

on a substantial number of small entities within the meaning of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601, *et seq.*, because the rule updates and streamlines DFARS text, but makes no significant change to DoD contracting policy.

C. Paperwork Reduction Act

The Paperwork Reduction Act does not apply, because the rule does not impose any information collection requirements that require the approval of the Office of Management and Budget under 44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*

List of Subjects in 48 CFR Part 215

Government procurement.

Michele P. Peterson,

Editor, Defense Acquisition Regulations System.

■ Therefore, 48 CFR Part 215 is amended as follows:

PART 215—CONTRACTING BY NEGOTIATION

■ 1. The authority citation for 48 CFR part 215 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 41 U.S.C. 421 and 48 CFR Chapter 1.

215.000 [Removed]

■ 2. Section 215.000 is removed.

Subpart 215.2 [Removed]

■ 3. Subpart 215.2 is removed.

■ 4. Sections 215.303 through 215.305 are revised to read as follows:

215.303 Responsibilities.

(b)(2) For high-dollar value and other acquisitions, as prescribed by agency procedures, the source selection authority shall approve a source selection plan before the solicitation is issued. Follow the procedures at PGI 215.303(b)(2) for preparation of the source selection plan.

215.304 Evaluation factors and significant subfactors.

(c)(i) In acquisitions that require use of the clause at FAR 52.219-9, Small Business Subcontracting Plan, other than those based on the lowest price technically acceptable source selection process (see FAR 15.101-2), the extent of participation of small businesses and historically black colleges or universities and minority institutions in performance of the contract shall be addressed in source selection. The contracting officer shall evaluate the extent to which offerors identify and commit to small business and historically black college or university and minority institution performance of

the contract, whether as a joint venture, teaming arrangement, or subcontractor.

(A) See PGI 215.304(c)(i)(A) for examples of evaluation factors.

(B) Proposals addressing the extent of small business and historically black college or university and minority institution performance may be separate from subcontracting plans submitted pursuant to the clause at FAR 52.219-9 and should be structured to allow for consideration of offers from small businesses.

(C) When an evaluation assesses the extent that small businesses and historically black colleges or universities and minority institutions are specifically identified in proposals, the small businesses and historically black colleges or universities and minority institutions considered in the evaluation shall be listed in any subcontracting plan submitted pursuant to FAR 52.219-9 to facilitate compliance with 252.219-7003(g).

(ii) In accordance with 10 U.S.C. 2436, consider the purchase and use of capital assets (including machine tools) manufactured in the United States, in source selections for all major defense acquisition programs, as defined in 10 U.S.C. 2430, when it is pertinent to the best value determination.

215.305 Proposal evaluation.

(a)(2) *Past performance evaluation.* When a past performance evaluation is required by FAR 15.304, and the solicitation includes the clause at FAR 52.219-8, Utilization of Small Business Concerns, the evaluation factors shall include the past performance of offerors in complying with requirements of that clause. When a past performance evaluation is required by FAR 15.304, and the solicitation includes the clause at FAR 52.219-9, Small Business Subcontracting Plan, the evaluation factors shall include the past performance of offerors in complying with requirements of that clause.

[FR Doc. 06-566 Filed 1-20-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-08-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

48 CFR Part 219 and Appendix I to Chapter 2

[DFARS Case 2004-D028]

Defense Acquisition Regulations System; Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; DoD Pilot Mentor-Protégé Program

AGENCY: Defense Acquisition Regulations System, Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: DoD has adopted as final, without change, an interim rule amending the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) to implement Sections 841 and 842 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005. Section 841 extends the length of the DoD Pilot Mentor-Protégé Program for 5 additional years. Section 842 expands the Program to permit service-disabled veteran-owned small business concerns and HUBZone small business concerns to participate in the Program as protégé firms.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 23, 2006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Deborah Tronic, Defense Acquisition Regulations System, OUSD(AT&L)DPAP(DARS), IMD 3C132, 3062 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-3062. Telephone (703) 602-0289; facsimile (703) 602-0350. Please cite DFARS Case 2004-D028.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

DoD published an interim rule at 70 FR 29644 on May 24, 2005, to implement Sections 841 and 842 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (Pub. L. 108-375). Section 841 extends, through September 30, 2010, the period during which companies may enter into agreements under the DoD Pilot Mentor-Protégé Program; and extends, through September 30, 2013, the period during which mentor firms may incur costs that are eligible for reimbursement or credit under the Program. Section 842 expands the Program to permit service-disabled veteran-owned small business concerns and HUBZone small business concerns to participate in the Program as protégé firms.

One source submitted comments on the interim rule. The respondent supported the rule, but recommended that DoD amend the rule to permit historically black colleges and universities and minority institutions (HBCU/MIs) to participate in the Program as protégé firms. DoD was unable to adopt this recommendation, as there is presently no statutory authority that would permit expanding the Program to include HBCU/MIs. Therefore, DoD has adopted the interim rule as a final rule without change.

This rule was not subject to Office of Management and Budget review under Executive Order 12866, dated September 30, 1993.

