Department of Veterans Affairs

Memorandum

Date: January 28, 2013

From: Deputy Assistant Secretary, Information Security

Subj: Certification of System Security Made Under Duress

To: Designated Approving Authority

Attestation

I attest that I am the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) Senior Agency Information Security Officer, a position designated by Title III of E-Government Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-347, 116 Stat 2899). Under this appointment, I also subsume the title, role and responsibilities of Deputy Assistant Secretary, Information Security (DAS, IS) and Chief Information Security Officer (CISO).

I attest that any document, artifact and other legal instruments from the date of January 25th, 2013 and heretofore that bears my signature as the DAS, IS used to validate that VA information systems, processing, storing or transmitting sensitive Veteran information were signed by myself under duress. And to this end, I make the appeal that the Designating Approving Authority (DAA) not authorize any system to operate where my signature is present on any extension of an authority to operate (ATO) beginning on the aforementioned date.

I attest that as the DAS, IS I have no confidence or trust in the processes that were executed by any employee or contractor of DVA is effective or provides reasonable assurances that Veteran data is adequately secure. The circumstances in which I was coerced and intimidated by senior officials within the Office of Information Technology (OIT) to sign and attest to the security of VA systems only served to significantly diminished my ability to logically assess the process and make rational decisions about the protection of Veteran data entrusted to my care.

I articulated my concern regarding the process in a memo to the Assistant Secretary, Information and Technology on January 15th, 2013 and verbally to the Principle Deputy Assistant Secretary on January 16th, 2013 and again on January 22nd, 2013 and in writing on January 24th, 2013.

I attest that as the DAS, IS, there is a clear and present danger and risk of exposure and compromise of the sensitive data for perhaps hundreds of thousands to millions of Veteran; all facilitated by coercion, intimidation and an improper process executed to assess system security.

Jerry L. Davis

Deputy Assistant Secretary, Information Security

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