



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Source:** U.S. Association of Veterans in Business  
**Contact:** Megan Pollard (800) 505-1083  
[CommerceForTheDefenders@USAVETBIZ.org](mailto:CommerceForTheDefenders@USAVETBIZ.org)

**USAVETBIZ Supports Veteran-Owned Small Business Verification  
by the Department of Veterans Affairs**

**WASHINGTON, DC | March 09, 2009** – The United States Association of Veterans in Business (USAVETBIZ) is pleased to announce full support of the national initiative underway by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Center for Veterans Enterprise (CVE) to examine and verify the authenticity of veteran owned small businesses (VOSB) and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses (SDVOSB) participating in the small business prime contract and subcontract opportunity marketplaces of the federal government.

“It has taken almost ten years since the passage of the Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act for this essential common sense aspect of what has been called the Veterans Enterprise Movement in government to take shape,” says Richard D. Ramirez, President of USAVETBIZ. “The scope of contractor misrepresentation must be made known.”

Some observers feel that as many as thirty percent (30%) of all the firms registered as being VOSB or SDVOSB in the government’s Central Contractor Registry (CCR) may in fact be neither. For a person to represent themselves as a military veteran or as and a bona-fide military veteran owner/operator of a small business when they are not is a crime. Persons involved should be punished to the maximum extent under the law and permanently barred from doing business with the government directly or indirectly.

At present the requirement for Veteran in Business Verification is only required for set-aside contracting opportunity, at VA. However any veteran-owned firm in the country can volunteer to be verified even if VA business is not being sought.

USAVETBIZ will be requesting the Committees on Small Business and Veterans Affairs of both the House and the Senate to push for the adoption of VA’s procedures on a government-wide level so that all federal departments can be sure they are contracting with *real deal* veterans in business. “It’s imperative that the VA and the US Small Business Administration dovetail their statutory responsibilities and help make the process workable for the benefit of veterans in business and the integrity of federal programs. Corporate America wants it too,” Mr. Ramirez further notes.

There are over 40,000 alleged VOSB and SDVOSB registered in the federal marketplace. Less than 800 have been verified as authentic. ([www.ccr.gov](http://www.ccr.gov) [www.vip.vetbiz.gov](http://www.vip.vetbiz.gov))

USAVETBIZ is a non-profit membership trade Association dedicated to enhancing awareness of and opportunity for veterans in business in all channels of commerce, public and private. More information about USAVETBIZ is available at [www.USAVETBIZ.org](http://www.USAVETBIZ.org)

###