

# 3354\_VBMS Awards Architecture

Documentation Status	Final - updated for 1/20/26 submission
Review Date	3/18/25
BIP Tenant Boundary	VBMS - Awards
BIP Tenant Component	vbms-awards
System Acronym	VBMSA
VASI ID and Link	<a href="#">3354</a>
BIP Tenant App(s) and Architecture Pages	<b>VBMS Awards Tenant Apps in Production</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• VBMS Awards Legacy (Main Page)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ <a href="#">bip-vbms-awards-legacy</a></li></ul></li></ul> <b>VBMS Awards Tenant Apps Not in Production</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• VBMS Awards Modernization<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ <a href="#">(bip-vbms-awards-api)</a></li><li>◦ <a href="#">(bip-vbms-awards-ui)</a></li></ul></li></ul>
GitHub Link(s)	VBMS Awards Legacy <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">bip-vbms-awards-legacy</a> (DVA)</li></ul> VBMS Awards Modernization <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">bip-vbms-awards-api</a> (DVA)</li><li>• <a href="#">bip-vbms-awards-ui</a> (DVA)</li></ul> Tenant Level GitHub Repos: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">bip-vbms-awards-config</a> (DVA)</li></ul>
BIH Link(s)	<a href="#">VBMS Awards</a>
MSR Links(s)	<a href="#">2737</a>
Solution and support Links	N/A
Sponsoring organization	VBA
Number of users	4900
Estimated Monthly Cost	Prod: \$3,610 PreProd: \$3,606 Stage: \$1,012 Dev: \$3,095 Total: \$11,323
Privacy	Yes Both PHI and PII Veteran PII: Uses File number/SSN to search for participants Spouse/Dependent PII: SSN and DOB are stored for dependents and beneficiaries of the veteran.  Veteran/Recipient: Mailing address is stored and used to provide correspondence.  Veteran PHI: Disability decision information is stored within the application.
Will need 508 Compliance	Yes
Deployment date	April 2014

eMASS ID (System Name)	2488 (VBMS Awards)
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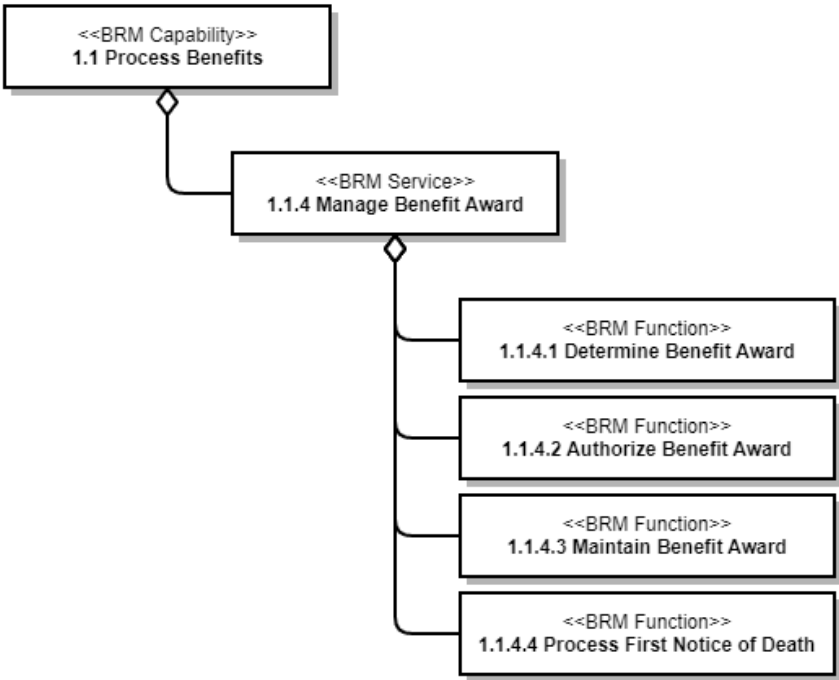
## Use Case View

