

Veterans Benefits Administration Compensation & Pension Replacement System (VETSNET) Functional Migration Completion and Application Maintenance

The Veterans Benefits Administration's (VBA) Compensation & Pension Replacement System (VETSNET) – Functional Migration Completion and Application Maintenance contract is an 18-month effort to complete the implementation of the VETSNET functional capabilities and to provide application maintenance for the contracted applications. Additionally, the contract funds an effort to convert all of the Veterans records housed on the Benefits Distribution Network (BDN) to conform to the VETSNET corporate database structure. To date, more than 1.5 million have been converted and are active on the VETSNET system. The conversion effort is scheduled to be completed by the end of FY09. The VBA provides benefits to meet the critical needs of veterans, their families, and/or beneficiaries via five VBA business lines – Compensation and Pension (C&P) Service, Education Service, Insurance, Loan Guaranty, and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment. The VETSNET suite of applications includes those C&P applications that establish, develop, and rate claims; prepare awards; notify the veteran; generate payment information; and manage information reports, which run on the underlying VETSNET architecture.

The VETSNET suite of applications interfaces with those of other departments and agencies, such as the Department of Defense (DoD), Department of the Treasury, the Social Security Administration (SSA), and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The primary users of the VETSNET system are C&P Services and the Office of Resource Management (ORM). C&P Services is responsible for administering benefits, such as compensation for veterans' service-connected injuries; Parent Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC); non-service connected pensions, burial, and accrued benefits; and guardianship and public contact services. ORM manages and directs activities involved with ensuring the integrity of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) financial accounting and reporting systems for VBA activities (including C&P Service). The VETSNET application that provides for award payment processing and accounting is the Finance and Accounting System (FAS).

The Northrop Grumman VETSNET Team consists of several subgroups designed to assist the VBA OI&T with all facets of the migration and maintenance activities. Business analysts assist with eliciting and clarifying requirements and writing functional specifications. The development team implements the enhancements and repairs any deficiencies that may be encountered. The technical support team works with the users and the system to assist in resolving any day-to-day issues that may be encountered. The release team prepares the software and associated documentation in preparation for installation into various environments designed to support testing by the interested organizations and eventually onto the production system. The team is spread over several locations: St. Petersburg, FL; Rockville, MD; Hines, IL; and Austin, TX.

In addition, the Northrop Grumman VETSNET Team includes several small business subcontractors that are a vital part of the team.