In the Matter of:

Advisory Committee on Veterans Business Affairs

March 9, 2016 Public Meeting

Condensed Transcript with Word Index



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done meaningful work throughout the year and the way we did that was to go back to the minutes of each of the meetings and synthesize those minutes, which in some cases were over 250 pages of minutes, but synthesize that into a meaningful two-and-a-half page to three-page summary of what that was, ad I think if -- if you read the report that we now have in front of us you'll see that that is in fact true, it shows what -- it shows what work we did, it shows that information we developed, and it certainly leads to the final part of the report, which is our recommendations.

One of -- one of the other things that -- that I'd like to mention is, is that not only does it show the work that we did previously in the sense of last year, but it shows a natural transgression -- or transition, excuse me. Transgression. Transition to the meaningful work that we're going to continue to do and -- and some of the new directions we're -- we're taking in the sense of topics that we're going to cover.

And with that said, I thank those that helped with the report, but as we got close to the end, you know, the -- when you're writing a 20-some-page report from scratch, and -- and you're -- you're reading it, and correcting it, Mike finally stepped in at the very

MR. FIELDER: We're done.

MR. PHIPPS: Your report is accepted and will be submitted.

MS. CARSON: And this is Barb Carson. I wanted to thank you, Ed, for your leadership in this, we really have reinvigorated this advisory committee thanks to you and the dedicated members that we have here. I look forward to continued growth under Mr. Phipps and supporting your work, thank you, we will act upon this report and appreciate very much the effort that went into it.

MR. FIELDER: Yeah, let me -- let me have one concluding comment. As I took over as chairman, the vitality -- let's just say the vitality of the committee was at an all-time low in the sense of membership and whatnot. And you may remember one of the -- one of the agenda items was revitalizing the -- the committee and getting full membership, which we now are sitting with a full room of members, and then doing meaningful work. And I mean this in the most humble way, I'm -- I -- I think the report demonstrates that, but without Barb's support we'd have never gotten there, particularly on the membership part, and I thank her for that, too.

MR. PHIPPS: One more quick note, we'd like to

end and did a very significant revision, and then Barb had one of her people take a last-minute look and helped us with format and some other things, that -- that -- that was a tough piece and we did that over the last 45 days.

And so what I'd like to suggest now is, is that the report that you -- that you all received from me I've actually submitted that with the corrections to include the corrections we got from -- from Jerry and I believe that is -- is 100-percent complete and ready to go. And if -- if -- if we're all in agreement on that and there's no other changes, what I'd like to do is -- is then -- then tell Barb and Jamie to go ahead and go through their congressional office and get it submitted to congress and to the White House.

MR. PHIPPS: Thank you.

MR. FIELDER: Before I turn off the mic, questions in -- in the -- any -- any insights that might be helpful for Mike in the sense of future reports?

(No response.)

MR. FIELDER: Okay, guys.

MR. PHIPPS: Okay.

MR. FIELDER: Thank you.

MR. PHIPPS: Excellent.

thank Jim O'Farrell for doing last meeting's notes. We have a new template for the meeting notes, that enables us to track handouts and track followup items. As we were doing the report last year we found a lot of items that we were supposed to followup on, that is just hard to track over 200 or 300 pages of notes, so I think this year we'll be able to track some of those easy.

And Mr. Michael Zacchea is going to be doing this meeting's notes' summary and I think we have the rest of the -- we'll cover the remaining two meetings on who's going to be doing that. So without further adieu, let's get an update from Barb Carson at OVBD.

MS. CARSON: Good morning, everyone. This has been a great quarter, a lot has happened and I'm looking forward to hearing what is still left to be done as we go through the discussions. You can see from the agenda we have a great presentation this morning from Naval Postgraduate School and the census on what we've learned about veteran entrepreneurship from 2007 to '12.

For the moment we're going to focus on -within SBA and I want to start with we've got an incredible team, you've met many of them before, and I'm very grateful for all who are here today from team OVBD. And I want to introduce you to our newest member

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who was appointed in early February, Craig Heilman is the new deputy associate administrator for the Office of Veterans' Business Development and I'm going to let him introduce himself.

MR. HEILMAN: Hi, good morning. Newly appointed deputy, but not -- not new to the team. I joined the team about three years ago and I had the privilege of working on our programs and -- and leading the boots-to-business program and growing that, learned -- learned a lot, love our mission here.

You know, I -- by way of background, I'm a Navy veteran, so hooyah to any of the Navy folks we've got in the room, aviation type, and -- and then continued on the reserves, and in -- in -- doing intelligence work, and then went off, started a business, and then went and for a long time was able to lead the body armor business for the -- the Dupont Company, the Kevlar business, which was a lot of contracting, so -- so saw it from the other side in terms of working with small business on -- on the government contracting side of things, and -- and -- and a lot of appreciation for what that takes, and what some of the opportunities and challenges are there.

I really wanted to serve again and -- and this is the mission that, you know, I think is the best one

MS. CARSON: We're going to go through a few highlights on policy programs, veteran business outreach centers, contracting, and lending, so I'm going to make it real quick though, because we've got a great -- this is just for our updates, we'll have export all afternoon.

Cheryl, may I have the next slide? Thanks. If you'll look up on the screen, and many of you have it also in front of you, this is for the interagency task force which meets tomorrow. And as you know it was a priority for us to have membership between committees so that we get the synergy that makes more possible, so Davy Leghorn will be participating tomorrow for us.

Max Kidalov is a member of the interagency task force, he's here with us today, and you'll hear a brief from him on service-disabled, veteran-owned small business procurement, along with his colleague, Jennifer, so we're looking forward to that, but let's talk about what -- the interagency task force, and some of our history, and where we're at.

So starting with 1999 with 10650, public law, established our office, this advisory committee, and other meaningful activities that are going to significantly impact our ability to do work for veteran

in government, being able to -- to -- to serve in a capacity that helps enable our veterans and -- and -- and help them in their business pursuits, so it's -- it's been a great experience being here.

Certainly would reiterate all the gratefulness that Barb's expressed to you over time in terms of having the ability to work with you and the time that you give to this mission, understanding you all are business owners and executives in -- in -- in your own right, this isn't your day job, and -- and so it's just really super to have your -- your advice and council.

And, of course, our side of that equation is to take your advice and council and do something with it, and -- and -- and that's what this is all about, and -- and I'm looking forward to being able to -- to champion that as well, and -- and certainly am available and accessible to you at any time if there's something that I can do to assist your efforts.

I know there's a lot we can do to enable more research and I've had a chance to work with -- with -- with -- with -- with we've done on that in the past, so thank you very much for being here, looking forward to working with you in this -- in this capacity.

MR. PHIPPS: Thanks, Craig.

entrepreneurs. The interagency task force itself was created in 2008 and in 2011 that task force created 18 recommendations on what government agencies could do for veteran small-business owners and there were 46 subrecommended actions. So I wanted to give you a quick update on where we are, 24 of those have been achieved; and 23 are in progress; and perhaps there are things that need to be sustained and not terminated, but they're ongoing; and then we have room to grow in just a few remaining.

Some of the highlights that we've accomplished in the last few years, the boots-to-business program has trained over 35,000 veterans; last year veteran business outreach centers conducted training and outreach to 62,000 veterans; we have fee-relief for veterans, and military spouses, and service members here at SBA, huge improvement in loan activity in just the last two years; and the federal government has awarded three-percent of its contract dollars, SDVs, over three consecutive years; the number of women veteran entrepreneurs increased by almost 300 percent, as you'll hear more about that from census today; and interagency collaboration engagement on veteran entrepreneurship is considerably expanded; and finally we, through this committee and the interagency task

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force, along with memorandums of understanding and strategic alliances, have really reinvigorated our work and are more collaborative across all the sectors, academic, private, nonprofit, and veteran, thank you for your contributions to that.

And now we feel it's time to re-evaluate those recommendations and get consensus on do we agree we've achieved what we — what SBA says that we have from our humble assessment, so that's what we will be bringing to the interagency task force tomorrow. Just to tee it up, there will be meetings through the next two months with myself and those agencies to determine what have we done, what is left to be done, and then we'll present that in June in a public meeting, so expect a commitment, and a great discussion, and we need a lot of the public to come at that time. A few highlights. First, any questions on interagency task force?

(No response.)

MS. CARSON: None. Okay. Moving to some program highlights, we are the first in the agency, I believe, to get CRM, client relationship management, sales force to -- we have a grand plan for what we would like to be able to do and that's to show over the life cycle of a person's experience with SBA from ideation, to business creation, growth, and succession

feel most comfortable briefing you in June when we have had a chance to analyze that data.

And we are also scaling up reboot, so can you tell me about how many sessions we've had since we launched in November of this year, Craig?

MR. HEILMAN: Sure, we've done 76 boots-tobusiness reboots and so we were able to do that through a -- a co-sponsorship and, you know, where we had some private funders that were helpful in -- in -- in offsetting costs for food, and venue, and things like that.

And then we are also now able to leverage appropriated funds, so we went back and we were able to get our authorization changed a little bit so that we could have the -- a more of a continuum between what happens on the installations with boots-to-business and what happens with boots-to-business reboot. It gives us some of that flexibility, because, as everybody knows, that's a really-dynamic time.

And so folks that might not get it in transition may be able to take advantage of it in the community later on and in particular targeting the guard and the National -- or, excuse me, the Nation Guard and the reserves who are still a little bit disconnected from what's -- what's happening in TAP,

how have we touched, where have we counciled, where have we been successful, whether it's lending, contracting opportunities.

But let's start with a small thing, just trying to have information that we can share with the people that are doing our work with us, so we are ruling out a program to test that within the boots-tobusiness program and the first partners that will have our district offices.

We hope to be able to work through expanding that circle to our veteran business outreach centers in June and -- well, it will be later than that, but we're on our way and we're very proud that this 18-month effort that was led by Craig is finally underway, so I will have an update for you on that in June.

Also in boots-to-business, the first survey of the participants, that also was over an 18-month effort to get a form approved by OMB, some of you know that pain, where we can actually go -- reach out to people and say, did you find it valuable, and can you show us how valuable, did you start a business, what does it look like, what are you doing, and if you didn't start a business we'd like to know that, too. So the numbers, we're pretty pleased with how the outcomes look so far and, again, that's something that we would

even though the intentions are there, so reboot addresses that and we're looking forward to -- to growing that as -- you know, in a -- in a sustainable way where we can reach as many veterans and families as possible.

MS. CARSON: And back to boots-to-business for a moment, we've spend a lot of time and effort in the last three months meeting with each of the individual services to take advantage of the military life-cycle model where people are eligible to go to transition assistance from their first day on active duty and learn about what they might do in their post-service vocation and that's also open to military spouses.

So SBA has joined the military spouse on employment partnership, so we are signatories to that and are currently conducting one webinar a month specifically for military spouses through that DOD program and we've had great turnout thus far. Kathy Roth-Douquet hopefully will talk more about what we're doing in the military spouse arena later today.

For the veteran business outreach centers Craig mentioned our appropriation came with more flexibility and it also came with more dollars this year, so we did what we believe congress intended and that's expand our veteran-business outreach-center

program.

In February we did put out on grants.gov that opportunity and we do expect to award between five and eight in these areas, New England, southern California, Arizona, Hawaii, Alaska, north central Texas, Colorado, and Georgia, so that closes out on March 29th. We're thrilled, because we really are coming -- bringing that program in line with statue and how it was intended to be used for transitioning service members and all the things that they need, and, as well, they're resources appropriately.

We have a lot more data right now about what the demand is for entrepreneurship at military installations, how many are transitioning, where they are, and also recognizing there are a great number of military spouses. And steady family employment is important for resilience and satisfaction with military service, so we really are pleased with how we are going to be able to work with partners in more locations across the U.S., and Ray Milano, who you've met before, is our leader for that program.

If you have any questions about that, you're welcome to reach out to me, but there's also a webinar on March 16th. So if you -- I would appreciate it, honestly, if you'd get the word out, if you know of

MR. FIELDER: -- organizations I'd like to make sure we get on that webinar, would you please email the committee the web information to get on the webinar?

MS. CARSON: Absolutely. And for those -- and so it's on the record, www.grants.gov. You search for Victor, bravo, Oscar, Charlie, ours is the only one that will come up, and it has all the information there.

So Jerry Godwin, who I believe you've met at a prior meeting, is working on procurement and access-of-capital portfolios for our team, he has been working on -- he's already met with at least half a dozen OSDBUs across the federal agencies learning what are the current best practices for service disabled-vet procurement and we have -- we'll hear more about that, as I said, today, but he is our lead and I'm thrilled with the direction that we're heading and the feedback we're getting already.

Also the head of the 8(a) program here at SBA, Jackie Robinson-Burnett, is taking an active role in our work for procurement and is participating in programs with us both here in D.C. and across the nation, she most recently was at the V-WISE program in North Carolina. She's also been tapped by SBA to lead

eligible organizations, it could be academic, nonprofit, private business who are serving veteran small-business owners already or you think they have a capacity to do so very well and they're in one of those locations, we'd encourage them to learn more.

And as I said at a high level, that VBOCs trained and counciled a total of 62,000, so I'm -- I'm pleased with their growth. We expect to see the training numbers expand quite a lot, because they will focus more on those opportunities, the counciling may come down a bit as they are working on building the resources within our network.

I think that the diversity of SBA resources partners is of value, it's not -- we don't need to do it all ourselves, we need to be able to refer and understand where the special talents are and where a person can get the best service for them at the point of business and their sector of business, so we're working a lot with VBOCs on referral as well. So that's the great, full update on VBOC and I'm going to move onto just two quick things on contracting. Jerry Godwin -- oh, yes, Ed?

MR. FIELDER: Great interest in Georgia, there's a couple of --

MS. CARSON: Um-hum.

the mentor-protégé roll out, so this is an important person for us to have a good relationship with and I'm very grateful to her and her leadership, so please let us know if you'd like to hear from her at any time, please, Mike.

And finally on lending, we'll dive more into this in June, not today, but I wanted to let you know we're doing really well, last year was incredible, we had 80-percent growth. If you look at both 504 and 7(a), it's 100-percent growth if you look only 7(a). This year, as of the 20th of February, we're up 22 percent from last year, so it's going to be another incredible year and we'll dive into that next time. That's all for our update today, unless there are any questions for me.

(No response.)

MR. PHIPPS: All right. Thank you very much, Barb. So next we're going to be hearing from Naomi Blackman from census with an update on veteran-owned small businesses. Naomi?

(No response.)

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: She's not -- she's --

MR. PHIPPS: Where are you at?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: -- not here yet.

MR. PHIPPS: All right. While we wait from --

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UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Max. MR. PHIPPS: -- for Naomi, we are going to get

an update on a report done by the Naval Postgraduate School from Max Kidalov and Jennifer Lee.

(Pause for PowerPoint.)

 MR. KIDALOV: Good morning.

AUDIENCE: Good morning.

MR. KIDALOV: My name is Max Kidalov, I'm Assistant Professor of procurement law and policy at the Naval Postgraduate School and since last year has been a member of the IATF. With me is Jennifer Lee.

MS. LEE: Good morning.

AUDIENCE: Good morning.

MS. LEE: I -- I actually am an active Navy contracting officer warranted and my specialty is how to maximize staff procurement, so being at an academic institution I've teamed -- teamed with Max to do some of these academic studies regarding small -- small disabled-veterans' contracting.

MR. KIDALOV: In my capacity as an academic I have served as -- as the lead and a principal investigator on several studies that -- that were conducted at the request of the director of small-business programs for the Department of the Navy, so this is one of those studies.

and malfunction of the program. So we had a real paradox, goal achievement on the one hand and yet these predictions of -- of failure and malfunction, and so we've looked at these five academic assessments.

Professor Schooner's assessment, the three lower views, Sherman -- by Sherman Korsak and McGann, and also a study commissioned by DOD Office of Small Business Programs and prepared by Rand -- by two researchers at Rand, the Cox and Moore study out of 2013, and all of those studies have basically agreed on three things, they've all came up with this, they said, there are three factors that predict the failure or the malfunction of the program.

The first one would be veteran disillusionment, the veterans are disillusioned or are to be disillusioned in the program; the second related to that is confusion both by veterans, participating veterans, and government buyers alike, and the confusion stems about both the nature of the program as well as the actual tools that are provided in the program; and then another related to that is entrenchment. And what they thought -- what they meant by entrenchment was that the program appears to be helping the firms that are already successful, it appears to not be developing, it appears to not be

I would like to -- next slide, please. I would like to start, as every good government researcher does, by providing the usual disclaimers. Nothing here, of course, is an official position of the Department nor are there comments on pending litigation, although we, of course, go into government contracts' law issues a lot. That equality -- on that equality our data sources are the federal procurement data system, SAM, Census, Department of Labor, and VA, and other disclaimers and caveats you will find in the text of the study, and the link is provided for you, it is publically released and publically available.

Next slide, please. So I'd like to first introduce the background of the study. The problem that we have tried to solve, the original problem was this, there -- the service-disabled, veteran-owned procurement program has been around for many years and the Department of Defense for many years has had trouble reaching the goal. It did end up reaching the goal in FY-'14, the very real achievement with very substantial spending.

The Department of the Navy at the time has not reach the goal yet and yet we also saw that the academic assessments, including the assessments that were commissioned by DOD, have all predicted failure bringing in new firms, or transitioning firms, or even niche firms, but it is helping those that are already successful.

Next slide, please. So our research questions -- looking at this, we decided to settle on three questions. The first question was can the program really be understood in terms of the generally-accepted model for contract management performance? So as you are probably familiar, there have been -- there's been a lot of theory about performance management and performance evaluation. There was a -- there is a classic book by Cohen and Eimicke that took that theory and applied it specifically to managing contracts and programs and we just tried to understand, see if the program could be understood in terms of this classic theory.

We also then asked, is -- the individual-level contracting officer discretion, is that the right mechanism to support the participation of veterans in defense contracting? And by individual discretion we really mean I'm guided individual discretion.

And then the third question is can simplified acquisitions positively influence the program outcomes? Simplified acquisition's a very interesting tool. We asked that third question, because, first of all, that

was a regulatory tool. It was not a statutory tool, but was a regulatory tool that was inserted in the FAR and also because SAP procurements are regarded as something very suitable for you and emerging businesses and we thought, well, let's take a look and see whether that's -- that tool is helpful or not helpful.

Next slide. Our methodology, we started by, of course, reviewing the prior academic assessments, reviewing the theoretical foundation of the design of the program, then using that theoretical foundation we tried to understand the taxonomy of various designs. What we -- what we saw very early on is that while we -- this is called a program, it's really -- there are really several iterations, several designs of this program.

Everybody who was involved in it had some idea and so congress had an idea, the executive branch had an idea, DOD had an idea, and then GAO and the courts, they had their own idea, and they have all tried to mold and design the service-disabled, veteran-owned procurement program in their own -- in their own way, and so we tried to understand how those designs work, and then squared them against this contract-management performance theory to see what is it that they were actually designing.

process that contracting officers use, and so that includes set-aside awards, that also includes non-set-aside awards.

And, of course, with set-aside -- set-asides it includes the sole-source set-asides, competitive, and it includes SAP, and other kinds of awards. It also includes different steps related to market research and other acquisition strategy, basically anything to help, any steps that are being taken to help achieve the program goal.

Now, outputs. In the Cohen and Eimicke world the output -- a program output is the number of things that are getting affected from taking the inputs and applying the process, so in this case the output would be the number of firms, it would be the number of firms that are being assisted through this process.

And finally the outcome. Outcomes are very hard to establish, but generally we would say that in the -- taking the Cohen Eimicke model, an outcome would be DOD contracting is a viable, self-employment path and veteran self-employment is a viable path, so those would be the program -- those would be the outcomes of the program that we are actually looking at, the state of veterans' business development of the state of veteran self-employment in general terms at large in

Next slide, please. So from this contract-management performance model, and it comes out of the Cohen and Eimicke, a very responsible contracting manager, it's a classic -- it's a classic text in contracting education, we use it, it's generally regarded as a -- as a foundational text in -- in the field. So they set it out, they set out four different basic pillars of design, and the first one is inputs, process, outputs, and outcome.

Now, we've tried to apply those two, the disabled, veteran-owned program. Now, when they -- when Cohen and Eimicke speak of inputs, they referred to the effort. Input is a -- a measure of effort, so money, the spending in the Cohen and Eimicke world, is an input and a measure of effort.

Now, this might seem counterintuitive, because in the small-business contracting world we measure things by the goal achievement in terms of spending percentage and so we tend to think of it as -- as the result of the program, but in the contract management theory this is actually a program input.

Now, process is something that are the steps that you take to take the inputs and then help achieve the program outcome, so the process in this case would be the discretion process, the decisional discretion the commercial sector and also in the federal, so that's -- that would generally be the outcomes.

Next slide, please. So we took that and we have tried to create a time line of the different designs. These -- these are different -- these are different flags and elements, but essentially this is a time line of different decision-makers taking a stab at the design of the program, and what you see -- we -- we want you to just keep the slide and refer to it throughout the -- throughout the time as we're going to be talking about contracting trends and maybe some -some cases and decisions, but what you basically see here is there are some times when the need was identified, there are some times when goals were established, and then there are some times when there were either missed opportunities or perhaps there were decisions made to tell the contracting officer to do or not to do certain things.

Next slide, please. So we will now talk about the designs, the taxonomy of the program, trying to understand this. So there have been -- first, of course, congress got into action on this and so let's look at how congress tried to design the program. Congress began trying to design the veteran -- veterans' contracting program of some kind as early as

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1974, so that was this anti-discrimination amendment, special consideration to veterans and SBA programs, there was talk about a contracting -- some contracting consequences out of that, there wasn't really a whole lot of outcomes, or -- or outputs, or inputs, or anything out of it.

And so then in 1997 there was a very expansive statute, this is the Small Business Reauthorization Act of '97, very, very broad, and it started talking about enhancing entrepreneurship, increasing opportunities, fair consideration, and gave the SBA very, very broad authority, this is a very important statute, "Such actions as may be necessary to ensure that small -- disabled, veteran-owned small businesses have access to business-development assistance and other programs, all other programs under the Small Business Act, uncodified law." Still law, uncodified, but it's still a statute, very, very broad. So this one could be focused on -- on anything, focused on outputs, focused on inputs, and gives broad authorities to the process.

In '99, two years later, we have this congressional commission on -- the Principi Commission on service members and veterans' transition. The commission comes back and says, we'll recommend at the meeting disabled veterans to the 8(a) program plus

responsibility for business development on an individual contracting officer. This is -- this is where all -- this is where all the tension stems from, is from this -- from this little statement right here on legislative history.

Okay. Next slide, please. Now the executive branch. The executive branch, of course, wanted to shape the program in its own -- in its own way as well, began in 1998. The SBA report to congress of the Veterans' Affair Task Force recommended high priority to classified, disabled veterans as to -- as socially, economically disadvantaged, so that's the recommendation, that was the position in '98.

We then go to Executive Order 13360 providing opportunities for service, disabled-veteran-owned small businesses. And this one, a 2004 executive order, this one talks about opportunities, and goal, and participation, so this one seems to talk about both the outputs, and the inputs, and the process. Again, that -- that order tries to kind of put them all -- put them all together.

But then we have a retreat and the retreat comes in the form of rule making conducted by both the FAR council and the SBA and what essentially the rule-making -- 2004 and 2005 rule-making says is that it's

creating statutory goal, and later that year congress acts on it and they created the three-percent goal, and then they create some business-development entities within and outside of the SBA. Legislative history through floor statements talks a lot about business -- a business-development program. Not in the statute, but legislative history is in there.

Next slide, please. Then finally we get to the Veterans' Benefits Act. The Veterans' Benefits Act is very interesting, because it creates -- it -- this is the statute that did create this original authority for competitive set-asides. So it creates this process, but then it explains what is it that they met. And, again, very interesting, uncodified law, so sections 101 and 102, they talk about the business-development intent.

And then you have legislative history, legislative history is very ambiguous. Now, what it says is this, it says, the commission proposed adding veterans to the 8(a) program. We are not doing that, but we are giving special assistance on a discretionary basis. So as -- as confusing as it -- as it could possibly be, I think you -- I think you see the example right there, but what you also see is that really the process that congress set was to place the

not a business-development program. It is an assistance program of some kind and, in fact, the SBA did require some qualification -- put in some

qualification restrictions for owners from the 8(a) program onto the SDVOSB program, but said it's

assistance, but just not business-development assistance. It's a tool to meet the goals, so the idea was to focus -- to bring the program and focus it on the input rather than on the output from the

We then have additional rule-making in 2011 and 2012 and now that rule-making tilted back to outputs and it says, now we're going to -- and now we're going to impose the process requirement that you would consider, one or two outputs that you would find, that you would consider them, and so you had this gap

between basically 2004 and 2011 or '12.

performance-management model.

DOD at that time has gotten into action as well and issued several strategic plans. Now, their strategic plans were in 2005, 2007. The last one was in 2009 and that one was -- those were high-level strategic plans, but they did direct components to focus on the process, the set-aside process, so that was a process focus.

And finally we had the Executive Order 13540,

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and the Interagency Task Force, and the two reports. Now, in those reports you see a focus on finding current contractors, and funding, and giving work to the current disabled-veteran contractors to help meet the goal, so we will see -- so we will see where this comes into play later.

Next slide, please. Okay. We would be, of course, remiss not to say that the GAO, the adjudicators didn't try to design the program in their own -- in their own way, and the GAO is probably a very active organization of this, and GAO started out -- started out in 2007 with the MCS and the IBV cases, it was very focused on using the process to help the -- the one or two small firms through the roll of two that they could find, so that was their original focus.

But then in 2008 the GAO did a complete turnaround and in the DAV prime case the GAO said, well, actually, we're not requiring you to use the process to help these firms, all we are saying, you have the discretion to use or not to use it, but if you do decide to use it then we're going to hold you to our standards of how you should do it. So what they did at that time was they told the contracting officer, you have the freedom not to do it, but if you do it we'll make it -- we'll make it difficult for you.

And this is a reprocurement now and the veteran firms are saying, we wanted the veteran set-aside, and Marine Corp says, well, we're going to go below -- we're going to dip below the deck, you know, we're going to go, you know, navigate our world, we're going to go dip -- dip below the hard deck, and we're going to go to the SAP where the mandatory set-aside rule is not in effect, it's discretionary, and we won't pay for the -- for the cost that we were going to pay before, we're going to expect that that would be standard, so we are going to favor in our acquisition strategy more-established firms and we're going to do -- we're going to go to the -- to the tool that gives us discretion to do it for veterans, but also for other programs, and, in fact, that has a mandatory small-

GAO comes back and says, you know what, even though -- well, and the Navy, of course, at that time was not meeting small-business goals -- disabled-veteran goals. GAO said, that's okay, you have wide discretion, we're not going to require you to use the contract as a tool of business development for this particular firm.

business -- SBR, small-business reservation.

