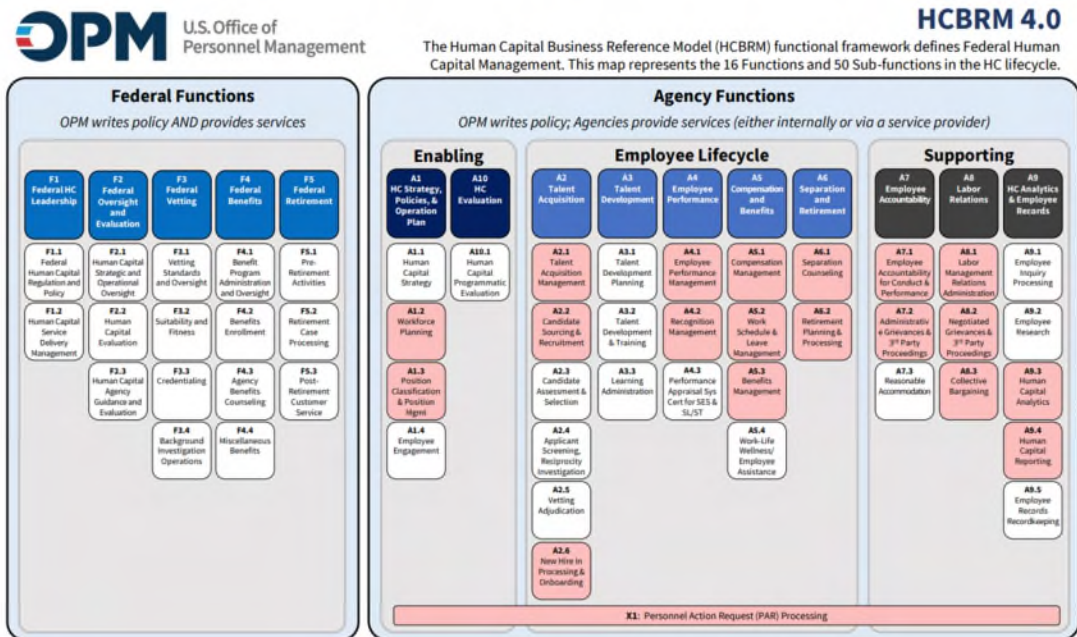
Cary

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

This system is the backbone of VA's ability to recruit, retain, and manage the Human Capital life cycle as depicted below in the Human Capital Business Reference Model (HCBRM):



(b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wed, 22 Jan 2025 20:31:41 +0000
To: Worthington, Charles; (b)(6) (SalientCRGT); Beard, Dewaine L.
Cc: OIT CCS NETWORK OPERATIONS NOC Network Edge Operations; (b)(6)
(b)(6) (SalientCRGT); (b)(6)
Subject: Re: INC37294663 DOGE.gov is incorrectly blocked on VA network

Anytime! And thanks again (b)(6) for taking care of this quickly!

From: Worthington, Charles (b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 3:12 PM
To: (b)(6) (SalientCRGT) (b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6)@va.gov>; Beard, Dewaine L. (b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: OIT CCS NETWORK OPERATIONS NOC Network Edge Operations (b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) (SalientCRGT) (b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: Re: INC37294663 DOGE.gov is incorrectly blocked on VA network

Thanks for the prompt attention on this.

From: (b)(6) (SalientCRGT) (b)(6)@va.gov>
Date: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 at 3:09 PM
To: (b)(6)@va.gov>, Worthington, Charles (b)(6)@va.gov>, Beard, Dewaine L. (b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: OIT CCS NETWORK OPERATIONS NOC Network Edge Operations (b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) (SalientCRGT) (b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: INC37294663 DOGE.gov is incorrectly blocked on VA network

Mr. Worthington

You should be able to get to <https://www.doge.gov/> now



Department of Government Efficiency

The people voted for major reform.

(b)(6) (Contractor)

Network Edge Operations
Office of Information and Technology (OIT)
Connectivity & Collaboration Services (CCS)
Core Network Services (CNS)
Office: 304.262 (b)(6)

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From: (b)(6)@va.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 12:26 PM

To: Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) (SalientCRGT)

<(b)(6)@va.gov>; Beard, Dewaine L. <(b)(6)@va.gov>

Cc: OIT CCS NETWORK OPERATIONS NOC Network Edge Operations

(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6)
(SalientCRGT)(b)(6)@va.gov> (b)(6)@va.gov>

Subject: Re: INC37294663 DOGE.gov is incorrectly blocked on VA network

Charles,

You are most welcome. I've discussed this with (b)(6) my Deputy Director for the VA NOC and he has approved this emergency access for the 32 days per my earlier discussion with you. NOC Network Edge Operations Engineers are starting work on this access for you now and will respond to this thread once completed.

After the 32 day security moratorium on newly created domains has expired, NOC NEO Engineers will then check the domain to ensure it is working and remove the emergency access configuration. This will allow our security devices to monitor and flag the domain if a security concern might arise in the future that could affect the VA Network.

(b)(6) thanks for bringing this to my attention and moving on this quickly for Charles and his team.

Respectfully,

(b)(6)

From: Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)@va.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 12:56 PM

To: (b)(6) (SalientCRGT) (b)(6)@va.gov>; Beard, Dewaine L.
(b)(6)@va.gov>

Cc: OIT CCS NETWORK OPERATIONS NOC Network Edge Operations

(b)(6)@va.gov> (b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6)
(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) (SalientCRGT) (b)(6)@va.gov>

Subject: Re: INC37294663 DOGE.gov is incorrectly blocked on VA network

Thank you for this explanation, and I understand why we would as a general rule block newly-created domains.

However, in this case it is important that VA not block this new federal government domain, which is the website of one of President Trump's top priorities -- see linked EO (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/establishing-and-implementing-the-presidents-department-of-government-efficiency/>).

I'm adding Dewaine Beard (acting CIO) in case his visibility is required for this action.

Please let us know when you're able to unblock the domain & thank you!
Charles



Charles Worthington

Chief Technology Officer & Chief Artificial Intelligence Officer

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

(b)(6) @va.gov | m: 202-430-(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) (SalientCRGT) (b)(6) @va.gov>
Date: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 at 11:51 AM
To: Worthington, Charles (he/him/his) (b)(6) @va.gov>
Cc: OIT CCS NETWORK OPERATIONS NOC Network Edge Operations
(b)(6) @va.gov> (b)(6) @va.gov>, (b)(6)
(b)(6) @va.gov> (b)(6) (SalientCRGT) (b)(6) @va.gov>
Subject: INC37294663 DOGE.gov is incorrectly blocked on VA network

Mr. Worthington

We have received your snow ticket of INC37294663 DOGE.gov is incorrectly blocked on VA network. The web site in question is still being built and all you will see is the following



www.doge.gov - the new website of the Department of Government Efficiency in the White House, is blocked on the VA network.

www.doge.gov URL: newly-registered-domain

The site you are trying to access is a newly registered domain which was Created on 2025-01-21

1 days old

The site should be accessible on Feb 24, 2024

To move forward with this unblock request requires review and approval through the Enterprise Security External Change Council, contact info provided below. You will need to request an Outbound Firewall Waiver for URL: doge.gov Category: newly-registered-domain , which is blocked by the VA. It is highly recommended that you attach this email chain to your ESECC waiver request, as this will expedite

the process and indicate to the tech reviewers that the Network Edge Operations and the VA CSOC has previously investigated the issue.

Please be advised that NETWORK.NOC.NEO does not have the authority to unblock websites.

For questions concerning an ESECC submission, please reach out to their team via email.

*****Start by submitting your request via the ESECC URL below*****

<https://esecc.va.gov/> (b)(6); (b)(5)

You can find all of the ESECC Knowledge based articles HERE.

****CHANGE MANAGEMENT CONTACT INFO****

VA NSOC QS Change Management Team

(b)(6) va.gov

This current ticket will now be closed as a new implementation ticket will be generated and assigned to the appropriate team upon being approved

(b)(6) Contractor)
Network Edge Operations
Office of Information and Technology (OIT)
Connectivity & Collaboration Services (CCS)
Core Network Services (CNS)
Office: 304.262.(b)(6)

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From: Worthington, Charles
Sent: Sun, 26 Jan 2025 12:56:44 +0000
To: Lee, Carrie A.
Subject: Fw: OCTO Slide for Monday
Attachments: OCTO - SECVA OIT Brief VA VERSION.pptx

This is what I sent - but I can modify

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Worthington, Charles

Sent: Sunday, January 26, 2025 6:17:29 AM

To: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Waddington, George <(b)(6)@va.gov>;
(b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>

Subject: OCTO Slide for Monday

Hi Team –

Here is our one slide for Monday. I also included two slides that give an overview of some of the work, though I wouldn't plan to actually present them but rather have them left ahead in the packet as a "teaser" of sorts.

