

**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

Memorandum

Date: April 29, 2011

From: Secretary (00)

Subj: Continued Implementation of Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12 (HSPD-12)
(VAIQ #7100147)

To: Under Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, and Other Key Officials

1. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is committed to enhancing the security of the nation's infrastructure, reducing identity fraud, and ensuring that VA fully utilizes the Federal Personal Identity Verification (PIV) smartcard credential for access to Federal facilities and information systems.

2. In accordance with Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Memorandum 11-11, *Continued Implementation of Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12 (HSPD-12), Policy for a Common Identification Standard for Federal Employees and Contractors*, dated February 3, 2011, the use of the PIV credential is required as the common means of authentication for access to VA's facilities, networks, and information systems.

3. The Assistant Secretary for Operations, Security, and Preparedness (OSP) has overall responsibility for executing the provisions of OMB Memorandum 11-11 and for coordination with other VA elements. See attached VA Directive 0735, *Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12 Program*, for additional background.

4. VA Administrations and Staff Offices are responsible for the following actions to ensure compliance with OMB Memorandum 11-11 and coordination with OSP:

a. Effective immediately, the Office of Information and Technology (OIT) shall enable the use of PIV credentials for all new systems under development, in accordance with National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) guidelines, prior to being made operational.

b. Effective the beginning of fiscal year 2012, existing physical and logical access control systems for all VA organizations must be upgraded to use PIV credentials, in accordance with NIST guidelines, prior to the Department using refresh funds to complete other development and technology efforts.

c. Effective immediately, the Office of Acquisitions, Logistics, and Construction (OALC) shall require all VA procurements for services and products involving facility or system access control to be in accordance with Homeland Security Presidential

Continued Implementation of Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12 (HSPD-12)

Directive 12 (HSPD-12), OMB Memorandum 11-11, VA Directive 0735, *Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12 (HSPD-12) Programs*, and Federal Acquisition Regulations. OALC shall update VA Directive 7001, associated policies, and VA Acquisition Regulations to reflect this requirement. A copy of VA Directive 0735 is attached.

d. Effective immediately, OSP and OIT shall develop a capability to electronically verify PIV credentials issued by other Federal agencies and departments. All VA facilities shall accept valid PIV credentials issued by VA and other Federal agencies and departments for granting appropriate physical and logical access. OSP and OIT shall update VA Directives and associated policies and procedures to reflect this requirement.

e. OIT shall require PIV and Non-PIV Federal credentials as the common method of authentication for access to VA networks and information systems. OIT shall update VA Directive 6500 and associated policies to reflect this requirement.

5. Furthermore, VA organizations shall align all IT architecture and transition plans to meet guidance provided in the Federal Chief Information Officer Council's "Federal Identity Credential, and Access Management Roadmap and Implementation Guidance."

6. The Director, Office of Personnel Security and Identity Management, shall serve as VA's lead official for ensuring the implementation of VA's HSPD-12 policy on behalf of the Assistant Secretary for OSP.

7. If you or your staff has any questions, please contact Mr. Thomas Muir, Director, Office of Personnel Security and Identity Management, on 202-461-7531, or at Thomas.Muir@va.gov.

8. All senior management officials are directed to ensure full compliance with this memorandum. I look forward to your cooperation on this important initiative.



Eric K. Shinseki

Attachment