

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

A hand is shown interacting with a futuristic digital interface. The interface is a dark, reflective surface with various colorful icons (Wi-Fi, target, smartphone, lightbulb, person, etc.) connected by glowing lines. The hand is positioned as if it's about to touch or has just touched one of the icons.

We Will ACT!

Accountability | Customer Service | Transformation

2019

Acquisition
Workforce
Innovation
Symposium

Gaylord Texan Convention Center
Grapevine, Texas



December 17-18, 2019



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From the AWIS Master of Ceremonies

Welcome!

On behalf of VA's Chief Acquisition Officer (CAO) – I would like to welcome you to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) 2019 Acquisition Workforce Innovation Symposium (AWIS)~!!! Our theme for this year's Symposium is...

"We Will ACT

Accountability | Customer Service | Transformation."

Over the next 2 days, you will have an opportunity to network with other members of VA's acquisition workforce to exchange ideas, discuss best practices, and learn new strategies and techniques. We will be offering a wide variety of breakout sessions with topics of interest for everyone! By attending both days, attendees will have an opportunity to earn a maximum of 16 continuous learning points (CLPs). These CLPs can be applied towards Federal Acquisition Certifications for Contracting (FAC-C), Contracting Officer's Representatives (FAC-COR), and Program/Project Management (FAC-P/PM) renewals.

A Certificate of Attendance will be provided to all registered Symposium attendees. In order to receive your Certificate of Attendance, you MUST complete an evaluation for each workshop you attend as well as complete the post 2019 AWIS Evaluation Form. Your certificate will include the total number of CLPs granted based on the number of completed surveys received. Your certificate, which will be emailed to you within 10-business days, should be saved for future training and certification needs.



Kind Regards –

Phillip W. Christy, "Master of Ceremonies"

Deputy Executive Director for the
Office of Acquisition, Logistics, and Construction (OALC)

Phillip Christy is Deputy Executive Director for the Office of Acquisition, Logistics, and Construction (OALC). Mr. Christy serves as an advisor to OALC's Principal Executive Director on acquisition, logistics, and construction issues. His responsibilities include the day to day operational management of OALC's three major organizational elements: The Office of Acquisition and Logistics, the Office of Procurement, Acquisition and Logistics and the Office of Construction and Facilities Management. Mr. Christy is a retired U.S. Army Medical Service Corps Officer, and he served in multiple senior acquisition, construction and logistics positions during his 20-year career.



Registration and General Information

Registration

Both the Cvent and Gaylord App will provide you with location navigation for the Registration area. Welcome and Registration kiosks and assistance will be just outside of the Texas Ballroom area as follows:

- Monday, December 16 2:00PM – 8:00PM
- Tuesday, December 17 6:30AM – 7:45AM

Name Badges

- Because of heightened security concerns, name badges must be worn at all times.
- Name badges will be used for scanning your attendance for each session and workshop. Please do not leave or lose your badging as this will result in a reprinting replacement fee.

Convention Center Airport Shuttle Service

Complimentary round-trip airport shuttle service will be provided from DFW to the Gaylord Texan. AWIS shuttle service representatives will be on the pick-up platform to provide directional assistance. Shuttles will depart every half hour beginning at the shuttle's applicable start time below:

- Monday – December 16 from 12:00PM to 8:00PM
- Wednesday – December 18 from 5:30PM to 8:30PM
- Thursday – December 19 from 5:00AM to 1:00PM

The Embassy Suites provides complimentary airport shuttle service. Contact the hotel directly for airport pickup. For individuals staying at the Embassy Suites – traveling over to the Gaylord for AWIS registration and attendance, complimentary round-trip shuttle service (every 30 minutes) will be provided as follows:.

- Monday – December 16 (Arrival/Registration) 2:00PM – 6:00PM
- Tuesday – December 17 & Wednesday – December 18:
 - AWIS Conference Arrival – 6:30AM – 9:30AM
 - Lunch time 11:00AM – 2:00PM
 - AWIS Conference Departure 5:00PM – 8:00PM
- Thursday – December 19 (Departure) 5:00AM – 1:00PM

NOTE: 2019 AWIS complimentary shuttle service has been expensed by the government. Please do not remit this expense on your AWIS travel voucher. AWIS attendees must take advantage of this free service. For those traveling before or after the stated timeframes and who have extenuating circumstances, reimbursement may be considered on a case-by-case basis.



The Gaylord Texan does **not** provide courtesy shuttle service. **Expenses associated with off campus travel will not be approved on travel vouchers.** The estimated taxi fare is to and from the airport is \$25 (one way). Also, for an additional fee, car service is available to and from the airport and other venues. For schedules and fees, call 1-(817)778-2400.

Help Desk / Lost and Found

Lost and found items will be located at the "Lost & Found Desk" located just outside of the Texas and Grapevine Ballrooms.

Medical Assistance

For emergency medical assistance, please use any of the house phones located inside the Gaylord hotel and dial 333 and provide your name, the location of the incident, and any available details.

Scooter and Wheelchair Rental

Contact the Gaylord Concierge at TexanConcierge@Marriott.com

No Smoking Policy

The Gaylord Texan Resort and Convention Center is a smoke-free facility. We appreciate your cooperation.

Special Assistance

If you require special assistance, please contact a conference support specialist located in the Hotel Front Desk.

Parking

Self-parking is available at the Gaylord Texan Convention Center at \$22 + tax per day. Valet parking is also available at \$42 + tax per day. Overnight parking includes in/out privileges.

NOTE: Rental cars for local travel purposes will not be authorized. Please do not remit this expense on your AWIS travel voucher. Rental cars and transportation expenses acquired outside of complimentary service will be at the expense of the traveler or the travelers sponsoring organization.

Weather

Mid-December is characterized by daily temperatures between 60-65°F and evening temperatures between 55-60°F. For current weather conditions, please visit:

<http://www.weather.com> or www.accuweather.com.