Note: I am on (b)(6) I will plan to join this meeting virtually tomorrow.

(b)(6) will be monitoring email Monday AM and can contact me if any quick revisions or clarifications are needed, and (b)(6) is acting CTO Monday so adding him here too.

Thanks!
Charles

Office of the Chief Technology Officer

Our Priorities

Digital Experiences

(b)(5)

Emerging Technologies

Architecture, Strategy and Engineering Services

(b)(5)

- Challenges

(b)(5)

- Areas for VA Executive Leadership Support

(b)(5)



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U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

25-06-193-Report

Digital Experience Highlights

Vision: To create the best digital experience in the federal government, on par with private sector health care and financial service peers

Web:

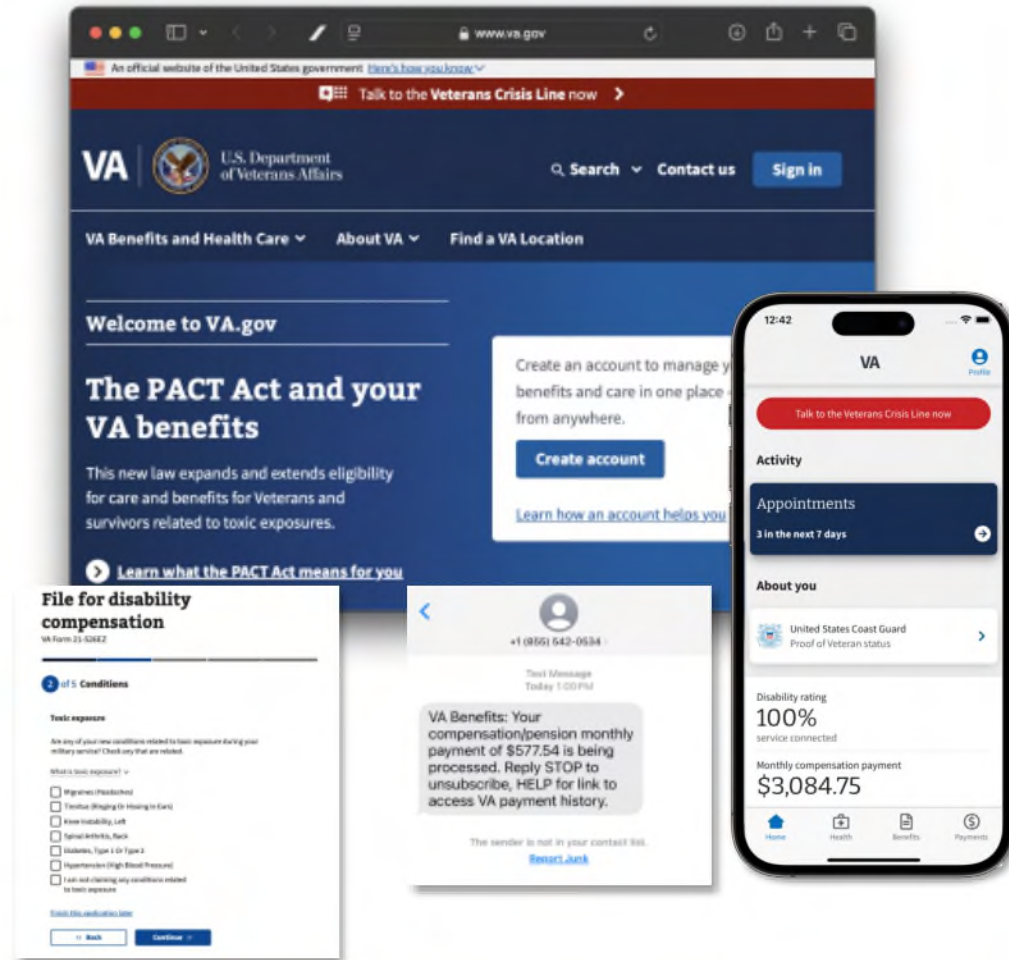
- 17 million unique visitors/mo
- 2.3 million logged in users/mo
- 2.3 million digital form submissions / year
- Supporting expansion of benefits under PACT Act, Elizabeth Dole Act

Mobile App:

- 2.8 million downloads
- 1.2 million monthly active users
- 4.8 / 5.0 star rating in Apple app store
- 4.7 / 5.0 star rating in Google Play store

Digital Notifications:

- 20 million email, SMS, and push notifications / month



Emerging Technology Highlights

Artificial Intelligence Pilots

- (b)(5)

-

-

Artificial Intelligence Oversight:

- (b)(5)

-

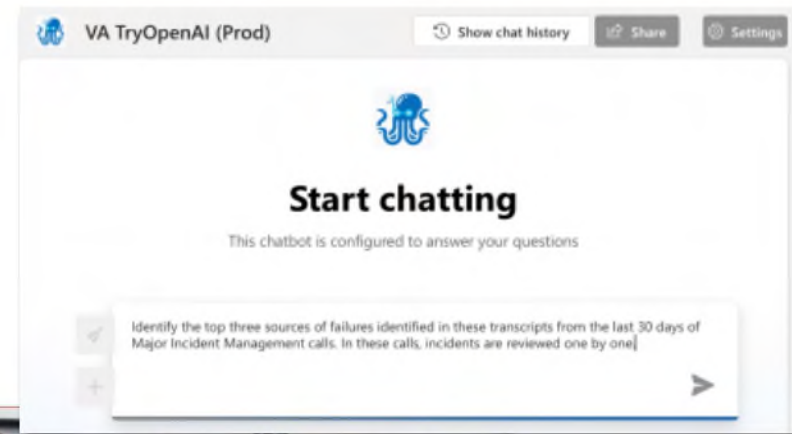
Innovation Unit

- (b)(5)

Clinical Decision Support

- (b)(5)

-




STORM Patient Detail Report
 Identification tool for Opioid Risk Mitigation

This report provides information on the patient's current and historical opioid use, including the patient's current and historical opioid use, the patient's current and historical opioid use

Figure 1: The STORM dashboard



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U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

From: Worthington, Charles
Sent: Mon, 27 Jan 2025 11:12:05 +0000
To: Waddington, George (b)(6)
Subject: Re: OCTO Slide for Monday
Attachments: OCTO - SECVA OIT Brief VA VERSION_2.pptx

Hello –

I made a few small edits to the first slide after some continued discussion with my team. Let me know if any questions, I (and (b)(6)) will monitor email. See you on the call.

Charles

From: Waddington, George (b)(6)@va.gov>
Date: Sunday, January 26, 2025 at 8:48 AM
To: Worthington, Charles (b)(6)@va.gov>, (b)(6)@va.gov>, (b)(6)@va.gov>, (b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: RE: OCTO Slide for Monday

Thanks, Charles! Very much appreciated, especially given that (b)(6). I hope you can report out and then promptly return (b)(6)

From: Worthington, Charles (b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Sunday, January 26, 2025 6:18 AM
To: (b)(6)@va.gov>; Waddington, George (b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6)@va.gov>; (b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: OCTO Slide for Monday

Hi Team –

Here is our one slide for Monday. I also included two slides that give an overview of some of the work, though I wouldn't plan to actually present them but rather have them left ahead in the packet as a "teaser" of sorts.

Note: I am on (b)(6) I will plan to join this meeting virtually tomorrow. (b)(6) will be monitoring email Monday AM and can contact me if any quick revisions or clarifications are needed, and (b)(6) is acting CTO Monday so adding him here too.

Thanks!
Charles

Office of the Chief Technology Officer

Our Priorities

Digital Experiences

(b)(5)

Emerging Technologies

Architecture, Strategy and Engineering Services

(b)(5)

- Challenges

(b)(5)

- Areas for VA Executive Leadership Support

(b)(5)



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25-06-1934-0001

Digital Experience Highlights

Vision: To create the best digital experience in the federal government, on par with private sector health care and financial service peers

Web:

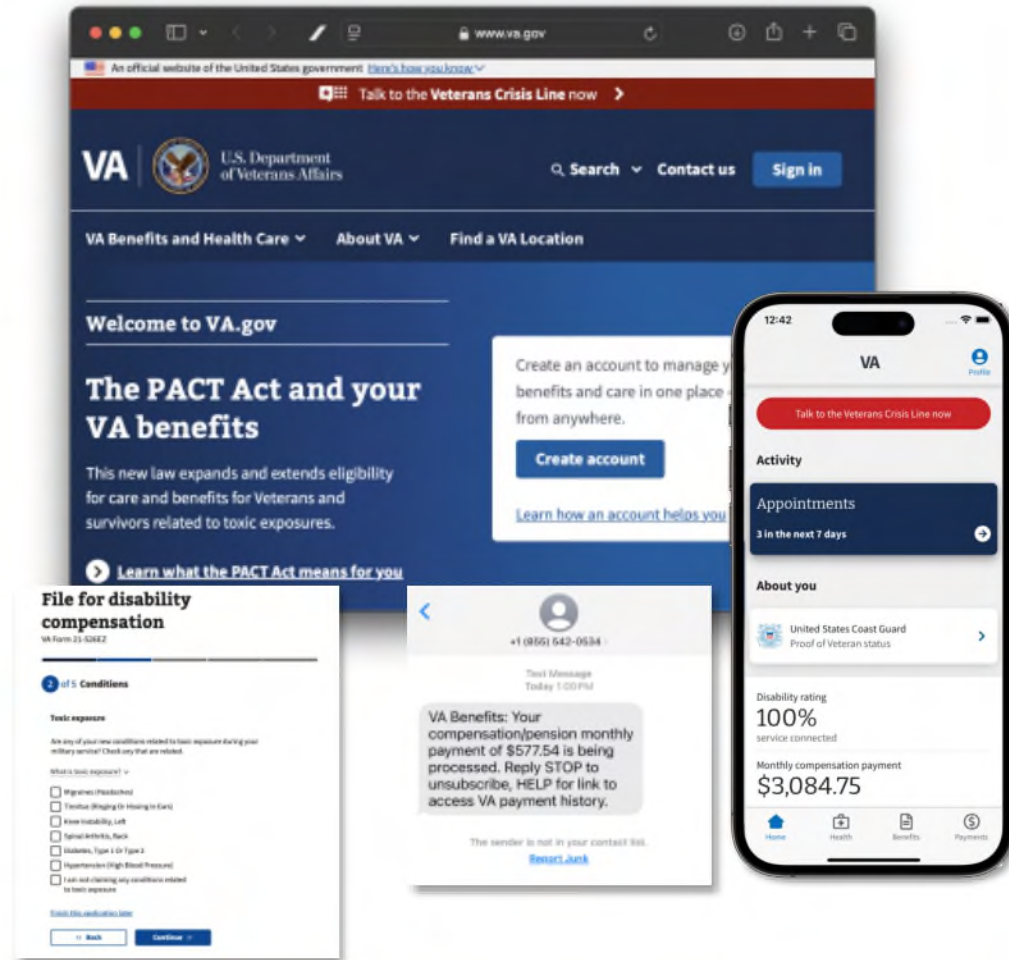
- 17 million unique visitors/mo
- 2.3 million logged in users/mo
- 2.3 million digital form submissions / year
- Supporting expansion of benefits under PACT Act, Elizabeth Dole Act

Mobile App:

- 2.8 million downloads
- 1.2 million monthly active users
- 4.8 / 5.0 star rating in Apple app store
- 4.7 / 5.0 star rating in Google Play store

Digital Notifications:

- 20 million email, SMS, and push notifications / month



Emerging Technology Highlights

Artificial Intelligence Pilots

- (b)(5)
-
-

Artificial Intelligence Oversight:

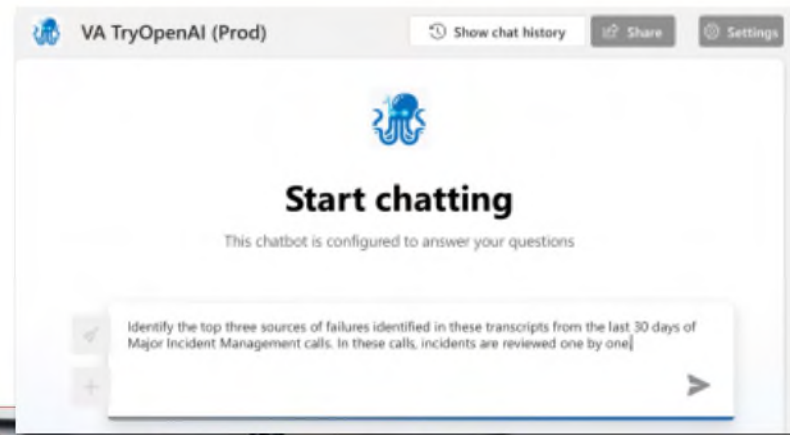
- (b)(5)
-

Innovation Unit

- (b)(5)

