



NEWS RELEASE

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STEVEN WALLACE NAMED MAINE'S 2007 VETERAN SMALL BUSINESS CHAMPION BY THE SBA

Augusta, Maine -- Steven Wallace, Planning Officer for Veterans and Dislocated Workers at the Training Resource Center in Portland, has been named Maine's 2007 Veteran Small Business Champion by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). "The Nation's veterans sacrifice their lives for our country," noted Charles Summers, SBA New England Regional Administrator. "It is the responsibility of the SBA to ensure that each veteran has the resources he or she needs to start and expand their business and in the case of Guard and Reserve members, to keep it running while on active duty. Steve makes sure that veterans have access to the SBA," he added.

Wallace joined the United States Marine Corps in 1984. He served in the Persian Gulf during Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm and in the Middle East during Operation Northern Watch, Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Following twenty-one years of service as a Marine, Wallace joined the Training Resource Center as a Peer Support Worker for returning veterans. In anticipation of Naval Air Station Brunswick's (NASB) closure, Wallace established the Base Transition Center at NASB. This career and entrepreneurial center provides services to both active duty military personnel and military family members.

"Wallace has the qualities the SBA is looking for in choosing a Veteran's Champion," said Mary McAleney, District Director of the Maine SBA. "As Director of the BRAC Transition Center, Steve works tirelessly to make sure that veterans and civilian employees at NASB have every opportunity to follow their entrepreneurial dream."

Barry Peaco, Director of the Veteran Programs at the Training Resource Center, said in his nomination letter, "I can say, without a shadow of a doubt, Steve is about making Veteran-related opportunities happen. His efforts resulted in the creation of Veteran-owned small business and expansion of entrepreneurial training opportunities for small business owners."

Steve is married to the former Richelle Nota of Lewiston. Steve and Richelle currently reside in Auburn with their foster-son, Johnathan.

Wallace will be honored at the SBA awards celebration in May.