Dedicated Event Space

HCA Employee Engagement Sessions:

Heads of Contracting Activities supporting this year's Symposium will have dedicated employee engagement meeting space. Large meeting space will be provided to HCAs to conduct employee engagement sessions on Wednesday, December 18th from 9:15AM – 10:00AM. The designated locations will have full audio/visual support (projectors, microphones, laptops, etc.). Both the CVENT Conference App and the Gaylord Navigate/Engage Apps will provide specific navigation/location information. The designated locations for the HCA Employee Engagement Sessions on the 3rd Floor Main Convention Center (Texas and Grapevine Ballroom Areas) are as follows:

- CFM – Grapevine 5
- NCA – Texas D
- NAC – Grapevine B
- SAC – Texas 2
- TAC – Texas 5
- VBA – Grapevine 2
- VHA HQ Central Office (VHA-CO – Grapevine A
- VHA Central – Grapevine D
- VHA East – Texas C
- VHA West – Grapevine C

HCA & SES Executive Meeting Space:

HCAs, SESs, and VIPs will have dedicated meeting and conference room space on the 3rd Floor Main Convention Center (Texas and Grapevine Ballroom Areas). These complimentary conference rooms will provide great space for small and intimate meetings – as well as space to respond to office activities that may arise during your time away from your work location. The executive conference and meeting space are designated as follows:

- CFM HCA Executive Meeting Space – San Antonio 1
- NCA HCA Executive Meeting Space – San Antonio 2
- NAC HCA Executive Meeting Space – Austin 1
- SAC HCA Executive Meeting Space – Austin 2
- TAC HCA Executive Meeting Space – Austin 3
- VBA HCA Executive Meeting Space – San Antonio 3
- VHA HQ CO HCA Executive Meeting Space – San Antonio 5
- VHA RPO Central HCA Executive Meeting Space – Dallas 5
- VHA RPO East HCA Executive Meeting Space – Dallas 6
- VHA RPO West HCA Executive Meeting Space – Dallas 7



- OALC Executive Conference Center – Dallas Suite 2
- OCIO Executive Conference Center – Dallas Suite 3
- Senior Executive & VIP Executive Meeting Space – Dallas 4

Business Center & Speaker Prep Room:

As a new offering, we will provide a small Business Center in San Antonio 6 – where an all-in-one (copy, scan, fax) printer will be provided. This space will also serve as our Speakers Prep Room for presenters who may need to make just-in-time changes to their presentations. This location will provide access to the internet from laptops, mobile phones, or any other internet accessing devices. Again – feel free to visit the **Business Center & Speakers Prep Room – in San Antonio 6** for your emergent needs.

Featured Exhibits:

If you are seeking ways to continue taking your career to the next level, visit the **VA Acquisition Academy (VAAA) Career Development Lab Exhibit** in the **3rd Floor Main Convention Center Pre-Function Area** for a variety of career development stations designed to support your professional development. Jump into speed coaching, discover new continuous learning opportunities available right from your desk, engage with colleagues over VA trivia and other collaborative activities, learn about interactive training tools, and contribute your ideas to the VAAA suggestions box. VAAA and ACM Office representatives will be on site to address your certification questions and provide a fresh look at our newest offerings! Both the CVENT Conference App and the Gaylord Navigate/Engage Apps will provide specific navigation/ location information.

Additional exhibitors also joining us on the **3rd Floor Main Convention Grapevine Pre-Function Area ...**

- Improving acquisition management (AM) in the VA is a CAO and SPE strategic priority. AM improvements are required to assure VA's strategic objectives and modernization efforts are achieved. The Acquisition Lifecycle Framework (ALF) facilitates end-to-end, integrated AM. ALF represents an enterprise-wide change in VA's approach to AM. Stop by and meet the members of the ALF Team to learn more about improving AM utilizing the ALF
- The National Acquisition Center (NAC) awards high volume multiple award schedule, national contracts, and blanket purchase agreements for the acquisition and direct delivery of pharmaceuticals; medical, surgical, dental, and patient mobility equipment/ supplies; high technology medical equipment; temporary allied healthcare staffing services; and just-in-time distribution programs.
- With nearly 20,000 members strong, the National Contract Management Association (NCMA) is the world's leading resource for professionals in the Contract Management field.
- The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Information Technology Acquisition and Assessment Center (NITAAC) GWACs provide both general and health specific IT products and services from a group of pre-screened, highly-qualified companies that have already been verified for integrity and expertise.

The Gaylord at a Glance

The Gaylord Texan gives you a convenient location deep in the heart of Texas. They are just minutes from Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport (DFW) and close to so many things to do and see in Grapevine. Visit [Things to do in Grapevine](#) or click on <https://www.visitdallas.com/> for activities and social events.

To navigate and discover your way around the Gaylord Texan Resort – download and use the Gaylord Navigation and Engage apps to explore the following:



Navigate Gaylord Hotels

Gaylord Texan Dining Options (817) 778-2215 (Casual Dress)

- Old Hickory Steakhouse | Dinner
- Texan Station Sports Bar & Grill (American) | Lunch & Dinner
- Riverwalk Cantina (Tex-Mex) | Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner
- Glass Cactus (Other)
- Silver Bar (Other)
- Mission Plaza Marketplace (Other) | Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner
- The Cocoa Bean (Other) | Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner
- Zeppole (Italian-American) | Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner



Engage Gaylord Hotels

Local Attractions

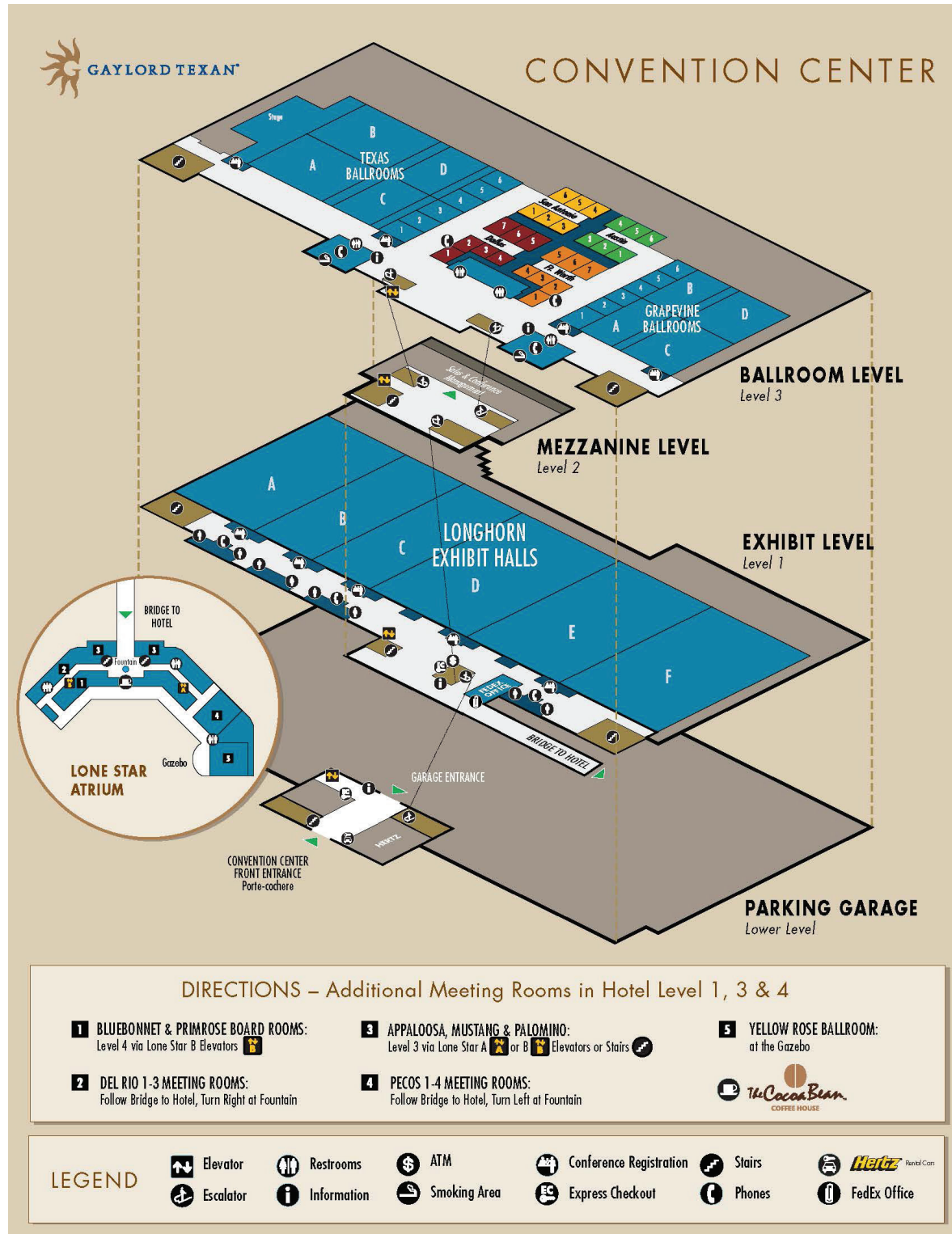
- Grapevine Vintage Railroad | 1.6 miles W from Hotel
- Historic Downtown Grapevine | 3 miles W from Hotel
- Silver Lake Marina | 2 miles E from Hotel
- Hummingbird Sailing LLC | 2 miles NW from Hotel
- Scotts Landing Marina | 2 miles NW from Hotel
- AT&T Stadium | 20.2 miles S from Hotel
- Grapevine Mills Mall | 3.4 miles NE from Hotel
- Rangers Ballpark at Arlington | 18.1 miles SE from Hotel
- Grapevine Wine Tours | 10 miles from Hotel

Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center

Locator Map

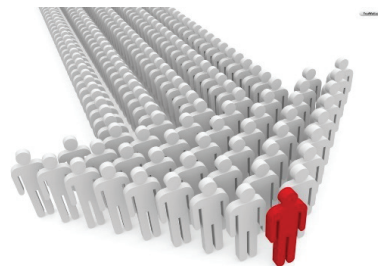


Gaylord Texan Resort and Convention Center Meeting & Exhibition Space



Meet VA's CAO and SPE...

We are excited to be able to introduce you to VA's key acquisition leaders. This will allow you to become better acquainted with decision makers that preside over VA's acquisition professionals and hear their perspective on some of the key issues facing the acquisition workforce today. This will also assist you with having a better overall understanding of the roles and responsibilities of VA's acquisition workforce leaders.



Ms. Karen Brazell, VA's Chief Acquisition Officer (CAO) & Principal Executive Director, Office of Acquisition, Logistics, and Construction

Karen L. Brazell was appointed Principal Executive Director for the Office of Acquisition, Logistics and Construction (OALC) on August 6, 2018. As the advisor to the Secretary on acquisition, logistics, and construction issues she directs the development of policies, determines priorities, and establishes organizational goals and objectives for OALC. She also serves as Chief Acquisition Officer, overseeing acquisition, contract administration and supply-chain processes for the Department.



Dr. Angela Billups, VA's Senior Procurement Executive (SPE) & Executive Director, Office of Acquisition and Logistics

Dr. Angela Billups was appointed as the Executive Director, Office of Acquisition and Logistics at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) on November 26, 2018. As the Executive Director of one of the largest acquisitions and logistics programs in the Federal government, Dr. Billups manages and oversees the development and implementation of policies and procedures for department-wide acquisition and logistics programs supporting all VA facilities and the VA Acquisition Academy in Frederick, Maryland. She is the primary advisor to the Chief Acquisition Officer and to the Secretary for matters related to enterprise business strategies and acquisition

management. Dr. Billups also serves as the VA Senior Procurement Executive and VA Suspension and Debarment Official. Dr. Billups is a member of the National Contract Management Association and she also serves on the Board of Advisors. She continues to perform speaking engagements at various industry and Federal forums.

Meet VA's Heads of Contracting Activity...



National Cemetery Administration (NCA)

Mr. Richard Chandler

NCA strives to be the model of excellence in Contracting services with a goal of securing supplies, services, and construction projects on time, within budget and at a fair and reasonable price while honoring our Nation's Veterans and their families. NCA strives to lead the acquisition enterprise to contracting excellence through collaboration and engagement in strategic acquisition planning and sourcing.