Clinical Decision Support

- (b)(5)
-



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U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

From: Orr, Martha
Sent: Mon, 27 Jan 2025 17:47:17 +0000
To: Beard, Dewaine L.; Worthington, Charles; Jones, Luwanda F. (OIT); Waddington, George; Houston, Bradley; Tierney, Nathan W.; Puetz, Timothy; Pool, Eddie; Krebs, Kendall N.; Galvin, Jack; Lee, Carrie A.; Sherrill, Lynette
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Heads Up: OIT Overview Meeting - Monday, January 27, 2025 @ 1:30 pm
Attachments: SECVA OIT Brief VA VERSION Master slide deck 1.27.25 (003).pptx

Please see attached.

Martha

From: Orr, Martha <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2025 3:24 PM
To: Beard, Dewaine L. <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Worthington, Charles <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Jones, Luwanda F. (OIT) <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Waddington, George <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Houston, Bradley <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Tierney, Nathan W. <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Puetz, Timothy <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Pool, Eddie <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Krebs, Kendall N. <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Galvin, Jack <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Lee, Carrie A. <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Sherrill, Lynette <(b)(6)@va.gov>; Orr, Martha <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Cc: (b)(6) <(b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: Heads Up: OIT Overview Meeting - Monday, January 27, 2025 @ 1:30 pm

Hello!

The 10th floor has asked that we coordinated subject meeting for Monday, January 27, 2025, please see the agenda below. This is a meeting for the OIT CIO/PDAS/DAS/DCIO/CTO/CoS solely (specifically, folks on the To: line) and will occur at 1:30 pm in room 708 VACO. The meeting will be 60 minutes. Those in the NCR need to be "in person", for those not in NCR, virtual will be fine.

George will send out a template for the ***Priorities, Challenges, and Where you need Executive Leaderships support section, which will be due to the front office at 9:00 am on Monday, January 27, 2025.***

This is an exciting opportunity for discussion with the new leadership team. A meeting invite to the aforementioned leaders will be sent out shortly.

The agenda will include:

- **Introductions** (2-3 minutes per leader)

- (b)(5)
-
-

(b)(5)

- **Communications and Expectations**
- **Briefing from each of your Senior Leaders** that includes, ***Priorities, Challenges, and Where you need Executive Leaderships support?***
- **Questions from the OIT team**
- **Action Items and Meeting Recap**

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Martha

OIT Organizational Brief for Senior Advisor to the Secretary

January 27, 2025
1:30PM EST



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Agenda

- **Introductions** (2-3 minutes per leader)

- (b)(5)

- -
 -
 -

- **Communications and Expectations**
- **Briefing from each of your Senior Leaders**
 - *Priorities*
 - *Challenges*
 - *Where you need Executive Leadership's support?*
- **Questions from the OIT team**
- **Action Items and Meeting Recap**



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OIT Office of the Chief of Staff (OCoS)

Coordinate and approve official information in and out of OIT to ensure VA IT products, services, and positions align with the priorities of the Secretary.

PRIORITIES

- **Strategic Planning:** (b)(5)
(b)(5)
- **Business Operations:** (b)(5)
(b)(5)
- **Communications:** (b)(5)
(b)(5)

CHALLENGES

- **Data Access:** (b)(5)
(b)(5)

VA EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP SUPPORT

- **Agency Priority Goals:** (b)(5)
(b)(5)
- **CIO Responsibilities:** (b)(5)
(b)(5)



Office of the Chief Technology Officer (CTO)

PRIORITIES

- **Digital Experiences:** (b)(5)
- **Emerging Technologies:** (b)(5)
- **Architecture, Strategy and Engineering Services:** (b)(5)

CHALLENGES

- (b)(5)
-

VA EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP SUPPORT

- (b)(5)
-

Office of Information Security (OIS)

PRIORITIES - VA Zero Trust Cyber Security Strategy

-
-
-
-
-
-
-

(b)(5)

CHALLENGES

-
-

(b)(5)

VA EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP SUPPORT

-
-

(b)(5)



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25-06-1934-01241

End User Services (EUS)

PRIORITIES

- (b)(5)
-
-
-

CHALLENGES

- (b)(5)
-
-

VA EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP SUPPORT

- (b)(5)
-



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U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Infrastructure Operations (IO)