### Capability Viewpoint Vision (CV-1) (VASI Description)

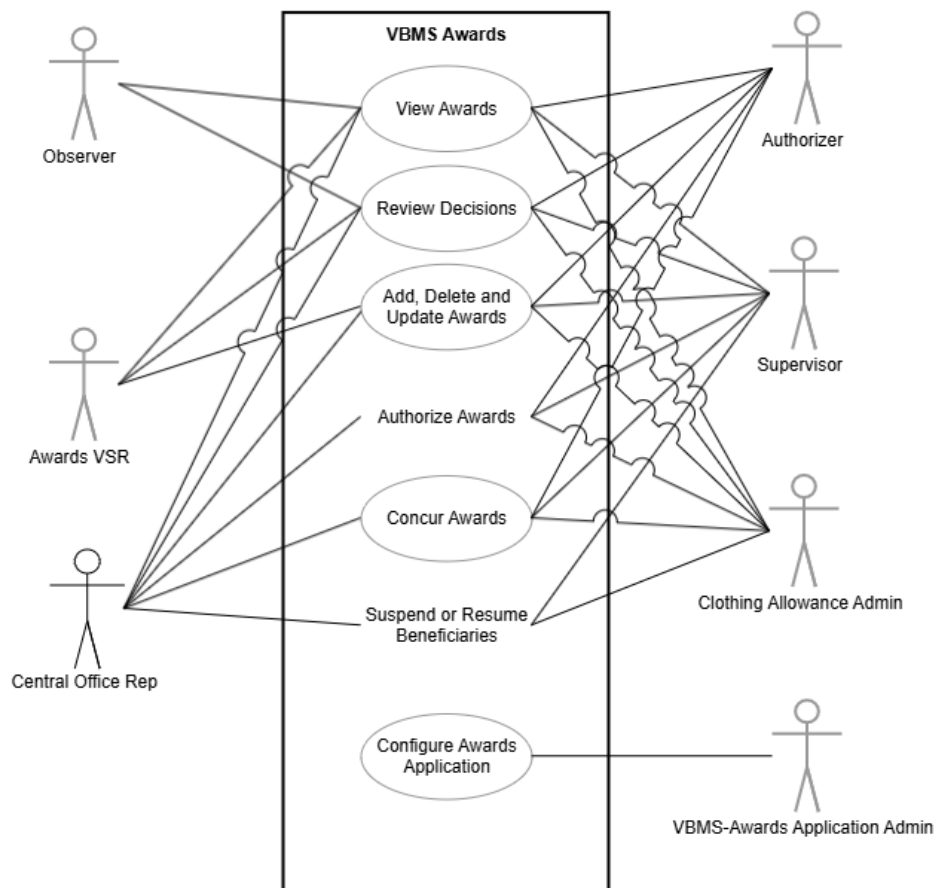
The Veterans Benefits Management System - Awards (VBMSA) application resides on Benefits Integrated Platform as a Service (BIP - #2295) and is under the Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS - #1728)

The Veterans Benefits Management System - Awards provides the Veterans Benefits Administration the processing capabilities to generate and authorize awards for Veterans and their beneficiaries. It is used to prepare, calculate, determine, authorize, and maintain award history.

### Capability Viewpoint Taxonomy (CV-2)



### Use Cases



## Main Actors

The following table describes the actors listed in the diagram above. An actor is user in the scope of this architecture and can be a human user or a "system actor" as appropriate.

Name	Description
Awards VSR	Primary adjudicator for compensation and pension benefit using the rating, military service information, family member relationships, institutional events, and other data to shape and complete the award
Authorizer	Reviews VSRs work and supplies 2nd signature to the award
Supervisor	Reviews VSRs work and supplies 3rd signature for awards meeting 3rd signature requirements
Observer	Generic role for read-only access for quality reviews, training, and other observer roles
Clothing Allowance Admin	Reviews VSRs work on Clothing Allowance Awards, manages Clothing Allowance GAO, concurs on Clothing Allowance Awards, and can authorize Clothing Allowance Awards regardless of the Diagnostic Code
VBMS-Awards Application Admin	Application administrator with ability to configure the net worth threshold amount schedule, clothing allowance diagnostic code(s), and Military Retirement Pay (MRP) cut off dates within Awards
Central Office (CO) Rep	A Central Office user with the ability to perform all the same operations as an Awards VSR, Authorizer, and Supervisor

## System/Tenant/Application Description

The following table describes each system/tenant/application (rectangles) listed in the diagram above.

System Name	Description
VBMS Rating	VBMS provides an interface for VBMS-Ratings (VBMS-R) to upload ratings documents and provides an interface for VBMS-R to retrieve DBQ exam results stored in the VBMS-Core document repository.

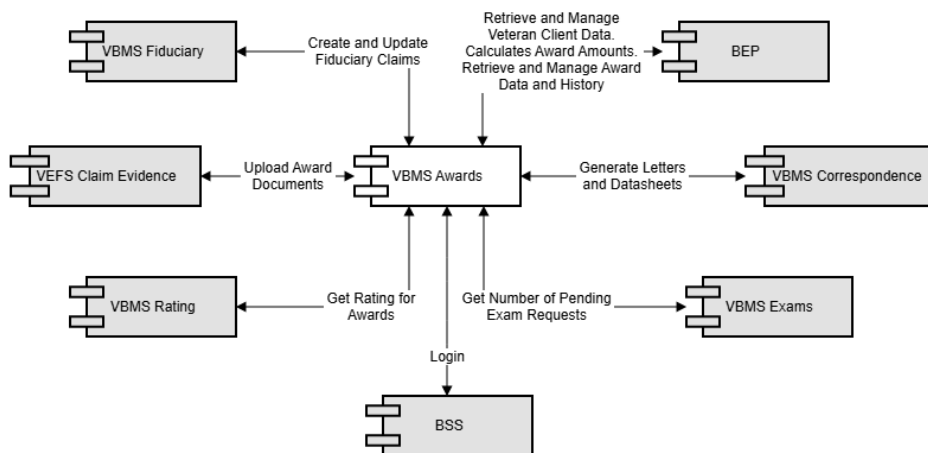
VBMS Core - eFolder	The eFolder Service encompasses several SOAPS webs services, allowing clients to manage documentation used in VBMS, including the ability to create, read, update, and send documents
Fiduciary	The VBMS-Fiduciary application enables the Fiduciary Program to expedite qualifications, appointments of fiduciaries, and release withheld VA funds to beneficiaries
BEP	Benefits Gateway Service: provides secure integration web services to VBA Corporate Database providing access to Veteran, Claims, Ratings, and Awards data
Correspondence Service	Veterans Benefit Management System Correspondence (VBMSC) provides legacy correspondence services used by legacy Veterans Benefit Management System (VBMS) Benefits Integrated Platform (BIP) tenants to generate documents in PDF format
VBMS Exams	Exams allows Awards to retrieve pending exam requests