Office of Construction and Facilities Management (CFM)

Ms. Andrea Morris

CFM helps advance VA's mission in support of our Nation's Veterans by planning, designing, constructing and acquiring major facilities, and setting design and construction standards.



National Acquisition Center (NAC)

Mr. Craig Robinson

NAC delivers innovative acquisition and logistics solutions for the health care-related needs of our veterans and government clients through fiscal responsibility. NAC is committed to its federal customers to create superior contract vehicles that provide quality products and services at the best value and in a timely manner. The NAC strives to be recognized as the Federal Health Care Buying Group.



Strategic Acquisition Center (SAC)

Mr. Tom Leney

SAC strives to be responsive to customer needs and priorities by providing timely, superior procurement solutions that enable our customers to deliver on our promise to Veterans, thus enabling the Department of Veterans Affairs achieve balance among agency goals and priorities while more effectively accomplishing its mission.



Technology Acquisition Center (TAC)

Ms. Michele Foster

The TAC is dedicated to providing acquisition and program management expertise and support for the life cycle management of enterprise-wide solutions in information and technology.



Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA)

Mr. Matthew J. Manning

Mr. Matthew J. Manning serves as the Head of Contracting Activity for the Veterans Benefits Administration. In this role he is responsible for the procurement and acquisition functions in direct response to VBA strategic goals and objectives. Mr. Manning advises VBA management and contracting officers on matters pertaining to all aspects of contracting actions, including acquisition planning, contract execution & procedures, and policy interpretation. His team provides acquisition support and services to customers VBA-wide.



Veterans Health Administration (VHA) – Chief Procurement Officer

Mr. Rick Lemmon

VHA's mission is to deliver Customer-Centered Acquisition Solutions in Support of our Nation's Veterans by reshaping the acquisition function through customers and industry partnering, resulting in effective and innovative use of contracting policy, procedures, and processes and being recognized among the best in federal government.



HCA VHA Central
Mr. Terry Spitzmiller



HCA VHA East
Mr. Joseph Maletta



HCA VHA West
Mr. Curtis Jordan

Meet Our Keynote Speakers

Tuesday – December 17th, 2019



Mr. Charles Eggleston

Director | President and CEO, Three Seven Consulting
U.S. Army, Retired

Charles Eggleston served in the U. S. Army for sixteen years and is a Wounded Warrior in Transition (WIT). He received treatment at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC) for over three years for wounds of war. While at WRAMC he advocated for his fellow wounded servicemen from combat in Iraq and Afghanistan. Staff Sgt. Eggleston incurred several injuries during multiple tours of duties in Iraq and as a result he is a Purple Heart and Bronze Star recipient. He served under the 11th Special Forces Group and the 818th CSB. While in combat in Iraq, he served under the 107th Army Cavalry Regiment (ACR), the 3rd Special Forces Group, the 25th Infantry Division, and the 11th ACR. Staff Sgt. Eggleston's civilian career has been based in IT communications for over 10 years – managing contracts with the Pentagon, White House Communications, the U.S. Senate, and the U.S. Postal Service. He is currently President and CEO of Three Seven Consulting, a service-disabled veteran-owned small business. He graduated from Cornell University with a BS in Computer Engineering. In addition to serving as a member of Blue Star Families Board, he serves on the boards of the Salute Military Golf Association (SMGA) and Voices for America's Troops, a division of the Military Officers Association of America. He is also the Maryland State Commander for the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

Wednesday – December 18th, 2019



The Honorable James P. Gfrerer,

Assistant Secretary for Information Technology
& VA's Chief Information Officer (CIO)
Office of Information and Technology

Charles Eggleston served in the U. S. Army for sixteen years and is a Wounded Warrior in Transition (WIT). He received treatment at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC) for over three years for wounds of war. While at WRAMC he advocated for his fellow wounded servicemen from combat in Iraq and Afghanistan. Staff Sgt. Eggleston incurred several injuries during multiple tours of duties in Iraq and as a result he is a Purple Heart and Bronze Star recipient. He served under the 11th Special Forces Group and the 818th CSB. While in combat in Iraq, he served under the 107th Army Cavalry Regiment (ACR), the 3rd Special Forces Group, the 25th Infantry Division, and the 11th ACR. Staff Sgt. Eggleston's civilian career has been based in IT communications for over 10 years – managing contracts with the Pentagon, White House Communications, the U.S. Senate, and the U.S. Postal Service. He is currently President and CEO of Three Seven Consulting, a service-disabled veteran-owned small business. He graduated from Cornell University with a BS in Computer Engineering. In addition to serving as a member of Blue Star Families Board, he serves on the boards of the Salute Military Golf Association (SMGA) and Voices for America's Troops, a division of the Military Officers Association of America. He is also the Maryland State

Schedule at a Glance

Monday, December 16th thru Thursday, December 19th

Monday December 16th, 2019:

- 2:00PM – 8:00PM – Shuttle Service from DFW Airport to Gaylord Texan
- 2:00PM – 8:00PM – General Registration (Texas Pre-function Area)
- 3:00PM – 8:00PM – Office of Strategic Sourcing (OSS) Strategic Summit – Opening Session (Texas Ballroom C)

Tuesday December 17th, 2019:

- 08:00AM – 09:00AM – AWIS Main Stage Plenary Sessions (Texas Ballroom A)
- 09:00AM – 12:00PM – General Breakout Sessions
- 12:00PM – 01:00PM – \$16 Hot & Box **Lunches** Available – (Texas Pre-function Area)
- 01:15PM – 05:00PM – General Breakout Sessions
- 05:00PM – 07:00PM – Happy Hour & Networking with VA's Acquisition Executives (Texas Pre-function Area ****Cash Bar****)

Wednesday December 18th, 2019:

