



ACQUISITION,
TECHNOLOGY
AND LOGISTICS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3000

OCT 28 2016

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, 2016, President Obama signed a proclamation in observance of National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). Subsequently, the Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness issued a memorandum to announce the observance of NDEAM by the Department of Defense. The memorandum supports this year's NDEAM theme, "#InclusionWorks," and highlights the value of workforce diversity and advancing equal employment opportunity for individuals with disabilities.

The AbilityOne Program has a mission to create jobs on Federal contracts for individuals who are blind or have significant disabilities. Department of Defense contracting officials support this mission by procuring AbilityOne Program products and services in accordance with the Federal Acquisition Regulation Subpart 8.7. The Department awarded more than \$1.5 billion in AbilityOne contract actions during Fiscal Year 2016, resulting in an estimated 35,000 jobs for individuals and veterans with disabilities.

During NDEAM, we celebrate the AbilityOne employees who are contributing to the defense mission throughout the year. Additionally, I salute the commitment and leadership of the defense contracting professionals for providing people with disabilities the opportunity to support our noble mission. My staff specialist for disabilities procurement policy is Ms. Susan Pollack who may be contacted at 703-697-8336.

Claire M. Grady
Director, Defense Procurement
and Acquisition Policy