DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

OCT 29 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR ALMAJCOM/FOA/DRU

FROM: SAF/AQ
1060 Air Force Pentagon
Washington DC 20330-1060

SUBJECT: Air Force Observance of National Disability Employment Awareness Month

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month, and an excellent time to remember the Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program. This important procurement initiative provides the Air Force acquisition workforce with a unique opportunity to help reduce the 70% unemployment rate that exists among Americans with disabilities. Currently the JWOD Program provides employment to almost 42,000 individuals who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

The Air Force actively supports the JWOD Program. Our experience with these JWOD product and service providers has been extremely positive overall, prompting many of our Air Force activities to seek even greater opportunities to promote JWOD contracting efforts.

This month and throughout the year, I urge you to learn more about the JWOD Program and to find ways that community based nonprofit organizations participating in the Program can assist us in meeting our needs for quality goods and services. In particular, Government Purchase Card users should always buy items on the mandatory Procurement List from JWOD vendors before considering other commercial sources. Support of the JWOD Program enables the Air Force to meet mission requirements while at the same time benefiting individuals with disabilities in the local communities.

MARVIN R. SAMBUR
Assistant Secretary of the Air Force
(Acquisition)