

Changes to the DoD Fresh Program

To our valued customers,

The Defense Supply Center Philadelphia (DSCP), commonly referred to as DoD, is undergoing business changes to be effective 1 October 2006. These changes have been in development over the last 18 months, and coincide with the Defense Commissary Agency's decision to buy their own fresh produce, also effective 1 October 2006.

The DSCP Produce Long Term Contract (PLTC) will be a long term contract awarded to a full line produce provider, in a defined geographic area, for produce items only. The PLTC will be responsible for the procurement, storage, and delivery of produce, and product nutrition services for military dining facilities and schools. The PLTC will attempt to utilize the commercial practices of small business produce industry to the maximum extent possible. In general, the successful contractor will receive orders electronically, buy product, stage and deliver, and provide shipment and invoice documentation. Delivery times will be established in conjunction with the customer.

DSCP held produce industry roundtables in August 2005 to present our concept and solicit ideas from industry. The roundtables were a means to conduct market research on some of the procurement issues that DSCP will face in implementing the new strategy.

The initial solicitations will be small business set-asides.

Defense Subsistence Offices and Produce Buying Offices will close, and some people will remain in the field to work military troop and USDA school customers. The reps will be the "face to the customer" in terms of ensuring a high level of customer support and resolving local delivery/quality issues, with direct communication to the DSCP produce contracting staff.

There will be some changes for the school customer. All schools will need to use the DSCP electronic ordering site (currently referred to as TAP-IT), and user IDs and passwords will be issued to all schools that are not currently using TAP-IT. This is a very user-friendly system which allows 24/7 access to placing your orders from any PC with internet connections. In addition, the school will be required to go back on-line to submit a receipt after delivery has been made and accepted. This will facilitate vendor invoicing and payment, and customer billing.

School reports on spending by Federal entitlement or State reimbursable will be maintained by HQ DSCP, Philadelphia, via the electronic order and receipt system.

We will also evaluate the contractor's ability to develop and implement a seasonal acquisition plan in conjunction with local outreach efforts, which may include an award

to a firm outside of specific geo-political boundaries. The use of federal monies to purchase produce mandates these criteria.

USDA and DSCP are still strong partners in providing the highest quality fresh fruits and vegetables to schools eligible under the National School Lunch Program. We expect to update our progress as we roll to implementation in the summer of 2006.

Please email your questions to patricia.scott@dla.mil.