

## America's Small Business Resource

U.S. Small Business Administration  
Office of Veterans Business Development

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### In this issue:

Précis of Public Law 108-183: .....	page 1
Federal Tax Information for New Business Owners.....	page 2
Summary of the Annual Report for the Advisory Committee .....	page 2
Business Charged with Deceptive Marketing.....	page 3
Slump in Entrepreneurship Levels Off.....	page 3
Women and Entrepreneurship.....	page 4
Jump in Micro-Lending.....	page 4
SBA and DOL Partnership.....	page 5
New York VOP Wins Award.....	page 5
Congratulation Mr. Peterson.....	page 6
What Are Meta-tags? .....	page 6
New WBC Sites .....	page 6
Veterans Business Outreach.....	page 6
Veteran Entrepreneurial Scholarship .....	page 7
Franchise Guide Available .....	page 7
Tickets for WWI Memorial.....	page 7
OVBD Annual Report.....	page 7
RNG Assistance Update.....	page 7
Upcoming Events.....	page 7
Highlights of Upcoming Topics .....	page 8

### For More Information

- SBA offices are located in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam. For the office nearest you, look under “U.S. Government” in your telephone directory.
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## District Highlights

### New York VBOP Wins NAMTAC Award

The *New York Veterans Business Outreach Program (VBOP)* won the NAMTAC 2003 Outstanding Project-of-the Year (POY) Award in the Special Assistance Category. NAMTAC, the National Association of Management and Technical Assistance Centers, is one of the oldest small business advocacy organizations in the United States. Only 15 national awards were given out this year. The NY VBOP accepted its award during the annual NAMTAC Convention, held in Albany, NY, October 19-21, 2003.

The *New York VBOP* – funded and administered by the SBA's *Office of Veterans Business Development* – was selected for the POY based on the breadth of program results, economic impact, and the use of innovative strategies in solving problems. A special Appropriation to the *VBOP* from U.S. Congressman James

Walsh in 2002 enabled the program to expand outreach to veterans, especially service-disabled veterans, in central New York.

In just four years, the New York *VBOP* has counseled over 5,000 veterans, helped them locate \$82.5 million for their businesses, and saved or created over 3,000 jobs. The *VBOP* has also provided business training to over 6,000 veterans. Training and outreach is conducted at VA facilities across the State, as well as in veteran organizations.

One of the unique pilot aspects of the Veterans Program in New York is an effort called *Veterans Behind Bars*, conducted in partnership with the New York State Department of Correctional Services, and directed at veteran inmates who are within three years of release or parole. At two medium-security prisons, *VBOP* business advisers provide free business planning seminars and business plan preparation workshops to veterans. The goal is to equip veteran inmates with the tools they need to start their own business after release. Over 200 veterans have graduated from the program.



The New York VBOP's NAMTAC Award-winning Veteran Business Advisers (from left): Howard Wildove (Albany SBDC); John Narciso (Farmingdale SBDC); Program Coordinator Mike Ross; Joe Giambra (Buffalo SBDC); Brian Hanson (Onondaga SBDC)