PRIORITIES

- **Application Hosting:** (b)(5)
- **Applications Services:** (b)(5)

- **Enterprise Service Mgmt:** (b)(5)

CHALLENGES

- **Operational:** (b)(5)
- **Resourcing:** (b)(5)

VA EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP SUPPORT

- **Buy Like A Business:** (b)(5)
- **Hire Like a Business:** (b)(5)
- **Decentralized Support:** (b)(5)



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Connectivity and Collaboration Services (CCS)

BLUF: Responsible for critical 24/7/365 operations of the VA backbone

PRIORITIES

- (b)(5)
-
-
-

CHALLENGES

- (b)(5)
-

VA EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP SUPPORT

- (b)(5)
-

Product Delivery Service (PDS)

PRIORITIES

- (b)(5)
-
-
-
-
-

CHALLENGES

- (b)(5)
-
-
-
-

VA EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP SUPPORT

- (b)(5)
-
-

IT Budget and Finance (ITBF)

Bottom Line Up Front: ITBF enables OIT's mission through resource alignment, but VA executive leadership support is critical to address (b)(5)

(b)(5)

PRIORITIES

- **Resource Alignment:** (b)(5)
- **Financial System Modernization:** (b)(5)
- **Financial Management Workforce Development:** (b)(5)

CHALLENGES

- **Funding Shortfalls:** (b)(5)
- **Funding Imbalance and Toxic Exposure Fund (TEF) Reliance:** (b)(5)
- **Data Integration Gaps:** (b)(5)



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25-06193-10120

IT Budget and Finance (ITBF)

Bottom Line Up Front: ITBF enables OIT's mission through resource alignment, but VA executive leadership support is critical to address (b)(5)

(b)(5)

VA EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP SUPPORT

OIT-Specific:

- **Funding Advocacy and Flexibility:**

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

VA-Enterprise:

- **Common Appropriation Structures:**

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

- Financial Systems Modernization.

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

- **Financial Management Workforce Alignment:**

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Office of People Science (OPS)

PRIORITIES

-
-
-

(b)(5)

CHALLENGES

- HR Authority Implementation:

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

- Reliance on Legacy Systems:

(b)(5)

- Outdated Classification Standards:

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

VA EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP SUPPORT

-
-
-

(b)(5)



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U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

25-June-2024 Report

Office of Strategic Sourcing (OSS)

OSS PRIORITIES

- (b)(5)
-
-
-
-
-

CHALLENGES / OPPORTUNITIES

- (b)(5)
-
-
-

VA EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP SUPPORT

- (b)(5)

Business Integration and Outcomes Service (BIOS)

BIOS manages the space between business expectations and IT deliveries. Drives outcome definition to ensure VA targets improving service to Veterans and then creates the vision and plans to get there. We drive shared prioritization and by triaging new requests for services and software ensure any growth is in the most important areas for VA

PRIORITIES

- **Drive Vision** – (b)(5)
- **Funding Prioritization** – (b)(5)
- **Requirements Intake** – (b)(5)
- **Business-led IT Solutions (BLITS)** – (b)(5)

CHALLENGES

- **Business Integration** – (b)(5)
- **Demand Management** – (b)(5)
- **Requirements Intake** – (b)(5)
- **Business-led IT Solutions** – (b)(5)

VA EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP SUPPORT

- **Vision and Prioritization Alignment** – (b)(5)



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25-06-1937-0001

Office of Compliance, Risk, and Remediation (CRR)

Strategically manage **8 VA Department-wide programs** on behalf of the Secretary to include the following: Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), Section 508 Compliance, Enterprise Records Service (ERS), Privacy Service (PS), Enterprise Mail Management (EMM), Data Breach Response Services (DBRS), Privacy and Records Assessment Directorate (PRAD), and Independent Verification and Validation (IV&V).

PRIORITIES

- **FOIA:** (b)(5)
- **508 Compliance:** (b)(5)
- **Internal Controls and Audits:** (b)(5)
- **Social Security Reduction Act:** (b)(5)
- **Risk Management Framework:** (b)(5)

CHALLENGES

- **EHRM and 508 Compliance:** (b)(5)

VA EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP SUPPORT -

Hold capability to expand program approach throughout federal government

- **508 Compliance:** (b)(5)
- **Mail Management:** (b)(5)
- **Data Breach Response Program:** (b)(5)



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