

## **Army & Air Force Exchange Service Corporate Communications**

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### **AAFES Awarded Federal Employer of the Year by the Texas Governor’s Committee on People with Disabilities**

**DALLAS** – The Texas Governor’s Committee on People with Disabilities recognized the Army & Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) as the Federal Employer of the Year at its 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Employment Symposium Awards presentation on Oct. 30 in Arlington, Texas.

“AAFES is truly an organization that looks at abilities versus disabilities,” said 18-year associate Candace Owens, ABLE Employment Manager and key resource in leading employment initiatives of ABLE associates worldwide. ABLE supports the employment efforts of disABLEd associates by ensuring equal opportunity in the areas of recruiting, hiring, promoting and training.

AAFES has implemented a strategic plan to aggressively pursue the diversity of applicant pools and talent selection for people with targeted disabilities. This includes utilizing proactive recruitment initiatives and establishing new relationships with partner agencies like the Texas Governor’s Committee and Easter Seals North Texas’ Business Advisory Council.

“People with disabilities constitute the nation’s largest minority group and is a huge pool of talent which AAFES recognizes as largely untapped,” said AAFES Director of Diversity Jeanne McDonald. “AAFES values people with disabilities and this recognition supports the fact that they offer opportunities to a wide variety of candidates.”

AAFES annually selects an individual as the Worldwide Outstanding Associate with a Disability. This is done to honor that person’s abilities and achievements in overcoming obstacles not only in the work environment and daily lives, but also in providing encouragement to co-workers and staff. This event also provides an excellent opportunity to focus on the advantages of hiring people with disabilities as well as educating AAFES associates about the abilities of people different from themselves.

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The Army & Air Force Exchange Service is a joint command and is directed by a Board of Directors which is responsible to the Secretaries of the Army and the Air Force through the Service Chiefs of Staff. AAFES has the dual mission of providing authorized patrons with articles of merchandise and services and generating non-appropriated fund earnings as a supplemental source of funding for military Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) programs. To find out more about AAFES' history and mission or to view recent press releases please visit our Web site at <http://www.aafes.com/pa/default.asp>.

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**Media Notes:**

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