## Main User Functions (Use Cases)

The following table describes each of the use cases (ovals) in the diagram above.

Actor(s)	System	Ability	Details
Awards VSR, Authorizer, Supervisor, Observer, Central Office (CO) Rep, Clothing Allowance Admin	VBMS-A	View Awards	Ability to view awards
Awards VSR, Authorizer, Supervisor, Observer, Central Office (CO) Rep, Clothing Allowance Admin	VBMS-A	Review Decisions	Ability to review decisions
Awards VSR, Authorizer, Supervisor, Central Office (CO) Rep, Clothing Allowance Admin	VBMS-A	Add, Delete and Update Awards	Ability to add, delete and update awards
Authorizer, Supervisor, Central Office (CO) Rep, Clothing Allowance Admin	VBMS-A	Authorize Awards	Ability to authorize awards
Authorizer, Supervisor, Central Office (CO) Rep, Clothing Allowance Admin	VBMS-A	Concur Awards	Ability to Concur Awards with an award amount greater than \$25k.
Supervisor, Central Office (CO) Rep	VBMS-A	Suspend or Resume Beneficiaries	Ability to suspend or resume beneficiaries
VBMS-Awards Application Admin	VBMS-A	Configure Awards Application	Ability configure the net worth threshold amount schedule, clothing allowance diagnostic code(s), and Military Retirement Pay (MRP) cut off dates within Awards

## Primary Systems High Level Operational Viewpoint (OV-1)

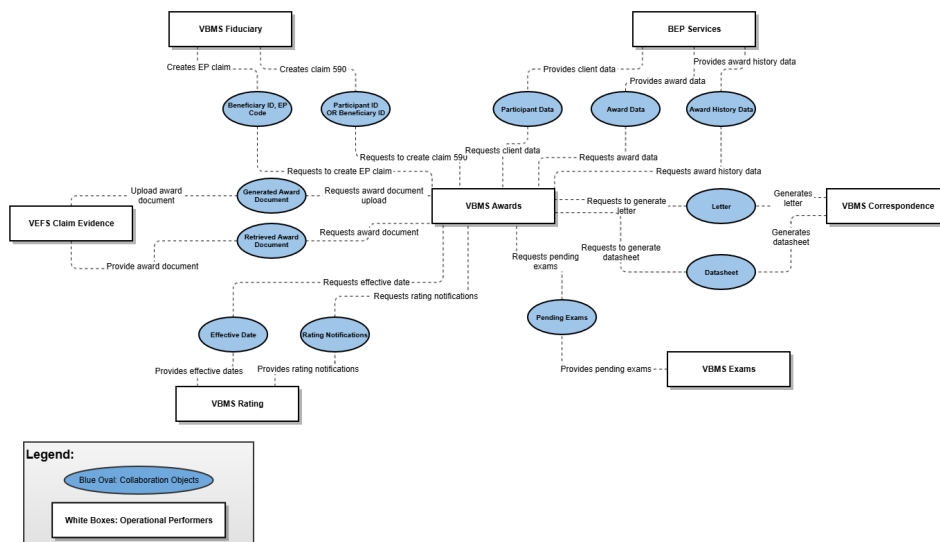


Legend
Gray Rectangle = External resource to resource being documented
White Rectangle = Internal resource to resource being documented

The table below describes the lines and arrows in the diagram above:

