



**U.S. Department of Justice**

Office of Legislative Affairs

---

*Washington, D.C. 20530*

March 30, 2006

The Honorable John F. Kerry  
Ranking Minority Member  
Committee on Small Business  
and Entrepreneurship  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510-6350

Dear Senator Kerry:

This responds to your letter of January 27, 2006, requesting information on measures the Department of Justice (DOJ) has taken to fully utilize the procurement program for small businesses owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans.

We appreciate your concerns regarding the utilization of small businesses owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans. DOJ is committed to increasing opportunities for this community. Although we have not yet met the 3 percent goal, our accomplishments between Fiscal Year 2004 and 2005 nearly doubled. Therefore, we believe we are making progress and are continuing our efforts to meet the goal.

The information you requested is as follows:

- a. DOJ has set aside procurements for Service Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (SDVOSBs) and limited competition for these businesses. Based on data available in the Federal Procurement Data System-Next Generation (FPDS-NG) for Fiscal Year 2005, DOJ processed 19 actions that were set-aside for SDVOSBs. However, DOJ used the sole-source tool made available by P. L. 108-183 only twice. We will continue to seek opportunities for SDVOSB set-asides and use the sole-source tool when it is appropriate to the circumstances.
- b. In accordance with our strategy for strengthening opportunities in Federal contracting for SDVOSBs, DOJ hosted its first small business counseling session for the exclusive benefit of SDVOSBs in August 2005. During the session, the OSDBU Director and Small Business Specialists from each of DOJ's bureaus provided the SDVOSBs in attendance with an overview of the department's planned procurements. The attendees were also briefed on how to view our forecast of contracting opportunities and how to market their firm's capabilities within the department. To better inform our contracts and program staffs about the SDVOSB program

The Honorable John F. Kerry  
Page Two

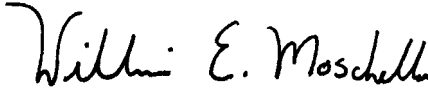
and why it is so important, we selected a representative from the Association for Service Disabled Veterans National Task Force for Veterans Entrepreneurship as our keynote speaker. Since our August 2005 session, DOJ has continued to participate in small business counseling sessions to enhance SDVOSBs' awareness of DOJ's prime and subcontracting opportunities.

c. SDVOSBs may schedule appointments with the OSDBU or any of our small business specialists to obtain a better understanding of DOJ's procurement process and to discuss their capabilities relative to our requirements. In addition, after reviewing our forecast of contracting opportunities, which includes a contracting official as the point of contact (POC) for each planned procurement, SDVOSBs may contact the POCs for more information on contracts they might be eligible for under this program.

d. DOJ issued guidance to its contracting officers on identifying SDVOSBs capable of meeting DOJ requirements when conducting market research. In addition, when providing small business training to DOJ contracts and program staffs, DOJ's OSDBU began specifically addressing applicable laws and policies relating to participation of SDVOSBs in Federal contracting.

We appreciate this opportunity to respond to your letter and trust that this information will be helpful to you. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if we can be of further assistance on this or other matters.

Sincerely,

  
William E. Moschella  
Assistant Attorney General