B. Regulatory Flexibility Act

DoD has prepared a final regulatory flexibility analysis consistent with 5 U.S.C. 604. A copy of the analysis may be obtained from the point of contact specified herein. The analysis is summarized as follows:

This final rule implements Sections 841 and 842 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (Pub. L. 108-375). Section 841 extends, through September 30, 2010, the period during which companies may enter into agreements under the DoD Pilot Mentor-Protégé Program; and extends, through September 30, 2013, the period during which mentor firms may incur costs that are eligible for reimbursement or credit under the Program. Section 842 expands the Program to permit service-disabled veteran-owned small business concerns and HUBZone small business concerns to participate in the Program as protégé firms. The Program provides incentives for DoD contractors to assist protégé firms in enhancing their capabilities and increasing their participation in Government and commercial contracts.

DoD received no public comments in response to the initial regulatory flexibility analysis. However, DoD received a comment in response to the interim rule that recommended amendment of the rule to permit historically black colleges and universities and minority institutions (HBCU/MIs) to participate in the DoD Pilot Mentor-Protégé Program as protégé firms. DoD was unable to adopt this recommendation, as there is presently no statutory authority that would permit expanding the Program to include HBCU/MIs.

Presently, there are 5,737 service-disabled veteran-owned small business concerns and 12,281 HUBZone small business concerns registered in the Central Contractor Registration database; and presently, there are 134 active mentor-protégé agreements. Each protégé firm must provide data to its mentor firm, annually for submission to the Government, regarding the progress of the protégé firm in employment, revenues, and participation in DoD contracts. The data is required for each fiscal year of the Program participation term and for each of the two fiscal years following the expiration of the Program participation term. This information should be readily available to a company as part of its normal business practices.

The rule is expected to have a beneficial impact on service-disabled veteran-owned small business concerns and HUBZone small business concerns. There are no known significant

alternatives to the rule. Participation in the DoD Pilot Mentor-Protégé Program is voluntary.

C. Paperwork Reduction Act

The information collection requirements of the DoD Pilot Mentor-Protégé Program have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget under Control Number 0704-0332, for use through May 31, 2007.

List of Subjects in 48 CFR Part 219

Government procurement.

Michele P. Peterson,

Editor, Defense Acquisition Regulations System.

Interim Rule Adopted as Final Without Change

Accordingly, the interim rule amending 48 CFR Part 219 and Appendix I to Chapter 2, which was published at 70 FR 29644 on May 24, 2005, is adopted as a final rule without change.

[FR Doc. 06-568 Filed 1-20-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-08-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

48 CFR Parts 237 and 252

[DFARS Case 2003-D041]

Defense Acquisition Regulations System; Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Specialized Service Contracting

AGENCY: Defense Acquisition Regulations System, Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: DoD has issued a final rule amending the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) to update text pertaining to the acquisition of mortuary and laundry and dry cleaning services. This rule is a result of a transformation initiative undertaken by DoD to dramatically change the purpose and content of the DFARS.

DATES: *Effective Date:* January 23, 2006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Robin Schulze, Defense Acquisition Regulations System, OUSD (AT&L) DPAP (DARS), IMD 3C132, 3062 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-3062. Telephone (703) 602-0326; facsimile (703) 602-0350. Please cite DFARS Case 2003-D041.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

DFARS Transformation is a major DoD initiative to dramatically change the purpose and content of the DFARS. The objective is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the acquisition process, while allowing the acquisition workforce the flexibility to innovate. The transformed DFARS will contain only requirements of law, DoD-wide policies, delegations of FAR authorities, deviations from FAR requirements, and policies/procedures that have a significant effect beyond the internal operating procedures of DoD or a significant cost or administrative impact on contractors or offerors. Additional information on the DFARS Transformation initiative is available at <http://www.acq.osd.mil/dpap/dars/dfars/transformation/index.htm>.

This final rule is a result of the DFARS Transformation initiative. The rule—

- Revises DFARS Subpart 237.70 to delete procedures for defining the geographical area to be covered by mortuary services contracts, and procedures for distribution of those contracts. These procedures have been relocated to the new DFARS companion resource, Procedures, Guidance, and Information (PGI), available at <http://www.acq.osd.mil/dpap/dars/pgi>.

- Deletes the clause at DFARS 252.237-7010 containing facility requirements for mortuary services, as these requirements are adequately addressed in State law.

- Revises DFARS Subpart 237.71 to delete unnecessary requirements relating to contracting for laundry and dry cleaning services.

DoD published a proposed rule at 70 FR 8563 on February 22, 2005. DoD received no comments on the proposed rule. Therefore, DoD has adopted the proposed rule as a final rule without change.

This rule was not subject to Office of Management and Budget review under Executive Order 12866, dated September 30, 1993.

B. Regulatory Flexibility Act

DoD certifies that this final rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities within the meaning of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601, *et seq.*, because the rule updates and streamlines DFARS text, but makes no significant change to DoD contracting policy.

C. Paperwork Reduction Act

The Paperwork Reduction Act does not apply, because the rule does not