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TRACEY L. PINSON NAMED RECIPIENT OF 2009
DISTINGUISHED PRESIDENTIAL RANK AWARD



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Washington, DC native, Tracey L. Pinson, Director Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, Headquarters, Department of Army, Office of the Secretary of the Army, has been named recipient of the prestigious 2009 Distinguished Presidential Award.

According to the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, "Each year, the President recognizes and celebrates a small group of career Senior Executives and senior career employees with the Meritorious and Distinguished Presidential Rank Awards. Recipients of these prestigious awards are strong leaders, professionals, and scientists who achieve results and consistently demonstrate strength, integrity, industry and a relentless commitment to excellence in public service." This will be the first group of awardees recognized by President Obama.

In a letter to Ms. Pinson, Secretary of the Army John M. McHugh wrote, "I take great pride in informing you that the President of the United States has approved a 2009 Distinguished Presidential Rank Award to recognize your contributions to the Nation and the United States Army. This achievement represents a significant milestone in your career. Know that you have made a difference at the highest levels of government and your efforts are greatly appreciated." Secretary McHugh added that he looked forward to presenting the award to Ms. Pinson at the 2009 Presidential Rank awards ceremony that will take place in early 2010.

Ms. Pinson, who received her undergraduate degree from Howard University and law degree from Georgetown University law Center, said, "I am both thrilled and honored to receive this recognition by President Obama."

In her position as Director of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, Ms. Pinson advises the Secretary of the Army, the Assistant Secretaries and Army General Officers on all small business procurement issues. She is responsible for the Army's implementation of Federal acquisition programs designed to assist small businesses. The small business program

under her supervision includes minority businesses, women owned businesses and veteran owned businesses.

In addition, Ms. Pinson provides management and oversight for the Army's business mentoring program as well as the Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Institutions program. In Fiscal Year 2008, the Army awarded over \$28 billion in direct awards to small businesses. Another \$3 billion was awarded in subcontracts to small businesses. Historically, the Army awards the largest dollar amount of contracts to small businesses than any other federal agency.

From 1986 to 1995, Ms. Pinson served as Assistant to the Director, Office of Small Business Programs, Office of the Secretary of Defense. From 1983 to 1986, Ms. Pinson held the position of legal counsel to the US House of Representatives, Committee on Small Business, chaired by former Congressman Parren J. Mitchell (D-MD). In this capacity, she drafted and monitored legislation designed to create contracting opportunities for small businesses.

In 2002, Ms. Pinson received the Presidential rank award for Meritorious Executive in the Senior Executive Service. For more information about the Presidential Rank Awards, please refer to www.opm.gov.