



DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY
HEADQUARTERS
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IN REPLY
REFER TO DB

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: The Defense Logistics Agency Supports National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) and the AbilityOne Program

The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) celebrates the AbilityOne (formerly known as Javits-Wagner-O'Day or JWOD) Program during NDEAM each October. The AbilityOne Program currently provides employment to more than 40,000 individuals who are blind or have other severe disabilities. The theme of this year's NDEAM is *"Put Ability to Work for You."*

The AbilityOne Program is administered by an independent federal agency, the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, in partnership with two national nonprofit organizations, National Industries for the Blind (NIB) and NISH (formally known as the National Industries for the Severely Handicapped). NIB works with agencies that employ people who are blind, while NISH works with agencies that employ individuals with other severe disabilities.

DLA continues to actively support the AbilityOne Program. For the eighth year in a row DLA has been the AbilityOne Program's largest contracting agency. In Fiscal Year 2007, DLA's AbilityOne purchases amounted to over \$478.1 million or 22 percent of the total AbilityOne business. AbilityOne suppliers currently provide DLA with products such as military clothing, relief bags for soldiers, cargo tie down straps, as well as various warehousing and distribution services. By contracting with these nonprofit agencies, DLA helps reduce the unemployment rate that exists among Americans with disabilities, which currently exceeds 60%.

Please learn more about the important role you can play in the AbilityOne Program at www.AbilityOne.gov. If you have any questions or require further information, contact Patricia Cleveland, DLA's AbilityOne Liaison, at (703) 767-1652, or DSN 427-1652.

ROBERT T. DAIL
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Director