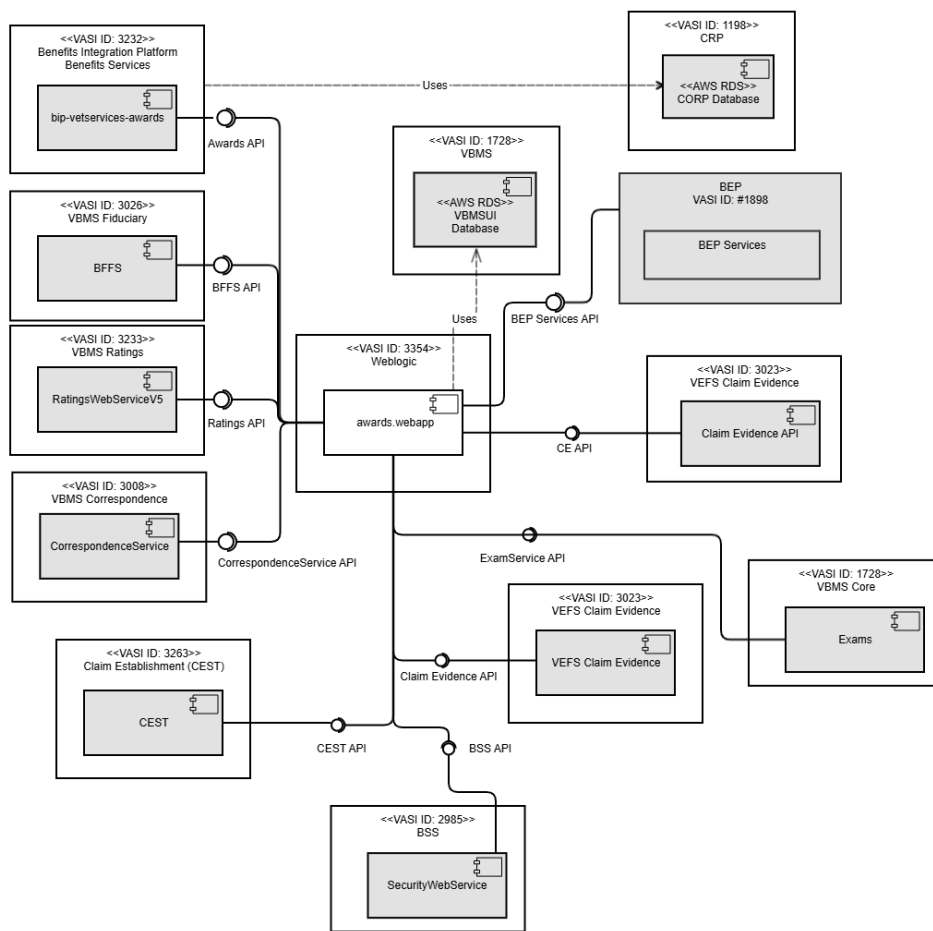
System A and VASI ID	System B and VASI ID	Interaction Description
VBMS-A, VASI ID 3354	Fiduciary, VASI ID 3026	VBMS Fiduciary is used by VBMS Awards to create and update fiduciary claims
VBMS-A, VASI ID 3354	BEP, VASI ID 5073	VBMS-A consumes BEP services to get various Veteran-related data from Corp DB, as well as to store created awards
VBMS-A, VASI ID 3354	Correspondence Service, VASI ID 3008	VBMS-A calls Correspondence Service to generate letters and data sheets
VBMS-A, VASI ID 3354	VBMS Exams, VASI ID 6094	VBMS Exams is used to get a number of pending exams
VBMS-A, VASI ID 3354	VBMS Rating, VASI ID 3233	VBMS-A calls Rating services to get rating data for awards
VBMS-A, VASI ID 3354	VEFS Claim Evidence, VASI ID 3023	VBMS-A calls Claim Evidence services to retrieve and store evidence files
VBMS-A, VASI ID 3354	Benefits Security Services (BSS), VASI ID 2985	VBMS-A uses BSS to authenticate to IAM SSOi via Personal Identification Verification (PIV) card and log in to BSS by selecting their current station

## Operational Resource Flow (OV-2)



## Logical View

### Systems Interface Description (SV-1)



### Legend

Gray Rectangle = External resource to resource being documented

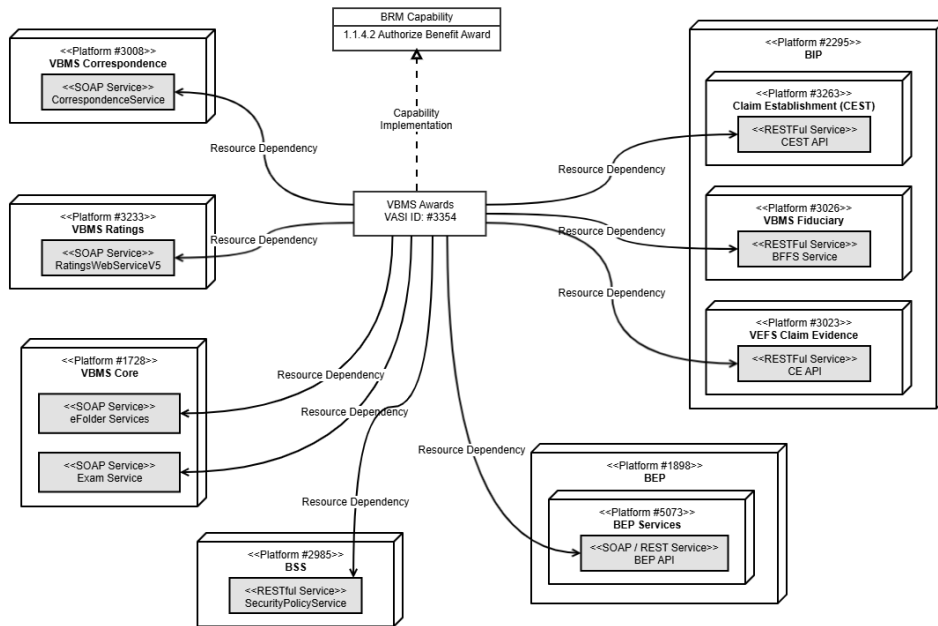
White Rectangle = Internal resource to resource being documented

