

Mid Atlantic Acquisition Council
Meeting Minutes from Wednesday, March 13, 2019
10:00AM - 12:00PM

Host

Dan O'Sullivan, DHS

Attendees:

Jack Wise, GSA
Bob Vitelli, GSA
Mike Dyszel, GSA
Sue Davaro, GSA
Lisa Makosewski, FEB
Jen Seaman, DHS
Shelli Waltz, HUD
Kathy Valentine, HUD
Stacy Buechele, GSA
Chris Callender, DOL

The March 19, 2019 meeting was hosted by DHS-FPS at Mellon Independence Center. Thanks to DHS-FPS for providing the meeting space and the refreshments. The meeting began with a brief introduction of everyone in attendance. There were a few topics touched upon at this meeting including:

- **Events Planning Subcommittee Update on MAAC Training Symposium:**
 - See Slides (2019 MAAC Training Symposium Update 3.12.19)
 - We could do once every other year or for half a day every year if we don't continue doing our current format.
 - Look into bringing back the "Lifetime Achievement Award". Maybe move the award to Excellence in Government Awards.

- **Implementation of Section 889 of NDAA (see attached). While its part of the Defense Authorization Act, it also will have an impact on non DOD Agencies.**
 - DoD restricts procurement of telecom and cameras from 3 major Chinese providers.
 - They will determine how to address this in a plan to include how long and how much money it should cost by August 19th.
 - Each agency to do a deep dive into all equipment in an attempt to get rid of these parts and procure all video and telecom that is needed.
 - DHS, GSA and 3 to 4 other agencies are trying to figure how they would implement such a thing.
 - How could you certify if a vendor has this? Vendor won't know and how would they find this out to guarantee no Chinese parts are used?
 - If anything comes up within your agency please share with the group. Currently DHS has nothing, but hopes to within next couple months.

- **Technology improvement within the Contracting Offices. Specifically, what are contracting offices doing organically to improve the IT skills of its workforce (MS Access, Excel, Word etc...)**
 - There is currently a combo of an aging workforce and young millennials in the workplace, which causes a huge gap in tech knowledge.
 - With younger workers being able to manage and access data quicker there is a need to bring along some less tech savvy counterparts.
 - Others agreed this is an issue not just with DHS, but with the other members as well.
 - At DHS someone started a technology knowledge improvement working group, which then grew to include quick hits and tips to be shared with everyone.

- **Acquisition.Gov update since the symposium**
 - Hill Air Force Base migration is official and they are working as we speak. Air Force is very deeply involved to make sure it is at least, or better than what exists on website currently. The migration is a fully operational pilot and Air Force is to review by June and it is currently well on track.
 - The overall idea is so eventually they can remove from FAR by just making a change and proposing it, instead of going first to get permission from the FAR Council and then making the change.
 - Want matrix to be the center. They have started sharing with multiple contract writing systems. Raytheon is using RPAs and bots to pull from matrix. They are pulling things much quicker than other contract writing systems. They are sharing development with all contract writing systems through the process.
 - They are looking to add another column to show clauses that slow down the process for subcontracting agreements and want to add a comparison tool to search by date and when a clause was changed.
Will be placing agency deviations on the community page and you will be able to pull from other agencies to see how worded.
 - Created a list of sections affected that allows for a contracting officer or contracting specialist to pull up a specific page that shows the part of the FAR that changed. Includes a brief description, date, and provides a link to the federal register notice.
 - A tool on the site archives a full 25 years of the FAR and includes a built in tool where you can plug in an award date and it will give you the appropriate FAR for that time period.
 - The FAC number has changed and now looks like FAC 2019-01 effective January 22, 2019. The search engine exists for all FAC's.
 - They are adding hover ability where you can roll over a word or section and a window will pop up with a definition so you don't have to go back into the FAR.
 - Creating multiple ways to look at FAR, so you could look at parts and subparts and have multiple methods of being able to view the FAR.
 - There is no app, but they have made sure the website was built in a way easily viewable on all platforms and phones.

- **Update on Section 809**

- See Slides

Action Items:

- Stacy and the Events Planning Subcommittee will send out a survey that will reach out to those who have attended the Training Symposium in past years to find out if was worthwhile to them, what topics would be appealing, who would they recommend to present those topics or have they attended something at another session related to acquisition that they would recommend?
- Reach out to all members to try to get one representative from each agency to participate in the Training and Development Subcommittee.

Next Council Meeting May 8, 2019

10:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

Location TBD