



THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON
June 20, 2007

**MEMORANDUM FOR UNDER SECRETARIES, ASSISTANT SECRETARIES, OTHER
KEY OFFICIALS, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARIES, AND FIELD FACILITY
DIRECTORS**

SUBJECT: Veterans First Contracting Program

Public Law (P.L.) 109-461, the Veterans Benefits, Healthcare and Information Technology Act of 2006, sections 502 and 503 are effective June 20, 2007. This law provides VA with special authorities in contracting with service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses and veteran-owned small businesses.

VA personnel involved in the acquisition process need to become acquainted with the authorities and their responsibilities under P.L. 109-461. We must ensure that our advocacy of veterans extends to veteran entrepreneurs. I expect each of you to fully embrace the spirit and intent of this law and advance veteran entrepreneurial opportunities within VA.

I have asked Scott Denniston, Director, Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, to monitor VA's implementation and compliance with P.L. 109-461. Mr. Denniston will report VA's progress to the Secretary and me on a regular basis.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gordon H. Mansfield". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Gordon H. Mansfield