**Component References Table**

Name	Description	Ports	Protocols
BEP Services (1898)	Provides secure integration web services to VBA Corporate Database providing access to Veteran, Claims, Ratings, and Awards data. Acts as an advisor during conceptual design of new projects and enhancements to the existing systems. Ensures maximum reuse of services and components among and between new development initiatives and current systems in operations /sustainment	443	SOAP / REST
Exams (1728)	Functions to support system to system communications between VBA, VHA, and VA contracted exam providers and allow automatic notification of completed examination results within VBMS. The Exam Management System (EMS) is intended to reduce turnaround time when responding to exam status updates. In addition to speeding up information transfer, the system accurately routes claims that require exams prior to rating.	443	SOAP
Correspondence Service (3008)	Generates documentation in the form of Letters and internal data sheets, such as the Redesigned Automated Decision Letter (RADL) and the Award Print, and facilitates document distribution and storage via Package Manager and the eFolder.	443	SOAP
RatingsWebService (3233)	Provides data for rating decisions	443	SOAP
BFFS (Fiduciary) (3026)	Offers services to create and update fiduciary claims	443	REST
Claim Establishment (CEST) (3263)	VBMS Awards interacts with CEST to save draft decisions and complete decision reviews.	443	REST

VEFS Claim Evidence (3023)	Claim Evidence provides services to retrieve and store evidence files that can be used as a part of the claim rating process	443	REST
bip-vetservice-s-awards (3232)	The Awards API is used to retrieve the attorney fee amount and Outstanding debt values.	443	REST
Benefits Security Services (2985)	VBMS-A uses BSS to authenticate to IAM SSOi via Personal Identification Verification (PIV) card and log in to BSS by selecting their current station	443	REST

## Services Context (SvcV-1) (VASI APIs)



## Services Resource Flow (SvcV-2)

Source System	Source Service	Source Operation	Target System	Target Service	Target Operation
3354 - VBMS-A	AccruedDecisionsController	undo	1898 - BEP	AwardsService	readParticipantAwards
3354 - VBMS-A	AccruedDecisionsController	undo	1898 - BEP	ClaimsService	readAvailableClaims
3354 - VBMS-A	AccruedDecisionsController	accruedDecisions	1898 - BEP	ClaimsService	readAvailableClaims
3354 - VBMS-A	AccruedDecisionsController	accruedDecisions	1898 - BEP	AccruedDecisionService	readAccrued
3354 - VBMS-A	AccruedDecisionsController	accruedDecisions	1898 - BEP	AccruedDecisionService	readSubsetClaim
3354 - VBMS-A	AccruedDecisionsController	accruedDecisions	1898 - BEP	AccruedDecisionService	getAwardTypeCode
3354 - VBMS-A	AccruedDecisionsController	accruedDecisions	1898 - BEP	AccruedDecisionService	getMilitaryServicePeriods
3354 - VBMS-A	AccruedDecisionsController	delete	1898 - BEP	ClaimsService	readAvailableClaims
3354 - VBMS-A	AccruedDecisionsController	delete	1898 - BEP	AccruedDecisionService	readSubsetClaim
3354 - VBMS-A	AccruedDecisionsController	delete	1898 - BEP	AccruedDecisionService	getAwardTypeCode

