**Slide 1**:

Hello, my name is Robert Jasper from the Compensation Service Training Staff. This video will give you a review of the information related to the enhancements made for the Veterans Information Solution (VIS) updates to include DFAS payment screens, and information related to the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA)/ Department of Defense Identity **Repository** (VADIR)

**Slide 2**:

The Veterans Information Solution (VIS) is a web-based application provides a consolidated view of eligibility and benefits data from VBA and DoD. VIS has been developed and released in phases. As it has grown in time and scope, VIS has provided an increased range of functionality and information, to include access to additional sources of data on Veterans and Servicemembers. VIS provides access to rating and award information VETSNET payment systems and information from the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) thru VADIR VIS enables authorized users to search records and retrieve information on the Veteran’s or Servicemember’s profile or military history; on certain education benefits; and information on compensation and disability pension ratings and awards and on dependents included in those awards.

**Slide 3**:

 To access VIS, a user’s computer must be connected to the VBA intranet and have Microsoft Internet Explorer. A user’s ability to access a specific Veteran’s or Servicemember’s record depends on the assigned account privileges. The sensitivity level of the user’s account (0-9) determines which records can be viewed. If a user attempts to view a record to which his or her account sensitivity level does not allow access, the system will display a Sensitive File – Access Violation notification. To access VIS, a user must have a valid VIS user account ID and password. To obtain an account ID, the user should contact the VIS coordinator within their organization.

To access VIS, type https://vaww.visr.aac.va.gov/vis into the web browser address bar and press the Enter key or click the web browser’s Go button. At this point, the user will be directed to a screen that is called a landing page, rather than the VIS application.

**Slide 4**:

To log in, the user must enter their Station ID (number code), User ID and Password, and then press the Submit button, as depicted. To change a password, check the Change Password box. At that point, the New Password and Confirm New Password input fields.

**Slide 5**:

Upon successful log in, the browser will load the following screen, as depicted. This screen also serves as the Search screen. The options Search, Help and Log Out at the top of the screen above the VIS banner are universal and will be accessible from all screens in the application. Upon successful log in, the browser loads search screen where the user can request a Veteran’s or a Servicemember’s record, as depicted. The search screen provides the user with three search criteria to process the information request: Social Security number (SSN) or claim file number, military service number, or the name of the individual.

**Slide 6**:

When VIS finds more than 50 records for a search query, it automatically re-directs the user to the search screen allowing the user to refine the search or initiate a new one as depicted. If the user enters search criteria that cannot be located in the VIS application, they will receive the following message: No Records Found. A search request identifying a specific Veteran or Servicemember returns the profile immediately. If more than one possible individual is identified, the multiple records will be returned and displayed as noted. This is one of two screens in VIS where a complete SSN is displayed. The Education screen displays the complete SSN for dependents. In all other screens, only the last four digits are shown.

If an SSN, file number or service number identifies more than one individual, the multiple records sharing the number will be displayed. When more than one record is returned:

1. Identify the required profile by matching name and DOB; and,

2. Click on the identified record to view the individual’s profile.

**Slide 7**:

VIS provides Veteran or Servicemember profile and military service data from both VADIR and BIRLS databases on one page. For Veterans who served prior to the mid-1980s, there will generally be no VADIR information – just BIRLS. The Profile screen is the default screen displayed after a successful record search is conducted. The user can move to different screens by clicking on any of the other tabs displayed on the top of the screen below the VIS banner T For VADIR The data elements in this information screen come directly through from DMDC through VADIR, with the exception of the Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF) indicator. This comes from elsewhere however, Use VIS not VIP when verifying the OEF/OIF indicator. This indicator displays ‘Yes’ if the Veteran was activated or deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom; otherwise, it will be blank. The Home of Record is displayed if it is available from DMDC. The Effective Date refers to the address of record. For BIRLS, The data elements in this information screen come directly from BIRLS. The miscellaneous data elements have values of text, dates, numbers, Yes, No or blank. RO Number refers to the VBA regional office that has jurisdiction of the C&P claims folder. The office number displayed will be underlined, supplemented by hover text that will provide the office name. For various data elements in many of its screens, VIS uses hover text, indicated by underlining, to provide supplemental explanation of the value displayed, as noted above for the RO Number. The hover text will display for up to five seconds. If the user wants the display for a longer period, he or she can left click the underlined data element and a dialogue box will pop up. The explanation text, which can be copied and pasted into other documents, will display as long as the dialogue box is kept open. Only one dialogue box may be opened at one time. The dialogue box may be dragged to other positions on the screen being displayed.

**Slide 8**:

To access the Military History screen, click the Military History tab on the top of the screen. VIS provides military service information for a particular Veteran or Servicemember from both VADIR and BIRLS, if the information is available from each source. The VADIR screen will appear first, then the BIRLS screen. If there is data from both sources, there will be a prompt at the bottom of each screen instructing the user to click here to view the other military history screen.

**Slide 9**:

The Military History segment, depicted, is divided into three categories: service periods, deployment periods and special pay periods. The category for service periods contains three types of service: 1) active duty periods; 2) National Guard and Reserve member activation/mobilization periods; and 3) National Guard and Reserve service periods.

Refer to the M21-1MR Part III, subpart ii, Chapter 6, Section 6 for utilizing VIS as an alternative source for service verification.

**Slide 10:**

The category for special pay periods contains two types: 1) combat pay and combat tax exclusion periods, and 2) hazardous duty pay periods. For the most part, the category labels provide an explanation of the data elements.