- 08:00AM – 09:00AM – AWIS Main Stage Plenary Sessions (Texas Ballroom A)
- 09:15AM – 10:00AM – HCA Employee Engagement Sessions
- 10:15AM – 12:00PM – General Breakout Sessions
- 12:00PM – 01:00PM – \$16 Hot & Box **Lunches** Available – (Texas Pre-function Area)
- 01:15PM – 05:00PM – General Breakout Sessions
- 05:30PM – 08:30PM – Shuttle Service from the Gaylord Texan to DFW Airport

Thursday December 19th, 2019:

- 05:00AM – 01:00PM – Shuttle Service from the Gaylord Texan to DFW Airport
- 08:00AM – 11:00AM – Office of Strategic Sourcing (OSS) Strategic Summit – Closing Session (Texas Ballroom C)
- 08:00AM – 05:00PM – VHA Procurement – Directors of Contracting Meeting (Texas D)

Tuesday – December 17, 2019

Main Stage (Texas Ballroom A)

- 8:00AM Opening Ceremonies Mr. Phil Christy, Deputy Executive Director
for the Office of Acquisition, Logistics, and Construction (OALC)
& The AWIS Master of Ceremonies
- 8:05AM Main Stage Welcome **"We Will ACT!"** Accountability, Customer Service & Transformation
Ms. Karen Brazell, Chief Acquisition Officer (CAO)
- 8:30AM Opening Keynote **"The Journey of a Veteran"**
Mr. Charles Eggleston, U.S. Army Retired
Director, President, and CEO, Three Seven Consulting
- 9:00AM **Refreshment Break, Visit Exhibits & Network**
-

Track 1: Acquisition & Contracting Hot Topics (Texas Ballroom C)

- 10:15AM Get Ahead of the Movement: Intelligent Automation
- 11:15AM How VA is Embracing IT Modernization: FITARA
- 12:00PM **Lunch & Visit Exhibits**
- 1:15PM Fighting Fraud: How Companies are Defrauding VA and What We Can Do About It!
- 2:15PM Debunk Market Research Myths
- 3:15PM Two-Phased Design-Build Procurements
- 4:15PM Navigating the Relationship Between Internal Controls and Enterprise Risk
Management!
- 5:00PM **Happy Hour & Networking with VA's Acquisition Executives**
(Texas Pre-function Area **CASH BAR)**

Track 2: Contracting, CORs, and PMs: The Acquisition Lifecycle Partners (Texas Ballroom D)

- 10:15AM Acquisition Lifecycle Framework (ALF) Focus Session
- 11:15AM Improving Industry Participation: Proper Technical Evaluation and Source
Selection
- 12:00PM **Lunch & Visit Exhibits**
- 1:15PM Disciplined Agile
- 2:15PM Acquisition Lifecycle Framework (ALF) Focus Session
- 3:15PM Managing Risk in Acquisition from a Program Management Perspective
- 4:15PM Containing Scope Creep within the PWS/SOW
- 5:00PM **Happy Hour & Networking with VA's Acquisition Executives**
(Texas Pre-function Area **CASH BAR)**



Track 3: Teaming for Excellence in Acquisition Management (TEAM) (Grapevine Ballroom A)

- 10:15AM GAO High Risk and Contracting Officer Workload Challenges
- 11:15AM Government-wide Acquisition Solutions on the Acquisition Gateway
- 12:00PM **Lunch & Visit Exhibits**
- 1:15PM One Acquisition Team: Collaborative Acquisition with a Customer Focus
- 2:15PM Tools to Assist the Acquisition Team: eCMS Overview & Q&A Panel Discussion
- 3:15PM Let Us Reduce Your PALT – VA Federal Supply Schedules
- 4:15PM Category Management and Global Supply
- 5:00PM **Happy Hour & Networking with VA's Acquisition Executives**
(Texas Pre-function Area **CASH BAR)**

Track 4: Improving Business Operations & Productivity (Grapevine Ballroom B)

- 10:15AM Pro-tips: Increase Systems Knowledge and Get More out of VA Federal Supply Schedules
- 11:15AM Feeling Overworked? How SAC Can Help Make Your Requirements Faster, Better, Easier!
- 12:00PM **Lunch & Visit Exhibits**
- 1:15PM Integrated Finance and Acquisition Management System (iFAMS)
- 2:15PM What Do You Think? An Introduction to Systems Thinking
- 3:15PM Intellectual Property and Data Rights Considerations
- 4:15PM Federal Procurement Data System (FPDS)
- 5:00PM **Happy Hour & Networking with VA's Acquisition Executives**
(Texas Pre-function Area **CASH BAR)**

Track 5: The Acquisition Sandbox Environment (Grapevine Ballroom D)

- 10:15AM Building Maintenance Operations (BMO) and Facilities & Construction
- 11:15AM Acquisition in a Digital Services World
- 12:00PM **Lunch & Visit Exhibits**
- 1:15PM Conflicts of Interest & Government Ethics Angles of Acquisition: OGC's Perspective
- 2:15PM Implementation of DevOps in OIT
- 3:15PM Partnerships in Acquisition Excellence: The CO, COR, and PM Team
- 4:15PM Implementation of Technology Business Management (TBM) in VA
- 5:00PM **Happy Hour & Networking with VA's Acquisition Executives**
(Texas Pre-function Area **CASH BAR)**

Track 6: Advancing CEO's: Career Expanding Opportunities (Grapevine Ballroom C)

10:15AM Building Executive Professional Skills: Performance Strategies for all GS-Levels

11:15AM Managing Generational Differences in the Work Environment

12:00PM **Lunch & Visit Exhibits**

1:15PM Coaching Others toward "What 'Good' Looks Like"

2:15PM Opening Doors! Successful Strategies for Onboarding Acquisition Professionals

3:15PM Managing Generational Differences in the Work Environment

4:15PM Building Executive Professional Skills: Performance Strategies for all GS-Levels

5:00PM **Happy Hour & Networking with VA's Acquisition Executives**
(Texas Pre-function Area **CASH BAR)**



Wednesday – December 18, 2019

Main Stage (Texas Ballroom A)