Now, later in 2012 they do maybe a slide turn and there the case came up about mandatory

In 2012 they had another case, this is in February of 2012. In February of 2012 in the Kingdomware -- in the Marine Corp Kingdomware case the GAO gave the contracting officer some -- some freedom to again not do set-asides and there -- that case is very interesting, because it illustrates overall what the -- what we see as the problem.

The problem is that because the type of assistance to firms was undefined and unspecified, but because GAO did and Corex did have some market research and consideration standards it created a pressure from the service, disabled-veteran community to protest and use these standards as a way of banging on the agency door and saying, please help us with business development and help us in a way by structuring the contracts in a way that would give us business development, which is essentially what the legislative history was about, but this is where it comes into play.

So Kingdomware Marine Corp case is a really good example, what you have there is you had a prior procurement and in that prior procurement the Marine Corp said, we're going to recognize certain costs and we're going to pay for certain costs for firms to come in and do this work for us.

consideration and basically in the Split Rock case GAO says, well, SBA, you did have that rule, your position actually was that you -- you actually were still arguing based on the rules as were before, you kind of forgot about your own rule that was promulgated, so we're just going to -- you know, we're just going to remind you about it, you -- you agreed to this, right, so everybody agrees, and that's basically -- in the Split Rock, the last word was, some consideration is required.

Next slide, please. Now, the Court of Federal Claims, the other adjudicatory body, and the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit also tried to design this program in their own way and they had again the same basic tension, whether is the program for -- is it for -- is it help the inputs -- is the process there to help the inputs or is the process there to help the outputs and the outcome.

They started out -- they started out really well for -- for the veterans, the -- the individual program outputs, they started out with the Knowledge Connections' case in April of 2007 and there the judge said, "Executive Order 13360," because it talks about not only goals, but it also talks about increasing participation, it is judicially enforceable and

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agencies have a duty to structure their acquisition strategy in a way that will increase new and niche participation by new and niche businesses, and that's -- that was the veterans' GWAC case, and so they -- they go into executive order, they go into a DOD memorandum and the judge reaches that result.

And this last -- oh, last -- stowed away until December 19th of that same year at which time the judge looks at it again and says, well, I'm still going to tell you that the order is enforceable, however, you can meet it however you want and all -- and all that matters is the goal, all that matters is the input, rather than the -- rather than the output.

And so here, for example, the president has this other initiative, the Anti-Bundling Initiative, and a small-business set-aside is a defense to bundling. So if you want to bring in larger and more-established firms so that -- so that you can avoid bundling, that's okay, too. So no longer at that point did we have this -- did we have the rule that said, you're trying to help new and niche businesses, at least in that case.

Now, then we go to this other case, there is the Totolo King. Totolo King is a -- is a VA case, but it also talks about both the veterans first and the And there was a -- there was a 13360 challenge to that, and the veteran-owned firm said, look, we are in the -- we are a firm that doesn't have that type of -- that type of equipment, that type of assets, we think you should remove the nonmanufacture rule because applying it here contradicts the Executive Order 13360, you're not encouraging the participation, you're not encouraging the business development. That case also got moot, because the firm lost its certification and then the agency -- then the agency dissolved the set-aside

The -- the -- sort of the notable thing, of course, is that the court did not dismiss the case for failure to stay a claim, so it recognized the claim from knowledge connection -- based on knowledge connections' one. Essentially that's a -- knowledge connections' one argument, not a knowledge connections' two argument.

And then finally we get to the Kingdomware case and then the Kingdomware veterans' cases. Of course those cases do not directly apply to this program, the government-wide program, because they really deal with the Veterans First. However, there's some dicta language that talks about FAR consideration and there could possibly be a reasoning by analogy. So

federal government-wide SDVOSB program, that was a construction case and there the firms were -- the -- the firm was complaining about both the search and they were interested, but they wanted to know how the search was done and specifically they were concerned about bonding and they -- they were complaining about the bonding, the way that the agency disclosed the bonding, and, in fact, what kind of bonding they were requiring, so this was a capacity issue.

It was -- it was a capacity question for that firm that they have positioned as a market research -- as a challenge to market research and the judge looks at this and says, wide discretion to the contracting officer to look for interested, able, and responsible firms. It went up to the federal circuit, but the qualifying veteran died, so the appeal was dismissed as moot, so we -- we have this case.

Next slide, please. Then we have a couple of other cases, we have the BlueStar case in 2011. Now, BlueStar was also a capacity case that was framed as a market-research and as an acquisition-strategy case and there what you had, you had a contract for solicitation for electric power supply, but there was a requirement from the agencies to put in a nonmanufacture -- there was a nonmanufacture-rule requirement.

those cases, they appear from the Cohen and Eimicke model, they appear to leave the process unaligned either to inputs the goals or to the outputs, so very -- so broad discretion, but it's not really aligned to -- not really aligned to either, and so that's -- that's where we are, that's where -- that's where the courts have left us.

So as you can see, there is a substantial pressure on -- on the system to try to get that business-development assistance of which the FAR speaks, but that congress left undefined. I'd like to ask Jennifer to make some comments about some of these cases from the contracting-officer perspective.

MS. LEE: Okay. Oh, thank you. Before we do that, can we go to next slide and -- if we could cover the spending and getting into the numbers. When you look at the numbers in relation to what's really happening with the KOs doing the awards, it -- it is -- it's very impactful. Yes, sir?

MR. FIELDER: This is Ed Fielder. I have a couple questions, but I -- I want to ask them at the appropriate time, but we're -- it -- it seems like we're moving farther along and the questions are going to not make sense. If -- if I could just ask this question?

10 (Pages 37 to 40)

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| 1 | | , | |
| 1 | MR. KIDALOV: Sure. | $\begin{vmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{vmatrix}$ | MR. FIELDER: Um-hum. |
| 2 3 | MR. FIELDER: Page seven. MR. KIDALOV: Yes. | 2 3 | MS. LEE: but it wasn't there was no action taken on it. |
| 3 4 | MR. FIELDER: The flags. Could you define the | 4 | MR. FIELDER: Okay. And then going back to |
| 5 | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | 5 | MR. KIDALOV: A design flaw, if you will. |
| 6 | flags? MR. KIDALOV: Yes. The flags, there is a | 6 | MR. FIELDER: Okay. |
| 7 | yeah, on the bottom left there is a legend. | 7 | MR. KIDALOV: A program design flaw. |
| 8 | MR. FIELDER: Yeah, the the legend didn't | 8 | MR. FIELDER: Yeah. |
| 9 | make sense to me. You know, maybe I'm too simple, but | 9 | MR. PHEPPS: Ed, we're going to have to limit |
| 10 | if you could just get a little bit more definition of | 10 | our comments. |
| 11 | the of the flag? | 11 | MR. FIELDER: Okay. |
| 12 | MS. LEE: Okay. In in this slide, as you | 12 | MR. PHIPPS: And maybe we can write them down |
| 13 | can see, there's a lot going on and a lot of things | 13 | and send them over to Max |
| 14 | that were | 14 | MR. FIELDER: Well, there's |
| 15 | MR. FIELDER: Yeah, my | 15 | MR. PHIPPS: and Jennifer. |
| 16 | MS. LEE: reviewed. | 16 | MR. FIELDER: there's one that I want to |
| 17 | MR. FIELDER: my assumption is that they're | 17 | get on the record. |
| 18 | sort of like traffic-light kind of things | 18 | MR. PHIPPS: Okay. |
| 19 | MS. LEE: Oh. | 19 | MR. FIELDER: March of last year, this meeting |
| 20 | MR. FIELDER: where | 20 | 12 months ago, there was an SBA 8(a) business- |
| 21 | MS. LEE: Oh, no. | 21 | development person that came in and briefed us and |
| 22 | MR. FIELDER: where red is bad and green is | 22 | briefed in the context of he felt that service-disabled |
| 23 | good. | 23 | vets as a disadvantaged business enterprise could |
| 24 | MS. LEE: No. No, there's | 24 | qualify under the 8(a) program and that he suggested |
| 25 | MR. KIDALOV: No | 25 | that all we needed to do was have some companies get in |
| | | | |
| | 42 | | 44 |
| 1 | MS. LEE: no bad. | 1 | the que and apply to run a test case, have you have |
| 2 | MR. KIDALOV: not necessarily. | 2 | you heard this, Max? |
| 3 | MS. LEE: There's no green. | 3 | MR. KIDALOV: I have not heard of the I |
| 4 | MR. FIELDER: Okay. | 4 | don't know what what the factors are that that |
| 5 | MS. LEE: I mean | 5 | the you know, the individual is talking about. |
| 6 | MR. FIELDER: All right. | 6 | MR. FIELDER: The |
| 7 | MS. LEE: there's no bad, no good. | 7 | MR. KIDALOV: I have |
| 8 | MR. FIELDER: All right. | 8 | MR. FIELDER: The context was as a result of |
| 9 | MS. LEE: It's all it's all no, there is | 9 | their service time, as a result of their disability |
| 10 | good, but it's all where it's identifying just color | 10 | that they would be a disadvantaged business enterprise |
| 11 | coding actually where the action that happened either | 11 | and |
| 12 | it was an identified need for the SD community. As you can see, there's only one yellow, so we hit the three- | 12 | MR. PHIPPS: I recall that. MR. FIELDER: and and the fact that the |
| 13 14 | percent goal, that's just to make it stand out. | 13 14 | 8(a) program is not a minority program, it's a |
| 15 | MR. FIELDER: Then then I could be more | 15 | business-development program for disadvantaged |
| 16 | specific now that I understand that part. Red flags | 16 | businesses that it would quality. Could we make off |
| 17 | and service-disabled veteran program, what what does | 17 | off off the side make the connection to that SBA |
| 18 | the term, "Red flag," mean? | 18 | headquarters' person with you just to sort of close |
| 10 | , 1:00 1:up, 1:10u:1. | | that loop and maybe you could get back to us on that? |
| 19 | | 19 | |
| 19 20 | MS. LEE: That means that in what's identified | 19 20 | |
| 20 | MS. LEE: That means that in what's identified in red, and that does have kind of negative | 20 | MR. KIDALOV: yeah, I would be I would |
| | MS. LEE: That means that in what's identified in red, and that does have kind of negative connotation, is that in the in the document or in | 20 21 | MR. KIDALOV: yeah, I would be I would be happy to. I would just I would just like to say |
| 20 21 | MS. LEE: That means that in what's identified in red, and that does have kind of negative | 20 | MR. KIDALOV: yeah, I would be I would |
| 20 21 22 | MS. LEE: That means that in what's identified in red, and that does have kind of negative connotation, is that in the in the document or in the action taken there was some red flag given up that | 20 21 22 | MR. KIDALOV: yeah, I would be I would be happy to. I would just I would just like to say this, that we can talk we can talk about the |
| 20 21 22 23 | MS. LEE: That means that in what's identified in red, and that does have kind of negative connotation, is that in the in the document or in the action taken there was some red flag given up that said that this this group of individuals need more | 20 21 22 23 | MR. KIDALOV: yeah, I would be I would be happy to. I would just I would just like to say this, that we can talk we can talk about the perimeters of the of the 8(a) program, that's not |

45 47 1 with you on that. 1 MR. KIDALOV: Indefinite --2 I would say this, that there have been a 2 MS. LEE: -- indefinite --3 3 couple of -- there have been some cases related to the MR. KIDALOV: -- delivery --4 actual viability of the 8(a) program within -- within 4 MS. LEE: -- delivery --5 the Department of Defense, and those are including the 5 MR. KIDALOV: -- vehicle. 6 -- the Rothe and the DynoLantic cases, and the -- the 6 MS. LEE: -- vehicle. 7 outcome, especially of -- well, especially of the first 7 MR. KIDALOV: So that is a multiple-award 8 8 Rothe case, for example, a restriction on -- there was contract, typically --9 9 a restriction -- there was an injunction issued as to MS. LEE: Your --10 all kinds of programs that DOD was using, not just --10 MR. KIDALOV: -- things like that. 11 you know, not just 8(a), but -- but other different 11 MS. LEE: -- your GSAs, they're called all 12 authorities as well. 12 different things, IDVs are what they're in at PDS. The 13 And so I would just say that we should 13 other thing to note about IDVs is that each agency, 14 probably look at this in another -- in another format 14 especially in the DOD, has their own IDVs, they make and, you know, right now I'd like to just -- I'd like 15 their own strategic sourcing initiatives, they prevet 15 to finish this, but those cases just tell me that we the vendors. And then the direction from those 16 16 should focus on what we can do for veterans directly, agencies to the KO is to utilize them, because if 17 17 18 rather than -- rather than try to perhaps bootstrap 18 you're not utilizing what you did these high-dollar 19 veteran -- veteran population onto -- onto another 19 approved awards for it doesn't vet well. 20 program and I'd be happy to share those cases and what 20 MR. O'FARRELL: Could I --21 they -- you know, what they meant in -- in another 21 MS. LEE: So with --22 22 MR. O'FARRELL: Could I just interject that? 23 MR. FIELDER: I'd -- I'd love to talk to you 23 MS. LEE: -- sure. 24 24 MR. O'FARRELL: As one of my esteemed off line --25 MR. KIDALOV: Great. 25 colleagues down the road here, Ron, mentioned last 46 48 1 MR. FIELDER: -- about directed awards and 1 time, but some of us in this community do view those 2 some other things. 2 IDVs as some SDVs hitting the power ball and it's --3 MR. KIDALOV: Great, thank you. 3 MS. LEE: Um-hum. MS. LEE: Okay. Just talking about the inputs 4 MR. O'FARRELL: -- not really spreading the --4 5 5 real quick and the spending. Impactful on this slide the contracting around. is that the net-total spending and the goaling spending 6 MS. LEE: Um-hum. 6 is -- is increasing. However, if you look at that with 7 7 MR. O'FARRELL: That's why I was interested in 8 8 the red line there, the new awards revenue, there is a the very beginning of your briefing, Max, you mentioned 9 delta between that and so what that is -- is showing is 9 that you look at the outcome being, if I got it right, 10 that accretive mods and things that are being done on 10 the number of awards, not necessarily -- or one of the 11 existing contracts are applying more -- more funding. 11 -- one of the -- the boxes there was number of awards, 12 The other impactful thing is if you look the 12 as opposed to dollar amount awarded, because --13 blue line at the bottom is that the set-aside revenue 13 MR. KIDALOV: The -awards it is -- it is lower, it's significantly down MR. O'FARRELL: -- I think a lot of us would 14 14 15 15 like to see an increase in the number of awards, you 16 Next slide. And then also this slide talks 16 know. 17 about open market versus the IDVs, which in -- when we 17 MR. KIDALOV: The -- the output would 18 were looking at the direction to the KOs it was to 18 be the number of firms receiving awards, the number of 19 utilize your already existing to meet the goals. So 19 awards would be of -- more of a process indicator. 20 you do see the IDV set-asides in the purple down there MR. O'FARRELL: Thanks for the clarification. 20 21 is -- is higher than the -- than the open-market set-21 MS. LEE: And I have to say working with Max 22 22 aside, so they are favored more and IDVs in general are he's extremely detailed, so I think that in -- in the 23 -- are favored more. 23 presentation you're seeing -- you're going to see dollars, you're going to see participant, and also 24 With those -- with that information no 24 25 spending, let's talk about why. Next slide. The --25 number -- number of awards.

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MR. O'FARRELL: Well, just one more comment, because looking at the histogram document that -- that Ed was asking questions about, the legend, it -- it looks to me like, and I -- correct me if I'm wrong, first of all I had no idea that back in that '97 time frame there was actual discussion or -- or input into the 8(a) program, then it was whipped back out of there, so the expression I want to leave the -- my -my colleagues here with is Martian baseball. It was like you swing the bat, you hit the ball, then all of the bases get move around, and that's what it looks like over the years has been happening, it's -- it's one way, then it's another, then it's another.

So for -- if you put yourself in the foxhole with that small-business owner, he or she is constantly being told, and then I say now parachute in the contracting officer, because it sounds like that contracting officer's been going through the same kind of hoops.

MR. KIDALOV: Well, that was the -- that was the advantage of thinking about it in an academic term, trying to take the contract-performance management theory and actually try to make sense out of it and that's -- that's our contribution hopefully.

MR. O'FARRELL: That's a huge contribution, I

the issues that we just looked at I am very happy to know that for my job function my discretion does have power and it's not being minimalized or taken away.

I will tell you that being in the contracting community we want the SDVs to have a win. It's not that -- that we want them to be excluded, it really is -- and I'll just get -- get down to it and go off slide a little bit, next slide. You can -- you can look at the far right there and you can look at the USC code, it talk about how you do sole-source contracts.

The one thing I want to -- I want to talk about is that an interested SDV coming to the table to a KO, whether it's market research, whether it's FRI, whether it's meeting them at the street on an -- just in an industry forum, that does show interest. But when you are going to set-aside having a reasonable expectation, it's actually justifiable cause, it's not your expectations, it's not the feeling of the day.

So when those SDVs are expressing interest, they're not expressing interest in -- into responsive interest that shows capability and in the regulation it does talk about a responsible -- a responsible vendor, a responsible small business. Well, responsibility determination doesn't happen until you're before award.

So responsibility, you're -- I mean, this SDV

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MS. LEE: Yeah.

MR. O'FARRELL: -- this is really well done.

MS. LEE: Yeah, thank you.

MR. PHIPPS: Just a quick note, as a matter of time we only have about 15 minutes for you guys to finish --

MR. KIDALOV: Okay.

MR. PHIPPS: -- your presentation and we really want to get --

MR. KIDALOV: Sure.

MR. PHIPPS: -- all the information out to the committee.

MR. KIDALOV: Okay.

MR. PHIPPS: So let's limit our comments to the end, thank you.

MS. LEE: Okay. With all of that being said, as a contracting officer living under a regulatory job function what are you supposed to do in an protestable world? You hunker down and you decrease the risk.

MS. CARSON: Right.

MS. LEE: So with what has been the direction through -- through the FAR and through U.S. code is there's really no order of precedence for small businesses and I have to say with all of the -- the --

is thinking they're -- they're at the -- you know, the 10 yardline and the next thing you know, you know, it's a fumble all around, and then the field changed, as you were saying, so that -- that is a reality.

Next slide, please. So from -- with my input into this academic study is that from job function, and being an academic, and looking into all the highs and the wows of how this program came about and how it's being utilized, is the power is with the wrong people. When you talk about a contracting officer's discretion, it's huge, it is, but it goes into you have to be effective. And effective means not only for the business owners and the contractors as a whole, but it's also for the government and for your agency.

I happen to be a DOD Navy contracting officer, so when Navy needs something, they need it. All around requirements development for the government, we're not good at it, two thumbs down, it's not clear. So, first of all, the -- the water's muddy and then you're asking an SDV just to show up with the right -- with the right tools and the right response.

Market research, because the government requirement is usually behind the ball, that's the thing that gets squeezed to make your program mission, so as a whole agencies are not performing market

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research to give -- to give the SDV or the veteranowned business even a chance to show up and collect their thoughts.

I mean, there's -- there's short posting times, yesterday time lines, regulatory burdens. We're all sitting in this room and talking about things that happened in -- in the past and this is -- this is kind of our -- this is our forte. What about the person out there that just wants to leave government service, come back and support, and they're either service disabled or they have a designation that leads to their disillusionment that they're going to show up and receive an award?

The other thing I want to talk about is the three-percent goal achievement, it goes into -- for a KO you're told, yes, you have this goal, it's a small goal, it's -- it's three percent of the total of what you do. Well, we're told that in any means necessary you obtain competition, you do the best -- the best pricing for the government, better buying power, you have leverage. So for a KO to facilitate and support this program they're being pulled in different directions by regulation, by agency guidance, by goaling numbers, and by the business themselves.

And personally as a KO I do take this very

look at the statutory authority, it's all about new awards, it's about the new set-aside award, it's about the -- it's about the new award, what's -- what's measured in FPDSs, modifications euro, but what you would see if you look on -- if you look at page 14 you will see there is new awards' spending versus the goal, yearly-report spending. You see there is a gap, new awards is lower than -- than the total numbers that's being goaled.

And here on page 19 you see that the new awards have actually flattened and are decreasing, but what's increasing are creative mods. So to meet the -- the goal has been met by more additional work being given to contractors that are already receiving the work, so the -- so the data shows that.

MS. LEE: And then --

MR. KIDALOV: Next -- next slide, please.
MS. LEE: Okay. And then further to support the data -- oh, sorry. Further to support the data, when we have the set-aside and we look at it in relation to the goaling. If you'll see highlighted there, FY-'08 was the -- the most impact that the set-aside had on the goaling numbers, at one point 99 percent. And if you can see how the other data is broke down, that it really isn't that impactful on

seriously, I don't ever like to close the door to any
-- any business that wants to do -- to support the
government, especially SDVs and veteran owned, but you
have to have that arms length. You have to have that
arms length, because it's a protestable function.

If anyone feels like they're getting special -- someone's getting special treatment over the next person, no matter what designation, they -- they can stop the buy and therefore stop the mission of your agency. KOs have a lot to answer to and unfortunately when veteran-owned small businesses respond to the market research and they're -- they're trying to act in the best interest of the government and both parties, they get a very cold reaction from the KO.

MR. KIDALOV: Next slide, please.

MS. LEE: Next slide, please. And this is kind of shown -- shown in our -- in our data that the -- this is the -- the trends, so, of course, we have new -- this shows more the new awards and the accretive mods. You can really see that those dollars are going to -- going to increase values of already-awarded contracts and the direct set-asides and competitive set-asides again way down on the spectrum showing not being utilized and unfortunately disfavored.

MR. KIDALOV: So the program itself, if you

1 goaling. Our past year is .61 percent and that's just 2 for the set-asides --

3 MR. KIDALOV: The -- 4 MS. LEE: -- on the --

MR. KIDALOV: -- sole source.

MS. LEE: -- the -- the sole source.

MR. KIDALOV: The sole source.

MS. LEE: Sorry. And then the competitive set-asides are covered in the -- next slide, please. So a competitive set-aside actually fairs better. If you see, FY-'10 was a strong year, hitting 20 percent of the three percent goal. However, in FY-'14, 15 percent of that three percent goal.

Next slide. Now, together what's impactful on this slide is that in FY-'14, for the program together of direct set-asides and competitive set-asides, when we did hit the goal, both of those combined were 15.84 percent. And you think, how can that be, we hit it, it's three percent? That three -- hitting the three percent was made up of those SDVs coming in through the open market or IDVs in a -- in a nonset-aside factor.

MR. KIDALOV: So what these -- what these charts show -- these three charts -- three tables show, they show the relationship between the process, the input, the output. And, of course, the -- the input is

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measured both by total spending and by goal spending and what you see is that the tools -- the program tools are showing a decreased contribution to the program inputs.

In other words, the program tools are not being used to actually meet the goals and, in fact, they're not -- there is -- there is even a decrease in the number of participants. You see set-aside awards, the highest was in FY-'10, so we are -- we are below -- at this point we're below FY-'08 in terms of the number of -- the number of program recipients of original new awards. So that's -- that's something for us to understand, just how misaligned the process is from the -- the program outputs, what we should be thinking about. Next slide, please.

MS. LEE: So on this -- on this slide here we're -- it's just basically going over the spending again, but if I can call your attention to the bottom right-hand corner. When you see the -- the SAP competitive set-asides, that is starting to make an increase.

Next slide, please. And what will -- what you will see when we look at the SAP utilization in the program is that FY-'14 it -- it was utilized very, very well. Now, from FY-'05 to FY-'09 there's a large discrepancy in those -- those numbers.

1 MR. QUAGLIO: What is the dollar amount?

MS. LEE: \$150,000.

3 MR. KIDALOV: Well, it was \$150,000. It's --4 it's going -- it's going up, there was a proposal to 5 increase it, I believe.

MS. LEE: Right and -- and it will.

MR. KIDALOV: To -- to -- believe it was to \$250,000, but this is -- I -- I'll -- I'll confirm that,

I'll look that up during the break.

MR. QUAGLIO: \$150,000 for these numbers?

MR. KIDALOV: Right, but \$150,000 --

12 MS. LEE: Right.

MR. KIDALOV: -- for these numbers.

MS. LEE: Just -- just for everyday business right now it is \$150,000, the regulation and guidance has not come down to any KO.

MR. KIDALOV: So this slide -- this slide really talks about the output, which is what -- why do these programs exist, why are we all here. Now, this is about veterans' self-employment, veterans' entrepreneurship and what you see here is the disillusionment. This gives us some data about the disillusionment, the population overall of veteran-owned small businesses.

Now, we're looking -- we're looking at a very-

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MR. ZACCHEA: Yes, Mike Zacchea. Do you take into account the effects of the sequestration legislation that happened around the time when we see the decrease in the contract awards?

MS. LEE: We've mentioned it in -- in the report.

MR. KIDALOV: We don't isolate it.

MS. LEE: Actually --

MR. KIDALOV: We don't isolate it as a

10 measurement, but --

MS. LEE: -- right.

MR. KIDALOV: -- but you can definitely -- you can see -- you know, from FY-'13 to FY-'14, you know, you could -- you know, you could see it and you can -you could draw your own conclusion, we -- we did not isolate it specifically as a -- as a variable.

MR. ZACCHEA: Okay. Thank you.

MS. LEE: Looking -- looking back though, if you do look at FY-'13 and '14 when you have time to analyze this more, you do see that it gets a significant bounce back.

MR. KIDALOV: What you see here with the SAP table is very interesting, is that that was a regulatory tool, nonstatutory tool, but it's actually getting more play and more contribution than the sole-source tool.

1 significant population, we're looking at potentially,

depending on whether labor or census data, between 196,

1,000, and approximately 80,000 are in business. And

you see -- in FY-'14 at least what you see is 15,000 --

4 5 approximately 16,000 active registrants and CCR actively

6 looking for contracts, but over 35,000 are no longer

looking, they're inactive, and so that -- now, maybe

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8 they all hit it big and -- and sold it, and went out of

9 business, but possibly also that's an indicator of

10 disillusionment and that's -- that's a very significant

number for us -- for us to consider, that's where we

are.

So in terms of -- in terms of entrepreneurship in the federal market being a viable path, we got a -we got a population of 3.8 service-disabled veterans and we got a population of between 80,000 and -- and 197,000 that we really --

MR. QUAGLIO: So --

MR. KIDALOV: -- need to reach.

MR. QUAGLIO: -- Ken Quaglio. Quick question, 20

21 I want to make sure my logic is correct. If I look at

the 54.8 percent new awardees and I apply that against

23 the --24

MR. KIDALOV: Which --MR. QUAGLIO: -- 51 --

| | 61 | | 63 |
|----------------|---|----------------|--|
| 1 | | 1 | |
| 1 | MR. KIDALOV: Which which | 1 2 | new awards |
| 2 | MR. QUAGLIO: I'm on | 2 3 | MR. QUAGLIO: Okay. |
| 3 | MR. KIDALOV: one? MR. QUAGLIO: slide 24, I'm sorry. Any of | 4 | MR. MCADAMS: as opposed to contract mods, |
| 4 | the slides, it doesn't really matter. | 5 | not MR. KIDALOV: correct. |
| 5 6 | MR. KIDALOV: Okay. | 6 | MR. MCADAMS: awardees. |
| 7 | MR. QUAGLIO: But the point being is if I took | 7 | MR. QUAGLIO: Yeah. |
| 8 | new awardees and looked at the total new awards, that | 8 | MR. KIDALOV: Well, there there is a slide |
| 9 | would give me the population of first-time winners | 9 | with awardees. There is a there is a column with |
| 10 | theoretically. And if | 10 | awardees and a column with awards, so but |
| 11 | MS. LEE: And look at | 11 | participation |
| 12 | MR. QUAGLIO: I divided that by the total | 12 | MS. LEE: next. |
| 13 | population, I would see somewhere around 16 or 17 | 13 | MR. KIDALOV: next slide. You're you're |
| 14 | percent of the SDVOSB population gets a new a new | 14 | a slide ahead. So on participation we now start seeing |
| 15 | award during the time toward any fiscal year based on | 15 | this is tracking participation by firms that are |
| 16 | that number? | 16 | receiving new awards and firms that are simply receiving |
| 17 | MR. KIDALOV: The the awards and awardees, | 17 | earned revenue and and what you see, the the |
| 18 | you know, you would get if you divide the awards | 18 | number of firms that have been getting these new new |
| 19 | if you divide awards awards by awardees you'd get an | 19 | awards, any kind of new awards, has been going down and |
| 20 | you'd get an average | 20 | you see it. You actually see that we have lost between |
| 21 | MR. QUAGLIO: Right. | 21 | between FY-'11 and FY-'14 we lost about 300 we |
| 22 | MR. KIDALOV: of of the number | 22 | lost about 300 firms. |
| 23 | MR. QUAGLIO: Exactly. | 23 | MR. QUAGLIO: Right. And on the previous slide |
| 24 | MR. KIDALOV: the number of awards. They're | 24 | it looks like the number of SDVOSBs is going up, so what |
| 25 | not necessarily first timers, they're just the ones that | 25 | it's saying is a lower percentage of the population is |
| | | | |
| | 62 | | 64 |
| 1 | received | 1 | getting an award? |
| 2 | MR. QUAGLIO: So | 2 | MR. KIDALOV: Correct. |
| 3 | MR. KIDALOV: a new award that | 3 | MR. QUAGLIO: Okay. |
| 4 | MR. QUAGLIO: So that's | 4 | MR. KIDALOV: And so so that tells us the |
| 5 | MR. KIDALOV: that makes sure | 5 | outcome, the the outcome of the of the program is |
| 6 | MR. QUAGLIO: where I'm | 6 | not aligned. |
| 7 | MR. KIDALOV: that modification | 7 | MR. QUAGLIO: Okay. |
| 8 | MR. QUAGLIO: and that's | 8 | MR. KIDALOV: Participation in terms of |
| 9 | MR. KIDALOV: is zero. | 9 | MR. QUAGLIO: That's not what it is? |
| 10 | MR. QUAGLIO: where I'm going towards, I'm | 10 | MR. KIDALOV: right. In terms of |
| 11 | trying to understand. If we're trying to promote new or | 11 | contracting-officer discretion we're looking at we're |
| 12 | a sustainment of SDVOSBs, I'm wondering how many of the | 12 | looking then by tools and the good news here is we see |
| 13 | awardees are repeat awardees out of that total | 13 | an increase in SAP, we see that SAP is speaking up as a |
| 14 | population of 15,780. If it's the same group that is | 14 | tool of choice for contracting officers. Other tools |
| 15 | winning the awards, we really have perhaps a very small | 15 16 | unfortunately are not, we have a we have a |
| 16 17 | opportunity for new SDVOSBs to actually MR. KIDALOV: We got | 17 | stagnation. MS. LEE: Just a a quick comment on on |
| 18 | MR. QUAGLIO: create a | 18 | SAP is that more SD first-time S SD are showing up |
| 19 | MR. KIDALOV: create a MR. KIDALOV: presentation | 19 | and they're SAP is more relaxed, you don't go into |
| 20 | MR. QUAGLIO: sustainment. | 20 | your accounting-cost standards. It's not as burdensome |
| 21 | MR. KIDALOV: slides a few | 21 | for someone that wants to gain experience and maybe |
| 22 | MR. QUAGLIO: Okay. | 22 | dabble, not necessarily put everything on the line, but |
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| 23 | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | 23 | an award under \$150.000. And it could be any any |
| 23 24 | MR. KIDALOV: slides down, so | 23 24 | an award under \$150,000. And it could be any any dollar underneath there is really, really worth their |
| 23 24 25 | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | 23 24 25 | an award under \$150,000. And it could be any any dollar underneath there is really, really worth their time, and they're showing up, and they're winning, and |

they're winning against large businesses as well.

MR. KIDALOV: Next slide, please. Here you see participation program and nonprogram, so set-aside and nonset-aside participation in IDVs versus open market. You see open market stagnation to decline and you see an increase in -- you see a -- a growth transgenerally in IDV with a -- with a dip, but generally a growth trend, so, again, that favors the -- favors the alreadyestablished firms. Next slide, please.

MS. LEE: Outcomes.

MR. KIDALOV: Outcomes. So now we are -- now that we're down to outcomes, we're looking at staying power and -- we're looking at capability growth and staying power. We see that when these firms grow out they are -- they're not staying a whole lot, there is not a whole lot of them. The firms that are staying are the ones that are able to be a mixed -- mixed large and small and -- but, again, few and far between and the population really again has gone down from 275 to 208, so not a -- not a viable -- it's -- it's not a -- it has not succeeded in creating and -- and launching a business-development population. Of course another explanation could be that they are selling, but -- but we don't know, but that's at least -- that's at least a question for us.

a better word, just blared for competition, better buying power, you know, agency needs, all of that. The front line KO, they really aren't getting a chance to support or even exercise the regulation and discretion for the benefit of -- of the SD and the veteran owned.

And to the third question, can simplify acquisitions positively and positively influence the program? Yes, it can and it is a win-win for the emerging SD and the veteran-owned business as well as for the contracting officer, because simplified awards you -- you do really have that more hands-on, because it's more commercially based in general.

MR. KIDALOV: Next slide, please. So we come to -- we come to recommendations. We have some agency-specific recommendations, but we also have -- this is a whole of -- whole of -- whole effort, whole of government kind of review, so we'd like to give our recommendations there.

So looking again from the -- looking at it from the perspective of the model inputs, so we have to think of strategic integrated government-wide view of resources for business development and that would include the spending, the contracting spending, the -- the business capital, that includes technical assistance funds, mentoring incentives, so we need to think of all

Capability growth, next slide, please, deals with average value of awards. We have a bigger, more-detailed slide in the report, also has median, a different measurement as well, but again goes to the same, that there is a -- a -- that again work is given in larger -- in larger amounts and it -- and it favors more-established firms.

Next slide, please. We come to answers to our research questions, so can the program be understood in terms of the generally-accepted contract measurement performance model, inputs, process outputs, and outcomes? Yes and it's because of -- that once we start looking at it that way, it really explains the paradox. It explains the paradox between the predictions of failure and the goal achievement, and that explains it. Is individual contracting-officer discretion the right mechanism, Jennifer?

MS. LEE: No, that's NO. Without business development, SDs and veteran-owned businesses, they're going to be confused. I'm -- it's my job, and sometimes I'm confused, and I have encyclopedias of regulation on my desk every day.

Contracting officers are reluctant to exercise direct awards and that's because it goes in direct conflict with everything else that is being, for lack of

those inputs as inputs. The process, we have to create a business-development program.

MS. LEE: Right, with -- with mentor-protégé aspects and also allowing those emerging SDs and veteran-owned businesses to practice, to practice at the -- the contracting realm. Also, this will lift the burden from the KO's shoulder -- shoulders, because when they do pull those polling numbers and your agency doesn't make it, who do they call? They call the KO that signed the award, that will lift -- lift that up so that KOs can focus on the mission needs.

And then also the process should incorporate SAP into business development, or how -- how to successfully bid on a SAP procurement and win a couple, and juggle having a couple contracts going at the same time, or small purchase orders, that process will directly affect the outputs.

And from a KO's perspective you want an interested, responsive, technically-capable, and responsible vendor, that's what -- those are the four things you have to have out of anyone coming to submit a bid. And if -- if SDs and veteran-owned out of the inputs and the process can show up and -- and make a -- a -- you know, a -- a capable try at it, it really will help the numbers and it will also, in turn, make an

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69 71 1 easier -- easier time of using and justifying your 1 MR. KIDALOV: -- so at least in the -- at least 2 2 discretion as a KO. in the statute for the general program. 3 MR. KIDALOV: And the outcome of these 3 MR. GARCIA: Work to it --4 recommendations we see will be the disillusionment will 4 MR. KIDALOV: Now -diminish, today's all-volunteer force will come to view 5 MR. GARCIA: -- and then keep going. 5 6 MR. KIDALOV: Now for the -- right. Now, for 6 and expect self-employment as a viable path, and the 7 federal contracting market and defense contracting 7 the -- for the VA, that's -- that's up with the Supreme 8 market will open and will -- and will use the skills of 8 Court and I'm not making any --9 veterans, and veterans would continue to support 9 MR. GARCIA: Right. 10 government public-service missions now as business 10 MR. KIDALOV: -- you know, any comments on 11 owners. 11 that. I would also say that, again, I'd be happy to 12 Next slide, please. Here business -- these are 12 talk to Ed about his -- his question of why a separate program versus the -- versus the 8(a) program, the --13 supporting slides for the need for the path using 13 14 simplified acquisitions, the delta between the top and 14 the Rothe -- the first Rothe and the DynoLantic case, 15 bottom charts are essentially the number of either NAICS 15 I'd be happy to talk to him about the implications of codes or the number of PSCs and FSCs in which no SAP 16 that, but my recommendation would be to not simply 16 17 awards existed, so you cannot break into it unless you 17 include that, because of how those cases came out. 18 already start big and that's -- those are -- those are 18 MR. GARCIA: Right. Right. 19 the -- the illustrations. 19 MR. PHIPPS: Max, this has been an issue that 20 Next slide, please, last slide. We'd like to 20 this committee has -- has addressed. We're adamantly 21 finish with this quote from Secretary Gates that we need 21 for a separate program, we've been -- this has been an 22 to look at this from the perspective of the soldier, not 22 insight the committee has had, I think, over the last 23 the perspective of the government, we hope that we have 23 year and you're just lending a lot of the cold, hard 24 done that today. We welcome questions. Thank you. 24 facts to some of the discussions that we've already had. 25 MR. GARCIA: I have another question, was maybe 25 In the interest of time, do we have any more pressing 70 72 1 -- this is John Garcia for Jennifer. On your process, 1 questions, because, Max, are you going to be around 2 the purple process there, that second, this slide, I --2 later this afternoon? 3 I really like this, because to me this is the -- the 3 MR. KIDALOV: We're around. real meat of it, it's hitting the grassroots right 4 4 MR. PHIPPS: So I would like to be able to call there, getting these veterans -- because the buzz word 5 5 you back -that's floating around is procurement ready. 6 6 MR. KIDALOV: Um-hum. MS. LEE: Um-hum. 7 7 MR. PHIPPS: -- if we have another --8 8 MR. GARCIA: Getting them procurement ready, UNIDENTIFIED MALE: After we take a break. 9 because many don't know what that means or even how to 9 MR. KIDALOV: Sure. 10 get there. So you've kind of broke it down in here, 10 MR. PHIPPS: -- little bit of time. 11 setting up that business-development program combining 11 MR. KIDALOV: Absolutely. 12 capital, because if you don't have capital you're -- I 12 MR. PHIPPS: And we're going to take a five-13 don't care what you eat, you're not going to be 13 minute break and we will be back here -- how about a procurement ready. 14 14 seven-minute break, we'll be back her at 10:40. MS. LEE: Um-hum. 15 15 (Whereupon, at 10:33 a break was taken in the 16 MR. GARCIA: But I hear a lot of the agencies 16 meeting.) talking about procurement ready and I heard a lot of 17 MR. PHIPPS: Can everybody please take their seats. 17 18 small-business guys asking, men and women, what does Our next speaker is going to be Naomi Blackman from 18 19 that mean and so I think setting that up in -- in place. 19 census with a veteran-owned, small-business update. 20 And then one just quick question for Max is 20 MS. BLACKMAN: There we go. Is this still morning? 21 when an agency hits that three percent, what do they do, 21 Yeah. Okay. Good morning, how's everyone doing? 22 do they shut down, do they -- do they continue on? 22 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Good morning. 23 MR. KIDALOV: Well, the -- the goal is written 23 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Outstanding. 24 as a floor, not a ceiling --24 MS. BLACKMAN: Great, I'm really excited to be 25 MR. GARCIA: Okay. 25 here. We are -- I consider myself sort of data nerd, so

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anytime that we have an opportunity to come out and speak to people about our -- I'm going to say brag about our great data that we have we're very excited to do that. So thank you for having us and I'm excited to get started.

Yeah, thank you. One -- one before. Yeah, thank you. So I'm going to discuss today the survey of business owners' program, the data availability, the 2012 SBO release schedule, and some results from the 2012 survey. I'm also going to discuss briefly our brand new survey that just completed in the field on -- on February 26th, the annual survey of entrepreneurs, a really-exciting survey that we're now doing.

Okay. Thank you. So the survey of business owners is a quianquennial program, that means that it occurs every five years, years ending in two and seven. It's sort of supplement to the economic census, so if you're familiar with that same -- same years, two and seven, and it's mandatory under the -- the same U.S. code statutes that the economic census is, Title 13.

The SBO is unique in that we ask demographic information about businesses and business owners, we also collect other business and business-owner characteristics. We publish estimates on number of firms, receipts -- we call it receipts, sales basically,

forms, it covers 20 NAICS industries. There are eight exceptions, the SBO estimates come from administrative data, economic census data, and actual survey responses.

Further, the SBO is used by government-program officials, industry organization leaders, economic and social analysts and researchers, business owners, and entrepreneurs, as well as many other users. The sample is approximately 1.75 million employer and non-employer business, statistically that is a huge sample. And 1.75 is a lot, so the figure that we're getting are very statistically significant.

We use administrative data to estimate the -whether a firm is minority or women-owned. Each firm is
placed in one of nine frames, sampling -- we call them
sampling frames. And the sample is stratified, that
metropolitan statistical area, MSA, industry, the frame
-- one of the nine sampling frames and employment
status, whether it's an employer or non-employer. So
these are the nine sampling frames that you see and -and we --

MR. MCADAMS: Excuse me.
MS. BLACKMAN: -- yes.

MR. MCADAMS: Oh, you're about to --

24 MS. BLACKMAN: Want to go --

25 MR. MCADAMS: -- answer my question.

payroll, and employment, and all of those things by gender, ethnicity, race, and veteran status. The data are disseminated in tables which contain all of the aforementioned estimates.

The SBO provides the only comprehensive, regularly-collected source of information on these selected economic and demographic characteristics. So, again, it's really unique, that -- it's an economic survey at census, but we collect some quantitative information, but the qualitative information on the demographic characteristics is really the bread and butter of what SBO is and it's -- it's really important information.

So the SBO is surveyed and disseminated on a firm basis, that's on a company level, not establishment, which is the economic census. Again, if you're familiar with that, it's on an establishment basis, this is because we're interested in ownership information.

So we assume that the ownership information is going to be the same, right, dependent on -- it doesn't matter where the establishment is, or where it's located, or what activity is going on there, the ownership information is going to be the same, it includes non-farm businesses that file applicable tax

MS. BLACKMAN: -- oh. MR. MCADAMS: Never mind.

MS. BLACKMAN: Okay. The sampling frames. So here are the nine sampling frames that we used. The only -- so you can -- you can see here, publically owned does not necessarily mean only publically owned, there's a little bit of caveat to that. If a publically-traded company has an owner, say a stockholder that has 10 percent or more, we consider that ownership information. We -- we wouldn't count them in the publically-owned frame, we would count them in one of the other ones.

Most publically-traded companies don't have that, but the SEC actually requires the company to file a form, I don't remember the number, when the owner -- when one stockholder goes above that 10-percent threshold, so we have that information and we can research that.

Okay. So the company summary estimates are for firms receipts of sales, payroll employment by gender, ethnicity, race, and veteran status. The data are -- are available at the U.S., state, MSA, county, and place level, place is sort of synonymous with -- with city often. It's available at the 226 digit NAICS codes and we also have receipt and employment-size categories.

The characteristics of businesses and

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1 characteristics of business owners, these are the 2 questions that ask about particular things in the 3 business. These are available also by gender, 4 ethnicity, race, and veteran status, but are only 5 available at the U.S. level. These data are a little --6 these are only response data, so it's a little thinner, 7 and we can't publish as much, and we would have to 8 suppress -- we would have to suppress more. It's also 9 only available at the two-digit NAICS, but we do have 10 the receipts and employment-size categories for those.

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So the schedule is to release veteran estimates in November 2015 and we did do that on time. The preliminary estimates were released actually in August and the final release were -- that was actually in December, not November, excuse me. And the characteristics of businesses and characteristics of business owners was just released in February, that was actually ahead of our schedule.

So now I'm going to talk a little bit about some of the actual data. So veteran-owned estimates, these are national, state, and industry sort of at a glance. Okay. So in 2012 there were 2.5 million veteran-owned firms and this is up three percent from 2007. And that represents 1.1 trillion dollars in receipts or sales and that's down 6.4 percent from 2007. receipts, and that kind of makes sense if you think about the -- the sales that are being generated or receipts that are being generated.

Okay. In 2012 there are about 442,000 employer firms that generated about a trillion dollars in sales and receipts, paid 1.95 million dollars in payroll, and employed about 115 million individuals. Also in 2012 there were about two million non-employer firms that generated 92 million dollars in sales and receipts, nonemployers represented 82 percent of all veteran-owned firms and contributed eight percent to sales and receipts.

So these are our -- this is our size category table for employment size, so what we do, so we can publish a little bit more detail, is we kind of group the employment size together for some of our tables and you can see here the majority is in -- the -- the majority of veteran-owned firms are in the one-to-four employee category.

MS. ROTH-DOUQUET: And that's subject to that 1099?

MS. BLACKMAN: So, yes, employer depends on how they file their taxes, it's kind of complicated. If -for example, if it's a firm that has only contractors and the owner is the only employee, we would consider

78

Veteran firms represent 9.1 percent of all U.S. firms.

So this table displays select states as well as the U.S. in some of their corresponding survey results, so you can see some of the information here, how some of these states relate to the U.S. I can't put the entire table up here, it's huge and the SBO has 93 tables, so we picked some.

Again, this slide is kind of small for you to see up -- up there, but if -- you have it on your -- on your printout, so these are veteran-owned firms by industry. This is in no particular order, done that way intentionally to not infer any statistical relationships. So you can see here, like, wholesale trade, and retail trade, manufacture, and construction are some of the -- the larger bars on this chart, and so this is just a table that represents the data that was in the previous graph and it also has firm count.

Okay. So this graph shows the portion of veteran-owned firms by firm count and total receipts for employers versus nonemployers, the non-employer firms are represented by the lighter color. This is an interesting dynamic and we see this sort of propagate throughout all of the demo groups where we see the same relationship where there are a lot of non-employer firms, but they represent a small percentage of

them a non-employer, so, yes, I would -- I would say ves, W-2. There are a couple of more -- there are other tax forms that I don't know off the top of my head, but for the most part, yes.

MR. O'FARRELL: Another question, Jim O'Farrell. So is there any kind of 80/20 rule going on here where you have 20 percent of the firms producing 80 percent of these sales receipts, anything like that?

MS. BLACKMAN: (No response.)

MR. O'FARRELL: You said you do have, you know, thousands or -- of small micro firms, but --

MS. BLACKMAN: Well, we --

MR. O'FARRELL: -- so, for example, the -- the CEO of BGE, Baltimore Gas and Electric, I think he's a Navy veteran --

MR. QUAGLIO: (Inaudible.)

17 MR. O'FARRELL: -- you can. That's true, good 18 point. 19

MS. BLACKMAN: I didn't hear that, I'm sorry.

MR. QUAGLIO: I just commented --

21 MR. O'FARRELL: It's not a --

MR. QUAGLIO: -- it's not --

23 MR. O'FARRELL: It's not a --

MR. QUAGLIO: -- a veteran-owned firm --

25 MR. O'FARRELL: -- veteran-owned firm.

20 (Pages 77 to 80)

81 83 1 MR. MCADAMS: I'm just guessing that's a 1 MR. QUAGLIO: -- so it wouldn't be classified 2 2 function of -as such. 3 MR. O'FARRELL: Okay. Good point. 3 MR. O'FARRELL: I know. 4 4 MR. QUAGLIO: It's still up there. MR. MCADAMS: -- the number of folks getting 5 MR. O'FARRELL: Still the question is do you 5 out of the military during that time period, because we have any kind of -- any data that shows we have a -- a, 6 6 were -- we were turning out a lot of veterans at that 7 you know, smaller segment of these firms that are 7 time, because we had both wars going on --8 8 MR. O'FARRELL: Right. generating this? 9 9 MS. BLACKMAN: (No response.) MR. MCADAMS: -- butting heads. I --10 MR. O'FARRELL: One of the reasons is you go 10 speculation on my part, but, okay. 11 back to one of the -- the slide here with the decrease 11 MR. QUAGLIO: Ken Quaglio. The receipts, do 12 of 6.4 percent from 2007, the --12 you actually track how much -- how -- what volume of 13 MS. BLACKMAN: Um-hum. 13 those receipts are related to government procurement 14 MR. O'FARRELL: -- the receipts, do you have a 14 versus commercial, you don't have that data, do you? 15 MS. BLACKMAN: So we have -- let me pull out my 15 -- a reason for that or what --MS. BLACKMAN: No. 16 16 form. 17 17 MR. O'FARRELL: -- what --MR. QUAGLIO: Okay. It would be interesting, 18 MS. BLACKMAN: So we don't get into causality, 18 because you notice the -- the average size of the 19 we don't --19 business is one-to-four employees, it's home-based. 20 MS. BLACKMAN: Yeah. 20 MR. O'FARRELL: Okay. 21 MS. BLACKMAN: -- infer, that's just --21 MR. QUAGLIO: It says that veteran 22 22 entrepreneurship is really a family business run out of MR. O'FARRELL: Okay. 23 23 MS. BLACKMAN: -- out of scope -the home with less than five employees is the 24 24 MR. O'FARRELL: Just -conclusion, and yet our focus always tends to be on 25 MS. BLACKMAN: -- for the --25 SDVOSB government set-aside, large government contracts, 82 84 MR. O'FARRELL: -- that's it. 1 1 and that is not the source of veteran employment outside 2 MS. BLACKMAN: -- Census Bureau. Now, we do 2 of Washington D.C., and, once again, and I voice this 3 our own research to see if things make sense and if 3 every meeting, I think that's where our focus really 4 they're intuitive when we review the data. 4 should be on a go-forward basis. 5 MR. O'FARRELL: Um-hum. 5 MR. O'FARRELL: So, I -- John Garcia and I were 6 6 MS. BLACKMAN: But as far as publically just talking about that during the break, that, you 7 7 acknowledging something, no, it's just out of scope for know, my electrician who fixes my house is a Marine Corp 8 the Census Bureau. BEA does some analysis, I don't know 8 veteran with three employees and he's -- that's what he 9 about in particular for veterans, but we don't. Like I 9 wants to be, but every time he sees me he says, "You do 10 10 that government contractor stuff, what would I -- what said, we don't do causality or infer anything from the 11 data. We can just tell you this is it, this is what 11 would I have to do?," and we think about the barriers to 12 happened, this -- you know, it moved from here to here, 12 entry and how could we lower those barriers so that --13 and then that's it, so --13 MR. GARCIA: Yeah. 14 MR. MCADAMS: This is Rich McAdams. Hey, Jim, MR. O'FARRELL: -- he could get a -- a SAP. 14 15 I -- I imagine since it -- it covered '07 to 2012, 15 MR. GARCIA: Yeah, that's -- that's the issue 16 right? 16 we were just explaining to Naomi to -- I'm sorry, I 17 MS. BLACKMAN: -- um-hum. 17 forget your first name. 18 MR. MCADAMS: And I would think the general 18 MR. KIDALOV: Jennifer. 19 19 economy would reflect probably about the same seven-MS. LEE: Jennifer. 20 percent dip that time period. 20 MR. GARCIA: To Jennifer is a lot of these 21 MR. O'FARRELL: Right, but I was responding 21 small-business guys are veterans coming out of the 22 also -- there's an increase though of three percent in 22 military, they want to go into business, they're 23 the number of firms. So while you're saying the economy 23 starting their companies, they're three-to-five years' 24 was dipping, the number of firms was increasing. That's 24 old, they don't even have a clue what procurement ready 25 all, so let's drop it. 25 means --

a little bit more when we group things together, so you

85 87 1 MS. BLACKMAN: Sure. 1 can see these higher sales for firms with less than 2 2 MR. GARCIA: -- or how do I get these federal 5,000 and these are in -- these sales figures are in 3 contracts, but the veterans' service officer is 3 thousands themselves. Actually, these might not be for 4 4 encouraging them to file for their benefits so they can receipt size, I need to -get their certification, and then they think they're 5 MR. QUAGLIO: Naomi. 5 going to get these federal contracts. They find out 6 MS. BLACKMAN: -- change that. 6 7 7 they don't and they're just disillusioned. MR. QUAGLIO: Ken again. 8 MR. QUAGLIO: Okay. Just for the record 8 MS. BLACKMAN: Yes. 9 9 though, I'm not talking about federal contracts. MR. QUAGLIO: You don't have any --10 10 MR. GARCIA: Okay. MS. BLACKMAN: Sure. 11 MR. OUAGLIO: I'm talking about veteran 11 MR. QUAGLIO: -- correlation to how many of 12 entrepreneurship which the goal is to have veterans have 12 these are franchisees versus anything else, do you? 13 the opportunity to create and support their families 13 MS. BLACKMAN: No, we have -- no, not 14 through businesses. 14 franchisee. We do research -- we do research for that. 15 MR. GARCIA: Right. 15 I'm trying to remember what research we do and what we MR. QUAGLIO: Most of those veterans do not 16 publish, because there's a difference. No. No. 16 17 live in the D.C. area, do not do work with the federal 17 MR. ZACCHEA: Naomi, is --18 government, do not do work even with their state 18 MS. BLACKMAN: Sure. 19 governments. I think as a committee we have a 19 MR. ZACCHEA: -- is that something that this committee would be able to request? 20 responsibility to look beyond federal contracting and 20 21 look at what's really happening on the ground in places 21 MS. BLACKMAN: Sure. I -- I -- I don't know 22 like Ohio and Michigan where there's a veteran who is an 22 what -- I can't say requests will be granted, but we 23 electrician not looking for a government set-aside 23 accept suggestions all the time. I mean, we -- that's 24 what I can say, we -- we -- we take suggestions from 24 contract, but wants to expand their business and support 25 25 anyone all the time. If you e-mail me, and my contact their family. 86 88 MR. GARCIA: Exactly. 1 1 information is on the back of this slide, I can forward 2 MS. BLACKMAN: So, Ken, one of the things that 2 that up the chain. I can -- I am way too low on the 3 we have, we have a CB table. I don't know what number 3 totem pole to tell you anything about what's going to it is off the top of my head, but one of the things we 4 4 happen after I send the e-mail off, but, sure. 5 5 ask is what types of customers accounted for 10 percent MR. ZACCHEA: Right. or more of the businesses' total sales. Federal 6 MR. PHIPPS: Just --6 government is the first option, the first option on the 7 MR. ZACCHEA: I'm not talking about --7 8 8 form, I'm not implying it's statistically in the MR. PHIPPS: Just a note, Michael, we are able 9 results. 9 to request from census and if -- if anybody has specific 10 MR. QUAGLIO: Okay. 10 data they want requested, pass it on to me and I can 11 MS. BLACKMAN: State and local government is 11 make a formal request. 12 the second option, other businesses is -- is the third, 12 MR. ZACCHEA: -- right, that's -- that's and individuals is the fourth, so we do have that --13 exactly what I'm talking about, as a -- as a committee 13 that data disseminated. It's very high level, of making the motion to request this information from, you 14 14 course, but at least it gives you some distinguishment 15 know, the Census Bureau. 15 16 between the federal government and others. So, no. No, 16 MR. PHIPPS: Just as a -- just as a little bit 17 but I wrote your name down, and I'll talk to you after, 17 of housekeeping let's remember to say our names and 18 and I'll get the -- the table number, I just don't know 18 anybody who hasn't signed in, to sign in on the sign-in 19 what it is off -- you'd think I would by now, but I 19 sheet. Thank you. Go ahead, Naomi. 20 don't. Okay. I always carry my form with me, it comes 20 MS. BLACKMAN: Thank you. So, again, we take 21 in handy. 21 -- we can do formal -- you know, a lot of people do 22 22 formal requests, SBA does formal requests, MDBA does Okay. So this is veteran-owned firms by 23 receipt size. Again, same concept as employment size, 23 formal requests, but we will take requests as a part of except this is -- this is for receipts. We can publish our OMB package from -- if whoever, John Smith in 24 24

