OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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ACQUISITION,
TECHNOLOGY
AND LOGISTICS

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DPAP/P

MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTORS, DEFENSE AGENCIES
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
(POLICY AND PROCUREMENT), ASA(ALT)
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
(ACQUISITION MANAGEMENT), ASN(RDA)
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
(CONTRACTING), SAF/AQC
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ACQUISITION, TECHNOLOGY
AND SUPPLY DIRECTORATE (DLA)
DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT
DIRECTOR, ARMY CONTRACTING AGENCY

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

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month, and a perfect time to celebrate the Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program. Each year the President of the United States asks all Americans to recognize the achievements of workers with disabilities and to help create greater employment opportunities for this underutilized labor pool. Created in 1938, the JWOD Program currently employs nearly 40,000 Americans who are blind or have other severe disabilities, enabling them to lead more productive and independent lives. While providing work for people with severe disabilities, federal contracts placed under the JWOD Program provide government personnel with quality products and services at reasonable prices.

The JWOD Program is administered by an independent federal agency, the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, in partnership with two national nonprofit organizations, National Industries for the Blind (NIB) and NISH-Creating Employment Opportunities for People with Severe Disabilities. NIB and NISH assist over 600 community-based agencies across the nation in their efforts to employ people with severe disabilities on federal contracts under the JWOD Program.

The theme of this year's JWOD Program celebration is "JWOD Works for America." National Disability Employment Awareness Month is an ideal time for DoD employees to renew their interest in supporting the JWOD 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 grounds maintenance, custodial service, call centers, laundry operations, digital imaging, and award winning food services at installation dining facilities feeding service members over 25 million meals annually. The JWOD Program also provides a large variety of products to DoD Agencies including many military unique items such as chemical protective suits, uniforms and first aid kits. 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.

Information about the JWOD Program, its participating agencies and how to purchase the products and services they provide, can be obtained from the JWOD Program web site at www.jwod.gov or by calling Eric Beale of the Committee staff at (703) 603-7743. 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 Ms. Susan Schneider at (703) 614-4840 or via e-mail at susan.schneider@osd.mil.

Deidre A. Lee
Director, Defense Procurement
and Acquisition Policy