OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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ACQUISITION,
TECHNOLOGY
AND LOGISTICS

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DP/CPA

MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTORS, DEFENSE AGENCIES
ACTING DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (POLICY AND PROCUREMENT), ASA(RD&A)
DEPUTY FOR ACQUISITION AND BUSINESS MANAGEMENT, ASN(RD&A)/ABM
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (CONTRACTING), SAF/AQC
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LOGISTICS POLICY & ACQUISITION MANAGEMENT (DLA)

SUBJECT: National Disability Employment Awareness Month and Javits Wagner O'Day (JWOD)Week

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. Each year the President of the United States asks all Americans to recognize the achievements of workers with disabilities. He challenges all citizens to help open the doors of opportunity wider to better implement the JWOD Act of 1971. Disabled Americans form one of the largest pools of unemployed labor in the United States. They possess talents and abilities that should not go untapped. Two national nonprofit agencies were established to help administer the Act - National Industries for the Blind (NIB) and National Institutes for the Severely Handicapped (NISH) - which creates employment opportunities for people with severe disabilities.

October 12-20, 2002, is designated as Javits-Wagner-O'Day Week. The theme of JWOD week is "JWOD Works for America." The purpose of JWOD Week is to raise awareness of the JWOD Program, and is an ideal time for DoD employees to renew their interest in supporting the Program and ensure that JWOD sources are given adequate consideration for satisfying their procurement needs. DoD is a major supporter of the JWOD program with contractual support to a variety of services and products. Today, Americans with disabilities provide such vital support as postal operations, grounds maintenance, custodial service, call centers, laundry operations, and vehicle maintenance. JWOD provides award winning food service at installation dining facilities feeding service members over 25 million meals annually.

In today's acquisition environment, workloads are increasing as resources dwindle. It is imperative that we ensure proper procurement of mandatory items from JWOD, review all new service procurements and validate the potential fulfillment from JWOD organizations. With the ability for prime contractors to receive credit towards small business subcontracting goals by utilizing JWOD resources, it is important that we promote JWOD supplies and services as mutually beneficial actions. Recently, JWOD signed a memorandum of agreement with the Defense Acquisition University (DAU) to provide a JWOD Committee staff member to the DAU to assist in the design and development of all e-learning courses. This will increase the JWOD knowledge base for all DoD acquisition personnel.

Information about JWOD Week, JWOD products and services, their distributors, or the nonprofit organizations participating in the JWOD Program can be obtained by calling Kimberly Zeich or Robert Hartt of the Committee staff at (703) 603-7740; or by faxing requests to (703) 603-0655. Federal customers are also encouraged to visit the JWOD web site at www.jwod.gov. In addition, FAR 8.7, Acquisition from Nonprofit Agencies Employing People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, prescribes the policies and procedures for implementing the JWOD Act, and the rules of the Committee.

Your support of the JWOD requirements is extremely important to the Department and vital to this community. Please share this memorandum with all of your acquisition communities. My point of contact is Mr. David Boyd at (703) 695-8571 or via e-mail at david.boyd@osd.mil.

Deidre A. Lee
Director, Defense Procurement