THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
CHIEF OF STAFF, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC

JAN 5 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR ALMAJCOM-FOA-DRU/CC
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SUBJECT: Winning the Fight for Wounded Veterans – Airmen Supporting Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses

As disabled soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen return from war, we must create opportunities for these courageous warriors who selflessly served to protect our nation and guarantee our freedom. Today, there are over 9,800 firms led by service-disabled veterans doing business for the government, and many more of these small businesses will be established over the next several years. Not only do these veterans understand the mission, they can bring experience, innovation, responsiveness, agility and efficiency to the fight in air, space and cyberspace. Also, they are likely to hire, mentor and train other war veterans in need of assistance in transitioning to productive private life.

We can lead the fight for our service-disabled veterans by structuring our acquisition needs at the HAF, MAJCOM and Wing levels to foster competitive opportunities for Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses. Without serious consideration of these options, we risk losing the innovation we need for mission success, and equally important, the opportunity to take advantage of their wealth of knowledge and experience. There are numerous capable, highly qualified firms in the fields of IT and network services, engineering and professional services, construction and environmental services and more. As leaders, I ask each of you to ensure your staffs assess current and future requirements and aggressively seek capable Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business firms. Your small business specialist and the Air Force Office of Small Business Programs (SAF/SB) are there to help you identify strategies and capable firms, and to track our progress toward meeting the 3% Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Businesses goal.

The Airman's Creed states, "I Will Never Leave an Airman Behind." There is no greater opportunity to demonstrate this fundamental belief than through the support of the Air Force mission and priorities by making opportunities available to our Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Businesses. Thank you for your leadership in actively supporting the achievement of this critical initiative.

Michael B. Donley
Secretary of the Air Force

Norton A. Schwartz
General, USAF
Chief of Staff