

## SAF/SB Media Summary Week of 17-21 August 2009

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### **1. HUBZone companies would not get priority over 8(a) companies and service-disabled veteran business owners**

Federal Computer Week, 23 July 2009, Matthew Weigelt

Senate leaders have agreed to include a provision in the next defense authorization bill to do away with the current debate over which categories of small businesses should be given priority in federal contracting.

The amendment, introduced by Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-La.), would remove the special preference given to small businesses in historically underutilized business zones (HUBZones), putting those firms on a par with companies owned by service-disabled veterans and those in the Small Business Administration's 8(a) program.

### **2. Senate deal will level small-business contract preferences**

HUBZone companies would not get priority over 8(a) companies and service-disabled veteran business owners

Washington Technology, 23 July 2009, Matthew Weigelt

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"All small businesses should be given an equal opportunity to succeed," said Landrieu, chairwoman of the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee.

The Senate is currently considering the fiscal 2010 National Defense Authorization Act (S. 1390). The House passed its version in June.

Landrieu said her amendment is in response to a May ruling by the Government Accountability Office that HUBZone companies had to be considered before other categories of business when conducting a set-aside procurement. She said the ruling has

caused contractors to pull back business from 8(a) and service-disabled veterans programs.

3. **SBA and Commerce will expand outreach to small and minority-owned firms**

GovExec.com, 19 August 2009, Elizabeth Newell

President Obama has directed leaders of the Small Business Administration and Commerce Department to renew the push to meet contracting goals for minority-owned and small businesses.

In a statement released through SBA, Obama said it is essential to provide those companies with the greatest possible opportunity to participate in federal contracting.

"Small and minority-owned businesses must play a significant role in our efforts to restore economic growth," Obama said. "Small businesses employ half of the nation's private sector workforce, create a large share of the nation's new jobs and introduce many groundbreaking ideas into the marketplace."

Obama tapped SBA Administrator Karen Mills and Commerce Secretary Gary Locke to lead an initiative to increase outreach to companies and ensure agencies meet or exceed the goal of awarding 23 percent of prime contracts to small businesses.

Mills and Locke announced that procurement officials across government will host and participate in more than 200 events focused on minority-owned and small businesses during the next 90 days. These forums are designed to share information on federal contracting opportunities, including Recovery Act projects.

4. **Registration for stimulus money recipients starts on Aug. 17**

GovExec.com, 14 August 2009, Elizabeth Newell and Robert Brodsky

Recipients of Recovery Act funds will begin registering their organizations on FederalReporting.gov on Monday.

Registration is an initial reporting step for state and local governments, contractors, universities, nonprofits and other organizations that have received grants, contracts or loans of more than \$25,000 as part of the stimulus effort. Recipients must enroll before submitting spending reports -- due between Oct. 1 and Oct. 10 -- detailing how much money they have received, the amount they have spent so far, the timetable and scope of their projects, and the number of jobs created. Quarterly status reports will follow the first reports.

5. **Defense contractors brace for life without supplemental bills**

GovExec.com, 18 August 2009, Katherine McIntire Peters

You'd never know from the congressional debate over the Obama administration's fiscal 2010 budget request for the Defense Department that the White House actually wants to increase its budget by about 4 percent, to \$533.8 billion. That's because in the convoluted world of defense spending, the Pentagon's budget in recent years has shown little resemblance to what the department actually spends. The White House wants to change that, and defense contractors are bracing for the fallout.

Since 2001, when U.S. forces invaded Afghanistan, Congress has authorized 17 funding bills totaling \$882 billion on top of Defense's annual appropriation, according to the Office of Management and Budget. These supplemental bills have funded the costs of military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, but they've also been padded with money for priorities not related to the wars, such as the F-22 fighter jet, built by Lockheed Martin Corp., which has never been used on the battlefield. Going forward, the White House says it will fund military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan through the regular appropriations process.

#### 6. Pentagon Web site redesigned to appeal to younger audience

Nextgov.com, 17 August 2009, Elizabeth Newell

The Defense Department on Monday unveiled a fresh look for its Web site, focused on increasing two-way communication.

The redesigned site is hosted on the new URL Defense.gov and highlights social networking tools such as Facebook and Twitter. The primary goal of the makeover, Pentagon officials said, is to engage the public, particularly 18 to 24 year olds.

"We need to embrace these technologies," Price Floyd, principal deputy assistant secretary of Defense for public affairs, told the American Forces Press Service, the Defense Department's news service. "We need to use them because that's what the young people use these days. ...If we just stick to the traditional ways of communicating, we leave out a huge portion of society."

#### Press Release:

#### Obama Administration Announces Efforts to Increase Access to Contracting Opportunities for Minority-Owned, Small Businesses

18 August 2009

*Secretary Locke, Administrator Mills will lead government-wide initiative; federal officials to participate in more than 200 procurement events across the country*

The Obama Administration today reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring that minority-owned and small businesses, including women- and veteran-owned businesses, have greater access to federal government contracting opportunities.

Commerce Secretary Gary Locke and Small Business Administrator Karen Mills announced a government-wide plan that includes federal agency procurement officials holding or participating in more than 200 events over the next 90 days to share information on government contracting opportunities, including those available under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.