



### In This Issue

- 1 [In the News](#)
- 3 [Training Center](#)
- 3 [FSS FAQ](#)
- 3 [Web Corner](#)
- 4 [VA FSS Working for You](#)
- 4 [Reminders](#)
- 4 [Around the NAC](#)
- 5 [Disaster Recovery](#)
- 5 [Around the VA](#)
- 5 [VAMC Spotlight](#)
- 6 [Did You Know...](#)
- 6 [Upcoming Events](#)
- 7 [New VA FSS Contracts](#)

## In the News: National Veteran Small Business Conference, June 26 – 29, 2012 in Detroit, MI

Consistent with the Department of Veterans Affairs [efforts](#) to find jobs for veterans and aid in the nation's economic recovery, this year's [National Veteran Small Business Conference](#) will recognize the significant impact of small businesses on the economy by opening its doors to America's Veteran-Owned (VO) and Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned (SDVO) small business communities.

The largest event of its kind, this conference focuses on helping VO and SDVO small business maximize their potential within the federal marketplace.

Participants will have the opportunity to:

**Connect** with procurement [decision makers](#) from other businesses and federal agencies.

**Expand** knowledge by attending over 200 [training](#) and business requirement sessions designed to teach participants on navigating the federal acquisition process.

**VA National Veteran Small Business Conference & VA for Vets Hiring Fair**

June 26 – 29, 2012

Cobo Convention Center, Detroit, MI

Register to [attend](#) or [exhibit](#) today!

**Engage** with other attendees and gain visibility in the [Expo Hall](#). Split into four industry specific quadrants, the Expo Hall will bring forth a captive audience, allowing exhibitors to increase their company profile while directly networking and building relationships with procurement decision makers.

Use [VetGovPartner](#) to facilitate online and in-person networking, including face-to-face sessions with senior procurement decision makers.

So, if you are a VO or SDVO small business, we encourage you to come learn and network with us this June in Detroit!



## Training Center: VA FSS Contracts and the Trade Agreements Act

The [Trade Agreements Act](#) (TAA) is applicable to all Schedules. Under the terms of the TAA, **only** US-made or [designated country](#) end products shall be awarded to responsible VA FSS contractors.

When an item consists of components from various countries and the components are assembled in an additional country, the test to determine country of origin is “substantial transformation” (see [FAR 25.001\(c\)\(2\)](#)). Offerors requiring a determination on substantial transformation can go to the US Customs and Border Protection [Office of Regulations and Rulings](#).

It is the contractor’s responsibility to verify that all offered products are from acceptable countries. Products/services offered under the VA Schedule Program that are end products/services of countries **other than** the United States or identified designated countries will not be considered for award.

[FAC 2005-59](#) recently updated the list of “designated countries” by adding Colombia as a Free Trade Agreement country. Below are the most current lists of designated countries and is subject to change. Further information about the Trade Agreements Act can be found in clause [52.225-5 Trade Agreements](#).

**World Trade Organization (WTO) Government Procurement Agreement Countries** Armenia, Aruba, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea (Republic of), Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan (known in the WTO as “the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu (Chinese Taipei)”), and the United Kingdom

**Least Developed Countries** Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, East Timor, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Kiribati, Laos, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Tanzania, Togo, Tuvalu, Uganda, Vanuatu, Yemen, and Zambia

**Caribbean Basin Countries** Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bonaire, British Virgin Islands, Curacao, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saba, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Sint Eustatius, Sint Maarten, and Trinidad and Tobago

**Free Trade Agreement Countries** Australia, Bahrain, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Korea (Republic of), Mexico, Morocco, Nicaragua, Oman, Peru, and Singapore.



### FSS FAQ: Am I required to submit a manufacturer letter of commitment?

A vendor is required to submit a manufacturer letter of commitment (LOC) if they are other than the manufacturer, including dealers/distributors, and as requested by the contracting officer.

An acceptable LOC must:

1. Be on company letter head and signed by an officer of the company;
2. Not expire and be dated within 90 days of the signatory date of the SF-1449/RFM;
3. Reference the solicitation/contract number;
4. State that the manufacturer is willing to provide “a source of supply sufficient to satisfy the Government’s requirements for the contract period”;
5. Confirm that all end products are compliant with the [Trade Agreements Act](#);
6. Address any product or product category restrictions or state that none exist.

