MEMORANDUM FOR HEADS OF THE CONTRACTING ACTIVITIES

Subj: ENHANCING COMPETITION IN DEFENSE ACQUISITION

Ref: (a) Federal Acquisition Regulation Subpart 6.5

Encl: (1) D, DPAP memorandum of Jul 26, 2007

Competition is the cornerstone of our acquisition process. Competition saves money for the taxpayer, improves contractor performance and promotes accountability for results. However, reviews by the Government Accountability Office and agency Inspectors General find that the Government often misses opportunities to take full advantage of competition, particularly under multiple award contracts.

The Office of Federal Procurement Policy, recognizing the need to obtain full advantage of competition, is placing greater emphasis on competition in Federal acquisition by reinvigorating the role of Competition Advocates in developing plans and goals for maximizing competition (Attachment (1) to Enclosure (1)).

The responsibilities for Competition Advocates, addressed in reference (a), are to promote the acquisition of commercial items; promote full and open competition to the extent practicable; challenge requirements that are not stated in terms of functions to be performed, performance required or essential physical characteristics; and, challenge barriers to the acquisition of commercial items and full and open competition.

OFPP identified the annual competition report required by FAR 6.502 to be used as a tool in enhancing competition by providing instructive questions to aid in assessing the quality and effectiveness of competition policies. Competition Advocates are also encouraged to review the level of competition within their authority and develop plans and goals for improvement. Request that your activity competition report be provided to Mr. Dwayne Weaver at Dwayne.Weaver@Navy.Mil not later than December 1, 2007, and annually thereafter.

Kathleen M. Dussault
RDML, SC, USN