Minnesota, has a suggestion for our survey, we take it,

Advisory Committee on Veterans Business Affairs 89 91 1 we look at it, and we respond to it. 1 service, instead of just asking, you know, yes, no. 2 2 MR. ZACCHEA: Okay. Thank you. Okay. So this slide just shows the veteran 3 MS. BLACKMAN: Sure. Okay. So this shows 3 owner characteristics, so it's basically that question 4 male-owned firms accounted for 84 percent of the 4 you just saw with the actual figures that correspond to 5 veteran-owned firms and the female-owned firms accounted 5 it and our estimates. Oh, sorry, it's a lot. Here we for 15 percent of the veteran-owned firms in 2012, so go. Okay. So this tells you the age and education 6 6 7 it's just -- the next couple of slides, we'll go through 7 level for veteran-owned firms, so you see the owner's 8 them quickly, they're just a bunch of graphics and 8 age, these are groups, and the level of education. 9 9 And this is the highest level of education 10 MR. QUAGLIO: I'm -- I'm sorry, Ken Quaglio. 10 achieved when the firm was started. I think is the 11 Is the number of female-owned firms increasing or is it 11 question -- the actual question that we asked. Yeah, 12 staying fairly constant? 12 the -- so the question specifically asks, "What was the MS. BLACKMAN: I believe it's increasing. I 13 13 highest degree or level of school the owner completed 14 would need to confirm that, but I think that it's 14 prior to establishing, purchasing, or acquiring the 15 15 increasing. business." MR. HEILMAN: Joe Suppona's in the room, he can MR. QUAGLIO: Ken Quaglio again, I'm sorry. 16 16 speak to this. Craig Heilman, SBA. It's significantly 17 17 MS. BLACKMAN: Sure. up from 2007, but over 300 percent. I believe there's 18 18 MR. QUAGLIO: On that slide, if we were to 19 about 100,000 female-owned veteran firms in 2007 19 track the age of owner over time, are we seeing that to 20 approximately. 20 stay relatively constant by age group or are we seeing a 21 MR. QUAGLIO: Thank you. 21 shift among the age groups? 22 MS. BLACKMAN: So this just show the veteran-22 MS. BLACKMAN: I can't answer that off the top 23 owned firms by ethnicity, so Hispanic versus non-23 of my head. 24 Hispanic is the ethnicity status. And you can't --24 MR. QUAGLIO: Um-hum. 25 sorry you can't see up there, but you can see on your 25 MS. BLACKMAN: I'm sorry. 90 92 1 handout the number of firms that are Hispanic versus 1 MR. QUAGLIO: Okay. 2 non-Hispanic. 2 MS. BLACKMAN: But I certainly could look at 3 3 Also, this is minority versus non-minority. it. Non-minority-owned firms made up about 80 percent of MR. QUAGLIO: One would expect to see younger 4 4 5 5 veteran-owned firms and minority-owned firms made up people starting to create businesses at a higher rate, about 20 percent of veteran-owned firms. So this is 6 6 but yet -just the same minority, but this is broken down by race, 7 7 MS. BLACKMAN: Sure. 8 8 so you can see here the number of veteran-owned firms by MR. QUAGLIO: -- if you look at the data it 9 the minority race breakout. 9 shows 65 and older is the largest group, so I'm just 10 So we're going to talk a little bit about the 10 curious to see if that's happened. veteran-owned -- veteran business owner characteristics. 11 11 MS. BLACKMAN: So this is another -- another 12 There you go. Yes, thank you. Next one. Thank you. 12 one of our -- we call them CBO characteristics, the 13 Oh, it didn't show up. Do you guys have this, can you 13 business owner's question, "How did the -- the owner initially acquire the business?" So you see the 85 --14 see this? 14 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Here it is. 15 about 85 percent found it or started the business 15 16 MS. BLACKMAN: Oh. 16 themselves. 17 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Is that it? 17 So this question asks the average number of 18 MS. BLACKMAN: No. Oh, there we go, my --18 hours per week spend managing or working the business, 19 sorry. Someone else put these slides together, I didn't 19 so you can see the majority is there and less than 20 20 know they did it like that. Okay. All right. For --20 hours. 21 so we can see that there was an expansion and I actually 21 MR. QUAGLIO: Just part time, right? 22 met the gentleman just now who is responsible for having 22 MS. BLACKMAN: Well, it depends on how you

23 (Pages 89 to 92)

define part time, right, so we have -- that's a -- it's

MR. QUAGLIO: Do we know if -- Ken Quaglio

such a complicated question.

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our question expanded to be a lot more detailed from

2007 into 2012. So you can see we added a lot more

characteristics that describe the actual military

than one percent; and also more than 10 owners is .4

93 95 1 1 again, I'm sorry. Do we know if -percent. 2 2 MS. BLACKMAN: No, it's all right. So the summary tables again, there are 93. MR. QUAGLIO: -- these are the sole source of 3 3 It's a lot of information, they're available -- that's 4 income, because I look at less than five employees out 4 our direct website to our branch. They're a little 5 of the home, less than 20 hours, and it strikes me that 5 easier, in my opinion, to -- to access that way, because it gives you -- instead of just the table name, which is 6 it's a supplemental business to some other income, as 6 7 opposed to the primary source of income, and we don't 7 what you can see through American Fact Finder, it tells 8 you the categories that you're interested in. So I 8 know that data from the survey, do we? 9 9 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Excellent question. don't have a screen shot of the -- of the webpage, but I 10 MS. BLACKMAN: So --10 think it's a little bit more intuitive than trying to 11 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: That was the question. 11 decipher and go through 93 tables to try and figure out 12 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yeah. 12 what you're interested in. 13 MS. BLACKMAN: So --13 Also, if there are any developers in the room 14 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Next slide. 14 or anybody interested in our open-source data, we have UNIDENTIFIED MALE: The next one. 15 our application programming interface, our API, in all 15 MS. BLACKMAN: So that -- yeah. Okay. 16 of the 2012 data, the December results were moved into 16 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: (Inaudible.) 17 that. The CBCO results from February are going to be 17 18 MS. BLACKMAN: Yeah. 18 moved into that soon, in the next month or so. MR. QUAGLIO: Naomi, great, great data set, by 19 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: So that's --19 20 MS. BLACKMAN: No. No, you can go forward, 20 the way. It -- it would seem quickly, if you summarize 21 this, the next slide. 21 the data, there's sort of three categories of veteran 22 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Okay. 22 businesses, there's the over 65 who look like they're 23 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: There you go. 23 doing a home-based for supplemental income in their 24 MR. QUAGLIO: That does answer it. 24 retirement years, it seems like that's a pretty big 25 number; number two would be those businesses that are 25 MS. BLACKMAN: All right, you can go to the 94 96 1 formed locally state by state, you see South Carolina next one, one more click. So this question actually 1 2 changed from 2007 to 2012. In 2007 this asked, "Were 2 with the highest population, that is more about you born in the United States?" And it was changed in 3 providing income for the family; and then the third 3 2012 to, "Were you born a citizen of the United 4 4 category is the one we all think of when we think of 5 5 States,?" to capture people who may have been born right business, which would be sort of a going-concern on an Air Force base in Germany or somewhere, you know, 6 business that's looking to scale and become a large 6 7 7 so we changed the question to include that. business, if you will. 8 8 Okay. So this just shows the proportion of And then I don't know that the data provides 9 family-owned businesses, so for family-owned businesses 9 any segmentation along any lines where we could say, 10 represent about 11.4 percent of the firms and 35.3 10 what are those three categories, what are the distinct percent of receipts. So this is a sources-of-capital 11 needs. I don't even know that it's three categories, 11 question, this asks, "What source of capital did you 12 12 I'm just summarizing. need to start the business?" I want it directly. Okav. MS. BLACKMAN: I was going to say, three is 13 13 So you can see the -- the top two, really interesting, 14 really low. 14 15 MR. QUAGLIO: I just -- I like simplicity, so 15 personal or non. 16 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Um-hum. 16 three is a --17 MS. BLACKMAN: Sure. 17 MS. BLACKMAN: Okay. Also, "Is it a home-based 18 MR. QUAGLIO: -- simple number for simple 18 business?," so 57 percent of the firms do say that 19 19 they're home-based businesses and they represent 7.7 20 20 percent of the receipts. So you can see here sort of MS. BLACKMAN: See, I'm a statistician, it's 21 like I'm -- you know, three, you know, to the fourth 21 the distribution of the owner groups, one owner or we 22 22 would -- we would sort of consider that a sole prop most 23 23 of the -- most of the time, that's 85 percent about; and MR. QUAGLIO: Well, the --24 then two-to-four owners is almost 12; five to 10 is less 24 MS. BLACKMAN: -- you know.

MR. QUAGLIO: -- third source of -- of -- of

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|----|--|----|--|
| 1 | capital for starting the business was loans. We we | 1 | They may have started the business when they're 45, they |
| 2 | we talked the first two, but the third was loans, and | 2 | retired as a colonel or a lieutenant colonel, started |
| 3 | what I'm trying to do is find a correlation between | 3 | the business, and they've owned it for 20 years, and |
| 4 | those people looking for a loan and the and what kind | 4 | have 150 employees |
| 5 | of business they're trying to start. I suspect the over | 5 | UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Absolutely right. |
| 6 | 65 isn't looking for a loan, I suspect those people that | 6 | MR. MCADAMS: but without knowing how long |
| 7 | perhaps have a family-owned home-based business to | 7 | they've been in business. |
| 8 | provide income may not be looking for a loan. | 8 | MS. BLACKMAN: Sure. |
| 9 | MS. BLACKMAN: Um-hum. | 9 | MR. FIELDER: Yeah, and, Naomi, if you would |
| 10 | MR. QUAGLIO: So, again, I'm I'm going back | 10 | comment on this too, I I think there's a larger |
| 11 | to business creation and trying to understand who is | 11 | demographic in the sense of the population of veterans |
| 12 | that population | 12 | in those earlier years as, even even with the the |
| 13 | MS. BLACKMAN: Sure. | 13 | wars and whatnot, the number of percentage of adult |
| 14 | MR. QUAGLIO: based on the data set that you | 14 | males and females that were in the service I think has |
| 15 | have. | 15 | substantially changed. |
| 16 | MS. BLACKMAN: Right. So what I can do is we | 16 | MS. BLACKMAN: So that's interesting and the |
| 17 | can definitely point you to all the data, all the data | 17 | economic side of the Census Bureau doesn't publish that. |
| 18 | that that I think are relevant to what you're trying | 18 | I would imagine that's on the annual community survey |
| 19 | to get at. What we cannot do is do causality | 19 | and the decennial census |
| 20 | correlation | 20 | MR. FIELDER: Yeah. |
| 21 | MR. QUAGLIO: That's | 21 | MS. BLACKMAN: but that doesn't we often |
| 22 | MS. BLACKMAN: inference. | 22 | look at that data, so, I mean, that's certainly |
| 23 | MR. QUAGLIO: right. Right. Right, that's | 23 | something that we could point to. |
| 24 | that | 24 | MR. FIELDER: Yeah. And the other thing is, is |
| 25 | MR. MCADAMS: Rich | 25 | I I think you're as I understand it, you're |
| | 98 | | 100 |
| 1 | MR. QUAGLIO: that is | 1 | looking at total veteran, rather than service-disabled |
| 2 | MR. MCADAMS: Rich McAdams. | 2 | veteran when |
| 3 | MR. QUAGLIO: right. | 3 | MS. BLACKMAN: Correct. |
| 4 | MR. MCADAMS: One other question. | 4 | MR. FIELDER: you look at these populations. |
| 5 | MS. BLACKMAN: Sure. | 5 | And so I've always thought there should be a veteran |
| 6 | MR. MCADAMS: Does does the survey ask | 6 | set-aside in addition to the service-disabled veteran |
| 7 | anywhere how long have you owned the business? | 7 | set-aside, but but nonetheless we're it's it's |
| 8 | MS. BLACKMAN: So we ask, I want to quote it | 8 | not just service-disabled vets. |
| 9 | directly from the form, "In what year did the owner | 9 | MS. BLACKMAN: Okay. So I was talking about |
| 10 | originally acquire the business?" | 10 | this earlier, this is the ASE, the annual survey of |
| 11 | MR. MCADAMS: Okay. So you can back into it? | 11 | entrepreneurs, really super, super exciting survey that |
| 12 | MS. BLACKMAN: Yeah. So also it was | 12 | we are we were able to do with it was a joint |
| 13 | interesting, I'm getting ready to talk about it now, the | 13 | effort between the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation and |
| 14 | annual survey of entrepreneurs. We have an additional | 14 | the MBDA, which is the Minority Business Development |
| 15 | component that we're publishing called, "Years in | 15 | Agency, and the and the bureau for reference years of |
| 16 | business," and there are going to be category ranges | 16 | 2014, 2015, and 2016. |
| 17 | that are right now this is subject to change, but | 17 | We would like to the 2017 the SBO will be |
| 18 | right now there is zero to four, five to nine, and 10- | 18 | back and we would like to see the ASE continue into |
| 19 | plus years. So that's an additional variable, but that | 19 | 2018, but again, I'm way too low on the totem pole to |
| 20 | question is a CBO question, and I want to say it's | 20 | make that call, but I'd like to see that happen. The |
| 21 | question two, it's table two in the | 21 | ASE provides sort of the same information that the SBO |
| 22 | MR. MCADAMS: The reason | 22 | does, but it is collected and disseminated annually, so |
| 23 | MS. BLACKMAN: CBO question. | 23 | it's it's we expect first results to be out later |
| 24 | MR. MCADAMS: I ask is I'm not sure you can | 24 | this year. |
| 25 | assume that the 65 year old is supplemental income. | 25 | Also, another another great thing about ASE |

is it introduces what we call these modules. In every survey year there's a new module, so for 2014 the module was on R and D. So it was asking questions about do you do R and D at -- or do you participate in R and D activity, do you pay for it, do you do it yourself, how -- how much of it do you purchase, how much did it cost you, those types of things, and those are going to be released in the 2014 estimates.

The 2015 are around more human resources in labor, so we ask a question in the -- we call it the base SBO that asks what type of employees you have, so do you have full-time employees, part-time. And this is where, Ken, I was talking earlier about full-time versus part time, it's very subjective, so we run into that issue.

So 40 hours for us is -- is full time, right, but I used to work at a restaurant and we couldn't work 40 hours, because then they have to pay us over time, right, so that -- you know, it just depends, so we ask -- we're asking for the 2015 ASE what type of tasks do those employees do. We want to know what do the contractors do, verus the full-time paid employees, versus the part-time paid employees, so those -- that -- and then 2016 we don't know what the module's going to be, that's up in the air right now. So we produced the

survey.

So, again, I just said that the closeout was on February 26 of this year and we expect estimates. That says, "August," I'm going to say later this year and it is, again, a subset of the -- the SBO tables. We're producing less tables, there -- there are many reasons for that, but we see some of the 93 tables that we produce. They don't get a lot of hits, so we might be getting rid of some of them, I would like to see some of them gone.

And ASE really is a different program and we try to treat it the same, we don't want to call -- it's not the annual survey of business owners, the annual survey of entrepreneurs. It's a different data product, so we're trying to treat them differently. And it's U.S./state top 50 MSAs, no place, no county, and the two-digit NAICS, not lower than that.

Okay. So this is the same -- same contact information or same resource information as our website, the SBO and ASE website you can -- you can get to each -- you can get to them from the other website.

And this ASE/SSRN, SSRN stands for social sciences research network. My boss and one of the researchers at my job wrote this paper, it's really -- it's a lot of background information on ASE, but it's

same types of estimates, they'll just be on a little bit higher level.

The survey -- you can go to the next one. So because this is annual, we don't have as much time to process it. The sample is 290,000, as opposed to 1.7 million, which is still very, very high. And 1.7 million is, like, off the scales. I mean, it's -- it's super high, but 290,000 is still very, very high for a sample.

And it's employer firms only, non-employer firms will be released. We do have -- we're estimating that, but we sampled and actually sent surveys to the employer firm. And when I say, "Survey," we did it all electronically, they received a letter that said, "Log onto this website and fill it out." I keep saying, it's not a form like we used to have for SBO.

So, again, same stratification by MSA, frame and age of business, same frame, same nine frames as before. Age of business is new, because of those additional categories that we are going to disseminate. And, again, it includes the same non-farm businesses that filed appropriate IRS tax forms, and it covers the 20 MSA industries with those eight exceptions. And, again, same sources, we have IRS tax form information, economic census reports, and actual responses to the

very informative, and it talks about the module -- the interchangeable module concept, which is very interesting, it's something that we don't generally do in practice at the Census Bureau.

Last slide. Okay. So this is my contact information. If you e-mail me any questions, or have questions about the data, questions about the program, anything in general, things you want to suggest, e-mail them -- e-mail them to -- e-mail them to the lower one, the ewd.survey, that's our branch e-mail. E-mail them to -- to there if -- and if you -- you know, you make a formal request, that's fine, but otherwise e-mail them to the branch e-mail. Making a formal request though, of course, has a little bit more weight, right? So that's all I had. Any other questions?

MR. PHIPPS: Thank you very much --

MS. BLACKMAN: Wow.

MR. PHIPPS: -- Naomi.

MS. BLACKMAN: Absolutely. Thank you for having me.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Thank you.

MR. PHIPPS: Okay. The next speaker will be Ken Dodds. Ken Dodds will be giving us contracting updates from the Office of Government Contracting and Business Development.

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available on our website.

MR. DODDS: Good morning, thanks for having me. So I'll give you some updates on some regs, but I -- I wanted to also update you on the -- the goaling process. Last week the administrator announced the FY-'15 results. I don't have a -- I don't have a PowerPoint, I don't think, so we -- for the third consecutive year we met the small-business goal of 25.7 percent; SDV was the highest ever, 10 percent; women we met for the first time, over five percent; and then SDVO was the highest percentage ever, 3.9 percent, almost four percent.

Later this year we'll be coming out with the score cards where we actually grade agencies not just on prime numbers, but on subcontracting and other -- other factors. If you want to turn that mic off, I think it's -- that might be the cause of the -- you have to -- so it's not red. There you go.

All right. So the -- the rule on the limitations on subcontracting, which is changing, allows you to rely on subcontractors, that's already allowed under the SDVO and -- and HUBZone programs, but for 8(a), small-business and women-owned, that rule is that, the Office of Management and Budget, they usually take 90 days to review it, so it will probably be published as a -- as a final rule some time in late -- late May, early June.

lower tiers.

You know, large businesses will tell you that they do a lot of small-business subcontracting at lower tiers, and so the idea behind this is to start collecting that data, but also goaling them on that as well, that will probably be a final rule sometime this summer. That will still have to go -- be implemented in the FAR, that will also require system changes to the ESRS and so -- so forth.

There's been a lot of activity in the womenowned small-business program. In section 825 of the NDA of 2015 they gave us three things to do, one was solesource authority for women-owned small business, very similar to HUBZone and service-disabled veteran where you conduct market research. If you can't find two that you think are going to submit an offer, then you're allowed to do a sole-source award.

For women owned it -- it has the same kind of dollar threshold, it has to be below four million, six-and-a-half million for manufacturing, and then it also has to be in one of those designated NAICS codes that you're allowed to do of women-owned small-business.

In addition to that, they instructed us to do a new study of NAICS codes where women-owned small businesses' set-asides and things were -- are

Mentor-protégé, that rule is -- we're working on it this week. I've been working on it, you know, this morning. We're hoping to get that to OMB later this -- you know, later this week maybe, so that would put it as a publication maybe in the mid-June, but that also requires us to stand up an organization to review mentor-protégé agreements, to monitor performance so that the mentor is actually providing the protégé with benefits, to get reports on how they're performing contracts, and so forth. We were not budgeted, you know, given appropriations to actually implement that, so it's going to come out of some other part of SBA.

So what I'm trying to say is we probably won't be accepting applications in June, it will probably be some time after that we'll announce an open season and -- and how we're going to go about that maybe late summer is the hope right now.

Recently we -- you know, we had a lower-tier subcontracting proposed rule that was proposed in October, the comment period closed on that, and that's for large businesses and basically what it -- what it does is it -- right now the only report, how they're doing at the first tier, and the idea is we're going to start setting goals for them at every tier and start rolling up the reporting to see how they're doing at

authorized. We completed that and we published March 3rd a notice in the federal register announcing the new -- the new NAICS codes. Basically it's a total of 445 out of -- out of about 1,100 NAICS codes that we have, 365 are women-owned NAICS and then 80 are economically-disadvantaged women-owned NAICS, that list is also

And then the last thing that -- that section 825 did was they instructed us to create a certification program for women-owned small businesses. Again, not -- no appropriations were given to us to -- to actually execute this. The -- the language said you can do it, you can have another federal agency do it, you can rely on the state government, or you can use national-certifying entities, and so we issued advanced notice of proposed rule making in December which closed in February for the comment period. The next step is to do a proposed rule and then get comments on how we're going to actually, you know, execute that -- that instruction.

The NDA of 2016 had a lot of things that are of -- of interest to SBA or that we have to execute, one of them is a change to how we score agencies. Right now when I -- when we give a -- a -- you know, the VA, for example, their -- their grade, it's about 80 percent prime contracting; 10 percent subcontracting; and 10

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percent of what we call success factors, things that we think they should be doing to enhance small business, you know, participation.

Under the -- for FY-'17 the -- the most we were going to give credit for, for prime contracting, is going to be 50 percent, the rest of the 50 percent is going to be made up of subcontracting those success factors I talked about. And then they also want to start grading agencies on the number of small-business awarded contracts, so the number of contracts awarded to -- to small businesses.

And so I think because we've met the smallbusiness goal for three years in a row, you know, they started to look at other ways to -- to measure agencies, you know -- you know, what's another goal we could give, and I think there's a concern about the number of awards, you know, decreasing, because of consolidation, bundling, strategic sourcing, and -- and all those thing, so that's a new challenge for us on how we're going to grade agencies.

They also had some changes around allowing -and we're doing this in our own regs, we -- we run into problems where a joint venture submits an offer and the way the solicitation is written they only consider the past performance or experience of the joint-venture

So that's -- that's the long and the short of what's going on here at SBA, if there -- I'm happy to take any questions if there's anybody who has a question.

MR. MCADAMS: Rich McAdams, one question on the mentor-protégé. You indicated you anticipate this summer you'd be ready to accept applications for that program?

MR. DODDS: Right. I mean, the first thing we have to do is we have to get the final rule done and -and published, you know, then it becomes effective 30 days after that. I think the idea is that we're not going to accept applications and we're hoping to do that by June, mid-June, but I don't think we're going to be ready then to accept applications. The current thinking is we'll announce that we'll start accepting them in August, or September, or October. Whatever we -- we end up doing, it's still -- it's still kind of a -- a work in progress as we figure out how to staff the organization to actually, you know, execute it. MR. MCADAMS: Okay.

21 22 MR. DODDS: So there --23 MR. MCADAMS: Thank you. 24

MR. DODDS: -- will be more to come, the first

step is getting that rule done.

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entity itself, they won't consider the partners to the joint-venture entity, their experience in past performance, and so we've -- we've made some changes to our regs and there's something in the NDA of 2016 around you have to consider the past performance and experience of all team members, not just the entity itself, so that's a positive, I think, for small business trying to compete for -- for contracts as a joint venture.

There's been some additions to HUBZones in the NDA of 2016, they want us to include presidentiallydeclared disaster areas as a HUBZone, areas around baseclosure areas. The way the statute was written, the base itself might be a HUBZone, but the actual economic activity went on around the base and those weren't always included as HUBZones, and so they're trying to expand outside the base-closure area itself, and then it also allows ownership by native Hawaiian organizations.

