



# Veterans' Entrepreneurship Task Force (VET-Force)

8605 Cameron Street, Suite 400, Silver Spring, MD 20910  
Tel: 301.585.4000 Fax: 301.585.0519

Association for Service Disabled Veterans  
Association of Small Business Development Centers  
American G.I. Forum of the United States  
AMVETS (American Veterans)  
Black Veterans for Social Justice, Inc.  
Blinded Veterans Association  
Center for Veterans Issues  
Enlisted Association of the National Guard  
HI Tech Services, Inc.  
Jewish War Veterans of the USA  
Korean War Veterans Association  
Military Officers Association of America  
National Association for Black Veterans  
National Association for Uniformed Services  
National Coalition for Homeless Veterans  
National Gulf War Resource Center  
National Organization for Competency Assurance  
Non-Commissioned Officers Association of the USA  
Paralyzed Veterans of America  
Quality Support, Inc.  
Reserve Officers Association of the United States  
Rolling Thunder  
The Retired Enlisted Association  
The Veterans Advocacy Foundation  
Veterans Benefits Clearinghouse  
Veterans Business Network  
Veterans Economic Action  
Veterans Enterprise Training & Services Group  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Vietnam Veterans of America  
Vietnam Veterans of California, Inc.

March 11, 2008

Mr. James E. House  
Director, Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Mr. House:

On behalf of the Task Force for Veterans' Entrepreneurship (VET-Force) and the many men and women who have served in our country's military, we would like to thank the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for its commitment to providing contracting and subcontracting opportunities to Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (SDVOBs). You have truly designed a model that other federal agencies should replicate.

Over the past three years, USDA has continued making progress towards attaining the minimum 3 percent goal, going from 0.69 percent in FY 05, to 0.85 percent in FY 06, to 2.4 percent in FY 07. This is a particularly noteworthy feat, since over half of the USDA's entire annual contracting budget is spent on agricultural food commodities (an industry with few SDVOBs currently participating). We are optimistic that USDA will meet or even exceed the 3 percent goal in FY 08.

This level of progress is a clear manifestation of what a large government agency can accomplish when their leaders visibly and tangibly communicate their support. While some agencies just talk about it, your exemplary approach to planning, monitoring, and measuring results through the use of a Scorecard along with having agencies submit individual Strategies and holding the layers of decision-makers accountable is actually getting it done.

We appreciate your hard work and proactive efforts to utilize USDA's contracting and subcontracting opportunities to grow SDVOBs. VET-Force looks forward to your continued commitment and support of this important initiative to help a group of people truly deserving of our nation's deepest respect and gratitude.

Most sincerely,

Rick Weidman  
Chairman, VET-Force

cc: VET-Force Executive Committee