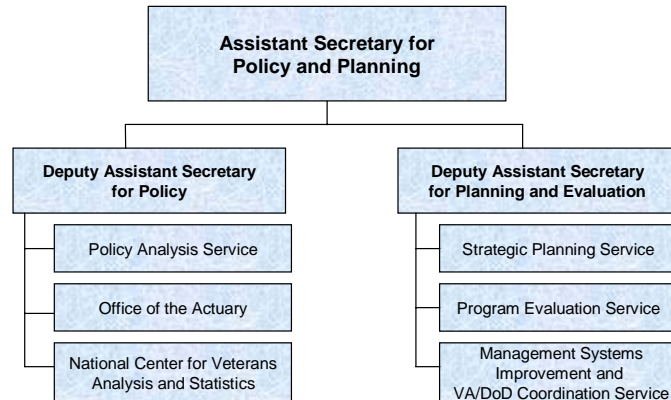


ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR POLICY AND PLANNING



The Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning (OP&P) provides comprehensive advice, counsel, plans, and reports for the Secretary and other VA senior leaders in the areas of corporate policy, strategic planning and management, VA/DoD coordination services, and management improvement to support VA's endeavors to provide benefits and services to our Nation's veterans in an effective and efficient manner. OP&P provides expert guidance and support for the Department's strategic planning process and implementation of the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA); supports the development, analysis, and review of issues affecting veterans' programs; provides quantitative and actuarial analysis to the Department in support of major policy deliberations; serves as the Department's focal point for access to and availability of official data; coordinates the independent evaluation of program performance focusing on program outcomes, service quality, customer satisfaction, and management efficiencies; coordinates and supports VA and DoD activities, councils, and partnerships; and fosters the adoption of management systems improvement initiatives, including the use of such quality engineering/management tools as business process reengineering across VA.

OFFICE OF POLICY

The Office of Policy provides independent analyses to the Secretary and other VA policy and decision makers concerning future and current veteran policies and programs. The Office of Policy consists of the Policy Analysis Service, the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics, and the Office of the Actuary. The principal functions of the Office of Policy include:

- On-going analysis of VA and national current and proposed policies and programs to assess and facilitate enhancement of their impact and consistency with the President's Management Agenda as it relates to VA.
- Administering the National Survey of Veterans and National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics data functions to support continual enhancement of policies, programs, benefits, and services to veterans with emphasis on veteran cohorts including Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Guard and Reserve veterans, women veterans, minority veterans, aging veterans, and other specialized veteran groups.
- Coordinating, facilitating, and leading the Department's development, analysis, and reviews of policy issues affecting veterans programs.

- Supporting the Office of the Secretary by reviewing and analyzing internal and external policy issues and legislative initiatives; participating in the development of the Department's legislative proposals and associated cost estimates; and facilitating cooperative and collaborative improvement across the Department.
- Providing support to a wide range of internal and intergovernmental efforts, including advisory committees and task forces.
- Managing and directing survey research including national surveys.
- Serving as a central clearing house for the collection, analysis, and dissemination of information and data about veterans and veterans programs and services.
- Conducting actuarial estimates and projections.
- Developing, validating, and disseminating official veteran population estimates and projections.

OFFICE OF PLANNING AND EVALUATION

The Office of Planning and Evaluation has responsibility for :

- Overseeing the implementation of VA's governance and strategic planning processes, which includes development of the VA Strategic Plan and the VA/DoD Joint Strategic Plan. These documents provide conceptual and analytical information to support program officials collaborating on the identification and analysis of environmental factors and strategic issues that affect VA and its ability to deliver benefits and services to veterans and their families.
- Managing the Program Evaluation process that assesses the extent to which VA programs achieve intended outcomes and the needs of veterans and dependents in the future.
- Coordinating the Department's implementation of Competitive Sourcing to include annual development and update of the Department's FAIR Act Inventory and Business Process Reengineering studies; leading and overseeing management improvement initiatives, organizational assessments and transformation; leading and overseeing the Secretary's Performance Excellence awards; and providing consultation on quality engineering and management best practices.
- Serving as VA's internal coordinator and external liaison regarding strategic plans.
- Coordinating the Department's collaborative efforts with DoD under the VA/DoD Joint Executive Council, Health Executive Council, and Benefits Executive Council; responding to stakeholder reports with VA/DoD coordination; and supporting the Senior Oversight Committee, Overarching Integrated Product Team, and Lines of Action as directed.

POINT OF CONTACT: John O'Hara, Office of Policy and Planning, (202) 461-5800