And then there's a new section that allows -you know, SBA creates size standards for each industry, the way we measure, you know, whether you're small or not for the industry. There's a mechanism that's going to allow interested parties to challenge that size -- or that size standard somehow at the Office of Hearings and Appeals, so we have to come up with regulations to -- to kind of allow that.

MS. ROTH-DOUQUET: Are military spouse-owned small businesses eligible for mentor-protégé?

MR. DODDS: I don't think so. The way the -the way the statute's written you have to qualify as a -- a small business. If they're a small business, yes, but just being a military spouse, no. The -- it's -it's open to service-disabled, veteran-owned small businesses as that is defined in our statute. So if they're a -- they're a small business, then, yes, but just because of their military-spouse status, not currently under the program.

MS. ROTH-DOUQUET: So I'm -- I was confused by your answer. So they have to be a service-disabled, veteran-owned small business to be eligible?

MR. DODDS: Yeah, sorry. I mean, basically the -- it's -- you just have to be a small business to be eligible. In order to go after, for example, HUBZone set-asides, you also have to be a HUBZone. In order to go up SDVO set-aside, you have to be an SDVO concern. Women-owned, it -- they would -- they might qualify as a woman-owned small business, for example, but they wouldn't qualify to go after SDVO set-asides as currently written in the statute.

MS. ROTH-DOUQUET: So I'm trying to clarify, because I have an organization that serves military

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spouses, and my question is should we tell people to start preparing for the opportunity to be -- be in the mentor-protégé program this fall if they're a military spouse, maybe a -- maybe they have to be female military spouse-owned businesses in order to be qualified. I only look at military spouse-owned businesses, so that's the lense I'm putting on it, so that -- that's my question.

MR. DODDS: Yeah, and -- and so I guess there's not -- there's no special set-asides for military spouse.

MS. ROTH-DOUQUET: Special set-asides.
MR. DODDS: But if they are a small business and if they're a woman-owned small business there will be opportunities to do mentor-protégé, they should definitely -- if they're interested in the federal market, they should start getting ready, thinking about mentors.

MS. ROTH-DOUQUET: Thank you.

20 MR. FIELDER: Kathy --21 MR. DODDS: Sorry --

22 MR. FIELDER: -- Ed fielder. 23 MR. DODDS: -- about that.

24 MS. ROTH-DOUQUET: Okay.

25 MR. FIELDER: Ed Fielder. I think we're losing

mentor-protégé program, and no appropriations, does SBA think that they can meet that mission, is there -- is there concern that the SBA is going to have a difficult time meeting that mission with those extended responsibilities?

MR. DODDS: Yeah, I think there's a lot of concern about that. I mean, when you -- when you think about -- the scale of, for example, mentor-protégé, there's about 500 mentor-proteges in the 8(a) program and about 5,000 8(a) concerns. There's hundreds of thousands of small businesses, okay, so that's a lot of people. We have to make sure the mentor is not going to take advantage of the protégé. I mean, we want the protégé to benefit, there has to be someone monitoring that and that -- that takes people.

MR. FIELDER: Yeah and just to split hairs a little bit, you're saying certified in the context of the mentor-protégé agreement and the arrangement between the two parties that results in a joint venture, not certified in the sense of other than service-disabled vet and -- and other than the -- and unservice-disabled vet for the VA program, self-certification is still the standard in the sense of certifying the base business, correct?

MR. DODDS: Yeah, what we're talking about here

track of the fact that this National Defense Act of 2011 and then 2013 it -- there were more than just service-disabled vets be included in the -- in -- so woman-owned businesses are included in there?

MR. DODDS: That's right, sorry about that.

MR. PHIPPS: Ken, with the new rule for the certification for woman-owned businesses and the SBA not getting appropriations to handle that, does that mean when this goes into effect unless you're certified by the SBA you're no longer going to be considered a woman-owned business as it currently stands?

owned business as it currently stands?

MR. DODDS: Correct, once we come up with the final rule. Well, let me answer that, you'll be -you'll still -- you always count -- if you're a womanowned small business, if you get an award in full and open, or as a small business set-aside, or any way, that counts as an -- an award, but in order to get a setaside or a sole-source award you would have to be certified. And the question is, are we going to do that, are we going to rely on third parties to do that, are there state agencies that do it, that's what we have to figure out in the next few months, but it will be -you know, the statute says you have to be certified in -- in order to get this, so that will be the end result.

MR. PHIPPS: So with -- with that rule, and the

is women-owned small businesses, that will become a certification program like HUBZone and like 8(a) where you have to come to us or -- you know, either us or some third party, they're going to look to make sure you're owned and controlled by a woman-owned -- you know, a woman basically, so it -- it's going to be a third certification program somehow at SBA.

MR. FIELDER: But service-disabled vet, self-certification for all other agencies, not VA, will still be the standard, correct?

MR. DODDS: Yeah, the -- the -- the statute didn't --

MR. FIELDER: Okay.

MR. DODDS: -- change anything --

MR. FIELDER: I -- I thought --

MR. DODDS: -- with that.

MR. FIELDER: -- that's what it was, but I wanted to make sure.

MR. DODDS: Yeah, that -- that remains the way it is for now.

MS. CARSON: It's Barb Carson, SBA. Ken, could you -- do you have information on certified@sba.gov, any update on that?

MR. DODDS: (No response.)

MS. CARSON: If you don't, I can share the

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little I know about it.

MR. DODDS: Yeah, I think there's parts of that that are live right now.

MS. CARSON: Can you describe what it is?

MR. DODDS: I -- well, you might know more than
I do. I mean, I think it -- I think right now they
started with the women-owned small-business program, so
there's a way -- we're trying to create a -- a system
that allows you to kind of enter information into an SBA
system and it will kind of guide you into as -- as to
whether you're a woman-owned small business. And the
idea is to roll in eventually 8(a) and HUBZone as well
to make it more of an automated, you know, more techsavvy system than we have right now, which is paperbased a lot of the time and -- and very, very manual,

MS. CARSON: If anyone wants to check it, it's https://certified.sba.gov. It's just barely beyond beta phase, but it is supposed to help a business. If you just enter all your information, it should -- the output would be, it will tell you what kind of certification you may be eligible for. And so we're trying to move from being an information source to something you can actually take action on at this site, but we should have more perhaps this summer on that.

and very labor-intensive, that's the hope.

1 veteran certifications?

MR. DODDS: Not to my knowledge, unless congress tells us to do it. I mean, we've had -- we've seen proposed legislation around that or we've heard about it, but until -- you know, they'd -- they'd have to change the statutes where it said, you know, where it's created and kind of -- you know, kind of direct us to do that. And, again, that's also an appropriationsfunding issue.

MR. PHIPPS: All right. Thank you very much, Ken. Anymore questions?

(No response.)

MR. PHIPPS: All right. Thank you very much, Ken.

MR. DODDS: Yeah.

MR. PHIPPS: So we have a few more minutes before we break for lunch, would anybody like to ask Max or Jennifer any additional questions based on their report that -- their very in-depth report, they have to kind of scoot out early?

(No response.)

MR. PHIPPS: No questions?

MR. MCADAMS: Rich McAdams, I have one. It seemed like one of the clear conclusions to me is that for the program to be successful it's got to be a

MR. AUMENT: Ron Aument, a -- a question is, is that going to be one of the alternatives considered for the woman-owned business certification program, like some sort of an automated tool that -- you know, that spits out a certification or a noncertification at the end?

MR. DODDS: Yes, you know, depending on if that can be executed. I think the -- I think the -- the belief is that it will be a tool, but they'll -- you know, it's -- it's hard to design it to do that when you start getting into the nitty-gritty of all the information you have to supply and all the variables that go into it, you know, whether you're a corporation, or an LLC, or a partnership, and how many owners you have. And, you know, the same thing with 8(a), you know, there's so many variables there, but the idea is if you automated it, it will be much, much easier, and much more efficient, and much quicker certifications hopefully.

MR. PHIPPS: Just a quick question, we have discussed in the past the VA veteran certification versus the SBA having an alternative certification, there's been some conversations over the last couple of meetings regarding is -- is there any -- anything on the path forward where the SBA is going to get involved with

1 business-development program.

MR. KIDALOV: Correct.

MR. MCADAMS: What are -- do you see as the political realities, how hard is that going to be to change, and does that take -- does that take congressional action to happen, and, you know, how do you see the tea leaves -- you've -- you've got more background on this than I do. It looked -- it looked like long ago that was almost congress' intent, but for some reason we didn't -- we got the ball to the six-inch line and then it -- we never got it across.

MR. KIDALOV: Yes. So, as the study indicates, there is a wealth of authority that congress has given to the SBA over the years. My recommendation in this regard would be to use that authority along the lines that -- as it's been used in the past and implement such a program by means of executive action with further, of course, requests for appropriation.

MR. MCADAMS: Um-hum.

MR. KIDALOV: But, for example, President Reagan's Executive Order 12432, minority business enterprise development, so this one created and directed agencies to create business-development programs for minority-owned businesses and it was aligned with -- with goals, it talked about participation, it talked

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about awards, and contracts, and grants, it talked about technical assistance, it talked about all of these things that we're talking about, it gave the SBA policymaking authority on -- on all of this, so -- and -- and it's there, it's just one of the examples.

There have been similar examples from President Clinton, President Carter, President Nixon that we can -- we can look into, but that would be -- that would be my recommendation.

MR. AUMENT: Ron Aument. Max, one of the -- we kind of hurried through your last slides pretty -- as we were being pressed for time. I was very interested in one of the last slides that showed the going-forward success of veteran-owned small businesses that started to break through size standards on that and it looked to me like there -- there was -- there was very, very little in the -- in the form of success on that for the -- the companies that were no longer considered small based upon their -- their NAICS codes on that.

MS. CARSON: Slide 29?

MR. AUMENT: Yeah, slide 29.

22 MR. KIDALOV: Yes.

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23 MR. AUMENT: And --

24 MR. KIDALOV: So what this slide shows is that 25 these firms that exceeds the -- the -- that exceed the

business types who get into what -- what I've always heard -- heard called no-man's land, you know, you -whether your NAICS codes are 1,000 employees, or 38 million, or whatever you play in, you know, you're either a small business or you're competing with Boeing. You can't be, you know, one employee over or a million dollars over, you've got to either be a big boy or a small business, there's -- there's very little place for those middle-of-the-road folks.

did you look at the population, by chance, at large, all

MR. MCADAMS: This is Rich McAdams. Did you --

MR. KIDALOV: Well, this -- this study did not analyze the characteristics of firms, so --

MR. MCADAMS: The reason I ask is I think --I'm -- I'm not sure this data tells us that small -- or service-disabled, veteran-owned businesses are -- are doing any better or any worse than anybody else once they get into no-man's land. I -- I have a hunch that any small business, once you get there, you've either got to be ready to sell or grow like crazy to get into that top 100 to be viable. I mean, that's -- that's been my experience.

MR. KIDALOV: -- well, what we see is that the population of the four service-disabled, veteran-owned firms that were formerly small, that that population is

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size standards are no longer continuing to receive either awards or continuing revenue. That the firms that are continuing to receive at least new awards are -- that's the red line and those are in the mixed size, so they -- they still retain the SDVOSB, the small business part of it, even though they're -- even though they're breaking, so that's the -- the -- that's the one that's the growth line, but overall the population that exceeds the size standard has been on the decline, as you can see from -- you know, from FY-'11.

MR. MCADAMS: -- so the message there is careful what you wish for as you're starting to bring in, you know, revenue, because there doesn't seem to be a pathway going forward based upon this for companies that, you know, reach the -- you know, their size limitations?

MR. KIDALOV: Really I think we need to -- we need to study what the reasons are so, and like I mentioned, it may be -- the reasons that come to mind is that they haven't been -- A, maybe they haven't been sufficiently developed to succeed in the federal sector without the set-aside process, that's one option, another option is they have succeeded so well that they have sold and that's -- that's -- those are the two options basically that -- that we have.

declining over the years, so how fast -- how fast is the general, small-business graduate population declining, you know, we didn't -- we didn't look at that overall, I'm sure somebody like Office of Advocacy might have a study on that.

MR. QUAGLIO: Ken -- Ken Quaglio. If I could go back to slide 32, your recommendations, I want to make sure that --

MR. KIDALOV: Sure.

MR. QUAGLIO: -- I understand them correctly. If -- if I may superimpose my own summary on it, it seems to me that the current focus of the legislation is on the process, and it puts the burden on the contracting officer to make a determination about the viability and the success rate of that veteran-owned business at the point of contract, and what you're suggesting we do is move the burden to the contracting officer to make those determinations by setting up businesses that are actually ready for the contracting process so you take the burden off the contracting officer, make it much more objective than subjective, and that would imply that a -- a shift in legislative policy from number of awards, set-asides, and those sorts of things to more the business creation and development side.

they're --

125 127 1 MR. KIDALOV: Well, not necessarily a shift in 1 MR. KIDALOV: -- mission. 2 legislative policy, but a -- a shift in -- a shift in 2 MR. QUAGLIO: -- in no position to do that. 3 who is making -- who is making the decision and who is 3 MR. FIELDER: Ed -- Ed Fielder. Barb, this 4 making -- you know, who is making the tradeoff. 4 question's for you, about a week ago you shared with us 5 MR. QUAGLIO: But where would the funding come 5 a position-description announcement for a position in from for that, where would the burden for actually 6 business development here in the headquarters for a 6 7 funding that come from? 7 service-disabled veteran director of business 8 MR. KIDALOV: Well, the funding would have to 8 development, is -- is that a new position? 9 9 be requested -- the funding would have to be requested MS. CARSON: The SDV program was one part of 10 10 from congress, so the -- even -- even in that executive that portfolio. The advertisement that closed out was order that I just cited still, you know, they refer to, 11 11 actually for -- it was in government contracting. 12 you know, funding that would -- you know, subject to the 12 MR. QUAGLIO: Right. funding, so -- yeah, so there would have to be funding 13 MS. CARSON: It was for the women-owned, small-13 14 requested. The opportunity I think that exists for the 14 business program. Whoever's hired for that position 15 SBA is to make sense of the process and then executive 15 will also have the SDV --16 order could put a process framework and a -- and a 16 MR. QUAGLIO: Okay. 17 program framework. 17 MS. CARSON: -- on it. 18 And really also I want to mention some other --18 MR. QUAGLIO: So it's a part-time position, but 19 one other thing, there are agency -- there are other 19 it's in business? 20 agency partners that have substantial funds that are MS. CARSON: It's a full-time position. 20 21 also dedicated to these types of -- these types of 21 MR. QUAGLIO: Well, in -- part time in the 22 activities ---22 sense that it's women and service-disabled veterans? 23 MS. CARSON: Right and at this time the only MR. QUAGLIO: Yeah. 23 24 MR. KIDALOV: -- so that has to be a whole -- a 24 activity there is with SDV within that office is 25 whole government type of approach. 25 protest. 128 126 1 MR. QUAGLIO: And -- and --1 MR. QUAGLIO: That was my assumption and I -- I 2 MR. KIDALOV: An interagency approach. 2 guess I thought maybe I was seeing the -- maybe seeing MR. QUAGLIO: -- I think it comes back to the 3 an avenue that could advocate and move it forward, but I 3 4 4 pillars as a committee we always come back to, which is -- I sense now not. 5 5 education and trading for veteran businesses at the MR. PHIPPS: So, Max, in summary --6 point of business creation is lacking nationally in many MS. CARSON: Jennifer. 6 cases and until we solve sort of the core problems we're 7 MR. PHIPPS: -- oh, I'm sorry. Go ahead, 7 8 8 trying to deal with set-asides, we're trying to deal Jennifer. 9 with compensating for making a judgment on are we really 9 MS. LEE: Just real quick. I want to get back 10 creating businesses or are we just creating 10 to Ken's comment, is that the existing program and the authorities to direct award and set-aside, they're good. 11 opportunities for businesses and I think what we really 11 12 To have that kind of tool for a contracting officer to 12 want to do are create businesses --13 exercise discretion when it's -- when it -- all the 13 MR. KIDALOV: And --14 MR. QUAGLIO: That requires increased education 14 elements are there, it's quick, it's easy, it's a win-15 win, and it's not protestable, so it -- it is a safe 15 and training at the formation level, so that when a 16 business owner starts a business they actually know what 16 arena for a contracting officer to use their discretion the hell they're doing. 17 in with already-development businesses that are in the 17 18 know, so you -- it's basically -- we just need -- we --18 MR. KIDALOV: -- right, but it -- and it also, 19 we need to make it a little safer for -- for the KO, but 19 I think, requires not placing the contracting officer in 20 20 the position where they have to make a tradeoff between it --21 MR. QUAGLIO: That's a barrier to entry for the 21 business development, and mission --22 new businesses. 22 MR. QUAGLIO: And there's --23 MS. LEE: -- right, but in turn the -- the 23 MR. KIDALOV: -- and --24 output -- the outputs is that everyone has to play their 24 MR. QUAGLIO: -- no way they can do that,

part too within the role. If businesses are going to

change?

show up and they're already developed, then the KOs, on their end, they need to know what they're doing. And -- and I -- I do have to say that the -- the DOD particularly does a good job of making opportunities for you to know what you're doing, but in all actuality it's hard and you're doing lots of hard things all at the same time, so, you know, it -- it is a shared -- it's a shared responsibility for everyone to up their game a little bit for veteran business owners.

MR. KIDALOV: On the -- on the non-protestable I -- I think what Jennifer might have meant, because we -- we kind of talked about it during the break, is, you know, with the -- with the -- with the 8(a) style requirements there are -- you know, there are some -- there's more discretion for the agency basically to follow the -- follow the SBA lead when the SBA comes up -- up with a business development plan and so the -- so that part, that's the -- that's the part where, you know, there were some cases that -- that said, hey, you know, that's what the agency -- the agency needs to do, that's not -- that's -- that's not challenged in the same way as -- you know, as the current -- as the current system is, as -- as we've seen through -- through the cases.

MR. KIDALOV: Not necessarily. Again, like I said, the -- there is -- it's possible to do things through executive order. There -- there will be -- legislative change is good in terms of appropriation and then further -- you know, congress further approving that, but you could start -- you could start getting the ball rolling through the executive order.

And I've mentioned -- I've mentioned that executive -- that Reagan order that I just cited, so there are general -- you know, general presidential authority related to contracts and -- and set-asides, and there are some specific authorities that are related to veterans' business development certainly. You know, if we're talking about benefits for veterans, we start getting into, you know, commander-in-chief authority, other -- other different things, so that's something that could be explored further and I'd be happy to do that.

MR. PHIPPS: Thank you -MS. CARSON: Can I --

MR. PHIPPS: -- very much, Max.

MS. CARSON: -- it's Barb, can -- can I go to the basic levels at layman's terms again, what we're missing then to make it more effective is business development so they're qualified, fully qualified?

that we've been talking about in terms of the -- the service-disabled current language in the FAR does not really allow for direct-award contracts and so what we would love to see from you is what do -- is maybe you could provide, and it's probably in your report, the written path forward, for example the 8(a) allows for a direct award, nonprotestable contract award where really the SDVOSB does not.

MR. PHIPPS: So this goes along with everything

MR. KIDALOV: Well, it -- it -- it does, it just makes it so -- it just makes it so prohibitively difficult.

MS. LEE: Yeah.

MR. KIDALOV: So --

MR. PHIPPS: That it's not feasible to execute?

MR. KIDALOV: -- that -- that it's being used, that it -- it makes a .61-percent contribution to the -- you know, to the spending, so, yes, so practically nil.

MR. PHIPPS: It's -- it's something we've talked about time and time again that the SDVOSB is not looked at, does not have the same basically rights that we've earned as the 8(a) program, and so in order to get over this hurdle that the contracting officers themselves have, which is just the nature of their day-to-day business, are we talking about legislative

1 MR. KIDALOV: Correct.

MS. CARSON: Right. So I do want -- we'll have -- we're talking this afternoon on export and I do want to remind you that we've talked about Veteran Institute for Procurement, because not knowing what you're doing in procurement can be especially dangerous. I mean, any business formation is dangerous, but they are particularly.

So Barbara Ashe will be joining us and we are
-- we had been -- in the first year we just gave a grant
to do the program that exists, and that's for businesses
that have already got past performance in -- as a prime
and they've got employees and revenue of a certain size.

What we are testing this year for the first time is the beginning, they do have some experience so there's still some performance, but now -- now we are understanding exactly what are the elements before that so that we can do our part. SBA is learning and acting on what is still missing to create those -- I hear the term too, procurement ready, what does that mean, and then putting that together with what Jerry Godwin is doing on our team with engaging with OSDBUs, because they're -- we may learn some things that we can act without appropriation -- additional appropriation, what more could we do, but I agree without -- yes, we could

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take some executive action, but without additional funds we're still going to have a small pipeline we're able to effect change with.

So at this point, this year for example, on the scale we're going to hit about 200 veteran business owners, and if you do that every year, I mean, honestly with participation and federal procurement, as we discussed, that's a really small part of the population that we serve --

MR. KIDALOV: Right.

MS. CARSON: -- so it is still meaningful at those -- those numbers.

MR. HEILMAN: Craig, from SBA. And then another thing, just as there's discussion as the committee considers, you know, the different mechanisms for how something like this could occur on the executive branch versus the legislative branch, I think one thing that is a bit analogous, although not in the same arena, is the TAP program and everything that happened with regards to the creation of that. And so in the TAP program you had executive order coupled with legislative action which brought together all of government and the resources required to -- to -- to drive real change and so just something to consider, that, you know, ideally multiple branches of -- of government would -- would act

Department of Commerce to focus veterans and exporting. Go ahead, Murat.

MR. MUFTARI: Thanks everyone for having me. So Vets Go Global, just to give you a quick snapshot of kind of who we are, just because I haven't been introduced here prior, we are the U.S. Commercial Service, we're the -- basically the trade promotion arm of the U.S. Department of Commerce. What makes us unique is that we are in 109 domestic offices out embedded with private-sector industry and businesses, and overseas we're in 80 countries as commercial diplomats embedded in the U.S. embassies and consulates. and then in an -- an additional 40 countries in a partner post with the state department as a commercial attache, so -- and -- and under -- under the diplomats or the American citizens we have local, national industry experts that are embedded with our teams that really are the -- the boots on the ground or the eves and ears with that foreign business industry.

MR. PHIPPS: Just a quick note, Murat, you want to give a little bit about your military background?

MR. MUFTARI: Sure. Yeah, so my -- my military background, I'm a former Special-Forces Green Beret, multiple tours of duty in Iraq and Horn of Africa. A lot of what we did in my time in the military as -- as

together in a coordinated manner.

MR. KIDALOV: Yeah, absolutely. And the interagency agreements that -- that are part of that, absolutely.

MS. ROTH-DOUQUET: It's Kathy from Blue Star Families and I just wanted to add that we are pushing for transition to move earlier and earlier in the life cycle of the service members, so I can see a future in which someone five, six, 10 years from leaving has already started to get some of their education, starting to get ready, and there probably could be a role for SBA with that as well.

MR. PHIPPS: Okay. Thank you very much, Max. We are going to break for lunch right now. The time is 11:55, we'll break for one hour, come back at 12:55. We're adjourned for lunch.

(Whereupon, at 11:55 a lunch break was taken in the meeting.)

MR. PHIPPS: Okay. If everyone could take their seats, we're going to get started here in a minute. Okay. Next on the schedule, going along the lines of reaching outside the government-contracting arena, which we understand is one of the most important arenas for veterans businesses, we're going to be talking about exports and a program that was headed by Murat at the

kind of an unconventional force, building rapport and relationships with -- with local nationals and -- and foreign militaries. It's similar to what we're doing here, it's a very unconventional kind of job and it's -- it's a little different than a lot of other government agencies in their -- you know, in their day to day.

Where did I go? Oh. Okay. So if you can just follow along here. I didn't -- I didn't put too much on the slides, because I just wanted to kind of talk through it, but if you go to the -- the second page you'll kind of see our mission statement.

After my time in the military I -- I was in the private -- private sector as a DOD contractor getting subcontracts from General Dynamics and also from a larger training contract company called NEK Advanced Securities Group, so basically I was doing the same thing I was doing in the military, which is foreign -- training foreign militaries that were part of NATO. I was doing that in the Balkans, where I'm originally from, and a few years -- within a few years the contracts dried up.

I also used to always participate at the -- the big national veterans' small-business engagement conference, which I'm sure many of you are familiar with, and what I found is that the conference is great,

you learn a lot about was procurement channels, but the thing was it was too bottlenecked only on procurement opportunities and, you know, there was -- there was no international component to those conferences and then there was no private -- really a private-sector component to those conferences, so that's kind of -- when -- when I formed this team and -- and this team is comprised of all colleagues of mine that are also veterans.

I know the government, we're not supposed to discriminate, but this particular program and initiative you have to be a veteran to be part of this team, it's -- you know, it's just -- it's just the rule. And most of our teams, because we do have a lot of these what we call global teams, they're -- they're based on industry, so I'm on -- naturally, I'm on the global aerospace and defense team and the -- and the global safety and security team, just because of my background.

At the same time our job in what we're doing to -- you know, with this -- with the International Trade Administration is we're embedded with companies and we're kind of the relationship manager on the ground with these companies, similar to how the SBA is, and it takes rapport building and it takes trust building to try to convince a company to -- to look at international

subtracting 95 percent of the pie, so you're only going after five percent of the pie to start with, and then from that five percent you're only going after three percent of that five percent, and then the other percentage of how much is government versus private, I mean, you're going after a -- a fraction of a decimal point of opportunity, so, you know, we -- we like to kind of expand their horizon.

And this -- this also starts with the -- what was mentioned earlier, the business-development phase. If we can create the veteran entrepreneurs' mind set, that they should at least be considering global and -- and -- and taking a strategic and targeted approach as certain markets, it's just going to increase their -- their potential in that part of the pie.

Also overall, as we've seen, economic cycles vary. Yes, there was a global recession, but the recession hit the U.S. first and then later, two, three years later, it hit Europe and then Asia. You know, the timing is different, so by -- by being in a couple markets you really -- you help smooth over those cycles and also there's the -- the -- the seasonal cycles that exist here obviously with the holidays and -- an Christmas time in offsetting those kind of seasonal cycles that could exist with Latin America or -- or

markets, or expand beyond the domestic market, or the procurement kind of channels that exist, so it -- it takes that -- that trust factor and that's why we think matching a veteran with a veteran helps them kind of build that trust in the early going of that relationship and then kind of walk them through those steps, so it's taking a company and trying to maximize their export potential.

If you go to the next slide on why global, the first checkpoint there, "Why -- why go international?," what people don't understand is 95 percent of global consumers live outside our borders. The U.S. has been too much of a -- a consumption nation focused too much on its own domestic market, because it was always the strongest, but as we see with -- with the internet, and with technology, and with access and empowerment to the individual, the middle -- the global middle class is growing exponentially and the opportunities of your next customer are not coming inside the U.S. borders, they're going to come from outside U.S. borders.

