

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

In 1945, Congress enacted a law declaring the first week in October each year "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." In 1962, the word "physically" was removed to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month and changed the name to "National Disability Employment Awareness Month."



2012 Theme: A Strong Workforce is an Inclusive Workforce: What Can YOU do?

PROFILE:

DINAH COHEN, Director, Computer/Electronic Accommodations Program (CAP), U.S. Department of Defense



Ms. Cohen works closely with senior leadership throughout the Federal sector to ensure employees, beneficiaries, and members of the public with disabilities have equal access to Federal services and employment. Over 71,000 requests for accommodations have been filled since CAP's inception in 1990. Ms. Cohen also initiated a program to provide assistive technology and accommodation support to wounded service members to aid in their rehabilitation and recovery process. The Partnership for Public Service honored Ms. Cohen as the recipient of the 2007 Service to America Citizen Services Medal for her team's tremendous impact on employees with disabilities and wounded service members.

Ms. Cohen is an international speaker on disability policy, reasonable accommodations, accessibility and information technology and its impact on employment of people with disabilities. She continues to serve on numerous interagency accessibility committees and conference groups.

Ms. Cohen is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor. She received her Master's of Science degree in Counseling Psychology with a concentration in rehabilitation counseling from the State University of New York. She also holds a Bachelor of Science in Social Science/Elementary Education from Russell Sage College in Troy, NY.

CAP WEBSITE: <http://cap.mil>