

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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Information Bulletin No. BC-98-093

To: All Field Officials
Attn: Uniform Program Coordinators

From: Group Administrator, Denver Center Support Services
Group

Subject: Uniform Program Status

Two significant efforts are underway that will provide authorized Bureau of Land Management (BLM) employees the ability to order new uniforms beginning early December, 1998. These are: (1) Solicitation and award of a new uniform contract(s), and (2) Implementation and distribution of a Uniform Drawdown Card. A description and status of these efforts follow.

Uniform Contract

A Request for Proposals (RFP) for the acquisition of new BLM Uniforms was issued by the National Business Center to over 100 potential offerors on July 10, 1998. It is anticipated that a fixed price, Indefinite Delivery, Indefinite Quantity contract(s) will result from the RFP. The government intends to preferably award one contract, although more than one award may be made. Contract award is scheduled for early October, 1998.

Offerors will be required to make oral presentations and display samples of their proposed uniform items to a BLM Technical Proposal Evaluation Committee (TPEC). The TPEC will be comprised of National Uniform Committee members, National Business Center employees and field personnel who have experience and knowledge about the uniform program. Selection of a contractor (or contractors) will be based on a best-value analysis of technical criteria and price. Technical criteria categories include: Quality and Special Requirements, Past Performance, Ordering and Billing, Delivery and Backorders, and Uniform Changes.

The RFP contains a list of 22 "basic" items that was developed by the BLM National Uniform Committee. These include: baseball style cap, belt, clip-on tie, four-in-hand tie, men's and women's jackets, men's and women's parkas, men's and women's rain shell and pants, unisex pullover sweater, unisex polo shirt, men's and women's long sleeve and short sleeve shirts,

men's

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and women's field slacks, and men's and women's shorts. Offerors are given considerable flexibility in the selection of styles and earth tone colors (e.g., brown, taupe, natural, khaki, and sand) when proposing their uniform line. Offerors are also encouraged to offer additional option items that they believe will benefit the uniform program. It is likely that all, or most, of the new uniform will be comprised of commercially available stock items, as opposed to uniform components manufactured specifically for BLM as was done on the Lion Apparel contract.

Employees who desire more information on contract requirements and evaluation criteria can review the RFP by downloading it from the following website: www.blm.gov/natacq/sol.html.

Uniform Drawdown Card

A Nations Bank Uniform Drawdown Card, similar to a debit card, will be issued to employees authorized to wear the BLM uniform by December 1, 1998. This card will serve three purposes: (1) It will serve as the authorization instrument for uniform wearers, (2) it will be used to order uniform components from the new contractor(s), and, (3) it will automatically control employee uniform expenditures, based a "draw down" of the employee's authorized uniform allowance.

Detailed information regarding the Uniform Drawdown Card and a description of the data needed from the various BLM offices to implement the drawdown card program will be forthcoming in an Instruction Memorandum.

Questions concerning the above may be directed to the National Uniform Coordinator, Candace Thatcher, at (303) 236-6369. Questions concerning the RFP can also be directed to the Contracting Officer, Barbara Bellio, at (303) 236-9438.

Please ensure all authorized uniform wearers receive this bulletin.

Signed by:
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