

***SBA Brings Access To Capital Segment To
Veterans Conference/Contract Connections
Provides Small Businesses Direct Contact To Financing Resources
Learn about SBA's Patriot Express Loan Initiative***

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Are you a small business owner looking for funding to diversify or expand a business, renovate an existing facility, purchase a business or property, or just looking for funding for a small business start-up? The U.S. Small Business Administration is bringing an Access To Capital program to the 2007 Veterans Business Conference and Contract Connections Procurement Conference on Wednesday and Thursday September 5-6, 2007. This year's conference is being held at the National Guard Armory located at Coonskin Park in Charleston, W.Va.

Extensive small business resources will be available at the conference to meet exclusively with small business owners for individualized consulting sessions. Open to existing, expanding or start-up businesses, this unique FREE business program will provide access to top small business lenders, consultants, and specialists. Industry professionals will be available to discuss various SBA loan programs including *SBAExpress*, Community Express, 7(a) and 504 Fixed-Asset Loan and provide financial guidance whether your business is looking for \$5,000 to start or \$2 million to expand. Learn more about the newly released SBA Patriot Express loan initiative which provides new and enhanced programs and services for veterans and members of the military community wanting to establish or expand a small business. Eligible military community members include: Veterans; service-disabled veterans; active-duty service members eligible for the Transition Assistance Program; Reservists and National Guard members; current spouses of any of the above; of the widowed spouse of a service member or veteran who died during service or of a service-connected disability. Depending on the type of financing, it may be possible for businesses to complete the loan application process during their session.

Space and times are limited. Appointments are on a first-come, first served basis, and **must** be scheduled prior to the event. Available times are 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 5 and 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 6. Registration deadline is Friday, August 31, 2007. To participate and for additional information, contact the SBA's Charleston Branch Office at 304-347-5220 or via email at emma.wilson@sba.gov.