

EVENT BRIEF

Inter-Agency Task Force on Veterans Small Business Development

Kick Off Meeting

Wednesday, September 15 2010

QUICKVIEW

CHAIR: Deputy Administrator Marie Johns (SBA)

TASK FORCE REPRESENTATIVE(S): Associate Administrator Bill Elmore (SBA); Deputy Assistant Secretary Donald Grave, Jr (Treasury); Director, National Outreach and Plans Ted Fessel (DOD); Assistant Secretary, Veterans' Employment and Training Raymond Jefferson (DOL); Executive Director, OSDDBU Tim Foreman (VA); Chief, Commerce Branch Randy Lyon (OMB); Associate Administrator, Office of Small Business Utilization Jiyong Park (GSA); Elizabeth O'Herrin Student Veterans of America; Dan Dellinger The American Legion; John Garcia Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs; James Wilfong VET Force

DATE/TIME: Wednesday, September 15, 2010 at 9 AM

LOCATION(S): Room 430 A in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building

Thanks to the leadership skills and expertise they acquire during their service, many veterans go on to start small businesses. Now, with thousands of American veterans returning from Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere throughout the world, the federal government must provide the tools and the support for them to start and grow their businesses.

On April 26th, 2010, the President signed Executive Order 13450, establishing the Interagency Task Force on Veterans Small Business Development. The task force will coordinate federal efforts to increase and improve veteran small business development. This includes increasing access to capital, improving business development opportunities, and meeting Federal contracting goals for veteran-owned small businesses and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses.

Specifically, the Executive Order asked the Task Force to focus on six areas:

- 1) Improving capital access and capacity of small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans and service-disabled veterans through loans, surety bonding and franchising;
- 2) Ensure achievement of the pre-established Federal contracting goals for small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans and service-disabled veterans through expanded mentor-protégé assistance and matching such small business concerns with contracting opportunities;
- 3) Increasing the integrity of certifications of status as a small business concern owned and controlled by a veteran or service-disabled veteran;
- 4) Reducing paperwork and administrative burdens on veterans in accessing business development and entrepreneurship opportunities;
- 5) Increasing and improving training and counseling services provided to small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans; and
- 6) Making other improvements relating to the support for veterans business development by the Federal Government

Small businesses create nearly two out of every three new jobs and employ half of all American workers. They are a part of who we are as a nation, and it is our duty and moral obligation to provide our veterans with the tools they need to start and grow their business and create jobs.

Working Groups and Final Recommendations

The Task Force will establish working groups to focus on the **six subjects** that fall underneath the President's Executive Order. **Each working group** will come up with **1-3 proposals** for the final recommendations and include **specific implementation plans**. Each team will be led by a member of the Task Force, another co-chair, including leading experts from agencies and the White House, and may include additional representatives from the agencies represented on the Task Force. All six working groups will look for opportunities to improve coordination of resources across and within agencies and will identify specific measurable outcomes to which agencies can be held accountable. The Task Force will work between the kick off meeting and the first public meeting to appoint co-chairs to each working group.

- Access to Capital
 - **Co-Chairs:** Associate Administrator Bill Elmore (SBA); TBD
 - **Potential Members:**
- Federal contracting
 - **Co-Chairs:** Associate Administrator, Office of Small Business Utilization Jiyong Park (GSA); TBD
 - **Potential Members:** TBD
- Increase Integrity of Certifications
 - **Co-Chairs:** Executive Director, OSDDBU Tim Foreman (VA); TBD
 - **Potential Members:** TBD
- Reducing Administrative Burdens
 - **Co-Chairs:** TBD
 - **Potential Members:** TBD
- Training and Counseling
 - **Co-Chairs:** TBD
 - **Potential Members:** TBD
- Improving Federal Support
 - **Co-Chairs:** TBD
 - **Potential Members:** TBD

Deliverables

1. Report on recommendations with an implementation plan that include the following: clearly-defined recommendation; relevant context; objective of recommendation; challenges addressed through recommendation; tactical, action-oriented implementation plan; barriers to successful implementation
2. Meeting with Congressional staffers
3. Delivering a report to the President one year after the Task Force's first public meeting

Public Involvement

The Veterans Interagency Task Force was chartered in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act. All of its meetings will be open to the public. A public notice will be posted on the Federal Register on October 1 announcing a date for the first official meeting later that month. More information and an agenda for the public meeting will be shared with Task Force members and posted on the SBA website.

Key dates/Milestones

September 15:	Kick Off Meeting is held at the White House
October 1:	Public Notice for Public Meeting is posted
October TBD:	First Task Force meeting is held
December TBD:	Second Task Force meeting
February TBD:	Third Task Force meeting
April TBD:	Fourth Task Force meeting
June TBD:	Fifth Task Force meeting
August TBD:	Sixth Task Force meeting
October 2011:	Task Force recommendations are sent to the President