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U.S. AbilityOne Commission’s First “Top Management and Performance Challenges Report” Issued by Office of Inspector General

ARLINGTON, Va. -- The U.S. AbilityOne Commission’s Office of Inspector General has issued the Agency’s first “Top Management and Performance Challenges Report”. The report contains what the OIG believes represent the most pressing concerns for the Commission and the AbilityOne Program.

“I appreciate the hard work of our Inspector General Tom Lehigh and his staff in preparing this report for the Commission,” said Chairperson James M. Kesteloot. “The report provides a valuable perspective for me, my fellow Commission members, and the Commission staff as we work together with the OIG to further our mutual goal of achieving maximum employment for people who are blind or have significant disabilities.”

All federal government OIGs are required to issue these reports in accordance with the Reports Consolidation Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-531). Inspectors General are required to identify and summarize agency management challenges, as well as program successes, in this annual report.

The report outlines four primary management and performance challenges to the Commission and AbilityOne Program, not listed in any particular order:

1. Erosion of Statutory Program Authority
2. Lack of Adequate Resources Certainly Impacts Program Effectiveness
3. Enhancement to Program Compliance
4. Establish an Enterprise-wide Risk Management Framework

The OIG prepared the report based on its oversight work, research, and judgment based on criteria metrics. The OIG staff also met with Commission members and the executive leadership team to discuss areas of challenge.

The challenges will be included in the Commission’s annual Agency Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2017, which will be released later this year.

The Agency OIG was established in 2016 to exercise oversight through audits, inspections, evaluations and investigations over AbilityOne programs and operations.

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About the U.S. AbilityOne Commission and AbilityOne Program

The AbilityOne Program employs more than 46,000 people who are blind or have significant disabilities, including approximately 3,000 veterans, at approximately 550 nonprofit agencies nationwide.

More than \$3.3 billion of AbilityOne products and services were bought by the federal government in fiscal year 2016. The program operates at more than 1,000 locations representing 40 government agencies, including 150 Base Supply Centers at military and government installations, across 15 time zones including all 50 states and Guam.

The AbilityOne Program is administered by the U.S. AbilityOne Commission, the operating name of the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled. The Commission is an independent federal agency based in Arlington, Virginia. It is comprised of 15 Presidential appointees, with 11 representing federal agencies and four serving as private citizens who are knowledgeable about the obstacles to employment of people who are blind or have significant disabilities.

About the U.S. AbilityOne Commission Office of Inspector General

The mission of the Office of Inspector General is to promote the economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of AbilityOne programs and operations, and protect these programs and operations against fraud, waste, and abuse.

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