They hold 80 percent of the global purchasing power, so basically if you look at the procurement, which I think government procurement is great and it helps companies kind of give them, you know, a -- a good stepping stone, but if -- if you're -- if you're now

1 southern hemisphere type countries.

A lot of times when -- when business owners get started they're also looking at their business and saying, you know, they want some sort of exit strategy, you know, are they going to hand it over to their family, or -- or to the next generation, or are they going to sell to a bigger company when they kind of cap in that -- in that no-man's land that we -- we talked about earlier, and bottom line is if -- if -- if you're building a business and now you say you're in Canada, the U.S., and Mexico, you know, the value of your business is going to dramatically increase when you can show that you have distributors or partners in those other countries, it's that multiplier effect.

And also if you're holding any patents or intellectual property your exposure of being in those additional markets, you know, pretty much automatically increases the value of your intellectual property.

And then when you look at it from a job standpoint, again what you're seeing in -- in -- in the U.S. market and the domestic market is companies have kind of plateaued sometimes because they -- they have -- this is the -- the piece of the pie, so companies that are exporting they're the -- if you want to find where the job growth is now, where the -- you know, you have

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to look at the companies that are succeeding internationally and that's why, you know, one of the bullet points here I like to point out is that they tend to pay an average of 18 percent higher-paying jobs.

And then kind of from a strategic standpoint the bottom line is that commercial diplomacy, commercial engagement internationally is our strongest tool to national security, a lot of -- a lot of people can't connect that dot. Being a veteran, being special forces, it was all about the -- the human-to-human, the face-to-face relationships that you build with other cultures and other people, that is how you build bridges of cooperation, it's not -- in the long term it's not through military as a -- as a -- you know, as the -- the first means.

And, again, the -- the -- most of this here is known, but even with a strong dollar, you know, sometimes we engage companies and they say, you know what, the dollar's strong right now, no one's going to buy my product. As -- as the -- as the economy has kind of really empowered the buyer, it's just simply not true. Yes, it's true in commodities and -- and some of those big items, but overall if you give a value to your customer there are buyers out there.

A lot of times companies come up to us and

as they're looking for more long-term solutions and -and willing to invest a little bit more up front for a longer-term success, we're seeing that -- that basically takes away that -- you know, that -- that extra cost and that they're willing to basically swallow, so, again, that's the -- it's the end-to-end solution that really creates that value.

And why specifically veteran and why we think, you know, veterans have more variables to succeed versus some of their -- their peers, of course it's a lot of those skill sets that you bring from your time in the military. These are just a few, adaptability, attention to detail, calculated risk taking is very key, being able to force multiple, you know, basically having people take your brand and kind of develop it in their own domestic markets, and those intercultural skills that a lot of veterans with combat or deployment experience bring.

In the -- the -- the data that we saw earlier with census was great, but -- and something I did pull from census, but basically if you compare veteran-owned businesses to women owned or to minority owned, you actually find that although they are less likely to export right now the -- the data that we -- we have shows that around nine percent of veteran-owned

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they're analyzing their -- their analytics of their -their website and they say, I don't know why, but I'm getting 5,000 hits a month from -- from Saudi Arabia. Well, you know, let's convert that intelligence that you have there, convert it to buyers, because there is interest, you know, there's the reason people are stopping at your website.

And if -- the second part is if you have a website you're an international business. Whether you know -- know it or not, you're an international and there's things you can do to globalize your website that make it more appealing to international buyers and help convert them to at least sending a -- an inquiry or a contact-us type of a -- an e-mail.

So, again, American made, even with a strong dollar, proves that, you know, quality, durability, safety matter, reputation for excellence in the aftersales is a -- is a very key component. A lot of these -- these countries that we're competing with, I'll use China as an example, yes, China's doing great in Africa right now, they're building a lot of infrastructure, but what's happened within five years a lot of it's already crumbling and there's no support with that.

So, you know, as governments local, national, and -- and international, like agencies like the U.N., businesses export either directly or indirectly.

Indirect exports are also very key to mention here, that you might be selling to Boeing and then that plane is going to -- you know, to Japan, you know, that -- that falls under an export, so -- so although they are less likely to export, women-owned businesses, they say are around 12 percent export. Minority owned is around 17 percent. You know, to see that for minority owned makes sense, you know, they usually try to sell back to the market they're from, the country they're from.

However, minority owned on average have about -- they-- they employ about 20 people of companies that export, this is not counting the smaller micro companies that are just very domestic, you know, mechanic shops, et cetera. Women owned is around 40, the veteran owned is around -- is -- is 68 jobs on average per company that exports, so if you compare it relative to -- to those other two categories they're the biggest job creator.

And as we -- we saw earlier with the data, obviously they turned to entrepreneurship at greater rates, but again I think it is that gap in business development that can take it to the next level and actually not only make them procurement ready, but in

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commerce we -- we -- we would make them what's called

And again, just tying it to the bigger picture and the strategic side, veterans -- one thing -- I mean, I can tell you in the special-ops' world, but I'm sure it exists across all the -- all the various departments, is veterans miss having that -- kind of that bigger goal or -- or being tied to a bigger mission and when we talk to veteran entrepreneurs and kind of sell them on the big strategic side of what commercial diplomacy and commercial kind of private-sector business in the international realm involves we kind of get that mission across to them and -- and they do see it in the bigger picture.

So based on all those things, the -- the Vets-Go-Global team was founded and has gotten significant support from our secretary of commerce and -- and then the under-secretaries within our agency, which is key. And one thing that I didn't mention is that most of us on the team are out in the fields, I'm -- I'm -- myself, I'm in Michigan. I was in New York for a couple years and now I'm in Michigan where I'm originally from. The other two founders are in New Jersey and New York.

Most of us are out in the field, because we really want to create the program based on what we hear and analysis of their product or service. If they think that -- that product is saturated and there's too much competition in a certain market, they'll tell them and -- and be -- you know, be direct with them so that they don't waste time and resources in the wrong market at the wrong time.

And Barb, Barbara Ashe here from the -- the VIP -- VIP program, she's going to talk about VIP International a little bit, I'm sure, but I just put it on here that, again, basically with the rule changes that we've seen to the score card and what we believe is going to lead to an increase in -- in veteran-owned kind of business through U.S. government contracts overseas with -- you know, with all the agencies, the state department, DOD, et cetera, that are overseas, they're now going to have an increase in access and placement in those countries that is going to be able to potentially carry over and -- and build those relationships with the private sector, or the -- you know, the commercial sector there to have some additional opportunities, or with the foreign government.

Advocacy and diplomacy. When you do get on the government contracting side, just like the U.S. government has -- has a big budget, foreign governments also spend a lot of money. We have a program that

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from veteran-owned businesses that we engage on a daily basis and we don't want to make it a bureaucratic Washington thing, so all these programs that I'm about to kind of begin talking about they're oriented out in what can tactically and operationally happened to make a -- a veteran company export ready and then, you know, get to their export potential.

Again, on the business development side, it starts with counseling and education creating seminars and webinars that we already are operating, but offering them for free to veteran-owned businesses. Some of -some of our local events, you know, do sometimes carry a cost, you know, pretty much just to cover the event, but, again, what makes this -- what would make this program different is that everything that we're offering to veteran-owned businesses would be free.

As they start kind of analyzing certain markets or -- or countries, you know, the key is to kind of focus on the -- the quantitative but also the qualitative kind of data that suggests that their -their product or service could succeed in a certain country, so market intelligence is very key.

That's where our overseas colleagues are -- are a very important part of that -- that process, because they give them kind of the on-the-ground kind of truth basically is an interagency and intergovernment program that advocates on behalf of U.S. businesses pursuing foreign government contracts.

So if you're going after a construction tender, let's say in Romania for a highway, and you're a U.S. -you're -- you're a U.S. company, we would get our advocacy team involved in a -- they would create a strategy of how to advocate for that contractor, that tender, want to make sure that you're getting an equal opportunity, because a lot of times U.S. companies are pushed out of a tender kind of against WTO, or World Trade Organization, regulations, so we make sure you get an equal opportunity, but also we advocate for you to actually win the contract.

We have a lot of success stories in that -- you know, in that field, they can be defense contracts, they can be -- you know, building nuclear plants in Japan was a contract where they -- the U.S. company didn't make the short list, we advocated for them, they were then brought back onto the short list, and -- and ended up winning a four billion dollar contract.

Depending on the size of the contract, this can be as small as, you know, a one or two-million dollar contract as well. Depending on the size of the contract, you know, it could be the secretary advocating

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for you when they're flying through on a trade mission, it could be the president -- it could go all the way up to the president advocating for you. On the defense side we interact with Department of Defense, the state department, it could be an ambassador, it could be a four-star general that's coming through to engage with that country, pretty much bringing all government agencies that have an international presence to advocate for -- for that contract tender for the U.S. company.

If there's only one U.S. company going after that opportunity, they would specifically advocate for your company. If there's multiple U.S. companies going after that opportunity, they'd advocate for the whole -- you know, the whole cluster of U.S. companies that are pursuing that contract.

Another program I have listed here, discover global markets, it's a program we created based on client private-sector feedback. A lot of times they wanted to -- to get to know our overseas colleagues, the industry experts and also the commercial diplomats, so we created a -- a more cost-effective option where we actually bring them stateside, usually from a whole region, like a -- you know, there's one in Miami coming up where we're bringing all of our colleagues from Latin America and they get to -- to meet one-on-one, the

Trade missions. The Vets-Go-Global team this year -- this fiscal year has two planned trade missions taking place, a trade mission is where we -- it can take place two way. Executive led means usually like a -- the secretary or under-secretary will lead the mission, it creates, you know, more high-profile, it tends to get bigger names in the room on the foreign side, or it can be a certified trade mission where we partner with a business association, in this case it would be a veteran -- you know, some sort of veteran business association, and we'd co-lead a trade mission to a certain -- certain market and -- and facilitate all the on-the-ground kind of meetings, receptions at the ambassador's residency, et cetera, that can help give them opportunities to kind of meet partners.

Two that we have planned, there's an infrastructure and a green-construction trade mission to Mexico that's going to happen in October. It falls into next fiscal year, but it's in this year's budget. We're -- we're looking to take veteran-owned businesses to a big expo that happens and then -- and then stopping them in multiple areas of -- in states of Mexico to kind of meet with potential buyers.

The other one is in Asia, it's going to stop Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam and it's on digital

companies get to meet one-on-one with those businesses and kind of learn more on-the-ground truth about -- you know, based on their product and service and if it has opportunity there.

And there's a -- it's a two-day forum that has, you know, a lot of breakout sessions, learning sessions that help them navigate the technical barriers to trade and, you know, how to best find a partner, you know -- you know, what you have to do to kind of -- if you have patents and you're entering a certain market, you know, it -- it kind of includes everything.

And I mention this program, because for next fiscal year we would like to create a discover global markets or you could call it an international business conference for veteran-owned businesses, and that's a gap that I've seen time and time again at these events I've attended on the national level, all the avenues of opportunity focus on government procurement and sometimes some prime contractors, you know -- you know, are present, nothing focuses on international.

And when we've hosted learning sessions discussing this topic at those conferences there's usually businesses that kind of stand up and say, why isn't there anything international here at this conference, so we're trying to fill that gap.

infrastructure, cyber security, kind of the -- the hardware, software communications industries, and that one is also in October. And again that's built around another trade show that's going on at the same time, but this mission -- what we do when we do these missions is sometimes companies go to these trade shows and they just kind of get lost in the whole -- you know, in the -- in the busyness of it.

We build -- when we do a trade mission we build programs that give the American companies much more attention than their international competitors, we'll build a symposium that puts, you know, the American businesses, you know, in front of the buyers or in front of the decision-makers to kind of talk their expertise and kind of highlight them as kind of the -- the go-to expert.

I already mentioned the -- the international. Oh, I'm -- yeah, so the discover global markets is kind of what we -- what we categorize as that international business forum or symposium here in the U.S.

And again something that's going to be covered, but I just highlighted, the STEP grant is a program that you'll -- you know, if you guys haven't heard about, you'll hear about it here shortly, but we work closely with SBA on the STEP grant. Domestically how we're --

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how we're based is we -- we work in export assistance centers, so we try to kind of make it a one-stop shop of resources in one -- one office. They offer international business or export assistance, so the SBDC sometimes is co-located with us, but also SBA international financing is usually co-located with us, and the Exim Bank is usually co-located with us.

The STEP is just a way that really helps offset -- some of these sometimes can get expensive cost to -you know, to go travel on these type -- type of shows or events, so the STEP grant can come in and -- and basically offset 50 percent of those costs, so you'll hear more about that.

The -- the other thing I want to mention is basically we have -- I -- I skipped over one, ExporTech. So ExporTech is a program that we want run nationally and it -- it basically takes who we deem an export-ready company, so you -- you do have to kind of qualify for this program, but, for instance, if VIP runs the international curriculum and from those 50-or-so companies that participate we think 10 of them would make a good -- a good candidate to really -- you know, either has a product or a service that truly could succeed in an international marketplace and -- and they also have the executive desire to -- to go

it's still a fairly-new initiative so we engage with business association -- veteran business associations, other government agencies, we'll be participating in the interagency meeting tomorrow to -- to -- to kind of bring this exporting and international business more to the forefront of veteran-owned businesses and -- and how

6 7 to make them succeed in the international marketplace. 8 So if you -- any questions, I'd be glad to take them. 9

MR. AUMENT: Yes, Ron Aument. I've done some work with a group called, New Zealand Board of Trade and Enterprise, and they are an office within the New Zealand Embassy, and that their mission in life is to do advocacy on -- on behalf of New Zealand-based companies as well as, you know, direct business-development support for those companies that in -- in this case hope to do business in the United States in -- both in products and services, so they essentially are embedded in virtually every New Zealand embassy around the world, and it's -- and it's got a full-time staff, and they're pretty, pretty effective in -- in my many respects, do -- do you operate under the same type of model, you know, having, you know, folks, you know, on the ground, you know, constantly U.S. embassies around -- around the world?

MR. MUFTARI: Yes, exactly, in a lot of

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international, we'd put them through a 12-week program with -- with a lot of resources, and -- and experts, and coaches that guide them through to create a comprehensive export strategy and go-to-market plan.

It gets very targeted, so that they're not spreading their resources too thin, but by the -- by that 12th week they -- they actually present their plan to a -- a panel of export experters -- or, you know, exporter experts, sorry about that, yeah, and -- and then we -- and then we actually still coach them through that implementation phase, because, you know, typically which usually takes six-to-12 months to actually go into a couple markets and then two-to-three years to potentially see. It can go shorter, but, again, I'm taking averages of seeing actual sales results.

And that -- that program nationally right now is -- shows that a company that enters ExporTech, within two years increase sales by 750,000 and that's -- that's our numbers. When you look at the -- the program numbers they're actually much higher, but we -actually, we don't take potential -- you know, we remove a lot of categories and we look at true, hard sales numbers, so that -- that -- that's a low estimate.

So those -- those are the things that Vets Go Global has on the -- on the play for this fiscal year, 1 countries they -- they build their model off our model.

2 We -- you know, relative to other countries that do have 3 a -- a similar kind of a commercial kind of a assistance 4 model, we -- you know, we -- we tend to have more 5 resources, we're -- we're in more places, but, you know, 6 a country like New Zealand -- or I'll use the U.K. for 7 example, the U.K. has a -- a good program. They're in 8 the U.S. and they're in a few other key markets, but 9 they're not in 120 countries, but when it -- when it 10 comes to associations like that or, you know, whether it's a government agency, or if it's a -- a local 12 chamber of commerce, a lot of times, you know, we work 13 together and find ways to kind of, you know, support

> MR. PHIPPS: Murat, do you want to hit a little bit on exporting is not just product, so for services companies how they will be able to export their services and not just a product based entity?

> MR. MUFTARI: Sure. I mean, just, you know, similar to what we see in our domestic economy where I think service businesses make about 40 percent of the GDP. I mean, that's what you're going to see in international business.

You know, companies that offer architectural design, engineering, kind of professional services are

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succeeding internationally, because -- I mean, even -even when you look at trying in one of the harder markets to enter with a product in the services' side we're seeing it's just not the case, you know, most of the bridges and kind of infrastructure being designed in China is U.S. companies that are actually providing that professional service.

Financial services is a -- is another main category. We do financial trade missions on a monthly basis, but a lot of times it's -- you know, those things are very -- you know, services have just as much chance to succeed, if not more, because it typically takes -takes less resources, financially at least, to enter another market with a service.

The other thing I didn't mention and something that's kind of become one of our missions is -- is Select USA, it's where we work with state economicdevelopment offices to recruit foreign direct investment into the U.S. That program, I mention it because a lot of times when we are working with a foreign company -let's say a Germany company wants to relocate to the U.S., but they don't know which state they should locate to, we provide them the data on the national level of where they -- they'll have the best chance to succeed, and we kind of give them a report of, like, their five

that, either their R and D facility or their high-tech kind of manufacturing jobs, we're seeing it with reshoring. Yes, we do lose low-tech -- you know, low -low-skill manufacturing jobs, but we're replacing them with high-skill jobs.

And also when you hear this conversation about jobs disappearing, what you don't hear is that it's -typically it's not -- they're not disappearing from competition with other countries, they're disappearing with technology, so, you know, that gets into the whole -- you know, some of these TTP and TTIP, these -- these trade agreements that are going on in negotiations right now, but whether a service company, a -- a company that sells a product, or a company that really might not want to -- or not have a presence internationally, but wants to try to connect with foreign companies that are now bringing some sort of -- some part of their business here domestically, all those things can happen through kind of being in that -- you know, in -- in this international trade business-development cycle.

MR. PHIPPS: Excellent. Any questions for Murat?

23 (No response.)

MR. PHIPPS: Murat, thank you very much.

MR. MUFTARI: Thank you.

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top states or markets, and then we basically connect them with the states to kind of compete over, you know, who -- who -- who can make the best proposal, but that's key, because a lot of times those foreign companies are coming here with no established supply chain and they're leaning on us to help establish that -- that localized or regionalized supply chain for them.

So, you know, sometimes we take companies to trade shows, like, for instance, Hannover Messe is a -the largest industrial trade show in the world in Germany, for the first time in its history the U.S. is the partner country, so it's got a lot of attention this year and it's in April, President Obama's attending, Secretary of Commerce, and multiple political appointees, but it's -- it's there to showcase American innovation really.

So there are seven pavilions dedicated to, like, research and development, you know, nano technology, all these -- all these leading-edge technology and automation-type of programs, and then there's one pavilion dedicated to foreign direct investment. The U.S. is now the number one market for foreign direct investment.

Chinese companies, German companies, Japanese, et cetera, you know, they want to be here, they know

1 MR. PHIPPS: Very informative. 2

MR. MUFTARI: Thank you.

MR. PHIPPS: Next speaking is going to be Dave Vidal from the SBA Office of International Trade.

MR. VIDAL: Okay. Wonderful. All right. Here we go. Now, lights, camera, action, right? Okay. Good afternoon everybody. My name is David Vidal, and I am with SBA's Office of International Trade, and I'm here to about to give you the international perspective from SBA, what the Office of International Trade does here at SBA, what services we offer, and where we're looking to take and go in terms of growing small businesses and then particularly veteran-owned small business as well.

So our agenda today, we'll be talking about the international trade perspective, I'm also going to be speaking about the office itself and what services that we offer small businesses and veteran-owned businesses throughout the country, and also our export finance programs, how do we work with lenders all throughout the United States, take and expand access to financing so that our companies here can take and compete abroad.

And so going in the international trade perspective, I'm going to take and hit home a little bit again about what my previous colleague talked about, is that it's a big world out there, there's lots of

opportunity. And if you sit down with anyone from my office or any other office in the U.S. government that focuses on trade and export growth is that there's enormous opportunity there, because the math says so. You know, our small businesses have and our veteranowned small businesses have enormous opportunities, since a majority of the world's population is outside the United States, and we could be capitalizing a lot greater upon that by continuing to take, and educate, and provide access for our small businesses to take and grow internationally.

I won't bore you with all the statistics, but, you know, moving onto the next slide, 98 percent of the United States, 300,000 exports, are small businesses, about a third of them, about -- small-business exports count for about a third of the annual goods exported, so we're already doing a pretty good job, but we could be doing a lot more.

What you see, if you look in a lot of the data that's out there, is that we look -- you'll see that's exported, you hear about airplanes, big, heavy machinery, equipment items that get exported and that's usually what you see, the headlines out there, and that's a lot of times what people think about. People think that exporting is only for large companies and

remarkably not many of them are actually selling there. You'll see a lot of companies that will take and source product from Mexico, source raw materials from -- from Canada, but they won't sell back to Canada or Mexico, so this creates enormous opportunity for us to look at in terms of -- of switching that around, giving them the

We already have a lot of companies that are doing it and unfortunate, as I've -- I've mentioned before, is that while those numbers are quite impressive up there, our -- we could be doing a lot more. Canada and Mexico, you know, with the -- with -- with the proximity we should be doing a lot more than this.

ability to take and go back.

Now we're going to talk a little bit about where SBA international comes into play and how we take and help small businesses and veteran-owned small businesses. And we -- we focus on information, capital, and market access, because the challenges out there are about -- there's a lack of information for exporting, there's a lack of capital for exporting, and there's a lack of market access for -- for exporting.

Information-wise, not enough small businesses, as we know, are exporting and even through the U.S. government has enormous amount of resources many companies aren't thinking about going abroad, they don't

that's just not the case.

Moving onto the next slide, talking more about small businesses and what the opportunity is. We don't have any -- unfortunately, I didn't have a chance to get any veteran-owned small-business data, but we'll give you a little bit of snapshot in terms of what we are doing right now from SBA, how many veteran-owned small businesses are utilizing our programs, but just looking at the overall picture and potential, as we talked about, only one percent of the 28 million small businesses -- only one percent of America's 28 million small businesses export and five percent of American's, 5.7 million, employers export, so enormous opportunity, we can do a lot more. Like I said, like my previous colleagues said, you know, we have -- we have a lot to go, a lot to work on, and the U.S. government offers amazing programs to take and help companies go abroad.

And now I wanted to give you a little bit of -- a bit more color diving into it, this is from the -- our folks at commerce talking about who are our largest export partners, our top 20 global markets, and no mistake and no surprise is that Canada and Mexico are at the top, followed by China, and Japan, and the U.K.

Many small business are already sourcing the products and services from overseas, but -- but

-- they don't know about the abilities and opportunities to do so.

For financing what you find is that while a lot of the large banks out there are very well versed in providing export financing and helping companies go abroad, what you see is that a lot of the smaller community banks, credit unions, and regional banks maybe don't have the expertise or personnel to help some of -- help these companies go abroad.

And then in terms of marketing access what we look at is that the ability of small businesses to go abroad, to be able to take and understand the markets that they're going into, understand what type of trade barriers, and compliance, and regulations that are out there, that -- that, in terms of access, becomes a huge component in terms of getting their products and services into other countries.

MR. QUAGLIO: Ken Quaglio, quick question on the previous slide.

MR. VIDAL: Um-hum.

21 MR. QUAGLIO: Do you have -- can we just go 22 back real quick, is that possible?

MR. VIDAL: Um-hum.

MR. QUAGLIO: Do -- do you have that data, if we were to take out petroleum, take out large capital

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goods like airplanes, does -- it would be kind of interesting to see from a small-business perspective where --

MR. VIDAL: Um-hum.

MR. QUAGLIO: -- the real market opportunities are internationally if we take the big dollar items out, do you have that data?

MR. VIDAL: You know what, I'm sure that we could work up our folks at commerce who -- who houses a lot of this data to work with them in getting or extrapolating some of --

MR. QUAGLIO: Yeah.

MR. VIDAL: -- this information.

MR. QUAGLIO: It would be interesting if we could see -- you know, if -- if that data existed what that would look like.

MR. VIDAL: Right. I mean, I can just tell you personally speaking. So I'm relatively new at SBA here, but previously I was at the export/import bank, also known as Exim Bank, and in -- I worked with the working-capital program there and what you saw from a lot of small business and the opportunities out there -- you have California, Florida, and you have Texas, and a lot of our small businesses were definitely taking advantage of the Latin markets from Florida in terms of

for companies to take and go abroad.

You know, just speaking in terms of, you know -- you know, what's -- what's an example of a small business exporting, you know, I was in -- January I was in Texas in Dallas, in Fort Worth to be particular, with a small business -- a veteran-owned small business that was selling energy services for rigs into Mexico and going to Nigeria and they had been using SBA, helping us -- or using SBA products for years going into those markets, so that's the example of what -- what small businesses are doing and there's the example right there in Fort Worth.

All right. So SBA's international trade resources. So we talked about information, capital, market access that we're focused on and if we focus on this in five particular areas -- next slide. All right, so we focus on trade affairs, trade policy, trade outreach, trade development, and trade finance.

Our trade affairs' policy and outreach is focused and -- and development is focused on, you know, looking at engaging in the global community on a multilateral and bilateral basis of other nations, for example, working with TTIP, trade negotiations, going out there and having conversations with other nations out there in terms of creating access, and legislation,

commodities.

Texas you saw a lot of small businesses taking advantage of Pemex in Mexico, Brazil, the energy economy, and then California with the high-tech software companies going towards Asia.

MR. QUAGLIO: Yeah. So you -- you kind of when where I was thinking --

MR. VIDAL: Um-hum.

MR. QUAGLIO: -- as well, which is there's probably a geographic concentration for those small businesses --

MR. VIDAL: Um-hum.

MR. QUAGLIO: -- doing export abroad and -- and it's probably in those three states, Texas, Florida, and California --

MR. VIDAL: Right.

MR. QUAGLIO: -- most probably, yeah.

MR. VIDAL: Yeah. I mean, we have -- those are the major export markets now, including, like, New York and also Illinois as well.

MR. QUAGLIO: Yeah.
MR. VIDAL: But there is, you know, lots of opportunities in other hubs throughout the United States, especially ones that are -- like, Huntsville, Alabama, you know, there's a lot of opportunity there

and agreements to be able to take and allow our small businesses to take and go global. You will -- right now that's at -- TTP, which is the -- the latest trade agreement that's up, has the first SME chapter ever in a trade agreement, that's a big step.

TTIP negotiations, which is the trade agreement between the United States and Europe right now, is going to take and hopefully contain an SME provision, so our office has staff that's working on developing, interacting with these foreign government and -- and institutions, working on policy and outreach to them, taking -- create market access for our small businesses, allowing there to be clear transparency in taking and doing business in these countries.

