Department of Veterans Affairs

Memorandum

Date: JUL 9 - 2015

From: Deputy Secretary (001)

Subj: Implementation of Federal Personal Identity Verification (PIV) Credentials for Federal Employee and Contractor Access to VA IT Systems (VAIQ# 7614373)

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

1. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) memorandum M-11-11 requires the continued implementation of Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12 (HSPD-12) - *Policy for a Common Identification Standard for Federal Employees and Contractors*. HSPD-12 is a strategic initiative intended to enhance security, increase Government efficiency, reduce identity fraud, and protect personal privacy. HSPD-12 requires agencies to follow specific technical standards and business processes for the issuance and routine use of Federal Personal Identity Verification (PIV) smartcard credentials.

2. Chief Information Security Officer Stanley Lowe issued two memoranda on June 30, 2015, reiterating the requirement to use PIV credentials to access VA's information systems. The first memorandum, *Mandatory Use of PIV Multifactor Authentication to VA Information Systems*, requires that by July 15, 2015, all VA information system users not responsible for direct patient care must use PIV credentials to gain access to any VA information system. The second memorandum, *Mandatory Use of PIV Multifactor Authentication for Users with Elevated Privileges,* requires immediate use of PIV credentials for VA information system users with elevated privileges.

3. VA is committed to complying with these requirements and implementing the use of PIV credentials in accordance with Federal Information Processing Standard 201. Our commitment to our Veterans to securely deliver benefits and services requires an expedited and comprehensive implementation approach. Under Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, and Key Officials with personnel involved in the implementation of these requirements must fully cooperate with the HSPD-12 Working Group by providing the necessary resources and staffing, when requested. Moreover, I expect that Departmental senior leaders will mitigate any obstacles preventing the implementation of these requirements as quickly as possible to resolve the impasse that is precluding implementation of the required capability. I plan on using the CRISP Working Group and OMR's as forums to resolve any issues that require my intervention.

Implementation of Federal Personal Identity Verification (PIV) Credentials for Federal Employee and Contractor Access to VA IT Systems

4. If there are any questions, please have a member of your staff contact Stanley F. Lowe, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Information Security and Chief Information Security Officer, at stan.lowe@va.gov or on (202) 632-9070.

Sloan D. Gibson

Attachments