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To: James F. Gerraughty
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Progress Through Regional Cooperation In The Alleghenies

State of the PTAC - December 2022

*by James Gerraughty,
SAP&DC PTAC Program Manager*



I think I'll turn this into a repeat event: Silver Linings, year 3!

The overall situation seems to be tapering off, but it's still good to focus on the good things going on. PTACs across the country will be moving and working under the DoD Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP). That will be a big change in that we'll have some expanded goals and visibility with the government-industrial base. It won't, however, diminish any of our services to our clients and communities!

Just like last year, I work with some great, dedicated people here at SAP&DC, and the Southern Alleghenies, North Central, and Northern Tier PTACs! I appreciate their flexibility in coping with internal and external changes that were encountered. We also have some great clients that continue to challenge

our knowledge of federal, state, and local government contracting, and have been great sources of feedback on how we can do better. Finally, we expanded our use of technology for not only work-from-home for our counselors, but for outreach and educational events. What are your silver linings through all this?

Our program year is coming to a close, but we are planning for next year. Please review our training opportunities that are coming up in December (and beyond for our PTAC and PREP Partners, once our funding is confirmed). A big one is our Tri State PTAC Mega Match Maker on December 6 & 7, 2022. It will be a virtual event, same as last year, with opportunities to meet with buying agencies. It's free to attend, but you must [register here](#). Another one in January 2023 will be training on ITAR, so check out the link below for more info on that.

For an up-to-date list at any time, please visit our [event page](#), and you can search by date and location between our 3 centers. We are planning some events involving the Federal Highway Administration, Packaging, and the perennial favorite, Cybersecurity updates (as that field changes on an almost daily basis). There might even be some in-person trainings!

As stated before, we are here to serve you! If you have ideas for topics, or would like to learn more about government contracting, please drop us a line at (814) 949-6500 or by [Email](#).

Double-Header on Federal Certification Updates SBA Updates Woman-Owned Certification Site

The SBA's WOSB Federal Contract Program (WOSB Program) is pleased to announce that in response to customer service feedback, SBA has changed the WOSB Program's official application site URL to better help firms navigate our resources: beta.Certify.sba.gov will now be <https://WOSB.Certify.sba.gov>.

This action is in line with the original intent for "beta" to be a temporary placeholder for a more permanent URL. Now that WOSB is two years into the certification process, our application site is permanent and consistent with other SBA site-naming conventions. We are confident that this change will enhance user experience and limit confusion around the application process.

For the next 90 days, beta.Certify.sba.gov will automatically redirect to the new URL, after which time it will become obsolete. We anticipate a positive response to this change and appreciate your support in ensuring the best experience for all firms hoping to begin their federal contracting journey with the WOSB Program.

SBA Issues Final Rule on SDVOSB Certification By Shane McCall, Equity Partner, Koprince McCall Pottroff LLC

SBA has issued its [final rule](#) for its takeover of the Veteran-Owned Small Business (VOSB) and Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) Certification program. The rule will have an effective date of January 1, 2023. We discussed the proposed rule in our post [here](#). Below are a few key takeaways from the final version of the rule.

SBA issued the rule in line with the 2021 [National Defense Authorization Act](#) (NDAA), which transferred authority for certification of SDVOSBs and VOSBs from the VA to the SBA as of January 1, 2023 and created a one-year grace period for businesses to get certified.

Key Aspects

Here are some of the key aspects of the final rule, as updated by SBA from the proposed rule.

New Year's Takeover

SBA is taking over certification of SDVOSBs on January 1, 2023 (the Transfer Date). Self-certified SDVOSBs that apply within the one-year grace period after that date will maintain eligibility until SBA makes a final eligibility decision.

Despite comments to the contrary, SBA will continue to allow self-certification for SDVOSBs for purposes of subcontracting purposes and SDVOSB goaling credit. Interestingly, SBA says it will eliminate these forms of self-certification after five years.

[Continue Reading](#)

(Accessed 11/30/2022)

DOD Must Enhance Cyber Incident Reporting and Sharing, Watchdog Says

By Edward Graham, Staff Reporter, NextGov

The Government Accountability Office found that the Pentagon “lacks an accountable organization and consistent guidance” for documenting and sharing details about reported cyber incidents.

Although the Defense Department has taken steps in recent years to successfully mitigate cybersecurity threats to the military’s information systems, it must do a better job of managing and fully implementing its incident sharing processes, according to a report released by the Government Accountability Office on Monday.

Congress requested that GAO conduct an assessment of DOD’s “cyber incident management efforts” in a House report that accompanied the fiscal year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act.

The mandated review, which was conducted from March 2021 to November 2022, surveyed 24 cybersecurity service providers—or CSSPs—that “provide cybersecurity services to DOD components.” GAO then analyzed the cyber incidents that the CSSPs

identified on their networks from 2015 through 2021 and were included in DOD’s Joint Incident Management System—or JIMS—which serves as DOD’s official repository of documented cyber incidents. [Continue Reading](#)

(Accessed 11/29/2022)

Tis the Season...

We here at the Southern Alleghenies, North Central, and Northern Tier PTACs wish all of our clients, communities, & stakeholders a warm and happy holiday season! We also look forward to serving you in 2023! Happy Holidays!



Gloria, Renee, Barb, Ethan, and James

About US

The PTAC at SAP&DC is an economic development entity that bridges the gap between supplier and buyer in the government marketplace. The PTAC stands ready to support businesses in the central PA Alleghenies region in the pursuit to secure contracts with local, state and/or federal government agencies nationwide.

Due to the generous support of our Commonwealth and Federal funding partners, services provided by the PTAC are free of charge.

Whether you are an experienced contractor or new to the government marketplace, the PTAC will provide one-on-one counseling utilizing all of the program resources necessary to increase your share of contract awards.

Contact us today at The PTAC at SAP&DC to get started!

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