



THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
3010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3010

ACQUISITION,
TECHNOLOGY
AND LOGISTICS

MAR 24 2008

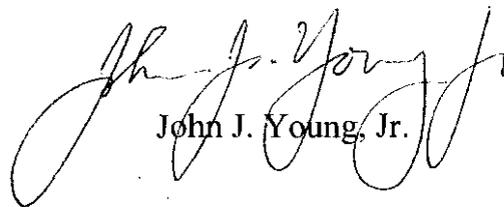
MEMORANDUM FOR: SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Support for the AbilityOne Program

The President issued the attached memorandum encouraging strong support for the AbilityOne Program that provides job opportunities on federal contracts for individuals who are blind or have other severe disabilities. As the largest customer of this program, the Department of Defense has a responsibility and a tremendous opportunity to increase support by procuring more goods and services provided by the AbilityOne Program. In FY 2007, the Department procured more than \$1.3 billion dollars in goods and services to include award-winning food services at base installation dining facilities, office supplies, grounds maintenance, laundry services, uniforms, digital imaging, and first aid kits that are issued to our Armed Forces deploying in theater operations. I challenge acquisition and procurement officials to further increase the use of the AbilityOne Program sources for satisfying procurement needs.

Your support of the AbilityOne Program and employees is extremely important to the Department and vital to this community. My point of contact for AbilityOne Program policy is Ms. Susan Pollack, at susan.pollack@osd.mil, 703-697-8336.

Sincerely,



John J. Young, Jr.

Attachment:
As stated.



DISTRIBUTION:

**SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS
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DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES
DIRECTORS OF THE DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES**

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 11, 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

SUBJECT: Federal Support for the AbilityOne Program

Americans with disabilities make valuable contributions to our country's workforce that help keep our Nation the world's economic leader. Expanding employment opportunities for these individuals will help ensure that our economy is drawing on the talents and creativity of all its citizens and that America remains a place of opportunity for all. Supporting the AbilityOne Program is one good way to achieve this goal.

The AbilityOne Program (formerly the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Program) is a Federal initiative that works with public and private organizations to generate employment opportunities for Americans who are blind or have other disabilities. Nearly 43,000 individuals work in more than 600 community-based nonprofit agencies that serve people with a wide range of disabilities and sell products and services to the Federal Government through the AbilityOne Program.

The AbilityOne Program has taken steps to embrace successful business practices, including e-commerce and performance-based contracting. Strong support from Federal customers is critical to fulfilling this important program's employment mission. Therefore, I encourage you to ensure that your agency's procurement officials acquire products and services provided by the AbilityOne Program, consistent with existing law.

Additional information about the AbilityOne Program may be obtained by contacting the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled or by visiting www.AbilityOne.gov.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Barack", written in a cursive style.