



News Release

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SBA Announces Annual Award Winners

Carl (C.B.) Smith, Owner of Virtual Managed Solutions, LLC, Named SBA's Veteran Business Owner of the Year

Augusta, Maine – The U.S. Small Business Administration is pleased to announce that Carl (C.B.) Smith of Virtual Managed Solutions, LLC has been selected to receive the U.S. Small Business Administration's 2015 Veteran Small Business Owner of the Year Award for Maine.

Virtual Managed Solutions, LLC is based in Caribou, where it specializes in providing businesses with technology services. The company was founded by Mr. Smith and in 2008 after the company he had previously worked for was purchased and downsized. VMS started with only four employees, but under Mr. Smith's leadership, the company now has 23 full-time and 2 part-time employees, while also growing revenue.

"Seeing how Mr. Smith and his partners were able to overcome such challenges is truly inspiring," said Marilyn Geroux, SBA District Director for Maine. "Many people would have simply given up. The drive and commitment that he has shown in developing this business is something that serves as an example to both veterans and non-veterans alike," added Geroux.

Mr. Smith is a veteran of the United States Air Force, where he served as an Air Traffic Control Operator.

"It is great to be a part of a business that has utilized the talents of many people laid off when a major business closed in Caribou," said Duane Walton, Director of Business Finance at Northern Maine Development Commission. "The owners of the company are very talented people that decided they could put some of these people back to work and employ their skills to accomplishing that. As a result they are looking to expand again and become an even larger asset to the community," Mr. Walton continued.

Mr. Smith was nominated for this award by Mary Dahlgren of Northern Maine Development Commission, and will be honored at an SBA reception on May 5, 2015 at the Augusta Country Club in Manchester.

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