



OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3000

ACQUISITION,
TECHNOLOGY
AND LOGISTICS

AUG 27 2008

DPAP/CPIC

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDER, UNITED STATES SPECIAL OPERATIONS
COMMAND (ATTN: ACQUISITION EXECUTIVE)
COMMANDER, UNITED STATES TRANSPORTATION
COMMAND (ATTN: ACQUISITION EXECUTIVE)
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
(POLICY AND PROCUREMENT), ASA (ALT)
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
(ACQUISITION & LOGISTICS MANAGEMENT),
ASN(RDA)
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
(CONTRACTING), SAF/AQC
DIRECTORS, DEFENSE AGENCIES
DIRECTORS, DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: Increasing Contracting Opportunities with the AbilityOne Program

The Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics issued a memorandum on March 24, 2008, encouraging increased support for the AbilityOne Program. For the past several months, I have challenged our senior contracting officials to look for more opportunities to contract with AbilityOne-participating nonprofit agencies. While I recognize that we are the largest AbilityOne customer, we have the responsibility and tremendous opportunity to increase employment for this community by procuring more quality goods and services from the AbilityOne Program.

I urge all contracting officials to make a personal commitment to consider, when appropriate, the AbilityOne Program in fulfilling procurement needs. The information below provides ways for the acquisition workforce to improve doing business with the AbilityOne Program.

- Federal Acquisition Regulation Subpart 8.7 prescribes policies and procedures with respect to the Government purchase of supplies or services on the Procurement List (<http://www.abilityone.gov/jwod/PL.html>)
- Addressees should evaluate and identify areas where opportunities for growth exist, particularly in the area of services such as IT data processing.
- Highlight innovative uses of AbilityOne procurements through internal award programs; recognize individuals/teams that demonstrate innovative approaches to include the AbilityOne Program in acquisition strategies.

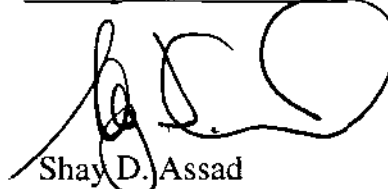


- Take advantage of AbilityOne Program educational and outreach opportunities; invite guest speakers to meetings, conferences, and exhibits.
- Increase use of AbilityOne environmentally-friendly products such as bio-based cleaning products and bio-industrial solvents offered on DoD EMALL and GSA-Advantage Websites.
- Include innovative approaches in solicitations to encourage subcontracting with the AbilityOne Program when appropriate.
- DoD prime contractors that have negotiated small business subcontracting plans receive credit toward their small business subcontracting goals if subcontracting with a qualified nonprofit agency participating in the AbilityOne Program. (10 U.S.C. 2410d)

I will be reviewing quarterly updates from data obtained from the Federal Procurement Data System to track progress of DoD business with the AbilityOne Program. Please submit any copies of policy, guidance, and directive memoranda issued in response to this challenge to improve our business opportunities with the AbilityOne Program.

My office and the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled have established a commitment recognition program to express appreciation to individuals in the acquisition workforce who demonstrate concrete support of the AbilityOne Program. This support may be a contract award to an AbilityOne Program nonprofit agency or an effort to increase contracting opportunities for the AbilityOne Program. The specific implementation guidance for the recognition program is located on the Defense Procurement, Acquisition Policy, and Strategic Sourcing Website at http://www.acq.osd.mil/dpap/cpic/cp/abilityone_program.html. You may also view the recognition program guidance on the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled Website at <http://www.abilityone.gov>.

DoD's increase in contract awards to the AbilityOne Program has the direct and positive result of increasing job opportunities for individuals who are blind or have other severe disabilities including our service-disabled veterans who have transitioned to the AbilityOne Program. If you have any questions concerning the above, please contact Ms. Susan Pollack at (703) 697-8336 or susan.pollack@osd.mil.



Shay D. Assad
Director, Defense Procurement,
Acquisition Policy, and
Strategic Sourcing