It is in the military history segment where users will find information for Veterans and Servicemembers who were activated for duty and/or deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Free, Gulf War on Terror and Operation New Dawn

**Slide 11:**

A number of the elements will be underlined, indicating there is a supplemental explanation of the value displayed which can be accessed through hover text or a dialogue pop-up box. The Service will always be underlined, indicating that there may be details of that period of service or deployment (i.e., Tour of Duty). When left clicked, a dialogue box will pop up displaying consecutive lines of data if there is any for these four elements: Date, Event, Description and Code. For the Service alone, there is no hover functionality; just the dialogue pop up box Data elements in the VADIR screen will be blank if there is no data available from DMDC.

**Slide 12**:

Categories viewable in VADIR

Active Duty Service Periods

This category of service includes a current period of active duty service and completed periods of such service

National Guard and Reserve Activation/Mobilization Service Periods

This category of service includes a current period of active duty service by reason of activation/ mobilization in support of a named contingency and completed periods of such service

National Guard and Reserve Service Periods

This category of service includes a current period of National Guard or Reserve service and completed periods of such service.

Deployment Periods

This category of service includes a current period of deployment and completed periods of deployment during active duty service or active duty service due to activation in support of a named contingency.

Combat Pay & Combat Tax Exclusion Periods

This category of special pay includes a current period of hostile fire pay/ imminent danger pay and combat zone tax exclusion, and completed periods of such pay or tax exclusion. The data elements show dates and the country /location codes, which are explained by hovering text.

DMDC reports hostile fire pay and imminent danger pay as one entity.

**Slide 13**:

Since the dates come from monthly pay files, a beginning date will always be the first day of the cited month and an ending date will always be the last day of the cited month. If there is a starting date without an ending date, the period cited was still open when the record was last updated.

Hazardous Duty Incentive Pay Periods

This category of special pay includes a current period of hazardous duty incentive pay and completed periods of such pay. The data elements for this pay category show dates while country/location codes explanations are provided through hovering text.

Since the dates come from monthly pay files, a beginning date will always be the first day of the cited month and an ending date will always be the last day of the cited month. If there is a starting date without an ending date, the period cited was still open when the record was last updated.

**Slide 14**:

The data elements in the Profile segment of the BIRLS screen, depicted are generally self-explanatory and repeat a number of elements displayed in the Profile screen.

The Military History segment provides information about periods of active duty service as contained in BIRLS. The miscellaneous data elements following the service periods have values of text; dates; a number; or Yes, No or may be blank.

**Slide 15**

 When a user selects the C&P Disabilities tab, certain C&P rating data stored in VBA corporate displays under the default tab, Diagnostics/Combined. The rating data will display even when there is no concurrent corporate award of compensation or disability pension. Information on the two most chronologically recent C&P claims displays on this screen in case there is no Summary Screen for display. If the record has a history of conversion from C&P BDN to corporate, the date of the conversion will be shown.

**Slide 16**:

When a user selects the Additional Rating Information tab, the second half of the C&P Disabilities screen is displayed.

**Slide 17:**

We have the C&P in BIRLS screen

**Slide 18:**

We have the C&P Dependents Screen

**Slide 19:**

We have the C&P Awards Screen

**Slide 20**

The DFAS Payments screen contains payments information such as Retired Pay, Non-Recurring Separation Pay, Pay, pertaining to a particular Veteran or Service Member. As depicted, the data elements in the DFAS Payment screen are generally self-explanatory. Where definition is needed, VIS uses hover text, indicated by underlining, to provide supplemental explanation of the value displayed. As with the other screens in VIS, the hover text will display for up to five seconds. If the user wants the display for a longer period, he or she can left click the underlined data element and a dialogue box will appear displaying the text.

The DFAS Payments screen is divided into segments that primarily provide various types of pay information. The first segment is the Profile that is consistent with data displayed on the VADIR Profile screen, VADIR Military History screen and the Education screen**.**

The next segment is Retired Pay Information

The next segment is Separation Pay Information.

**Slide 21**

The pay data provided in VIS-R, Retired Pay, Separation Pay, An update to the M21-1MR is forthcoming. If VIS-R is used upload a copy of the screen in Virtual VA or VBMS, as appropriate for record keeping purposes.

Per M21-1MR, III.v.4.B, separation pay must be verified through either PIES or by contacting the finance center of the service department. Where feasible, verify payment data for separation pay through VIS-R. We would like to get some feedback on the usability data as you process claims. This feedback can be provided through the following mailbox: VAVBAWAS/CO/212A

**Slide 22**

use the DFAS Payments tab in the viewer as the authoritative source for verifying payment (readjustment/separation/severance pay) amounts if a Veteran was released from active duty after these dates:

Army, Navy, and Air Force:

Active Component Separation Pay Data in VADIR - January 2001 - Present

Reserve Component Separation Pay Data in VADIR - June 2007 – Present

Note: If an Air Force or Army Reserve Unit was activated, their pay records were maintained on DJMS-RC. Therefore their pay data would only go back to June 2007.

Note: If a Navy Reserve Unit was activated, their pay records are moved to DJMS-AC and their pay data goes back to January 2001.

USMC:

Active and Reserve component - October 2006 – Present

If a Veteran was released from active duty prior to these dates the Regional Office will be required to contact the finance center of the service department from which the Veteran separated by telephone or fax in order to confirm the amount the Veteran received.

**Slide 23**

Access for VIS-R is obtained through the completion of the VAF 8824e, Common Security Services (CSS) User Access Request. Typically in the past with VIS, there was limited user access. We are doing a capacity check to determine how many new users we can add. In the meantime, we are going to add approximately 25 users per RO per month.

**Slide 24**

To summarize the newest functionality in the latest version of VIS for VADIR has to do with DFAS payment screens.. Thank You.