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Defense Logistics Agency and Small Business

By Leslie Ann McMillan

Small businesses throughout the United States have some great opportunities for government contracts through an enormous federal entity known as the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA). Even if that particular option does not seem like the right fit for your business, consider that the DLA oversees a nationwide network of local APEX Accelerators (formerly PTAC) that can assist with information, preparation, registration, certification, and other aspects of the contracting process with local, state, and federal government agencies.

This Louisiana Business Journal article is based directly on descriptions that you can find on the DLA website (www.dla.mil). We encourage you to read this article for several pieces of relevant information, and also to visit the DLA website for more thorough explanations. You might be surprised by what you learn and how it could apply to your business development and growth—either in the near future or at a later time when you and your business are ready.

History of the DLA

The origins of the Defense Logistics Agency date back to World War II, when America's huge military buildup required the rapid procurement of vast amounts of munitions and supplies. After the war, a presidential commission headed by former President Herbert Hoover recommended centralizing management of common military logistics support and introducing uniform financial management practices. Integrated management of supplies and services began in 1952 with the establishment of a joint Army-Navy-Air Force Support Center to control identification of supply items. For the first time, all the military services bought, stored, and issued items using a common nomenclature. For more information on the history of the DLA, please see www.dla.mil/AboutDLA/History

DLA Small Business Programs

Small businesses provide critical resources that contribute to the DLA's mission. The DLA is committed to providing all categories of small businesses an opportunity to participate in DLA acquisitions. The website contains information to



requirements and procurement practices whose mission is to "Support the Warfighter." DLA is the Department of Defense's (DoD) largest combat support agency. It provides worldwide logistics

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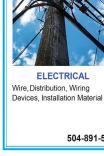
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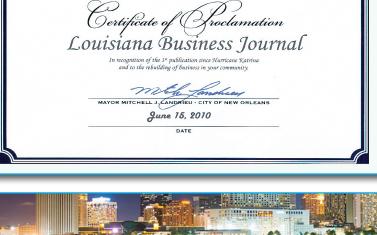
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