



Jim Pillen, Governor

October 22, 2025

Sen. Rita Sanders, Chairperson
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee
Nebraska Legislature
P.O. Box 94604
Lincoln, NE 68509

RE: Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency Grant Assistance Program pilot program

Sen. Rita Sanders,

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency Grant Assistance Program pilot program was created in 2024 by the passage of LB771. The legislature appropriated funds for the Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs (NDVA) to operate the pilot program, with the goal of providing funding to qualifying postsecondary institutions to assist the United States Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) with accounting for United States servicemembers and civilians missing from designated past conflicts.

On November 1, 2024, NDVA awarded funds to the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO). UNO and the DPAA entered into an Education Partnership Agreement to allow UNO to aid the DPAA in their past conflict personnel accounting missions. UNO sought the NDVA grant funds to assist in the creation of an infrastructure to allow for seamless collection and sharing of content and data across all collaborators of the accounting process. UNO is creating a collaborative working environment accessible to all DPAA personnel, along with external partners.

UNO provided the following description of the work completed thus far:

Since the grant award date, the University of Nebraska Omaha (UNO) and Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) project has progressed across multiple project phases, encompassing personnel recruitment, compliance assessment, partnership development, technical infrastructure establishment, and system development. 1) The project posted a job listing for a student worker position and reached out to several student veterans. Although as of this report, none were hired. 2) A comprehensive assessment of project security specifications and compliance requirements was conducted to ensure an ability to adhere to federal standards. This assessment focused specifically on Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) 2.0 Level 2 and NIST SP 800-171 requirements, which are essential for the secure storage and handling of Department of Defense Controlled



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Unclassified Information. 3) The team negotiated a Trial Services Agreement between the University of Nebraska and Scott Data Center. This agreement established the framework for platform access, comprehensive training opportunities, and thorough technology evaluation to support project objectives. Multiple training sessions provided by Scott Data Center were completed for both UNO and DPAA personnel. These sessions enhanced team understanding of available services and familiarized participants with the development, production, and operations environments that will support the project's technical infrastructure. 4) Secure network connectivity was established to enable DPAA to conduct network performance testing. These tests provided critical data for estimating the time requirements and associated costs for transferring DPAA data files to the Scott Data Center infrastructure. 5) A pilot test was executed wherein DPAA transitioned selected datasets to the Scott Data Center environment. During this pilot phase, GPU processors were utilized to conduct machine learning operations on these datasets, demonstrating the feasibility and effectiveness of the proposed technical approach. 6) The project team developed a comprehensive system architecture plan and is currently in the process of developing and assembling the necessary system components. A development, configuration control, and testing environment has been established to support ongoing project activities. Additionally, technical requirements have been defined, and initial configurations have been completed for system containerization, operating system infrastructure, and the front-end web portal interface. The project continues to advance according to planned milestones established for subsequent development phases.

To date, UNO has requested reimbursements in the amount of \$28,601.96. The current pilot grant program is set to run until November 1, 2026. Should you have any additional questions, you can contact Jessica Forch at 402-853-4023.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J Forch".

Jessica Forch
Attorney III