

Summary of Testimony
William D. Elmore
Associate Administrator for Veterans Business Development
U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
“Assessing Federal Small Business Assistance Programs for Veterans and Reservists”
January 31, 2007

Mr. Elmore will discuss the SBA’s efforts to support veterans by providing data highlighting the number of veterans and service-disabled veterans that have utilized SBA programs, including business counseling and training programs as well as procurement programs and SBA loan programs.

Mr. Elmore will also discuss some of the difficulties the SBA has in meeting the mandated 3 percent Federal procurement goal for prime contracts for small businesses owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans (SDV). He will state that, although the government has yet achieve the 3 percent goal, preliminary data indicates SBA and Veterans Affairs (VA) did in fact reach the goal for Fiscal Year 2006 (data cannot yet be confirmed). Mr. Elmore’s testimony will claim that, because the low percentage of the small business community that is veteran-owned or SDVO, it is difficult for the Agency to find qualified candidates to meet the 3 percent goal. The number of veteran-owned and SDVO businesses has increased, but they still make up a small percentage of the overall number of small businesses.

According to Mr. Elmore’s testimony, the SBA has increased appropriate staff to work on this issue, and has conducted extensive outreach to increase awareness of SBA programs for veterans and SDV.

Mr. Elmore will also promote the MREIDL (M-R-Idle) program, and its importance to military small business owners called up for service.