Visit the [Compliance Requirements](#) page for additional information and to [download](#) a sample letter of commitment!

### Web Corner

**FSS Tag Cloud** Big, medium, or small it’s all just a bunch of words right? Not really, no. This cloud is very useful and can help you more than you think! Tag clouds are a staple of many public and private sector website, but what exactly is it and how is it useful to our users?

A “tag cloud” is a visual map of the tags, or topics, on a website, often organized alphabetically. The importance of the words are designated by font size and color.



The [FSS tag cloud](#) is a collection of words and topics that are most important to our organization and to our target audiences. It serves as a map of what information is available on our site, and makes navigating the site a breeze as each tag is linked to various site content.

Let us know what you think of this feature by emailing [pmrs@va.gov](mailto:pmrs@va.gov)!

# VA FSS Working for You

The [GSA Federal Acquisition Service Office of Acquisition Management](#) has partnered with the [VA National Acquisition Center Federal Supply Schedule Service](#) to develop an in-depth training program designed to train both GS-1102 Contract Specialists that award and utilize multiple award schedule (MAS) contracts.

In the initial pilot phase, the course, "Awarding and Administering Multiple Award Schedule Contracts," will provide participants with a detailed understanding of the roles and responsibilities of contract specialists responsible for reviewing offers submitted under the multiple award schedule program, including reviewing the offer file, conducting price analysis, developing negotiation objectives, and making an award decision.

Additionally, this course offers a comprehensive look at managing a Schedule contract after it has been awarded. These modules include monitoring contract performance, executing modification, novation/change of name agreements, contract closeouts, extensions, and a discussion of the disputes process.

Finally, participants will learn the benefits of using Schedule contracts to meet agency needs, including specific ordering procedures, dollar thresholds, and relevant regulations.

**Date:** June 18 – 22, 2012

**Location:** [VA Acquisition Academy](#), Frederick, MD

Future iterations of the course will be both instructor-led and available online.

For more information or to request training contact the FSS Help Desk or Craig Robinson, Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for National Healthcare Acquisitions, (p) (708) 786-5157 or (e) [Craig.Robinson@va.gov](mailto:Craig.Robinson@va.gov). Thank you for your continued support.



## Reminder

Are you compliant with all contract requirements?

Visit the [Compliance Requirements](#) page for a complete listing of the annual registrations and other requirements VA FSS contract holders are required to meet throughout the life of their contract.

## Customer Survey

Tell us what you think! Complete the [VA FSS Customer Survey](#) and let us know what we're doing right and how we can do better. Survey responses are anonymous and will be used to better our processes and procedures.



## Schedule Solicitation Refreshes

Recently, the 65IIA Medical Equipment & Supplies and the 621II Medical Laboratory Testing & Analysis Services solicitations were refreshed to include new and updated clauses. These refreshed solicitations can be accessed via FedBizOpps:

65IIA [RFP-797-FSS-99-0025-R8](#)

621II [RFP-797-FSS-04-0001-R2](#)

We will continue to accept solicitations submitted using the previous versions through [September 1, 2012](#).

Please take note of the new solicitation format. It is recommended that you retain a copy of the solicitation and your proposal for your records. *Offerors and contractors are held accountable and responsible for complying with all of the provisions and clauses located in the solicitation document.*

In May 2012, the [VA Office of General Counsel \(OGC\) Public Law \(P.L.\) 102-585, Sect. 603, Policy Group](#) convened to provide additional guidance to manufacturers of covered drugs:

*1. Is the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Health Service Corps (formerly the Division of Immigration Health Services) within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) eligible to access Federal Ceiling Prices (FCPs).*

After reviewing information from DHS/ICE, April 25, 2012 VA's General Counsel issued a memo to VA's Office of Acquisition, Logistics, and Construction, stating that ICE's Health Service Corps is not entitled to receive FCPs on covered drug orders. They are no longer considered to be a functional element of the Public Health Service (PHS or HRSA), one of the statutory beneficiaries of FCPs.

