



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

ACQUISITION,
 TECHNOLOGY
 AND LOGISTICS

OCT 15 2007

DPAP/CPIC

MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTORS, DEFENSE AGENCIES
 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
 DIRECTOR, ACQUISITION MANAGEMENT DIRECTORATE
 (DLA)
 DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT
 DIRECTOR, ARMY CONTRACTING AGENCY

SUBJECT: AbilityOne Program Events at the Pentagon

In recognition of National Disability Employment Awareness Month, the Department of Defense (DoD) is hosting two AbilityOne Program (formerly Javits-Wagner-O'Day or JWOD) events at the Pentagon Conference Center as follows:

Awareness Training	October 23 rd	12:00-5:00 pm	Room B10
Recognition Ceremony	November 13 th	1:30-3:30pm	Room B2

Each October the President of the United States asks all Americans to recognize the achievements of workers with disabilities and to help create greater employment opportunities for this underutilized labor pool. The AbilityOne Program currently employs nearly 48,000 Americans who are blind or have other severe disabilities, enabling them to lead more productive and independent lives. The DoD employs thousands of AbilityOne workers on contracts which enables them to earn paychecks and contribute to the DoD mission by providing goods and services at fair market prices. The events at the Pentagon, particularly the awareness training, is an excellent opportunity for DoD employees to renew their understanding of the AbilityOne Program to further increase the use of AbilityOne sources for satisfying procurement needs.

The AbilityOne Program is administered by an independent Federal agency, the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, that also works with two national nonprofit organizations, National Industries for the Blind (NIB) and NISH. NIB and NISH assist over 600 community-based non-profit agencies across the nation in their efforts to employ people with severe disabilities on Federal contracts under the AbilityOne Program.

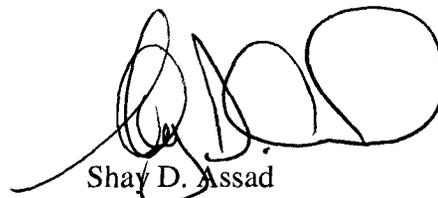


Today, Americans who are blind or have other severe disabilities provide vital support services for our military such as grounds maintenance, custodial service, laundry operations, digital imaging, and award winning food services at base installation dining facilities. The AbilityOne Program also provides a large variety of products including military unique items to include chemical protective suits, uniforms and first aid kits, as well as a wide range of office supplies. With the ability for prime contractors to receive credit towards small business subcontracting goals by utilizing AbilityOne resources, it is important that we promote AbilityOne supplies and services as mutually beneficial actions. For more information about AbilityOne supplies or distributors, visit the AbilityOne Program's website at <http://www.AbilityOne.gov> or contact Stephanie Lesko of the Committee staff at (703) 603-2146, or slesko@abilityone.gov.

The AbilityOne Program awareness training, scheduled for October 23rd, is divided into five one-hour training sessions beginning at 12:00pm and continuing on the hour until 5:00 pm. The hour-long sessions will provide the acquisition workforce with awareness training for the different aspects of the AbilityOne Program. The specific one-hour training sessions are attached. Acquisition workforce attendees will earn one continuous learning point for each hour of participation. I strongly encourage the acquisition workforce to participate in this training opportunity. The Pentagon Conference Center information is at: <https://private.ref.whs.mil/transit/Circulator%20Shuttle%20Bus%20Service%20Tri-fold%20Brochure.pdf>

The DoD hosted AbilityOne Program Recognition Ceremony is by invitation only. The Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled and NISH will present awards to employees with disabilities who have demonstrated outstanding performance in their jobs at the Pentagon under the AbilityOne Program. There will also be a recognition of DoD employees for their support and implementation of the AbilityOne Program. The guest speaker for the ceremony is retired Sergeant First Class Frederick Williams, who served with the U.S. Army in Iraq. In 2004, Sergeant First Class Williams was severely wounded while serving under Operation Iraqi Freedom. Mr. Williams will share his courageous story of recovery and transition from the Army to employment with the NISH non-profit agency, Training Rehabilitation & Development Institute at Fort Hood, TX.

Your support of the AbilityOne Program and workers is extremely important to the Department and vital to this community. Please share this memorandum with your workforce and encourage them to attend the training sessions on October 23rd. My staff point of contact for the DoD hosted events and AbilityOne Program procurement policy is Ms. Susan Pollack, (703) 697-8336, susan.pollack@osd.mil.



Shay D. Assad
Director, Defense Procurement
and Acquisition Policy

Attachment:
As stated

AbilityOne Program Awareness Training

When: October 23, 2007
Time: 12:00-5:00pm
Location: Pentagon Conference Center, Room B10

Schedule:

12:00-1:00pm	AbilityOne Program Overview: How to Leverage the Program to Fulfill Your Needs
1:00-2:00pm	AbilityOne Pricing Updates
2:00-3:00pm	AbilityOne Products for Government-Unique Requirements
3:00-4:00pm	Buyer's Guide for SKILCRAFT and Other AbilityOne Products and Services – How to Get the Quality, Value and Convenience You Need
4:00-5:00pm	Disability Awareness Training