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

ACQUISITION,
TECHNOLOGY
AND LOGISTICS

OCT 30 2015

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 (PROCUREMENT)
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (ACQUISITION AND PROCUREMENT)
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (CONTRACTING)
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES
DIRECTORS OF THE DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: National Disability Employment Awareness Month and the AbilityOne Program

On September 30, 2015, President Obama signed a proclamation in observance of National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). The President noted in the Proclamation that it is the 70th anniversary of NDEAM. We take this opportunity to pay tribute to the accomplishments of the employees in the AbilityOne Program. This Program enables more than 45,000 Americans who are blind or have other significant disabilities to find positive employment on Federal contracts. This includes more than 3,000 veterans and service-disabled veterans who perform work on these contracts.

The Department of Defense (DoD) remains the leading customer of the Program, procuring more than $1.7 billion during FY 2015, which equates to 62 percent of AbilityOne's business and an estimated 35,000 jobs for people with disabilities. In this environment of reduced budgets, your continued support of AbilityOne and compliance with the Federal Acquisition Regulation Subpart 8.7 are critical to provide individuals with disabilities every opportunity to contribute to the defense mission and lead independent lives.

Congratulations to the contracting workforce professionals, identified in the attached, who have demonstrated exemplary leadership and commitment in action over the past year to increasing business with AbilityOne. My staff specialist for disabilities procurement policy is Ms. Susan Pollack, DPAP, at 703-697-8336, or susan.w.pollack.civ@mail.mil.

Claire M. Grady

Claire M. Grady
Director, Defense Procurement
and Acquisition Policy

Attachment:
As stated

Department of Defense Contracting Workforce Members Recognized in Fiscal Year 2015

Awards Presented by the U.S. AbilityOne Commission

Richard Ginman (SES, Retired), Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy – Recipient of the **E.R. "Dick" Alley Career Achievement Award**. This award is the highest award bestowed by the Commission, and recognizes an individual who has provided extraordinary achievement and sustained effort creating AbilityOne employment opportunities. Mr. Ginman has been a strong advocate and supporter of the AbilityOne Program throughout his 44 year military and civil service career, implementing policies and solutions that have increased employment opportunities for people who are blind or have significant disabilities.

Jeffrey Brunner, Senior Acquisition Advisor, Joint Staff. Recipient of the Osborne A. "Oz" Day AbilityOne Awareness Award. This award is named in honor of a former private citizen Commission member who provided critical leadership in communicating the AbilityOne message to Federal customers, Congress, and the general public. For over 40 years, Mr. Brunner has been a strong advocate for the AbilityOne Program.

William Sproule, Senior Procurement Analyst, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Contracting) – Recipient of the **Most Valuable Liaison Award**. The Commission's Most Valuable Liaison Award recognizes Federal employees, who in their roles as liaisons demonstrate valuable effort in creating AbilityOne employment opportunities. Mr. Sproule proactively serves as the AbilityOne Liaison to the Air Force Commission member, and is an invaluable contributor to initiatives to increase employment opportunities for people who are blind or have other significant disabilities.

Cheryl DeLuca, Director, Natick Contracting, U.S. Army Contracting Command – Recipient of the **Outstanding Contributions Award**. This award recognizes a Federal employee for their exceptional efforts in creating AbilityOne employment opportunities on Federal contracts. Ms. DeLuca demonstrates unwavering support of the AbilityOne Program, overseeing staff members who have cumulatively worked on contracts resulting in employment for over 8,000 people who are blind or have significant disabilities.

Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology &Logistics)/Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Certificate of Appreciation

Presented in recognition for the negotiation and award of the new DoD-AbilityOne Contract Management Services (CMS) IDIQ, and for outstanding administration and support of the CMS Program for the past four years.

Washington Headquarters Service

David Bennett, Branch Chief, Contracting Officer

Benjamin Bryant, Branch Chief, Contracting Officer

Mary Beth Brown, Contracting Officer

Attachment

Washington Headquarters Service

Jonathan Bertsch, Contract Specialist

Maria Hayes, Contracting Officer

Beth Healey, Contracting Officer

Chrissandra Smith, Contract Specialist

Awards presented by National Industries for the Blind (NIB) and National Association for the Employment of People Who Are Blind (NAEPB) in FY15 and at the 2015 NIB/NAEPB National Conference and Expo

Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) – Federal Customer Appreciation Award

Karen Ghani, Contracting Officer, DLA Distribution

Steve Merch, Branch Chief, DLA Troop Support

Margaret Ross, Contracting Officer, DLA Distribution

Gene Surmacz, Director of Procurement, DLA Distribution

Awards presented by SourceAmerica in FY15 and at the 2015 National Training and Achievement Conference

45th Space Wing Contract Office (Rockledge, Florida), recipient of the Government Award for Services (Military), which recognizes a military organization that has provided outstanding support to the AbilityOne Program for services.

Natick Contracting Division (Milford, Massachusetts), recipient of the Government Award for Products, which recognizes a military organization or other civilian Federal agency that has provided outstanding support to the AbilityOne Program for products.

DOD-AbilityOne Procurement Champions Recognized by SourceAmerica in FY15:

Harry Veneri, Supervisor, Clothing and Heraldry Services Office, U.S. Army TACOM Life Cycle Management Command

Terry Hyatt-Amabile, Chief, Acquisition Management Review, U.S. Army Mission & Installation Contracting Command Field Directorate Office, Fort Eustis, Virginia

Andrea Armstrong, Director, U.S. Army Mission and Installation Contracting Command, Fort Gordon, Georgia