3354 - VBMS-A	AccruedDecisionsController	delete	1898 - BEP	AccruedDecisionService	getMilitaryServicePeriods
3354 - VBMS-A	AccruedDecisionsController	getserviceperiods	1898 - BEP	AccruedDecisionService	getAwardTypeCode
3354 - VBMS-A	AccruedDecisionsController	getserviceperiods	1898 - BEP	AccruedDecisionService	getMilitaryServicePeriods
3354 - VBMS-A	AccruedDecisionsController	save	1898 - BEP	AccruedDecisionService	updateAccruedDecn
3354 - VBMS-A	RecipientsController	abandon	1898 - BEP	PersonWebService	hasFiduciary
3354 - VBMS-A	RecipientsController	abandon	1898 - BEP	AddressService	retrieveBadAddressIndicator
3354 - VBMS-A	RecipientsController	main	1898 - BEP	PersonWebService	hasFiduciary
3354 - VBMS-A	RecipientsController	main	1898 - BEP	RORoutingService	getRegionalOfficeByZipCode
3354 - VBMS-A	RecipientsController	accept	1898 - BEP	AddressService	retrieveBadAddressIndicator
3354 - VBMS-A	RecipientsController	accept	1898 - BEP	PersonWebService	hasFiduciary
3354 - VBMS-A	RecipientsController	getPOAAddressDetails	1898 - BEP	AddressService	findAllPtcptnAdrsByPtcptnId
3354 - VBMS-A	RecipientsController	getZipCodeDetails	1898 - BEP	RORoutingService	getGeoInfoByZipCode
3354 - VBMS-A	BrokeringController	brokering	1898 - BEP	VetsnetStandardDataService	getStationAddressList
3354 - VBMS-A	BrokeringController	submit	1898 - BEP	VetsnetStandardDataService	getStationAddressList
3354 - VBMS-A	ImportEvidenceListController	importEvidenceList	1898 - BEP	TrackedItemService	findUnsolEvdnce
3354 - VBMS-A	ImportEvidenceListController	importEvidenceList	1898 - BEP	TrackedItemService	findTrackedItems
3354 - VBMS-A	EnclosureCBCMController	getavailableEnclosures	3008 - Correspondence	CorrespondenceService	listAvailableEnclosures
3354 - VBMS-A	BurialController	saveall	1898 - BEP	VetsnetStandardDataService	getTypesByCategory
3354 - VBMS-A	BurialController	decisions	1898 - BEP	ClaimsService	readAvailableClaims
3354 - VBMS-A	BurialController	decisions	1898 - BEP	VetsnetStandardDataService	getTypesByCategory
3354 - VBMS-A	BurialController	decisions	1898 - BEP	BurialDecnService	getBurialDecisions
3354 - VBMS-A	BurialController	decisions	1898 - BEP	BurialDecnService	getBurialDecisionTypes
3354 - VBMS-A	BurialController	decisions	1898 - BEP	BurialDecnService	readClaimants
3354 - VBMS-A	BurialController	decisions	1898 - BEP	BurialDecnService	getBurialRate
3354 - VBMS-A	BurialController	undo	1898 - BEP	ClaimsService	readAvailableClaims
3354 - VBMS-A	BurialController	undo	1898 - BEP	VetsnetStandardDataService	getTypesByCategory
3354 - VBMS-A	BurialController	undo	1898 - BEP	BurialDecnService	getBurialDecisions
3354 - VBMS-A	BurialController	undo	1898 - BEP	BurialDecnService	getBurialRate
3354 - VBMS-A	BurialController	undo	1898 - BEP	BurialDecnService	getBurialDecisionTypes
3354 - VBMS-A	BurialController	undo	1898 - BEP	BurialDecnService	readClaimants
3354 - VBMS-A	BurialController	getDecisionType	1898 - BEP	BurialDecnService	getBurialDecisionTypes
3354 - VBMS-A	BurialController	deleteDecisions	1898 - BEP	BurialDecnService	readClaimants
3354 - VBMS-A	MainController	letterPDF	3008 - Correspondence	CorrespondenceService	generateLetter
3354 - VBMS-A	MainController	datasheetPDF	3008 - Correspondence	CorrespondenceService	generateDatasheet
3354 - VBMS-A	MainController	datasheetPDF	3008 - Correspondence	CorrespondenceService	prepareDatasheetData
3354 - VBMS-A	MainController	datasheetPDF	3023 - CE	UploadService	initializeUpload
3354 - VBMS-A	MainController	datasheetPDF	1898 - BEP	AwardDocService	readAwardDocForSuspendResume
3354 - VBMS-A	MainController	datasheetPDF	1898 - BEP	AwardDocService	updateRecipEventRemarks
3354 - VBMS-A	MainController	datasheetPDF	1898 - BEP	AwardDocService	readAwardDocData