Continued on page 5



Around the  
NAC

## Disaster Recovery: Recent Emergency & Disaster Declarations

Under the Disaster Recovery Purchasing Program, state and local government entities may purchase a variety of products and services from contracts awarded under [VA Federal Supply Schedules](#) to facilitate recovery from a major disaster, terrorism, or nuclear, biological, chemical, or radiological attack.

Major Disaster Declarations			
Number	Date	State	Disaster Type
<a href="#">4063</a>	5/24	KS	Severe storms, tornadoes, straight-line winds, and flooding

This Disaster Recovery Purchasing authority is limited to VA & GSA Schedule contracts and does not include any other GSA programs. [GSA eLibrary](#) contains a list of all GSA Schedules subject to Disaster Recovery Purchasing. VA Schedule contractors are reminded that they must elect to participate in the Disaster Recovery program before they can sell under this authority.

## Around the VA: Rockin' for the Troops

[Operation Support Our Troops \(OSOT\) – America](#) serves as a conduit to provide assistance and support from the community to service men and women as well as veterans, including a focus on veterans returning to the work force.

Featuring the award-winning, critically acclaimed actor Gary Sinise and his Lt. Dan Band, the Annual *Rockin' for the Troops* concert raises money for OSOT – America programs like upgrading facilities at VA Hines Hospital, providing funds for the first Fisher House in Illinois, research and implementation of new treatments for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury, grief support for families, veteran job-search assistance, and more.

The *Rockin' for the Troops* 2012 lineup also includes the Voices, 7<sup>th</sup> Heaven, Big John Howell & Amy Jacobsen, and Isabela Nanni. Buy tickets [online](#) or at your local participating [Jewel-Osco food store!](#)

**Date:** July 21, 2012

**Time:** Gates open at noon; main stage entertainment beginning at 2p.m.

**Location:** [Cantigny Park, Wheaton, IL](#) (offsite parking available at Navistar in Lisle)



Follow OSOT – America on Facebook and Twitter for up-to-date info on the 2012 *Rockin' for the Troops* concert!

## VA Medical Center Spotlight: Bay Pines VA Healthcare System

Improving the lives of our nation's service men and women since 1933, the [Bay Pines VA Healthcare System](#) is located in southwest Florida. With services offered in seven locations the Bay Pines VA Healthcare System has nearly 400 beds, including 186 [acute care hospital/inpatient psychiatry beds](#); 99 beds for [homeless veterans](#), [stress treatment](#), and [substance abuse](#) programs; and 112 [community living center](#) beds.

With an operating budget of \$600 million, the Bay Pines facility is the nation's fourth largest VA medical center, serving over 97,000 veterans, 11% of which are women veterans. In addition to healthcare services for veterans, Bay Pines offers extensive education and training for its healthcare staff, including doctors, nurses and allied health professionals, more than \$3 million in research funding, and serves as a VA Operations Center in the event of a natural disaster.

Moreover, Bay Pines offers extensive resources and [support groups](#) for veterans and their families, as well as temporary lodging offered by [Fisher House and Lodgetel](#). Dedicated in 2002, the Fisher House provides a home away from home for families of acutely hospitalized veterans that live more than 50 miles from the main campus. Similarly, Lodgetel is an off-site temporary housing program for veterans who are unable to attend medical appointments due to distance and time of day.

Check out the [Bay Pines VA Healthcare System Facebook page](#) for up-to-the-minute news and updates!



Figure 1 Bay Pines VA Healthcare System  
10,000 Bay Pines Blvd, Bay Pines, FL 33744  
(p) (888) 820-0230 | [Directions](#)



## Did You Know...

### June is Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month!

This month we take the time to reflect on the enduring legacy of the LGBT community and its unfathomable efforts toward achieving equality for the LGBT community. To this end, President Obama [proclaimed](#) June to be Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month. The President takes a [moment](#) to honor the LGBT community and its accomplishments, as well as heralding the federal government's [achievements](#) in attaining equality for all lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Americans.

