

## **New method to access PMIS and BES for agencies that are using IBM3270 emulators**

Due to evolving technology, VITA is working to provide a new method for certain agencies to access DHRM systems that reside on VITA's UNISYS mainframe and are being accessed through IBM connectivity. Below is an overview and status update of the upcoming change.

### **1. Network Connectivity Method to Access PMIS and BES**

The IBM mainframe SNA (System Network Architecture) connectivity to the UNISYS mainframe is being discontinued. In response, VITA is working to provide an alternative network connectivity method for agencies that presently are using it. The new access method is planned to be in place by January 1, 2005.

Details about the new connection are not finalized yet. However, VITA anticipates that the new method will use the existing, restricted access to Commonwealth Network and will provide browser-based connectivity to DHRM UNISYS applications. Furthermore, it is expected that the solution will be "cost-neutral" to participating agencies.

More information will be forthcoming, as more details and rollout information become known.

### **2. Systems and Users in-scope**

The Personnel Management Information System (PMIS) and Benefits Eligibility System (BES) that reside on the UNISYS mainframe at VITA are in-scope.

Authorized online terminals across about 155 agencies (including colleges, universities) that access PMIS and BES by way of VITA's Commonwealth Network using IBM's SNA network connectivity and **IBM-3270** terminal emulation **are in-scope**.

Online terminals across 5 agencies that connect to PMIS and BES using TCP/IP and HLC, Host LAN connectivity and Unisys **UTS60** terminal emulation, **are not in this scope** and they should not notice any change in their access.

DHRM and VITA are committed to a smooth transition with a minimal disruption in agencies' work while this implementation takes place. We appreciate your patience and understanding for this matter.

**NOTE:** *If you have any questions related with the meaning of technical terms above, please contact your network administrator.*