3354 - VBMS-A	MainController	datasheetPDF	1898 - BEP	FinancialDecnService	readReportingPeriods
3354 - VBMS-A	MainController	datasheetPDF	1898 - BEP	FinancialDecnService	readMedExpenses
3354 - VBMS-A	MainController	datasheetPDF	1898 - BEP	FinancialDecnService	populateAwardedEventId
3354 - VBMS-A	MainController	datasheetPDF	1898 - BEP	FinancialDecnService	readReportingPeriodEventData
3354 - VBMS-A	AuthorizeAwardLogic	processEP590DPI	1898 - BEP	ClaimService	createClaim
3354 - VBMS-A	MainController	processEdocRgen	1898 - BEP	ClaimEvidenceFileService	getDocumentFromClaimEvidence
3354 - VBMS-A	MainController	processEdocRgen	1898 - BEP	ClaimEvidenceFileService	uploadFileToClaimEvidence
3354 - VBMS-A	MainController	generateGao	1898 - BEP	AddressService	confirmAddress
3354 - VBMS-A	MainController	generateGao	1898 - BEP	AddressService	readPAMPaymentAndMailingAddress
3354 - VBMS-A	CaoController	continueGenerateGao1120	1898 - BEP	AddressService	confirmAddress
3354 - VBMS-A	CaoController	continueGenerateGao1120	1898 - BEP	AddressService	readPAMPaymentAndMailingAddress
3354 - VBMS-A	CaoController	isCurGaoWorksheet	1898 - BEP	AwardService	findGAOWorksheet
3354 - VBMS-A	CaoController	isSameUser	1898 - BEP	AwardService	findGAOWorksheet
3354 - VBMS-A	CaoController	updateGao	1898 - BEP	AwardService	findGAOWorksheet
3354 - VBMS-A	CaoController	purgeGaoWorksheet	3354 - VBMS Awards	currentandproposed	display
3354 - VBMS-A	CaoController	returnToProposed	3354 - VBMS Awards	currentandproposed	display
3354 - VBMS-A	AwardsHistoryController	awarddecisionhistory	1898 - BEP	AwardService	readSuspendResumeHistory
3354 - VBMS-A	AwardsHistoryController	awarddecisionhistory	1898 - BEP	AwardService	readChangedOrValidDecisions
3354 - VBMS-A	AwardsHistoryController	awarddecisionhistory	1898 - BEP	AwardService	readAwardHistoryChangedDecisions
3354 - VBMS-A	AwardsHistoryController	awarddecisionhistory	1898 - BEP	AwardService	readAwardChangedHistory
3354 - VBMS-A	AwardsHistoryController	awarddecisionhistory	1898 - BEP	AwardService	readAwardValidHistory
3354 - VBMS-A	AwardsHistoryController	viewhistory	1898 - BEP	AwardService	readSuspendResumeHistory
3354 - VBMS-A	AwardsHistoryController	viewhistory	1898 - BEP	AwardService	readChangedOrValidDecisions
3354 - VBMS-A	AwardsHistoryController	viewhistory	1898 - BEP	AwardService	readAwardHistoryChangedDecisions
3354 - VBMS-A	AwardsHistoryController	viewhistory	1898 - BEP	AwardService	readAwardChangedHistory
3354 - VBMS-A	AwardsHistoryController	viewhistory	1898 - BEP	AwardService	readAwardValidHistory
3354 - VBMS-A	AwardsHistoryController	viewhistory	1898 - BEP	AwardDataService	getPersonProfile
3354 - VBMS-A	AwardsHistoryController	viewhistory	1898 - BEP	AwardDocService	readAwardDocPDFData
3354 - VBMS-A	AwardsHistoryController	getvetsnetawarddocument	1898 - BEP	AwardDocService	readAwardDocPDFData
3354 - VBMS-A	MainController	checkRedirectAfterCompletion	1898 - BEP	ClaimsService	getClaimDetail
3354 - VBMS-A	MainController	checkRedirectAfterCompletion	1898 - BEP	ClaimsService	getContentDetails
3354 - VBMS-A	PublicLaw5302bController	getClaimInfo	1898 - BEP	ClaimsService	getClaimDetail
3354 - VBMS-A	PublicLaw5302bController	getClaimInfo	1898 - BEP	ClaimsService	getContentDetails
3354 - VBMS-A	IssueDispositionController	getContentions	1898 - BEP	ClaimsService	getClaimDetail
3354 - VBMS-A	IssueDispositionController	getContentions	1898 - BEP	ClaimsService	getContentDetails

## Internal and External Systems-Systems Matrix (SV-3/SvcV-3) (VASI Interfaces)

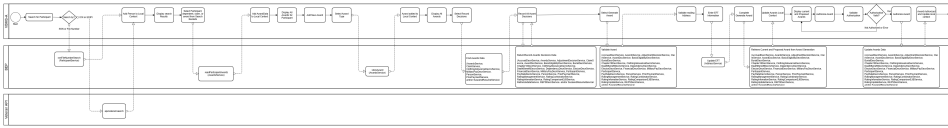
System/Service A	Service / System B	Internal or External	Consumer or Dependency (in relation to System A)
BEP Services #1898	VBMS-A #3354	Internal VA	Dependency
Correspondence Service #3008	VBMS-A #3354	Internal VBMS	Dependency
VBMS Exams #1728	VBMS-A #3354	Internal VBMS	Dependency
VBMS Rating 3233	VBMS-A #3354	Internal VBMS	Dependency
Claim Evidence API #3023	VBMS-A #3354	Internal VBMS	Dependency





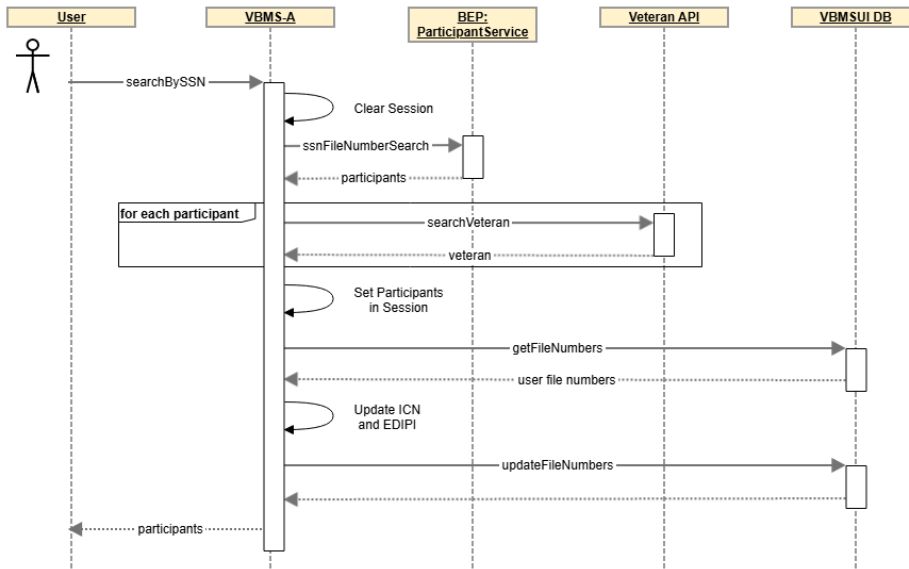
## Process View (Business Process Model)