- 8:00AM Welcome Back!! Mr. Phil Christy, Deputy Executive Director
for the Office of Acquisition, Logistics, and Construction (OALC)
& The AWIS Master of Ceremonies
- 8:10AM Main Stage Discussion **VA's Acquisition Lifecycle Framework (ALF)**
Dr. Angela Billups, Senior Procurement Executive (SPE)
- 8:30AM Main Stage Keynote **Fireside Chat with VA's CAO and CIO**
Ms. Karen Brazell, Chief Acquisition Officer (CAO)
Mr. James Gfrerer, Chief Information Officer (CIO)
- 9:00AM **Refreshment Break, Visit Exhibits & Network**
- 9:15AM **HCA Employee Engagement Sessions**
- CFM – Grapevine 5
 - VBA – Grapevine 2
 - NCA – Texas D
 - VHA HQ Central Office (VHA-CO) – Grapevine A
 - NAC – Grapevine B
 - VHA Central – Grapevine D
 - SAC – Texas 2
 - VHA East – Texas C
 - TAC – Texas 5
 - VHA West – Grapevine C
- 10:00AM **Refreshment Break, Visit Exhibits & Network**

Track 1: Acquisition & Contracting Hot Topics (Texas Ballroom C)

- 10:15AM How VA is Embracing I.T. Modernization: FITARA
- 11:15AM Get Ahead of the Movement: Intelligent Automation
- 12:00PM **Lunch & Visit Exhibits**
- 1:15PM Two-Phased Design-Build Procurements
- 2:15PM Debunk Market Research Myths
- 3:15PM Fighting Fraud: How Companies are Defrauding VA and What We Can Do About It!
- 4:15PM Navigating the Relationship Between Internal Controls and Enterprise Risk Management (ERM)

Track 2: Contracting, CORs, and PMs: The Acquisition Lifecycle Partners (Texas Ballroom D)

- 10:15AM Improving Industry Participation: Proper Technical Evaluation and Source Selection
- 11:15AM Acquisition Lifecycle Framework (ALF) Focus Session
- 12:00PM **Lunch & Visit Exhibits**
- 1:15PM Managing Risk in Acquisition from a Program Management Perspective
- 2:15PM Acquisition Lifecycle Framework (ALF) Focus Session
- 3:15PM Advancing the Program Management Paradigm at the VA
- 4:15PM Containing Scope Creep within the PWS/SOW

Track 3: Teaming for Excellence in Acquisition Management (TEAM) (Grapevine Ballroom A)

- 10:15AM Tools to Assist the Acquisition Team: eCMS Overview & Q&A Panel Discussion
- 11:15AM Category Management and Global Supply
- 12:00PM **Lunch & Visit Exhibits**
- 1:15PM Government-wide Acquisition Solutions on the Acquisition Gateway
- 2:15PM Let us reduce your PALT – VA Federal Supply Schedules
- 3:15PM One Acquisition Team: Collaborative Acquisition with a Customer Focus
- 4:15PM Partnerships in Acquisition Excellence: The CO, COR, and PM Team

Track 4: Improving Business Operations & Productivity (Grapevine Ballroom B)

- 10:15AM Pro-tips: Increase Systems Knowledge and Get More out of VA Federal Supply Schedules
- 11:15AM Integrated Finance and Acquisition Management System (iFAMS)
- 12:00PM **Lunch & Visit Exhibits**
- 1:15PM Ordering Officer Delegation Module (OOD)
- 2:15PM What Do You Think? An Introduction to Systems Thinking
- 3:15PM Federal Procurement Data System (FPDS)
- 4:15PM Feeling Overworked? How SAC Can Help Make Your Requirements Faster, Better, Easier!

Track 5: The Acquisition Sandbox Environment (Grapevine Ballroom D)

- 10:15AM GAO High Risk and Contracting Officer Workload Challenges
- 11:15AM Implementation of Technology Business Management (TBM) in VA
- 12:00PM **Lunch & Visit Exhibits**
- 1:15PM Acquisition in a Digital Services World
- 2:15PM Implementation of DevOps in OIT
- 3:15PM Building Maintenance Operations (BMO) and Facilities & Construction
- 4:15PM Conflicts of Interest & Government Ethics Angles of Acquisition: OGC's Perspective

Track 6: Advancing CEO's: Career Expanding Opportunities (Grapevine Ballroom C)

- 10:15AM Opening Doors! Successful Strategies for Onboarding Acquisition Professionals
- 11:15AM Coaching Others toward "What 'Good' Looks Like"
- 12:00PM **Lunch & Visit Exhibits**
- 1:15PM Managing Generational Differences in the Work Environment
- 2:15PM Opening Doors! Successful Strategies for Onboarding Acquisition Professionals
- 3:15PM Coaching Others toward "What 'Good' Looks Like"
- 4:15PM Building Executive Professional Skills: Performance Strategies for all GS-Levels



Workshop Descriptions

Acquisition in a Digital Services World

Presenters: Jon Smolenski and Summer Spalliero (TAC)

As technology advances, we must change the way we procure software development services. Software development is becoming increasingly more user centric and requires innovative contracting methods that allow our customers maximum flexibility to adjust to changing user needs without the need for overly burdensome post award administration. This presentation will focus on Agile development techniques and the best way to structure contracts to ensure we are affording our customers maximum flexibility.

Acquisition Lifecycle Framework (ALF) Focus Sessions

Presenter: Dr. Lisa Davis (OAL)

This is an interactive session that provides an overview of the Acquisition Lifecycle Framework (ALF). The ALF is a structured process used to improve Acquisition Management (AM). It is a five (5) phased approach for managing acquisitions that begins with the identification of a business need and supports the entire acquisition lifecycle, which includes management of risk, scope, cost, and schedule functions directly related to the process of fulfilling agency needs.

Advancing the Program Management Paradigm at the VA

Panelists: Charles Mahon (PMI), Ryan Peckyno, and Jay Boller. Moderator: Greg McLean

Strong program management is fundamental in ensuring VA's resources are optimized and Veteran-facing outcomes are being delivered. The Roundtable will discuss what opportunities exist to develop a program management paradigm and what the VA will be doing to instill discipline into its acquisition processes.

