



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HUMAN RESOURCES AND ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON DC 20420

May 11, 2006

Mr. Jimmy Lee
Executive Director
The White House Initiative on
Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders
1401 Constitution Ave., NW, Room 5092
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Mr. Lee:

I am pleased to submit the accomplishments from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Fiscal Year 2005 Annual Federal Performance Report in support of Executive Order 13339, Increasing Economic Opportunity and Business Participation of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. The highlights describe VA's initiatives and program activities that support Departmental objectives to increase the participation of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) in Federal programs where they may be underserved.

If you have any questions, please have a member of your staff contact David Walton, National Program Manager for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, Office of Diversity Management and Equal Employment Opportunity, at (202) 501-0215, or via e-mail at: david.walton@va.gov. Mr. Walton is a VA representative on the Interagency Coordinating Committee for the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Allen Pittman", is written over a horizontal line.

R. Allen Pittman

Enclosure

Department of Veterans Affairs
FY 2005 Accomplishments Report Relating to Executive Order 13339
Increasing Economic Opportunity and Business Participation of
Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI)

Highlights of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) FY 2005 Performance Report are presented below. The report describes VA's initiatives and program activities that support Departmental objectives to increase the participation of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) in Federal programs where they may be underserved, in areas such as health, human services, and economic and community development.

- In August of 2005, the State Cemetery Grant Program administered by the National Cemetery Administration awarded a grant of almost \$1.7 million to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to establish a veterans' cemetery on Saipan. The grant will pay 100 percent of the allowable costs for establishing a 4.6 acre cemetery, including roads, drainage, committal shelter, and irrigation. The cemetery will include 1,200 grave sites.
- All AAPI veteran organizations and VA representatives were invited to attend the Technical Assistance Conferences held in New York City, New York, and San Francisco, California. An additional technical conference will be held in Houston, Texas in the near future. Representatives from the Center for Veterans Enterprise will be there to provide information to interested veterans.
- VA continues to utilize the VETBIZ.gov Web site to highlight opportunities for service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses (SDVOSB). On April 17, 2005, Deputy Secretary Mansfield instructed all key VA officials to review upcoming contracting opportunities to identify whether they were suitable for using SDVOSB.
- VA Regional Office in Los Angeles, California, created an Outreach Committee to address issues impacting AAPI veterans regarding the dissemination of program information on VA benefits relating to compensation and education and services such as counseling and vocational rehabilitation. As a result of this outreach initiative, the regional office established meaningful partnership arrangements with several AAPI community groups—such as the Japanese American National Museum, the Japanese Bar Association, the Japanese American Korean War Veterans Association, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Department of Veterans Affairs
FY 2005 Accomplishments Report Relating to Executive Order 13339
Increasing Economic Opportunity and Business Participation of
Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI)

- VA's Center for Minority Veterans (CMV) participated in an AAPI roundtable with officials from the VA Boston Health Care System which resulted in an initiative to increase enrollment of AAPI veterans into VA health care services and acknowledged that outreach efforts should be targeted within the AAPI veteran community.
- On September 17, 2005, the CMV assisted the Chinese American Legion Post in Houston, Texas with launching the first major outreach program to provide information to AAPI veterans in that area about VA services and benefits.
- The Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Division at the VA Regional Office in Honolulu, Hawaii, procured services and supplies from vendors in Hawaii, Guam, and American Samoa. With a caseload of over 1,200 cases—including 100 veterans in Samoa and approximately the same number in Guam—almost all purchases are made through local vendors who are predominantly of Asian and Pacific Islander descent.
- VA Regional Office in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, provided equal opportunity for public sector/private sector partnership for the community—and economic development of Asian American and Pacific Islander businesses—by intervening with the City of Philadelphia and having an ordinance passed which permitted an Asian American/Pacific Islander owned business to provide food service to VA employees at this location.

Department of Veterans Affairs
May 2006