### Main Business Process Model (OV-6d)



### Process Sequence - Systems Event-Trace Description (SV-10c)

The diagram below describes a process of



## Implementation View

### Primary System Technologies (SV-9) (VASI Technology Components)

For standard tools see [VBMS SV-9 Master Table](#)

Software Type	Software Vendor	Software Name	Software Version	TRM Link	TRM ID
Middleware: Application and Web Server Software	Oracle	Weblogic	12	<a href="#">Link</a>	7
Data Management: Database Management System	Oracle	Oracle	19	<a href="#">Link</a>	9

## Deployment View

### Environment Mapping

VBMS Environment	BEP Environment	VBMS Environment Description
Dev	DEV	First proof of successful integration of the latest code
DEVTest	Webtest	Like Dev, but with an alternate cycle

SQA	INTGD	Independent verification and validation by the QA team
UAT	LinkTest	Independent validation and verification by the UAT team
Pdt	DEV2	Snapshot of the production code base for development to support triage efforts
Demo	Academy (ACAD)	Environment where training occurs before individuals take positions at regional offices
Perf	PERF	Environment where load testing and integrity tests of the VBMS application can be executed
PREPROD	PREPROD	Environment where changes to code and system configuration can be tested and verified prior to production implementation
PRODTest (daily copy of Production)	PRODTest	Environment where PRODOps team can triage issues with production-level code and data
Production (PROD)	PROD	Production-level version of the software used by VA employees in the ROs

## System Configuration

The VBMS-A network infrastructure resides within the AWS VPC. Network administration is managed by AWS and VAEC/NSOC. This includes:

- NAT
- Firewall policies
- New subnet requests
- Resolution of physical infrastructure issues

Via the AWS console, PRODOps can access the VPC for server management activities. These include:

- Configuring security groups
- Configuring the application and network load balancers
- NACL

## System Monitoring and Metrics

VBMS-A availability is ensured by actively monitoring the PROD environment to detect and resolve minor incidents before they become serious problems. Standard industry and application-integrated tools are used to alert PRODOps. These tools include Kubernetes Dashboard, AppDynamics, Oracle Enterprise Manager (OEM), Nagios, Hazelcast, and Splunk, as well as custom scripts. These tools allow PRODOps to resolve potential issues and to contact end users before these issues become outages. They also allow for real-time monitoring by providing alerts to both PRODOps and VA business managers.

## System Logging

Life Cycle Engineering (LCE) is a centralized framework that normalizes, stores, and indexes logs and provides a simple, web-based query interface for efficiently and easily searching all aggregated logs for arbitrary strings. LCE is primarily used for Information Assurance (IA) logging.

Splunk gives the Application Support Analyst (ASA) Team real-time access to the WebLogic application error logs to troubleshoot issues and work with the Dev Team to provide detailed context to issues. It also provides the ability to create reporting and error tracking by Splunk alerting based on application errors.

Splunk is utilized by the ASA Team to create pre- and post-deployment error baselines that allow a quick response to developing programmatic errors. It also allows for error trend data, both application-wide and error-specific. Splunk alerting can be set up by the ASA Team to allow automated tracking of trending application errors.

## Auditing

Build audits are performed to verify the product matches. The Configuration Items (Cis) described in the specification, other documents, and the package is reviewed before release. The audits and reviews vary in complexity and formality. At a minimum, each named build goes through the following audits:

- A comparison of the Version Description Document (VDD) and the build change log.
- A comparison of the VDD and query of Jira or GitHub work items tagged with the build label.
- A review of the change log and work items contained in the build to ensure that code commits were targeted to the appropriate repository stream.
- A review of Jira or GitHub work items to ensure appropriate detail and work item state and traceability to requirements and test cases are captured.

Configuration audits are broken into functional and physical configuration audits. They occur either at delivery or now of effecting the change. Configuration audits are functional and physical. A functional configuration audit ensures functional and performance attributes of a CI are achieved. A physical configuration audit ensures a CI is installed in accordance with the requirements of its detailed design documentation.

## Security Strategy

Transport Layer Security (TLS) is present leveraging Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) certificates issued from the VA certificate authority. For the connection to services, such as CEST API application, the client (Awards) and the service have a shared secret that is used to verify the Java Web Token (JWT). Both client and services store their secrets in Vault.