Building Executive Professional Skills: Performance Strategies for all GS-Levels

Presenter: Talia Fox (VAAA)

This workshop is an interactive and engaging experience that supports 1102's in developing critical professional and leadership skills that get results. Studies show that learning and using skills like a growth mindset, emotional intelligence, and effective communication will not only improve performance, but also decrease stress and support overall workplace happiness.

Building Maintenance Operations (BMO) and Facilities & Construction

Presenter: Mary Snodderly (GSA)

This workshop is focused on GSA Best in Class Vehicles for Facilities and Construction.

Category Management and Global Supply

Presenters: Ernest Reed (OAL) and Diana Leonardo (GSA)

The goals of global supply and category management are to reduce the cost of buying goods and services, reduce risk in the supply chain, increase overall value from the supply base and gain access to more innovation from suppliers. Learn more about global supply/category in this exciting and informative workshop.

Coaching Others toward “What ‘Good’ Looks Like”

Presenters: Kristina Unglesbee (VAAA AIS) & Daniel Davis (VAAA AIS)

Discover “Mini Missions” - coaching resources available for immediate use with a contract specialist in-need! Supervisors, COs, training officers, and specialized reviewers can provide support in the form of easy-to-use, pre-packaged, one-hour tools that address contract specialists’ coaching needs. Designed to remedy common performance weaknesses, each one-hour Mini Mission delivers training for now and a concise job aid or desk reference for later. Preview the Mini-Mission Suite that includes ‘Getting Digitally Organized!’ and ‘What Good Looks Like’ for the commonly-used acquisition documents.

Conflicts of Interest & Government Ethics Angles of Acquisition: OGC’s Perspective

Presenter: Mark Jaynes (VA OGC)

Gain insight to preventing and resolving conflicts of interest! VA OGC has developed guidance on identifying potential conflicts of interest that can arise from various types of employment interests, investment interests, and liabilities.

Containing Scope Creep within the PWS/SOW

Presenter: Bryan Jackson (VAAA)

Project managers have been plagued by scope creep since the dawn of project management. Managing scope creep in project management is a challenging job that need to be clearly defined, documented and controlled. Learn how to leverage a WBS in conjunction with processes to prevent a project’s scope from getting out of control.

Debunk Market Research Myths

Presenters: Cordell Smith (OSDBU), Elizabeth Harrington (OSDBU), Christine Heibeck (VAAA)

Join us for an engaging discussion on common market research myths and the real stories behind the myths. PMs, CORs, and COs attending this session will gain valuable knowledge to increase their chances of getting better market research results, developing good documentation, and making quality acquisition strategy decisions.

Disciplined Agile

Presenter: Charles Mahon, Project Management Institute (PMI)

The Disciplined Agile (DA) process provides straightforward guidance to help organizations choose their way of working (WoW) in a context-sensitive manner, providing a solid foundation for business agility. This approach describes how agile software development, DevOps, IT, and business teams work in your enterprise.

Federal Procurement Data System (FPDS)

Presenter: Candi Wood (OAL)

The session examines the data quality process with a focus on areas of concern. We will also discuss future changes coming to FPDS.



Feeling Overworked? How SAC Can Help Make Your Requirements Faster, Better, Easier!

Presenter: Tom Leney, SES HCA SAC

SAC is in the business of delivering innovative acquisition solutions that support the entire VA acquisition community. SAC's diverse enterprise vehicle portfolio is extremely flexible! Overburdened NCOs can opt to place streamlined task/delivery orders against one of SAC's many pre-negotiated contracts OR manage the continual onslaught of incoming requirements by augmenting local NCO acquisition support via VECTOR's professional support capabilities.

Fighting Fraud: How Companies are Defrauding VA and What We Can Do About It!

Presenters: Michael Klier (OIG), David Senness, and David Ely

During this session, Special Agents from the Investigative Development Division (IDD) will discuss common fraud schemes use to defraud VA, identify red flags associated with different schemes, identify actions to take if you suspect fraud, and share stories from the front lines. This will be an interactive presentation with plenty of time for questions.

GAO High Risk and Contracting Officer Workload Challenges

Presenters: Raun Lazier, Melissa Malloy, and Iris Hall

GAO has added VA Acquisition Management to the high-risk list after identifying seven VA contracting challenges at the Department of Veterans Affairs. VA has one of the most significant acquisition functions in the federal government, in costs and numbers of contracts.

Get Ahead of the Movement: Intelligent Automation

Presenter: Mitchell Winans (Department of Treasury)

Intelligent automation and artificial intelligence offer the potential to dramatically increase the efficiency of federal acquisition work. Several agencies, including IRS, are testing and using these technologies to modernize the acquisition workplace by leveraging federal data and robotic process automation tools to drive decision-making and shift focus to higher value work. Come listen to how the IRS is doing, what they have learned, and ask them your most pressing questions.

Government-wide Acquisition Solutions on the Acquisition Gateway

Presenter: Kelly Robinson (GSA)

This course provides an overview on how the Acquisition Gateway helps with Market Research, identifying solutions for Program Managers and Contracting Professionals and directly enables Agencies to achieve their procurement goals.

How VA is Embracing IT Modernization: FITARA

Presenter: Luwanda Jones (DCIO) and Michelle Smith

This workshop will provide insight into how current and future VA IT Modernization efforts builds a stronger VA and discusses specific impacts to Veterans and employees.

Implementation of DevOps in OIT

Presenter: Patricia Craighill and Kendall Krebs

The DevOps implementation strategy is basically built on six basic factors which include Speed, Rapid Delivery, Reliability, Scale, Improved Collaboration and Security. Speed: A faster innovation and speedy execution is key to customer satisfaction and to stay ahead in the competition. DevOps model ensures this through a Continuous Delivery.

Implementation of Technology Business Management (TBM) Implementation in VA

Presenter: Willie Gaddis

TBM is a set of best practices for running IT like a business to effectively and consistently communicate the cost of IT along with the business services IT provides. The primary goal of TBM is to provide the ability of IT and business leaders to have data-driven discussions about cost and value of IT to best support business goals.

