PLAN OF ACTION AND MILESTONES AND MITIGATION OF RISK

1. **PURPOSE:** The purpose of this Notice is to update the Plan of Action and Milestones (POA&M) security control implementation guidance while the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is transitioning to NIST SP 800-53 Revision 5. The below policy change reflects NIST 800-53 Revision 5 guidance.

2. **POLICY:** Security Control CA-5.1 CCI-000264 shall be updated on the [Office of Information Security Knowledge Service](#) by adding the following to the implementation guidance:

   VA Implementation Guidance: Identified weaknesses that are remediated and/or mitigated following an established standard VA process will not require a POA&M until the point that the process is exhausted (provided the process does not exceed 30 days) and a further plan is required to remediate or mitigate the weakness. For example, a remediation/mitigation is within an established standard VA process during a quarterly account access review, a VA account was not disabled within VA established timelines, an incident ticket is opened and the remediation is documented within the ServiceNow ticket. No POA&M would be required as the risk response was remediated with an established standard VA process and the timeframe did not exceed thirty days. Although a weakness was identified, the process was not deficient, but there was a failure in the effectiveness of the control.

3. **RESPONSIBLE OFFICE:** Office of Information and Technology (005); Office of Information Security (005R).

4. **RELATED HANDBOOK:** VA Directive 6500, VA Cybersecurity Program, dated February 24, 2021.

5. **RESCISSION:** This notice will be rescinded and guidance incorporated into the appropriate security control no later than one year after the date of publication.

CERTIFIED BY: BY DIRECTION OF THE SECRETARY
                                                   OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:

/s/   /s/
Guy T. Kiyokawa   Kurt D. DelBene
Assistant Secretary for   Assistant Secretary for
Enterprise Integration   Information and Technology and
                                                   Chief Information Officer

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