



Media Contacts:

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Office Direct: 405-523-4045
Communications@odva.ok.gov

Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs Announces Results of Alleged Data Compromise Investigation

(OKLAHOMA CITY) – The Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs (ODVA) Interim Executive Director, Greg Slavonic, announced Wednesday that OMES Oklahoma Cyber Command has concluded their investigation into the alleged data compromise that was first reported in February of this year to the Oklahoma Veterans Commission. The state's chief information officer told members of the Oklahoma Veterans Commission on February 15, 2023, that six databases maintaining veterans' personal information were being managed on a site outside the state network.

In a summary report to ODVA leadership from the Oklahoma Office of Management and Enterprise Services (OMES), the agency noted in part that "No PII was discovered within the SAA applications. PII was, however, discovered in the website databases on the Bluehost server."

The ODVA/SAA website was primarily maintained by an ODVA contractor who provided web development services for the agency. In April 2020, migration of the website from the Bluehost server to an OMES system was completed. Dr. Brint Montgomery, the state employee who owned the Bluehost server, stated he was unaware of its continued existence and removed the PII upon notification.

"Thank you to Rear Admiral Slavonic for bringing in OMES Oklahoma Cyber Command to quickly investigate and protect sensitive ODVA information," said Jerry Moore, state chief information officer and OMES deputy director. "We found no evidence that Oklahoma veterans' data was compromised, and the systems have since been secured and now operate within the state security standards."

"We greatly appreciate OMES and their resolve to get to the bottom of this potentially serious situation in a swift, yet thorough manner" Slavonic said Wednesday. "While it was discovered that the potential for a breach existed, we are relieved to learn that no data was in fact compromised."

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