Committed to a diverse and inclusive workforce, the Department of Veterans Affairs is a proud observer of LGBT Pride Month. This year, we are "One VA – We Serve with Pride."



### June 14 is Flag Day learn

The [American Flag](#) represents the core of our nation's values of independence, unity, and freedom. On June 14 we celebrate this symbol and honor its designers and makers.

## Useful Web Links

[FSS Web Portal](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Customer Survey](#)

[Resource Library](#)

[VA Schedule Programs](#)

[Training](#)

[FSS Contractors](#)

[Sales Reports & IFF](#)

[Modification Request Forms](#)

[FSS Customers](#)

[Priorities of Use](#)



**1777** Second Continental Congress Passes the "Flag Resolution"

Red and white stripes honoring the thirteen colonies that declared independence from Britain **13**

**1814** Francis Scott Key writes the *Star Spangled Banner*, becoming the national anthem in 1931.

**1885** First official flag day celebrated in Waubeka, WI

**1959** President Eisenhower commissions the 50 star flag, the longest rendition in US history

Five-pointed stars represent the 50 states of the Union **50**

## Around the NAC (cont'd from pg. 3)

2. How will TRICARE mandatory rebates, paid in FY2012 for 2008 and 2009 TRICARE Retail Pharmacy Network (TRRx or T-Pharm) utilization impact 2012 annual non-FAMP reporting?

Based on VA's [October 2009 "Dear Manufacturer Letter"](#) and 2009 posted "FAQ" answers, VA's P.L. 102-585, Sect. 603 Policy Group has concluded that TRRx utilization data from all calendar quarters of 2008 and Q1 & Q2 for FY 2009 should have no place in 2012 non-FAMP computations. In other words, this old TRRx utilization need not be excluded from 2012 non-FAMP eligible sales totals.

For questions or additional information please contact the FSS Help Desk:  
(p) (708) 786-7737 (e) [helpdesk.ammhifss@va.gov](mailto:helpdesk.ammhifss@va.gov)

## Upcoming Events

*June 5, 2012* [FSS/SPH Supplier Show \(Safe Patient Handling\)](#)  
VISN 15 Columbia, MO

*June 6, 2012* [FSS/SPH Supplier Show \(Safe Patient Handling\)](#)  
VISN 15 St. Louis, MO

*June 12, 2012* [FSS/SPH Supplier Show](#) VISN 4 Wilkes-Barre, PA

*June 13, 2012* [FSS/SPH Supplier Show](#)  
VISN 4 Philadelphia, PA

*June 26 – 28, 2012* [National Veteran Small Business Conference and Expo](#) Cobo Center in Detroit, Michigan  
<http://www.nationalveteransconference.com/>

*June 27, 2012* [FSS/SPH Supplier Show \(Safe Patient Handling\)](#)  
VISN 21 Palo Alto, CA

JUNE 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

For more, check out the [FSS Calendar of Events!](#)

## New VA FSS Contracts

To better serve our readers, the *New VA FSS Contracts* section is now available online. Visit [the New VA FSS Contracts](#) page for a complete listing of contracts awarded in May 2012. For a complete listing of all VA Schedules and additional information on the Schedule programs managed by the VA FSS Service, visit the [VA Schedules Programs](#) webpage.

Visit the [NAC Contract Catalog Search Tool \(CCST\)](#) or [GSA eLibrary](#) to obtain pricing information for these and all VA FSS contracts. For questions, comments, or to learn more about the VA FSS program contact the FSS Help Desk

Monday – Friday 7:30am – 3:30pm

(e) [helpdesk.ammhinfss@va.gov](mailto:helpdesk.ammhinfss@va.gov) (p) (708) 786-7737

### VA NAC Federal Supply Schedule

**Address:** PO Box 37, Building 76  
1<sup>st</sup> Ave North of Cermak Ave  
Hines, IL 60141

**Phone:** (708) 786-7737

**Fax:** (708) 786-5828

**E-mail:** [helpdesk.ammhinfss@va.gov](mailto:helpdesk.ammhinfss@va.gov)

**Web Portal:** <http://www.fss.va.gov>

**Customer Survey:** <http://www.va.gov/nac/customersurvey/>

