



OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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ACQUISITION
AND SUSTAINMENT

OCT 12 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDER, UNITED STATES SPECIAL OPERATIONS
COMMAND (ATTN: ACQUISITION EXECUTIVE)
COMMANDER, UNITED STATES TRANSPORTATION
COMMAND (ATTN: ACQUISITION EXECUTIVE)
COMMANDER, UNITED STATES CYBER
COMMAND (ATTN: ACQUISITION EXECUTIVE)
INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
(PROCUREMENT), ASA (ALT)
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
(ACQUISITION & LOGISTICS MANAGEMENT), ASN (RDA)
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
(CONTRACTING), SAF/AQC
DIRECTORS, DEFENSE AGENCIES
DIRECTORS, DEFENSE FIELD ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: National Disability Employment Awareness Month and the AbilityOne® Program

On September 28, 2018, the President signed a proclamation in observance of National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). This year's Federal NDEAM theme, "America's Workforce: Empowering All," advances the value of the skills, talents, and contributions of workers with disabilities. Observed each October, NDEAM is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the workers in the AbilityOne Program, which is one of the largest sources of employment for individuals who are blind or have significant disabilities. The Department of Defense (DoD) contracting workforce supports the AbilityOne employment mission through the procurement of products and services in compliance with the Federal Acquisition Regulation 8.7.

Today, approximately 35,000 individuals who are blind or have significant disabilities, including 3,000 veterans, perform work on DoD contracts with more than 550 community-based nonprofit agencies across the country. During NDEAM, I commend the DoD contracting professionals for their leadership in facilitating new prime contract opportunities to increase employment with the AbilityOne Program. Through the commitment of the contracting workforce, veterans and individuals with disabilities will have greater opportunity to work, serve, and support the defense mission.

Shay D. Assad
Director, Defense Pricing
and Contracting