Trade development, we're going to have one of my colleagues speak to the STEP program, which was already mentioned, and then trade finance I'll speak to as well in terms of how SBA -- you know, as SBA we're part of the 7(a) program, how we're providing financing to small businesses to take and go abroad.

And next slide. And we have the STEP program here, one of my colleagues is going to go a little bit deeper into it, but it is a grant program that we work through with states to be able to take and -- and get to support trade missions and other types of trade

opportunities and activities.

The next slide for me. In talking about the world of trade finance, SBA offers short term to long term guaranteed export financing, so we work in the cycle that -- with -- with banks, because what we're -- we're doing is we're guaranteeing loans to -- we're guaranteeing loans to banks for beneficiary of small businesses and veteran-owned small businesses, and we do that through a number of programs, and our programs take and support working capital, term financing, ability for companies to take and obtain plant and equipment, refinance, do purchase-order financing, and one of the more important things is actually be able to take and post bid performance and warranty bonds or letters of credit, that's something that's very -- and the energy industry.

For example, that small business that I mentioned in -- in Forth Worth, Texas, you know, what they were using our program for in many cases was to post their performance mods, performance guarantees with their foreign buyers, so very, very important aspect for U.S. companies who have contracts and have performance obligation with foreign buyers, and we do this through our export express, express working capital, and our international trade-loan programs, these -- these three

with -- with the help of commerce to get our small businesses export ready and being able to take to them in terms of how to finance not only by just getting a loan, but also in terms of how to actually set up the -- a sale, how to set up a contract, how do you finance that, what type of terms of sale do you take and do you want to offer your foreign buyers, so they are actively involved in counseling -- counseling these small businesses.

Aside of the fact, as I mentioned as well, is they're also counseling lenders as well. As I mentioned, there is a very large gap in terms of between the large institutions, lending institutions in this nation, and the regional, the small community, and credit unions, so our folks are out there actively engaging with these folks so that they have the right information to be able to help small businesses.

Now getting a little bit more into the weeds, because I know that's where everybody would love -- love to hear, is talking a little bit about our three programs. We have the export-express program, we have the export working-capital program, the international trade loan. What we'd like to take and think is that we're going to grow a small business, we're going to take and -- and grow them all -- all up, we're going to

programs are able to serve these different financing activities.

Next slide. And to deliver this we have SBA's trade finance specialists all across the country, we have -- a majority of our folks are co-located in the U.S. export-assistance centers, with commerce, with Exim Bank to be able to have that one-stop shop and interaction with companies and -- oh, and small businesses knowing that they can go right there to get -- be able to get the right information and access to financing.

We are -- we -- we're -- now we're at 21, we would like to take and grow that to 30 to 40 folks, hopefully in the next few years we can take and get to that number. Right now we've added recently another -- another person in Florida and another person in California, because just the volume of demand needed in -- in those states.

Next slide. So I'm going to talk a little bit about the export-finance programs and that's -- that's one of the pillars of what our office does. I want to also mention the fact that our folks who are in the field, beside just taking -- talking about and getting them access to our financing programs, they actually are -- they're doing counseling, they're taking and helping

help them start with the export express program up to \$500,000, they may take it in advance to an export working capital guarantee.

And then at some point if they need to take and get fixed assets, you know, be able to acquire some machinery, maybe they need to take and expand their offices, they can take and obtain an international trade loan. And by chance the fact that they actually take and go above five million, we would pass them onto our partners at Exim Bank who can take and go much higher in dollar amount.

Next slide. So here's a little bit of snapshot again. I'm going to go a little bit more in detail, but just a comparison in terms of our programs, in terms of how many years, in -- in terms of maturity of the loans, the amounts, the proceeds, and how they benefit, but I'm going to go a little bit more in detail, but that's a nice snapshot for those who want to keep that for later

Moving onto the next slide I'm going to talk a little bit about the export-express guarantee that we offer and, like I said again, this is a guarantee to -- to -- a guarantee to a bank. You know, one of the -- one of the benefits of SBA is that -- in our program is that these are not direct loans, a small business

doesn't have to come to SBA, come to Uncle Sam and say, hey, I need -- I need money for my export -- my -- my export sales.

They're able to go to their local bank to be able to have their local bank work with SBA in terms of getting that guarantee so they an utilize these programs, that way this is not the disruptive to a small business. They don't have to change lenders, they don't have to take and -- and have multiple financing loans, they can go to their existing lender that they may have had a relationship for years and get access to our products.

So the export express is a -- we have two different loan amounts, we have a \$350,000 and a \$500,000 of different guarantee percentages for the lenders. The important thing to take away from this is that this is a very -- this is a high-bred facility, it's able to take and go out seven years. A -- a small business can take and use this to take and for them to acquire equipment, machinery, or just support their ongoing sales, or issue, as I mentioned before, a bid, performance, or a warranty bond to their foreign buyer.

What is required, normally speaking we -- that business has to be -- have a history of at least 12 months. We will work with banks if the company has less

Next one, please. All right. So use of proceeds. The great thing about this -- this product, as I mentioned before, it has multiple functions and, like I said, it can do -- it can help with machinery, it can help with just being a general line of credit, it can help with a purchase order, it can also help with a brochure translation, or it could take and go to a trade show, small businesses can use the proceeds from this to take and -- for their marketing activities.

Additional as well, as what all our products do as well, is that they also support the ability for indirect exports, which I -- one of the -- one of the folks brought on up where a small business is selling to a GE, a Boeing, a Honeywell, and that product is being exported abroad, our programs can take and help support those sales, especially if their lender doesn't want to maybe, for some reason, take and finance the -- their sales of GE, of all -- of all businesses.

Moving onto the next slide we have the export working capital loan, which is a 90-percent guarantee, it's five million dollars, it -- we can be transaction based or asset based, based upon the nature of the sales. Transaction based is in the event that someone has maybe one or two contracts abroad, someone's doing business with Pemex in Mexico, or an asset-based

than one year in terms of operating history, but that's a general requirement that we have. And what folks have asked me always before as well in terms of, well, what does a small business need or a veteran-owned business need in terms of eligibility, you know, we have very basic requirements.

Lenders have their requirements as well, you know, most lenders want to see a certain amount of three years of financial performance or three years of -- of certain credit or financial matrix. Our programs are able to take and help lenders by -- by providing our guarantee, help them take and maybe offer loans to small businesses who wouldn't necessarily qualify for lenders.

What you have just seen, just to give you a little bit of also market perspective as well and something that SBA is working very hard at, is that because of -- since the global recession, many lenders have -- have -- what they've done is they decide to lend higher dollar amounts. Well, what we call in the lending industry, they've gone up the credit ladder, because the fact of the expense of making smaller loans, and so obviously the role of SBA is be able to take and help that so that lenders are able to provide smaller loans to companies, including this -- this program here, the export express.

facility where they may have -- they may have 20 buyers overseas, we have a -- our -- our product allows functionability for that to support those 20 or 30 buyers overseas.

Next slide, please. Eligibility for our working -- for our export working capital is that it must be a small business, we also have an alternative definition that could be used as well. At the end of the day though we need products to be shipped from the good ole USA or services to be -- to be provided by folks here in the United States. Also we're looking for at least usually a 12-month operating history as well.

Next slide, please. Okay. Just some other little tidbits and getting to the nitty and gritty with this is that in terms of restrictions. We abide by Exim Bank's country-limitation schedule, which is kind of like the dos-and-the-don't's list of where to take and -- and -- and sell your product abroad and under what criteria should you take and do business with buyers and -- and countries.

For the most part we're supporting small businesses going to majority of foreign markets with the -- with some of the exceptions of some of the more ones that make up the news every day, higher-risk countries such as maybe Argentina and Venezuela that we're not

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providing as much support to. Something about our program that is a little bit different, Exim Bank, like I mentioned, offers a similar program as ours, it's just that they have no cap on dollar limits, but at Exim Bank they have a -- they have a -- they have a restriction on military sales and so they're -- a certain amount of the products have to have a certain amount of U.S. content, so a certain amount of the cost basis of their products or services must be at least 51 percent or SBA does not have that, this provides an opportunity for -- for a lot of small businesses here who I mentioned before are sourcing product from Mexico, or Canada, or for our technology and service companies are maybe sourcing from -- from Asia and being able to take and then export the final product abroad.

Next slide, please. Uses of -- of -- of our -our use of proceeds for our facility. As I mentioned before, we're going to be able to take and help finance their foreign sales or issue standby letters of credit for our bid-performance bonds. For those of you who want to take and look into more nitty-gritty, please look over this slide.

Next slide, please. International trade loan up to five million. So this is -- this is a -- this is

does our program take and support indirect exports and what is that? So that's selling to Boeing and Boeing's going to take and export a plane, so why wouldn't a lender take and finance that? Well, in many cases what happens is, is that there are -- these larger corporations who are selling this may have certain requirements where the product is being shipped to, that maybe GE maybe is taking the product, but they're not taking it from the product here in the United States in the Port of Houston or in Baltimore, they're taking the product overseas.

Small business has to ship this overseas, so this creates concerns and problems for lenders to be able to take and lend under the inventory or the -- or the receivables from GE or -- or Boeing, so our program helps with this by -- by allowing those sales to be eligible for that for us to be able to finance that inventory and to finance those receivables for them. At the end of the day though we do need to make sure that that product, the final product, was exported abroad.

Next slide, please. Oh, and if you do have any other questions we're happy to answer them now. Also I wanted to just mention this fact, is that, you know, for our office and everything that we're working on we are really trying to help small businesses and veteran-owned

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our -- what we call a majority of the time our fixedasset, machinery-facility term loan, this -- this can go out a maximum of 25 years or 10 years, it provides a company to take and get up to five millions dollars, and it -- it provides the ability for them to expand because of exports, because maybe they have a large opportunity, or because they've been adversely impacted by imports.

So in the event of steel dumping by China or any other kind of -- of -- of over the solar industry dumping -- I hate to pick on China, but -- but, you know, dumping in the solar market by China, a small business that has been adversely impacted could take and -- and -- and obtain this facility to take and help for them to readjust in the economy maybe for new markets or expand their product services, this facility helps to give them that liquidity to take and make those changes.

Something else that -- about this is that -that's -- that's very nice is that, you know, this product is one of our larger-volume products and it's being utilized not only by large institutions and medium-sized ones, but also by a lot of small institutions as well.

Next slide, please. Indirect exports. As I've -- I've touched on a little bit before, our program support indirect exports and the question becomes is why businesses get into the export economy to diversify the economy here in the United States and we're working on many different fronts for that.

Additionally, as well, we're looking to level the playing field for our U.S. small businesses. You know, some of the -- some of what's going on in the market, I mentioned to you about that Forth Worth company, which they were selling into Nigeria and the Chinese, we're -- we're going in there and for their companies they were allowing them -- that they were supporting the -- they were selling on two-year repayment terms, so if I sell you something you don't have to pay me back for two years, that's very hard for a small business to compete with that.

So our -- so the -- so the other objective of our program is to level that playing field so that we can -- while we -- while we can't do that, we -- we want our small businesses to be competitive and our financing and the benefits of our programs to allow them to take and do that and compete in the marketplace.

Additionally, as well as my -- my previous colleague mentioned, is that there is enormous opportunity in the veteran-owned community because of the fact that many of them have been abroad, they're comfortable, they've been doing business, interacting in

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places of different language, and different customs, and different rules, so we -- we have found and even my previous experience at Exim Bank is that you will find a lot of veteran-owned businesses who are actively engaged already in trade and exporting or who are looking at it because of their experiences abroad. So any questions, I'm happy to take them from you.

MS. ROTH-DOUQUET: What are some of the greatest areas of opportunity do you see for veteranowned small business, in particular what areas of operations?

MR. VIDAL: Well, you know, what is -- where we see a lot of veteran-owned business is obviously engaged in military communities throughout the United States, they're working as -- you know, if you look at, for example, Norfolk and Virginia Beach you're looking at a lot of veteran-owned communities that are taking and providing services to U.S. government to contractors or -- or others who are then exporting abroad, and I think broadening that ability to take and help them to obtain financing so they can continue to win those contracts and provide those services and product, then be exported abroad in these military communities is very important.

Additionally, as well, is that, you know, one of my -- one of my -- one of my colleagues is at DOD and programs and the folks who are utilizing our programs you're seeing a lot of manufacturers, you're seeing a lot of manufacturers and you're seeing a lot of wholesale and trading companies that are taking and utilizing our program.

Service companies, you know, I -- and I -- I would say technology companies have a huge advance, because they don't need to take and ship through a port. They don't need to go through customs, they can just take an e-mail there, that they can send over the keys for a software product or development overseas, so they have a huge advantage over our manufactures, but right now traditionally you're seeing wholesalers, traders, and manufacturers predominantly using our programs and there's enormous opportunity for more so.

I would say that engineering firms have been adversely impacted by the oil and natural gas markets right now, but they were heavily involved, you know, up until a year or so ago.

MR. O'FARRELL: Has there ever been any -- any thought -- we've -- we've -- Jim O'Farrell. We've talked in almost every meeting about boots to business. Has there ever been a discussion about a similar type of boots to business, but for entrepreneurs and veteranowned business that are a little further in their life

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she works in the Office of Economic Adjustment and they go into areas where there are realignments, base realignments and other types of military installation changes that the effects the local economy, those are excellent opportunities where SBA -- where we are already working through our SBDICs in other parts of the agency, but we could do more to help them to take in and that and in changing there in terms of products and services to be more export driven.

MR. MCADAMS: Rich McAdams. I'm just curious, you mentioned services also, do you have a sense what is the mix, services versus products, in terms of dollar revenue percentage-wise?

14 MR. VIDAL: For -- for the overall? 15 MR. MCADAMS: That are being exported. 16 MR. VIDAL: You know, I -- I don't have -- I don't have a -- a -- well, it -- so everything's a 17 18 little skewed, because of the fact that overall what the 19 data you find, I can tell you this, is that in -- in 20 itself you look at the data and the big-ticket items, 21 the GE plane or the GE motors and -- and machinery,

those large capital goods really skew the overall 23 numbers and I -- and I think that really when you see it 24 geographically is where you're going to really see what

the unique mix is for -- I -- I can tell you from SBA's 25

cycle to get an education, get a three-day workshop on how to do business overseas?

MR. VIDAL: (No response.)

MR. O'FARRELL: Well, is that what she's here to --

MR. VIDAL: Yeah.

MR. O'FARRELL: -- talk about?

MS. ASHE: Um-hum.

MR. O'FARRELL: Great. Thanks.

MR. PHIPPS: Michael Phipps. David, are -- are you able to -- and I know you won't be able to do it sitting here in front of us, but are you able to extract the breakdown of the business sizes, in particular veteran-owned businesses from your export data, is that something that your office would be able to --

MR. VIDAL: I -- I can look into it. You know, the tracking I -- I think we have maybe some ways to flag veteran-owned businesses from an SBA perspective, but from terms of the larger economic data I'd have to reach out to census and see what they -- and commerce, see what they have, but I'm more than happy to get that.

MR. PHIPPS: -- thank you. That's one of the -one of our goals is to see, you know, is there veteranowned businesses exporting and how can we use that data to make the recommendations for programs like yours.

MS. CARSON: Murat, could you answer that question in the microphone?

MR. MUFTARI: To the -- to the data -- to the two data questions and a followup to this meeting, we -- we try to link, it's called, trade stats express, it's on our export.gov website, but you can filter down that data by market, by year, by industry, by country, you know, you can filter it down many ways. You know, again it's -- you know, it's kind of a -- it depends on what you're talking about specifically, so --

MR. PHIPPS: Um-hum.

MR. MUFTARI: -- but to the second question on veterans, something that we're trying to do and one of meetings tomorrow here is we have a woman-owned and a minority-owned tag where we can track exports, we're -- we're advocating to get a veteran-owned business tag, but what we've kind of changed too is, at least in commerce is, we're kind of getting away from the -- the -- the quantitative type of stories and -- and data and really turning to the qualitative -- you know, the -- the true stories coming from -- from veteran business owners and we're converting them to what we call -- you know, we do little three-minute veteran-owned business success stories and let the -- let the owners -- business owners actually talk about their experience.

you the bottom line up front, this program make matching-fund awards, financial awards on a competitive basis, this is not a formula-driven program, to state and -- and -- excuse me, state and territory governments to assist eligible small businesses to succeed in the international marketplace.

Now, just two weeks ago this program ended it's pilot status when the president enacted a -- a bill into law and we became a permanent provision of the Small Business Act, section 33 lima, okay, so our mission is two-fold, as you can see at the bottom of the slide. Number one is to increase the number of small-business exporters, secondly to increase the dollar value of small-business exporters and of course exports, which, of course, would include current exporters and -- and their businesses.

Next slide, please. Eligibility is fundamental to the STEP program and we worked with congress to craft these eligibility elements. An eligible small-business concern, which is the statutory terms, oftentimes we call them just STEP clients. Okay. So these aren't the governments, these are the small businesses that -- that we award money to, the state governments, state and territory, and then they recruit STEP clients.

They must be organized and -- and -- or

MR. PHIPPS: All right. David, thank you very much, we appreciate it.

MR. VIDAL: Okay. Thank you all for your time. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Thank you.

MR. PHIPPS: Next speaking, Gene Stewman from the Office of International Trade staff.

MR. STEWMAN: That one right there, that does look like a face. Thank you, Barb. And I know it's coming up in just a second, so I'll just wait for a cover slide. Well, you have it in front of you as well, so I do want to share that I am particularly pleased to address this audience.

In addition to being a military dependent, at age 17 I joined the service and I served for over 30 years in the active and reserve service of the United States Air Force, some of which was concomitant with my time here at the SBA, so I certainly understand your constituents and I'd like to share with you what I find and -- and is often reported, particularly by the -- the awardees, the state governments, a fantastic program to assist small businesses.

We are laser focused on helping small businesses to find their next customer, because all of them need to sell more of their stuff, particularly overseas. All right. So first of all I want to give incorporated in the U.S., they must be operating in the U.S., they must meet the SBA size standard for their industry or the alternate size standard for the loan program, they must have been in business for no less than one year at the time of which they receive STEP assistance. So they can be recruited, they can ask questions, they can fill in an application, but until they've got one year as a -- a small business -- or a small business, they will not receive reimbursement under the STEP program.

And, of course, they also have to have access to enough resources on their own to bear the cost of exporting. You may be well aware, I don't know your --your personal backgrounds, your business backgrounds, whether or not you realize that exporting is more costly than a domestic, you know, either brick-and mortar or even an online business, there are some additional expenses as well as responsibilities that have to be met.

Next slide, please. So how does the STEP help small businesses? And here -- here are the best ways to encapsulate that answer, we help them learn how to export, we help them participate in foreign-trade missions as well as trade-show exhibitions, we help them obtain the services to -- to support their entry into

foreign markets, and most of these are Department of Commerce subscription services such as Gold Key, International Partner Search, things of that nature.

We also help them develop websites to attract foreign buyers, whether this is the creation of the website, or translation to a foreign language from their existing site, localization to a particular market, as well as search-engine optimization, and we also assist them in designing international marketing media.

I thought I'd put just a couple of accomplishments for the first two years that are completed in the reporting. During the first two award years of STEP, which -- in which we awarded 58.9 million, almost 59 million to 51, 52 states, it -- it varied during -- during the two different years, the eligible small-business concerns or STEP clients participated in over 32,000 export activities supported by the STEP.

Okay. The sales reported by those small businesses to the states and/or territories and reported to us were new export sales of over -- or almost 1.2 billion dollars, okay, input less -- almost 59 million, output almost 1.2 billion dollars, that's a -- that's a return on the federal taxpayer dollar of over 19 to one. I don't know how many of -- of you are aware of other

clients.

If you know much about a grant appropriation law and grant-cost principals, there is a wide opportunity for using funds for a lot of different things and when I realized that, because I'm not a grants-management person, I said, wait a second, we need to focus this money to where it really ought to be going, and that is let's target the small businesses themselves.

And so you can see my target metaphor there, that's an archery target, and we are going to do -- and so this has -- this has been my mantra for the last two years, we want you, the small business, state governments, and territory -- excuse me. We want the state governments and the territory governments to propose and we will only approve the applications that are going to hit the bull's-eye, which are the small businesses themselves, or the first concentric ring outside the bull's-eye.

Even though all the way out to the very edge of that target is allowable under law, we're not going to allow it, okay, we want to focus in, and so the direct benefit rule is something we instituted last year and they have to prove to us during the application process that they are going to target at least 90 percent of the

federal programs that have that kind of a return on investment, I'm pretty darn impressed and I hope that everyone else is too, and we -- I've got an early view into later years where -- where we have now done three completed years and the third year is actually even

Okay. All right. Next slide. Well, as for us veteran types, you know, it's time for us to look at a picture. And so here's my picture, and it is of the U.S., and -- and what I want to convey is this is a national program and so what you will see there in the blue circles are the number of small businesses -- U.S. small businesses that have made a sale supported by the STEP. Okay. That's almost 7,000 you see there and, of course, that's just years one and years two. Okay. Year one, by the way, also was our very first year, and of course we had, you know, a little bit of trouble getting out of the gate, and so, again, third -- the third year is going to be even better.

Let's take a -- a look at the -- the next slide. Over the past two-and-a-half years, since I've been the director, we have made numerous improvements in the efficiency and the effectiveness of the program and here's where we are heading this year, we are going -- we are focusing STEP funds to directly benefit the STEP

federal award to hit either the bull's eye or the first concentric ring.

Okay. Now, I want 100 percent, but if you'll -- if you'll just consider the fact that two years ago, just prior to me coming onboard, there were some states that were only getting 24 or less than 50 percent to the target, then you realize I need to baby-step these people.

You know, I don't want any, you know, of the states to actually implode, I really do want them as partners to help their state economies, to help the national economy, and so we're on a march to 100 percent and this year it's at 90 percent. So the bull's eye covers costs that are directly borne by those STEP clients, the small businesses, to -- to participate in the activities that we covered previously, learn how to export and then -- and export activity where you get in front of a foreign buyer.

And then the first concentric ring, to build what I call the pipeline of STEP clients, we do allow the state awardees to -- and the -- and the state and territory awardees to travel around and to expend money to build that -- that pipeline. We also allow them to contract services which would be more efficiently paid for by a state government, a single entity, rather than

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 each small business going on a trade mission contracting for an interpreter. No, let's do one contract, and so I also allow that to be included as a direct benefit to the small-business clients.

Okay. All right. Let's look at our next page. All right. Here's the call to action, everybody, how to find your next global customer, and this is how we convey it to the small businesses. First, visit the SBA STEP page and there's the link.

Okay. So we have our very own webpage and there's a nice little U.S. map there. Click on your state or territory on the U.S. map, find out if you have -- if that state has a current award, because not every state has one. We have -- currently 40 of the 56 eligible states and territories have awards that are executing this year. We also have an -- an application process that is underway for awards given this year and then executed in the following year.

Once you find out that you have a -- an active award or your state has an active award, when you click on that you'll get information on what that state has been approved to do and who they can contact, and so the last call to action is to call or e-mail that point of contact at the state or -- or territory government to obtain the next steps to participate in their STEP

really de minimis activity there, is there an explanation for that, is it --

MR. STEWMAN: Sure. Sure. Okay. So the premise is not quite exactly right of your question and -- and the premise is that this is the activities. No, these are just -- these -- the small businesses who made a sale, there's a lot of activity. Particularly in the first year there was a lot of training activities, but when you train and you -- and you learn something, you go, but you don't exactly make a sale like that.

Okay. The second thing you -- also to keep in mind here is that export sales, particularly if you're new, takes about six-to-eight months to get your very first one. Wow. Yeah, that's a lot different than just setting up shop, you know, on a corner in a -- in a strip mall, opening the doors, and you get -- start filtering in, you make sales right then.

Export sales are not quick if you're not used to it. Once you have broken into your first market, making a sale in the next market is not -- does not take as long on average, but it still is not just like walking down or going into a CVS, or whatever, and making a sales.

So let me make sure, because I've said a -- a big paragraph there, this doesn't represent activities,

activities that have been approved by us.

Okay. All right. Next is question and answer, if we have a -- a couple of minutes for that, Barb, but just prior to that, before I get the first question, I want to send something that we've crafted just recently, I'll send it both this way and that way, which is a small flier which basically encapsulates the -- that call to action slide, and so we are sending this through multiple channels of distribution so that we can get to the eligible small businesses.

And I consider you collectively a channel of distribution, okay, so you, please, get these to your veteran-owned, service-disabled owned, et cetera, small businesses so that they -- they can then also go to our webpage, check out their state, whether or not they have an -- an award, and then contact the -- the state representative to see how they can be eligible and participate. That's the presentation. Okay. Any questions that I may answer?

MR. AUMENT: Yes, Ron Aument. The -- the -- the map that you had displayed that showed the distribution of the STEP activities, a state-by-state basis, I was a little surprised to see, for example, Pennsylvania having 50 percent more activity than California and Texas having, you know -- you know,

these are just the small businesses that reported a sale from all of the activities which are much greater than this. We never had 32,000 activities, this is 7,000 small businesses that made a sale, see the difference?

MR. AUMENT: -- I'm pushing. MR. STEWMAN: Could I --

MR. O'FARRELL: Yeah, this is Jim O'Farrell. I -- I -- I -- I'm -- I appreciate the correction there --

- I -- I -- I m -- I appreciate the correction there MR. STEWMAN: Yeah.

MR. SIEWMAN: Team

MR. O'FARRELL: -- but I still don't understand why then there are that many more sales in Pennsylvania than -- than in Texas.

MR. STEWMAN: Okay. All right. Well, then I'll -- I'll -- I'll go another level deeper, we expect -- and I tell the states and the territory governments this, we expect them to provide or propose an application that takes advantage of the -- or -- or leverages the advantages of their state economy for exports and also addresses their needs, okay, so they're not all the same. They come in with a unique or a -- a specific proposal which may not bear any resemblance between California and Pennsylvania, so it -- it is not appropriate, in my opinion, to kind of compare and say, well, why the difference.

MR. O'FARRELL: Jim O'Farrell and I maybe try

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to couch the question a different way.

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MR. STEWMAN: Yeah.

MR. O'FARRELL: What -- what is it that Pennsylvania is doing that has achieved that success, which is about 12 percent of the total of the -- of the entire country?

MR. STEWMAN: Okay.

MR. O'FARRELL: That's -- that's part one. And part two, a separate question, what percent of any of these -- of the blue circles are veteran-owned companies, do you know that?

MR. STEWMAN: I -- I do not know that. The -the -- actually, I'll -- I'll take that last piece and I will expand on something that I wanted to share that I didn't in the presentation.

So remember, this is a brand new program, okay, it's only been around four years total, and it has the usual growing pains, okay, and the data is not that robust, every year and baby-step our way into a better future is -- has been my mantra since I walked in the door. And we are better at data, but we are not to the quality of the data that we -- that I would like, and -and we have, you know, further steps going forward.