Improving Industry Participation: Proper Technical Evaluation and Source Selection

Presenters: Phyllis Jackson (CFM) and Stacey North Willis (OGC)

The objective of this workshop is to discuss how improving industry participation can be achieved through fair source selection procedures, proper technical evaluations, and appropriate best value award decisions.

Integrated Finance and Acquisition Management System (iFAMS)

Presenters: Billy Eytel, Brianna Webster, LeStancia Spaght, and Roxanne Tapp

The FMBT program will increase the transparency, accuracy, timeliness, and reliability of financial and acquisition information across VA, resulting in improved fiscal accountability to American tax payers and increased opportunity to improve care and services to our Veterans. Come hear about how this innovation leads to improved service to Veterans as well as enhanced processes and data integrity.

Intellectual Property and Data Rights Considerations

Presenter: Tobias Hunziker, Esq.

Intellectual property has become an increasingly valuable asset in today's business environment. The integration of the intellectual property portfolio – patents, trademarks, copyrights, and trade secrets – serves to protect ideas, products, and technology, and enables transfer and investment in technology.

Let Us Reduce Your PALT: VA Federal Supply Schedules

Presenters: Lydia McKay, Daniel Shearer, and Bob Satterfield (NAC)

This is an interactive session that refreshes your knowledge and allows you to consider how collaboration with FSS can lead to positive results for you and your customers.

Managing Generational Differences in the Work Environment

Presenter: Donald Jones and Tamara Dean (SAC)

Today's workplace can include up to five generations of employees, adding a layer of complexity to how we communicate and work together. Generational differences between colleagues can provide many benefits to a team or organization. Attend this highly informative workshop to learn how to work successfully alongside all coworkers.

Managing Risk in Acquisition from a Program Management Perspective

Presenter: Charles Mahon (PMI)

Managing risk affects everyone's work and personal lives. Managing risk in acquisition is vital. Come to hear and discuss risk management processes, risk from a program management viewpoint and how that helps acquisition. Find out what VA's resources are available to manage risk and program management.



Navigating the Relationship Between Internal Controls and Enterprise Risk Management

Presenter: Eric Arnold

Enterprise risk management programs are maturing, and the role of the chief risk officer is becoming more popular. However, risk management professionals rarely have a direct role in business decision making. An effective risk management framework requires collaboration between the ERM program and the rest of the organization.

One Acquisition Team: Collaborative Acquisition with a Customer Focus

Presenter: Talia Fox (VAAA)

The purpose of having one acquisition team is to ensure teamwork, unity of purpose, and open communication among the members of the team in sharing the vision and achieving the same goal are encouraged. Learn more about collaborative acquisitions with a customer focus in this highly informative workshop.

Opening Doors! Successful Strategies for Onboarding Acquisition Professionals

Presenter: Eldred Jackson (VHA)

This session will discuss best practices and lessons learned on the process of integrating a new employee into an acquisition organization.

Ordering Officer Delegation Module (OOD)

Presenter: Jay Mardi (OAL)

This workshop will provide an overview of the OOD module. We will demonstrate how to set up a contract, start a nomination process, submit monthly order summaries and utilize reports. By attending this session, you will gain sufficient knowledge to start using the OOD module for your contracts.

Partnerships in Acquisition Excellence: The CO, COR and PM Team

(Panelists: Tori Carrington, Ray Crawford, Stacia Faulhaber, Greg McLean, and Melissa Malloy Moderator: Raun Lazier)

Each member of the acquisition team plays a critical role in the success of the acquisition process, from understanding the requirements, ability to translate requirements to work packages, understanding cost estimate techniques, and the ability to communicate and work cross functionally as a cohesive team.

Pro-tips: Increase Systems Knowledge and Get More out of Federal Supply Schedules

Presenters: Shawn Davis and David Hackett (NAC)

Join us for up close and personal demonstration to discover how FSS system tools can impact the management of contracting workload and improve strategic outcomes.

Tools to Assist the Acquisition Team: eCMS Overview and Q&A Panel Discussion

Presenters: Evangelos Mihelis, Jay Mardi, Richard Hague, and Melissa Hirsch (OAL)

Session will provide overview of EAS. It will include brief overviews of all application in EAS' portfolio. Additionally, this session will provide a deep dive into the electronic Contracting Officers Representative (eCOR) tool. eCOR is a tool for Contracting Officers to provide tracking and access to COR files.

Two-Phase Design-Build Procurements

Presenter: Lara Lutz (CFM)

This workshop provides a general overview of the Two-Phase Design-Build Selection Procedures outlined in FAR 36.3. Acquisition staff will gain a better understanding of this procurement method and learn some techniques for implementation.

What Do You Think? An Introduction to Systems Thinking

Presenters: Emily Siwarski and Drew Broadhurst (VAAA)

This informative workshop introduces us to system thinking as a way of thinking creatively, strategically, and critically. Systems thinking expands the range of choices available for solving a problem by broadening our thinking and helping us articulate problems in new and different ways

"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

"Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase."

~~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Be all you can be.”

~~ John Maxwell



Thank You!!!

I would like to extend my sincerest thanks to you for attending the 2019 Acquisition Workforce Innovation Symposium. We simply cannot meet VA's critical mission of serving the veteran without your commitment to high-quality acquisitions and projects. This year's Symposium was designed to facilitate knowledge sharing, networking, and professional development opportunities.

With your support and assistance, VA will continue to build an acquisition workforce with the necessary skills to deliver best value supplies and services, find the best business solutions, and provide strategic business advice to accomplish program goals.



You will receive continuous learning points (CLPs) and a certificate of attendance for each session in which you participate. In order to receive your Certificate of Attendance you **MUST** complete an evaluation for each workshop you attend as well as complete the post 2019 AWIS Evaluation Form. The feedback from your completed evaluation forms will foster continuous organizational improvements and inform subsequent symposia.

I hope you enjoyed this year's Acquisition Workforce Innovation Symposium!

Best Regards –
Karen L. Brazell,
Principal Executive Director
VA's Chief Acquisition Officer (CAO) and
Office of Acquisition, Logistics, and Construction (OALC)

We Will ACT

Accountability | Customer Service | Transformation







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