

appropriate contract or agreement documents.

(c) The FAR applies to contracts made under paragraph (a) of this section. Such contracts also are subject to provisions of the VAAR that implement and supplement the FAR on matters other than those stemming from or related to delegations of the Secretary's contracting authority. (For example, management controls and approvals specified in subpart 837.2 will not apply to contract actions under the contract authority of the Inspector General.)

#### 801.690 VA's COCP.

##### 801.690-1 Definitions.

*Accredited college or university* means a college or university that has been accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education (see <http://www.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred/index.html>) or accredited by a foreign government.

*ACEP* means the Acquisition Continuing Education Program, a program to provide VA's acquisition workforce with classroom knowledge to further develop their acquisition skills. The program supports VA personnel in the GS 1102 contracting series, other contracting officers (regardless of General Schedule series), contracting officers' technical representatives, and contracting officers' representatives to ensure that they meet the continuing education requirements mandated by OFPP Policy Letter No. 05-01, Developing and Managing the Acquisition Workforce, dated April 15, 2005 (see [http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/procurement/policy\\_letters/05-01\\_041505.html](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/procurement/policy_letters/05-01_041505.html)) and the OFPP Memorandum dated January 20, 2006, titled The Federal Acquisition Certification in Contracting Program (see [http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/procurement/acq\\_wk/fac\\_contracting\\_program.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/procurement/acq_wk/fac_contracting_program.pdf)).

*ACM* means the Acquisition Career Manager, who is the Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Acquisitions.

*Acquisition Workforce* means those VA employees who are classified as: GS 1102 contract specialists; GS 1105 purchasing agents; contracting officers warranted above the micro-purchase threshold; program and project man-

agers and other significant acquisition-related positions as otherwise identified by the VA Chief Acquisition Officer; contracting officers' technical representatives; and contracting officers' representatives. The acquisition workforce may also include a limited number of employees that perform significant acquisition-related responsibilities, (e.g., employees in the GS-345, GS-346, GS-801, GS-1101, GS-1106, GS-1170, GS-2001, GS-2003, and GS-2005 job series and select program officials).

*Appointment* means the delegation of authority to any VA employee to enter into, administer, or terminate contracts and to make related determinations and findings.

*ATCD* means the Acquisition Training and Career Development Division.

*Certificate of Appointment as Contracting Officer* is a signed certificate on Standard Form 1402 used for the written appointment of contracting officers that states the scope, limitation, and term of the contracting officer's authority.

*CLP* means continuous learning point, as provided in OFPP Policy Letter 05-01. One CLP is generally equivalent to one hour of classroom training.

*COCB* means the Contracting Officers Certification Board, a group of VA officials, listed at 801.690-3(c), who evaluate and recommend to the DSPE individuals for delegation of contracting authority as Level II warrant or Level III warrant (Senior Limited or Unlimited) contracting officers.

*COCP* means the Contracting Officers Certification Program, VA's program established for the selection, appointment, and termination of appointment of contracting officers.

*COQS* means the Contracting Officer Qualification Statement, a document completed by a candidate for a position as contracting officer that accompanies the request for contracting authority. The certified statement includes information on experience, education, training, and pertinent contracting authority information. The COQS is accompanied by supporting documentation such as training certificates, copies of prior and current warrants, college transcripts, and other relevant information.

*Federal Acquisition Certification* (see OFPP Policy Letter 05-01, paragraph 8) means a certification program developed by the Federal Acquisition Institute and OFPP that generally reflects a Government-wide standard for education, training, and experience leading to the fulfillment of core competencies in acquisition-related disciplines.

*Selection* means the appointment of an employee as a contracting officer. The selection process shall consider the complexity and dollar value of the assigned work, the candidate's experience, training, education, business acumen, judgment, character, reputation, and knowledge of acquisition policies, rules and regulations.

*Skills Currency* means the level of knowledge and abilities that a Level I warrant or higher level warrant contracting officer attains as the result of participating in a minimum of 80 CLPs of continuing education or training every two years. The training is intended to ensure that the employee maintains current acquisition knowledge and skills, as mandated by OFPP Policy Letter No. 05-01 and the OFPP Memorandum dated January 20, 2006, titled The Federal Acquisition Certification in Contracting Program.

*Termination* means the revocation or rescission of an appointment as contracting officer.

#### **801.690-2 General.**

(a) The VA COCP applies to all VA programs except for the appointment of contracting officers under the Inspector General Act (Pub. L. 95-452) and for contracting officers designated in sections 801.670 through 801.670-5. The COCP also applies to VA officials granted authority to enter into sales agreements (see separate guidance under VA's Directives Management System).

(b) A Certificate of Appointment is not required for a contracting officer designated in 801.670 who exercises special and limited delegations of authority.

(c) Warrant levels are synonymous with the Federal Acquisition Certification in Contracting Program certification levels specified in the OFPP Memorandum dated January 20, 2006,

titled "The Federal Acquisition Certification in Contracting Program." The COCP is based on the following levels and types of authority:

(1) *Level I warrant.* Authority for expenditures at or below the simplified acquisition threshold (see FAR 2.101) for open market contracts, blanket purchase agreements, basic ordering agreements, and delivery/task orders against established contracts (except Federal Supply Schedule (FSS) contracts), within the specified geographical limits of the contracting officer's warrant. For FSS contracts, Level I warrant authority includes authority for expenditures up to the maximum order threshold of the FSS contract, within the specified geographical limits of the contracting officer's warrant. This level was formally titled "Basic" and any current Basic Level warrant need not be reissued solely to change the title.

(2) *Level II warrant.* Authority for expenditures at or below \$5,000,000 or as stated on Standard Form 1402 for open market contracts, blanket purchase agreements, basic ordering agreements, and delivery/task orders against established contracts, within the specified geographic limits of the contracting officer's warrant. This level was formally titled "Intermediate" and any current Intermediate Level warrant need not be reissued solely to change the title.

(3) *Level III (Senior Limited) warrant.* Authority for expenditures at or below the dollar threshold and within the geographical limits specified on the contracting officer's warrant, Standard Form 1402. This level was formally titled "Senior Limited" and any current Senior Limited Level warrant need not be reissued solely to change the title.

(4) *Level III (Senior Unlimited) warrant.* Authority granted to VA's contracting officers in contracting activities (e.g., the VA National Acquisition Center, Hines, IL, and Acquisition Operations Service, VA Central Office, Washington, DC) that are charged with meeting Department-wide acquisition needs of VA and its customers. The authority is for expenditures at any dollar level without geographical restriction. This level was formally titled "Senior Unlimited" and any current