



News Release

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President Bush's Executive Order Encourages Increased Federal Contracting Opportunities for Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses

WASHINGTON – Amplifying his commitment to Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (SDVOSBs), President Bush issued an Executive Order, Oct. 20, 2004, designed to strengthen and increase opportunities in federal contracting for small businesses owned by service-disabled vets.

The Executive Order reaffirms the Administration's commitment to SDVOSBs, noting that America honors the extraordinary service rendered to the United States by veterans disabled in the line of duty during active military service. The order requires heads of agencies to provide significantly more contracting and subcontracting opportunities to service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses.

The order further notes: "To achieve that objective, agencies shall more effectively implement section 15(g) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644(g)), which provides that the President must establish a goal of not less than 3 percent for participation by service-disabled veteran businesses in federal contracting, and section 36 of that Act (15 U.S.C. 657f), which gives agency contracting officers the authority to reserve certain procurements for service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses."

"I am pleased that President Bush has issued this Executive Order strengthening opportunities for service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses," said SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto. "The efforts of SDVOSBs in their local communities are extremely important to job growth and continuing the economic recovery. The SBA will do all it can to assist these small businesses to become more competitive and efficient, and to grow and prosper."

Section Three of the Executive Order states that the Administrator of the SBA shall:

- (a) in coordination with the Veterans Affairs' Center for Veterans Enterprise, provide service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses information and assistance concerning participation in federal contracting;
- (b) advise and assist heads of agencies in their implementation of this order; and
- (c) make available to service-disabled veteran businesses training in federal contracting law, procedures and practices that would assist such businesses in participating in federal contracting.

For more information about SBA's Service-Disabled Veterans Business program visit <http://www.sba.gov/VETS/index.html> , and for more information about all of the SBA's programs and services, visit www.sba.gov

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Editor: Please note that a copy of the Executive Order can be found at

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2004/10/print/20041021-5.html>