This year in the program announcement, which is on the street right now, is a -- an encouragement is

For -- for instance, Florida, they have 271 in years one and two. Year three they didn't have an award and I was surprised, because they're actually a pretty strong state, but they didn't need the money anymore. They communicated to us that the -- that their state legislature -- well, the -- the STEP, our program, helped them develop a particular program and a niche that the state legislature said -- legislature said, wow, that's really great, let's fund that, they didn't have -- they didn't -- felt they didn't have to come in for another award, so -- so when I put the data on top of the years one and two, one of the answers is why a difference is. Well, not everybody got an -- an award every year. Okay. So those are some of the reasons

One other thing I'll -- I'll touch on and that is Pennsylvania has a very strong overseas state office presence, California doesn't have the same. Okay. So they -- so I could conclude from that, that the -- the Pennsylvania state office network and the regional export network within the state perhaps, because I don't want to denigrate California, they're a great exporter too, they export actually more dollars per year than does Pennsylvania, by the way, that perhaps it was that Pennsylvania was able to get off on a quicker start

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probably the best way of saying this. An encouragement that they address some of the under-served markets, okay, the socially and economically under-served, the women's owned, the veteran, to include the disabled community, and rural, okay, so that's an emphasis that is new this year.

No data has ever been collected yet that indicates which of these businesses were or were not women owned, or veteran owned, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera, so I cannot answer that, your -- your second question. And your first question was about --

MR. O'FARRELL: (Inaudible.) MR. STEWMAN: -- go ahead.

MR. O'FARRELL: (Inaudible.)

MR. STEWMAN: Oh. Okay. All right. So another -- I'll -- I'll repeat it back, so what it -what might Pennsylvania be doing differently or -and/or better and it's -- it's not better, it's just different. And if we were to look at the year three, which the data is now coming in and we're almost ready to -- to publish it, it may have been -- it may have been reversed, okay, and it's -- it's a -- I would say

that it reflects the difference in the emphasis of the state for what they are asking for federal assistance

for.

based on what they proposed versus a California or a Texas.

Okay. Other questions, I hope there's another one different than this map. I'm starting to say, oh, maybe I shouldn't have put up my picture.

MR. PHIPPS: No, it's a great map. Michael Phipps.

MR. STEWMAN: Yes.

that will make differences.

MR. PHIPPS: So when you're funding money at the state level do you guys have a certain set of metrics that you require the states to perform to and -and what metrics do the states report back to you?

MR. STEWMAN: Okay. So the measures and metric. Okay. So the measures that they report back would be the participation by the type of exporter. So we have two types, new to exporting and then the market expansion, okay, so -- and you could probably discern that from the earlier commentary in the slides.

New to export, they have never done this or they have only done it accidentally. You know, their friend, Linda, moved to Canada, and she used to buy the stuff, and she's now in Canada, she says -- writes back and say, please send me the stuff, I just can't live without it, and you send it, and all of a sudden you're an exporter, but it's accidental, it's not on purpose,

there's no strategy behind it, so those domestic businesses that are export ready, they want to develop or -- or develop themselves into being export ready, would be the new to exports.

Okay. And then the market expansion are those who are already in Mexico or already in -- in Canada, which, by the way, are the two largest markets for our small businesses, because of the opportunity that we provide them they're willing to take a chance and go to South America, or to Europe, or elsewhere. Okay. So those are the two.

So they report back on the particular activity that they have completed, which we have pre-approved, okay, which would be trade missions, trade shows, foreign-market sales trips, things of that nature, the purposes that I've already mentioned, and then the number of small businesses that have participated by type, and then the reported export sales on an actual basis, so when an -- and, again, remember, I -- as I mentioned, it takes a long -- there's a long curve for a new exporter.

For a -- a current exporter it's not very long at all, so I ask them to report two -- at least two times and most states do at least two, sometimes three, in contacting the small-business STEP client and asking

state, it has to be sufficient enough to actually make a difference. If you give everybody \$10,000, they're going to go, so what, who cares, you know, all right, so it has to be a -- a certain amount.

And so our -- our average runs from about \$333,000 to about \$450,000 over the three years that we've already executed, but we went from three million dollars for the first couple of years of authorized and appropriated to eight million dollars the -- the third year, and we're currently working on an 18 million dollar appropriation, so you see it's kind of been a bit up and down. Okay. Other questions or did I answer fully your -- your question?

(No response.)

MR. STEWMAN: Yes, ma'am.

MS. ASHE: Hi. I'm Barbara Ashe and I just wanted to follow up with you. I know our State of Maryland uses the STEP program.

MR. STEWMAN: Yeah.

MS. ASHE: So thank you so much for that.

21 MR. STEWMAN: Um-hum.

MS. ASHE: And good to see our numbers, but I just wanted to comment, it might be helpful.

MR. STEWMAN: Um-hum.

MS. ASHE: Our experience has been to your

for an update on -- well, have anymore sales been actualized based on this STEP-supported activity and if so, that again comes once a quarter to us, so those are -- those are the measures.

The metric is the return on investment, okay, and I think that's a wonderful -- like, I'm also head of private sector half a career while I was reservist and the -- the -- I believe that that is a wonderful metric that shows the efficiency and the effectiveness of the -- of the program in dollar terms, hard dollar terms. Okay. So those are the measures in metrics.

MR. PHIPPS: Was the -- I think it was 58 million dollars, is that the --

MR. STEWMAN: Yeah.

MR. PHIPPS: -- total funding of your whole program or is that just what you give to the states?

MR. STEWMAN: Oh, that's a really good question. The reason why I think it's a good question is that my team is extremely small and under-resourced, so I wonder, okay, how are we going to grow, but one of the -- okay. I want to be careful, but I want to answer your question.

Okay. Why are we not doing 50 -- no, we're 56 awards this year, my team can't handle it plus 18 million dollars -- if we're going to make an award to a

point that sometimes they apply for a grant because the governor or county executive is planning a big international trade --

MR. STEWMAN: Um-hum.

 $\label{eq:MS.ASHE: -- mission and they want to use STEP} \ to help their small business.$

(Audio cut out, lost power in the room.)

MR. PHIPPS: Okay. We're back on. So we left off with Gene Stewman finishing up his remarks. Gene, did you --

MR. STEWMAN: Actually, I think I might have either had a question or a comment from Maryland.

MS. ASHE: You want me to do it?

MR. PHIPPS: -- Yeah.

MS. ASHE: Okay. We'll see, I apologize where we -- but I just wanted -- I thought it might be helpful to answer what Jim had -- had brought up and just trying to understand. I can tell you from our experience in just tapping into the STEP program it takes a long time to pull together the grant and then you're -- usually you're doing it for a specific, you know, experience or for, you know, a specific outcome and so you'll --

TELEPHONE RECORDING: Your conference is ending now. As requested by the host, please hang up.

MS. ASHE: -- just keep going?

51 (Pages 201 to 204)

| | | 1 | |
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| | 205 | | 207 |
| 1 | MR. PHIPPS: Yeah. | 1 | MR. PHIPPS: Gene, thank you very much. |
| 2 | MS. ASHE: Okay. | 2 | MR. STEWMAN: And thank you all. |
| 3 | MR. PHIPPS: Go ahead. | 3 | MR. PHIPPS: We appreciate it. |
| 4 | MS. ASHE: I am nothing but well well, | 4 | UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Thank you. |
| 5 | you know, I have yet to begun, but so what happens | 5 | MS. CARSON: And I am pleased you've just |
| 6 | is, is that you ramp up, you get the STEP grant, you | 6 | heard from Barbara Ashe, but I wanted to let you know |
| 7 | have a focus, you're going on a trade mission to China, | 7 | she's not on the agenda, but that's just my omission, my |
| 8 | you get your businesses to tap into it, you you | 8 | apologies. I would love for you to speak about what our |
| 9 | you you know, you negotiate on the grant how they're | 9 | activities are together in relation to international |
| 10 | going to tap into it, and then you go to China. | 10 | trade. |
| 11 | Well, you you just can't sustain that, that | 11 | For those of you here, we are in the second |
| 12 | level of engagement necessarily with the state resources | 12 | year of a three-year grant with the Montgomery County |
| 13 | | 13 | Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Veterans' Institute for |
| | they have in their international office, so you'll see | 1 | |
| 14 | this unevenness | 14 | Procurement. That first year we continued the work |
| 15 | MR. STEWMAN: Um-hum. | 15 | through this grant to expand the work that Barbara is |
| 16 | MS. ASHE: if if I think that that's | 16 | already leading as executive director and trained 150 |
| 17 | what I see. And then if if there's a change out in | 17 | veteran business owners with assistance |
| 18 | governors or leadership, and then there's a gap, and | 18 | MS. ASHE: That's correct. |
| 19 | then they don't apply for six months, if if they | 19 | MS. CARSON: from SBA in the first year. |
| 20 | missed it | 20 | The second year we continued that work, but also she was |
| 21 | MR. STEWMAN: Um-hum. | 21 | open-minded and is going to tell you about one of the |
| 22 | MS. ASHE: so there is a little bit of | 22 | two curricula that we're developing and one is going to |
| 23 | and it's not I think you're absolutely right that | 23 | perform actually for the first time next month, that's |
| 24 | states as soon as you started talking I think that's | 24 | VIP start for the beginning of the procurement success, |
| 25 | what we have seen actually happen on the ground is that | 25 | we already spoke about that briefly this morning. |
| | | | |
| | 206 | | 208 |
| 1 | there's a focus, the governor's going to China, all | 1 | MS. ASHE: Um-hum. |
| 2 | you know, we're going there, but it's not like it's | 2 | MS. CARSON: This one this afternoon we're |
| 3 | every year there's another big trade mission | 3 | going to talk about international trade, not just |
| 4 | MR. STEWMAN: Um-hum. | 4 | procurement, because OCON sure, there's going to be |
| 5 | MS. ASHE: and so that's why there's a gap. | 5 | some development there, but this is international trade. |
| 6 | MR. STEWMAN: Um-hum. | 6 | So, Barbara, I'm going to turn it over to you to tell us |
| 7 | MS. ASHE: And and I don't think you need to | 7 | about how that's coming and what to expect from it. |
| 8 | read into it, at least our experience, that someone's | 8 | MS. ASHE: Sure, I'd be happy to and we're very |
| 9 | doing it better, it's just uneven | 9 | excited about it. I thought in terms of OCON is I I |
| 10 | MR. STEWMAN: Right. | 10 | thought it might be helpful using Bloomberg Government, |
| 11 | MS. ASHE: naturally. | 11 | they're our data partners just on the procurement side. |
| 12 | MR. STEWMAN: Um-hum. | 12 | About 40 billion dollars of procurement is overseas |
| 13 | MS. ASHE: So I thought that might be helpful. | 13 | work, so that's work that's awarded by the Unites States |
| 14 | MR. STEWMAN: Yeah. Yeah, thank you very much. | 14 | government, but performed overseas, so that's the and |
| 15 | MS. ASHE: I don't. | 15 | that's about 10 percent of procurement dollars. |
| 16 | MR. STEWMAN: Again, the proposed and approved | 16 | So the VIP International is going to focus on |
| 17 | activities reflect the needs of the export | 17 | helping veteran-owed business veteran-owned small |
| 18 | MS. ASHE: Yeah. | 18 | businesses. I sell goods and services not only to the |
| 19 | MR. STEWMAN: economy of each state and | 19 | federal government, but we also know once they get |
| 20 | leverages the advantages of their export economy. | 20 | overseas they're going to develop relationships and we |
| 21 | MS. ASHE: Yeah, it's a great resource. | 21 | want to encourage that, but there's a whole other set of |
| 22 | MR. STEWMAN: Yeah. Anything else? | 22 | risks once you are no longer doing business with the |
| 23 | MR. PHIPPS: More questions for Gene? | 23 | U.S. government that you need to understand and prepare |
| /. 1 | | ı - 5 | 2.5. 50 reminent that you need to understand and prepare |
| | | 24 | vourself for if that is the case. |
| 24 | (No response.) | 24 25 | yourself for if that is the case. And and so the program is going to be based |
| | | 24 25 | yourself for if that is the case. And and so the program is going to be based |

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on what we have found to very successful, is bringing in market-based industry experts that -- in a classroom environment over several days, that will first, of course as always, focus on not only opportunities, but risk, so that you can mitigate those risks, because we all know business mistakes are very expensive, but they -- they can be particularly expensive when you're trying to procure and export goods.

So that is the focus and it -- we were going to, as part of the curriculum, of course, is, you know, bring in the resources that you have heard about today from UC AC, from the Department of Commerce, the export assistance, which is incredibly supportive, you're -you're -- you're -- I just can't imagine not using them to enter a market, as well as the SBA resources, and so letting them understand what is available as a small business to -- to expand into new markets or -- or existing markets.

I don't know how much detail you would want me to go into, I can give you a snapshot that might be helpful. So we have 591 graduates over 38 states and two territories that have participated up to -- to this point over seven years. We did just -- since we've been talking to SBA about expanding it, it really just came to light in changing -- with the change in the smallan expert in finance, accounting, legal, insurance.

I mean, everything changes and chances are you're not going to have the same person that's an expert domestically that's also an expert in every market, it just doesn't happen, and so you have to develop those relationships and those resources.

So what we found out in just these last few classes, in the incoming class in June we only have 25 applicants at this point, but based on those applicants we've accepted 37 percent of just those 25 are doing international work, so I think it -- it's very -- I mean, I just -- you know, it's amazing to me the opportunity that's there and I'm sure the Department of Commerce and -- and SBA, you know, should be thrilled that, you know, you -- the veterans are more inclined, I

I mean, that percentage -- if we were to survey any other class of businesses you could not get that percentage, I don't think, so we're excited to be able to help them more successfully not only expand, but how about the other 50 percent that weren't, and they already have mentors perhaps that -- that are already doing it.

So the goal of VIP International is not only to enter, but to expand. You could already be doing it,

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business calculation of the score card is how it started.

So just starting in the last two classes that we hosted, and we have one coming up in June, so in October as well as in our class we just had last week we changed our application to ask, sort of mid-summer, you know, so we didn't capture everybody, just to get a sense of, you know -- you know, what percentage of our applicants that are currently coming into VIP do international work, because we had never asked that.

And what was interesting, what we found out is that in this last class over 40 percent are already doing international work and in our class in October 55 percent were doing international work. So I will tell you what we have been telling them up to this point, international is so different than doing business, you know, domestically.

I mean, it's just -- everything's different, you probably need new banking, like -- I mean, there -you know, your community bank will not finance you most likely, very -- it's going to be very difficult and that's where most of small business have their relationships usually, is that they -- they are already doing it, but we tell them, don't dabble, you know, that if you're going to do international work you better find

1 but it could be, you know, the Linda story. We don't 2 know, you know, how extensive the international work is,

3 but it also could be an opportunity to enter new markets 4

and it's the -- two-thirds of the class is going to be 5 focused on winning work with the federal government

6 OCONUS, but knowing that once you get over there that 7 you are likely to -- to build relationships on the 8

So one-third of the program will be on now you're not doing business with the U.S. government, what has changed in terms of your risk, and how do you mitigate that, and what questions do you need to know, and, you know, how do you arm yourself with that information, so that's the goal of the program. Questions, I'd be happy to -- or fill in.

MS. CARSON: Okay. And I was going to say I'm really grateful to represent the Department of Commerce for finding us all together, the potential synergy between the agencies and others. So -- and now that you've heard something that's new and cutting edge, if you think of other places where we should definitely connect and make this a powerful resource I'd be grateful for that input and I'm sure you would as well.

MS. ASHE: Oh, absolutely. MS. CARSON: Thanks.

53 (Pages 209 to 212)

| | 213 | | 215 |
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| 1 | MR. GARCIA: Barb, John here. So I just got | 1 | MS. ASHE: Yes. |
| 2 | one question on international. It's not just going to | 2 | MR. GARCIA: who you talk to, it's just |
| 3 | do business, but do you also teach or show protocol, how | 3 | MS. ASHE: And how |
| 4 | to do business? | 4 | MR. GARCIA: and |
| 5 | MS. ASHE: (No response.) | 5 | MS. ASHE: you cross |
| 6 | MR. GARCIA: I mean, you know, it's not | 6 | MR. GARCIA: many times |
| 7 | MS. ASHE: For the | 7 | MS. ASHE: your leg and |
| 8 | MR. GARCIA: walking in. | 8 | MR. GARCIA: we here |
| 9 | MS. ASHE: international? | 9 | MS. ASHE: um-hum. |
| 10 | MR. GARCIA: You don't go in just very | 10 | MR. GARCIA: don't understand that. |
| 11 | arrogantly, it's | 11 | MS. ASHE: That's right. |
| 12 | MS. ASHE: Yeah. | 12 | MR. GARCIA: And then, you know, I don't know |
| 13 | MR. GARCIA: there's got to be a sense of | 13 | if |
| 14 | protocol, how to hand your business card, or | 14 | MS. ASHE: Yeah. |
| 15 | MS. ASHE: Yeah. | 15 | MR. GARCIA: if this wall's |
| 16 | MR. GARCIA: who you talk to, or what, do | 16 | MS. ASHE: Well |
| 17 | you | 17 | MR. GARCIA: going up 10, 20-feet higher up, |
| 18 | MS. ASHE: Yeah. | 18 | what's that going to do internationally? |
| 19 | MR. GARCIA: do you have | 19 | MS. ASHE: exactly. |
| 20 | MS. ASHE: It's it's actually | 20 | MR. GARCIA: You know |
| 21 | infused. It's funny that you would say that, because | 21 | MS. ASHE: And that's |
| 22 | that actually came out of Lockheed Martin sits on the | 22 | MR. GARCIA: it sends |
| 23 | curriculum committee, and they were very adamant about | 23 | MS. ASHE: where UC AC |
| 24 | that, and and others chimed in as well, and that's | 24 | MR. GARCIA: bad repercussions |
| 25 | actually I brought the curriculum, it's in draft form | 25 | MS. ASHE: is |
| | actually 1 brought the curriculum, it's in that form | | NIS. ASTIL 15 |
| | 214 | | 216 |
| 1 | still here, but that's day one, first hour, and then | 1 | MR. GARCIA: out there. |
| 2 | it's infused, so spot on. | 2 | MS. ASHE: such a great resource, because, |
| 3 | MR. GARCIA: Okay. | 3 | you know |
| 4 | MS. ASHE: Spot on, because they that is | 4 | MR. GARCIA: Yeah. |
| 5 | one of their biggest concerns with subcontracting is | 5 | MS. ASHE: the first thing you should do is, |
| 6 | that, you know, not only do you it's you know, | 6 | you know, your Department of Commerce can, you know, and |
| 7 | there's as you can imagine, you know, it it | 7 | the export assistance, you know, bring you up to speed |
| 8 | it's so important to to any prime contractor that | 8 | very quickly, and be that advocate, and also in terms of |
| 9 | their subs understand and appreciate the protocols of | 9 | offering those, you know, services in terms of |
| 10 | their customer, where they're going, so anyway, so | 10 | interpretation and and vetting. You know, so it's |
| 11 | thank you for | 11 | really hard when you're a small business, you think |
| 12 | MR. GARCIA: You know, I just found a just a | 12 | about how hard it is to find your teaming partners here, |
| 13 | sidebar note, trying to business in Mexico a lot of | 13 | right, you know, that's hard enough, and now all of a |
| 14 | times we'd go in there and and many times these guys | 14 | sudden you're performing work in Mexico. |
| 15 | have been educated at Rice, Harvard, Stanford, they | 15 | Well, how do you know if this company that they |
| 16 | speak English very fluently, but they won't speak | 16 | want me to work with is legit, right, well, that's where |
| 17 | English because they think if we're talking English | 17 | the Department of Commerce, they they they can |
| 18 | they're going to hear | 18 | help you. If they don't know that company, they |
| 19 | MS. ASHE: yeah. | 19 | certainly have folks in in most of the major |
| 20 | MR. GARCIA: what you're saying. | 20 | commerce, you know, areas where we're doing trade can be |
| 21 | MS. ASHE: Yeah. | 21 | a resource, because you just don't have those resources |
| 22 | MR. GARCIA: But then when we'd have some | 22 | here, but it it it's but what we have it |
| 23 | Japanese come in, you know, just the the way they're | 23 | it appears in in our data that, you know, veterans, |
| 24 | presenting their card to you or you to them was very | 24 | which have oftentimes served, you know, outside of the |
| 25 | important to them and | 25 | U.S., you know, certainly have the intestinal fortitude, |
| | | | |

and the experience, and the leadership, and the ability
to understand that they need to understand risk any time
they go into something new and it's just giving them the
resources that they need to -- to expand, so I think
they are uniquely qualified to -- to really be our
leaders in international exports, I really do, so --

investing piece at all?

MR. ZACCHEA: Barb, Mike -- Mike Zacchea. Two -- two things and they're related. The first thing is that it strikes me that we're really talking about developing a cultural intelligence program. Similar to what Murat did, I -- I -- I did some special operations in Iraq and the cultural intelligence piece when we -- we were doing business with Iraqi businessmen is extraordinarily important.

The second part is there's a reverse dynamic here. In Connecticut I work with a law firm that specializes in EB-5 investing and the lawyer there that I work with, she has -- well, she tells me she has hundreds of clients who are trying to bring money into the United States to partner with American businesses and my part of that is that I would connect her to veteran-owned businesses to create these foreign-investor partnerships, so do you do anything with that or does SBA have a program that touches on the EB-5

vet them, and -- and so you can mitigate risk, and cost, and -- and international work.

MR. ZACCHEA: The -- the immigration service runs the EB-5 program, but what I think is the problem and why we're doing this at the local level is because there's no programmatic connection between that and veteran-owned business or access to capital, so I think that that --

MS. ASHE: Um-hum.

MR. ZACCHEA: -- personally, just based on my experience, I think that there's an opportunity there in the future.

MS. ASHE: And who would I contact, how would I learn more about that?

MR. ZACCHEA: (No response.)

MS. ASHE: I'm not familiar, so I don't know.

17 I mean, I --

MR. ZACCHEA: I -- I --

19 MS. ASHE: -- knows it -- it's -- okay.

20 MR. ZACCHEA: -- right, I -- I can get you the information --

22 MS. ASHE: Okay.

MR. ZACCHEA: -- but there's --

MS. ASHE: Then --

MR. ZACCHEA: -- you know, there's a whole

MS. ASHE: -- we -- we are not focused on that, so we are focused on export primarily -- well, 100 percent. I mean, other things can happen once you start those relationships though, right, so then all of a sudden you -- you open up all kinds of opportunities, right, so we are going to be able to -- probably at some point we'll be able to tie it back to an EBV, right, you know, an EB-5, you know, program, but our focus for these three days is going to be on contracting, performing work overseas on awards that are from the federal government, and then also commercial work that you may acquire through -- through your work overseas.

So it's going to be just exports in that sense, but it's hard to, you know, say how it started when you got that relationship and what it -- you know, the -- the force multiplier in all of that, right. And that's what we've seen on a commercial -- you know, in general in -- in businesses is, once you get people comfortable and successful then they're open to other opportunities, which is -- which is good, but you -- you have to know what you're getting into and you have to have those resources.

You mentioned, you know, an attorney, so a big part of this is -- you know, once again is knowing who to call, what resources, who are the experts, how do you

1 society and a --

MS. ASHE: -- sure.

MR. ZACCHEA: -- group of industry association that does --

MS. ASHE: Um-hum.

MR. ZACCHEA: -- this, and, you know, there's an RSS feed, and you get all this stuff, and they have conferences, et cetera.

MS. ASHE: Okay.

MR. ZACCHEA: So I'm connected to all those people, but -- and there -- there is a very specific set of legal practices that do just this work --

MS. ASHE: Okay.

MR. ZACCHEA: -- so --

MS. ASHE: Yeah, I'd -- I'd welcome --

16 MR. ZACCHEA: -- sure.

MS. ASHE: -- that information. Thank you.

MR. PHIPPS: Barbara, this is Michael Phipps.

Can you give us some information about how we find out more about your program, maybe some contact information

so everybody here can --

MS. ASHE: Sure.

MR. PHIPPS: -- dig down?

MS. ASHE: Sure. Well, and national vip.org is the website and then all information about the program

55 (Pages 217 to 220)

| | | 1 | |
|----------|--|----|--|
| | 221 | | 223 |
| 1 | over the last seven years is there, but certainly I can | 1 | CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER |
| 2 | be reached at bashe@mcccmd.com, so it's B A S H E @ M C | 2 | |
| 3 | C C M D.com. I can give a phone number, which is (301) | 3 | |
| 4 | 738-0015. | 4 | I, Jen Metcalf-Razzino, do hereby certify that the |
| 5 | MR. PHIPPS: Okay. | 5 | foregoing proceedings were recorded by me and reduced to |
| 6 | MS. ASHE: And we don't have a date yet for VIP | 6 | typewriting under the supervision of For The Record, |
| 7 | International, but the STAR program is April 5th through | 7 | Inc.; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor |
| 8 | 7th and our next VIP Grow program, which is a program | 8 | employed by any of the parties to the action in which |
| 9 | we've been doing for the last seven years, is June 21st | 9 | these proceedings were transcribed; and further, that I |
| 10 | through 23rd, so we're on target to have 200 new veteran | 10 | am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel |
| 11 | business owners go through the the program in the | 11 | employed by the parties hereto, nor financially or |
| 12 | last 12 months at M, as in Mary, C C C, M, as in Mary, | 12 | otherwise interested in the outcome of the action. |
| 13 | D, as in dog, .com. | 13 | |
| 14 | And and I I would be remiss if I didn't | 14 | |
| 15 | share a statistic that that I'm very proud of is that | 15 | |
| 16 | we do survey our graduates one year after graduation, on | 16 | |
| 17 | an average they grow 51 percent in one year, so that's | 17 | |
| 18 | why we do it. | 18 | JEN METCALF-RAZZINO, CER |
| 19 | MR. PHIPPS: Thank you very much, Barbara. | 19 | |
| 20 | MS. ASHE: Thank you. | 20 | |
| 21 | MR. PHIPPS: One more thing just for the | 21 | |
| 22 | record, we didn't get Gene Stewman's contact information | 22 | |
| 23 | and I don't think it was on his material, so that's just | 23 | |
| 24 | a quick followup for the notes. Is there any other | 24 | |
| 25 | questions before we adjourn? | 25 | |
| | 202 | | |
| | 222 | | |
| 1 | (No response.) | | |
| 2 | MR. PHIPPS: All right. The meeting is | | |
| 3 | adjourned. | | |
| 4 | (Whereupon, at 2:55 p.m., the meeting was | | |
| 5 | adjourned.) | | |
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