

PARTNERING AGREEMENT

between

The Surety Association of America

(SAA)

and

The National Veterans Business Development Corporation

(The Veterans Corporation)

Whereas, The Surety Association of America (SAA) is a duly-authorized, non-profit, trade association representing companies involved in the underwriting of surety and fidelity bonds; and

Whereas, SAA would like to increase access to surety bonding by Veteran and Service-Disabled Veteran contractors providing construction and other services; and

Whereas, the Board of Directors of SAA has agreed to explore, through its Development and Diversity Advisory Committee, the establishment of partnering agreements between SAA and organizations representing common interests and goals;

and

Whereas, the development of Veteran and Service-Disabled Veteran business enterprises will benefit the economy through the creation of productive jobs and through increasing the availability of competitive Veteran-owned businesses; and

Whereas, one of the goals of The Veterans Corporation is to serve as a catalyst for Veteran entrepreneurial education nationally; and

Whereas, The Veterans Corporation acknowledges the role of surety bonding in the development and growth of Veteran-owned businesses; and

Whereas, The Veterans Corporation has an excellent track record of supporting Veterans in business and industry through its educational programs, mentoring, counseling, access to capital, business tools and other services; and

Whereas, The Veterans Corporation seeks interested underwriters that will service this ever growing cadre of Veteran entrepreneurs and simplify and expedite the process of bonding,

therefore, be it resolved

That SAA and The Veterans Corporation jointly will develop and support programs and activities which will have a significant impact on the integration of Veterans and Service-Disabled Veterans into the economy which will provide these Veteran entrepreneurs with

the skills and access to bonding and finance necessary to enhance their opportunity for success in the marketplace; and,


That SAA will facilitate Veteran and Service-Disabled Veteran-owned businesses with access to bonding opportunities and technical assistance via informational and educational activities tailored to the needs of these Veteran firms; and

That, specifically, SAA will utilize the Local Surety Association (LSA) network to work with The Veterans Corporation's Business Resource Centers and Regional Educational Hubs in designing and implementing a Contractor Development Program for Veteran firms to include networking and outreach, on-line capability/capacity assessments, resource identification and referral, and assistance in the bonding process.

Signed, this 10th day of November, 2005.



Lynn M. Schubert, President
THE SURETY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



Walter G. Blackwell, President and Chief Executive Officer
THE NATIONAL VETERANS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION