

July 28, 2006

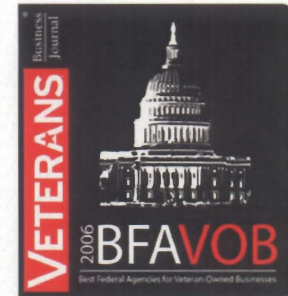
The Honorable Francis J. Harvey
Department of the Army
101 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-0101

Dear Secretary Harvey,

I am honored to notify you that the Department of the Army has been selected by *Veterans Business Journal* magazine as one of the Best Federal Agencies for Veteran-Owned Businesses 2006 (BFA VOB). The annual awards are based on three criteria related to your performance and efforts to contract with service-disabled (SDVOBs) and veteran-owned small businesses (VOBs):

- ★ SDVOB actual performance...35%
- ★ VOB actual performance...30%
- ★ Overall outreach efforts...35%

Through your leadership and the efforts of your OSDDBU and procurement teams, your agency has demonstrated performance superior to other federal agencies. And while your agency, like all others, has not met the 3% SDVOB goal yet, you are positively trending in taking steps to ensure that this happens expeditiously.



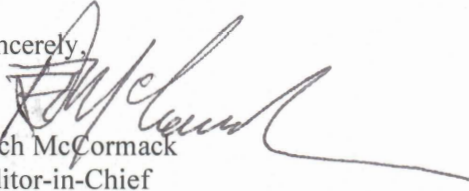
We will be honoring the ten selected agencies at an awards dinner to be held during our two day Veteran Owned Business Expo (VOBE) on the evening of Thursday, September 21, 2006 from 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm at the Hampton Roads Convention Center in Hampton, Virginia. We hope that you, your family and others from your OSDDBU, procurement and agency leadership team will be present to accept the award.

Veterans Business Journal will pick up the cost of two dinners. The cost of bringing additional people to the awards dinner is \$50 per person. You can register by calling Amber Hajos at (412) 269-1663 x122 or online at www.vobexpo.com. The VOBE website also contains details of exhibit and sponsorship opportunities at the two day VOBE event. Earlybird rates expire August 15, 2006.

Please keep your award selection confidential to the public until after our scheduled press release date of August 3. As well, please have your Public Relations team contact me if any additional information is needed in preparation for your own press release. The awards results will also grace a story in our Sep/Oct 06 issue, which will hit newsstands in late August. If your agency is interested in advertising in this issue, please call (412) 269-1663 x115.

Congratulations and thank you for your leadership. We look forward to seeing you in Hampton!

Sincerely,


Rich McCormack
Editor-in-Chief