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**NATIONAL ABLE NETWORK SELECTED AS ONE OF SEVEN NATIONAL RECIPIENTS OF 2014
“SEAL OF DISTINCTION” AWARDS FROM ACTIVISION’S CALL OF DUTY™ ENDOWMENT**
Selected Organization Demonstrates Best-in-Class Results in Placing Veterans in High-Quality Careers

CHICAGO (November 6, 2014) – The Call of Duty Endowment today announced that it has selected National Able Network as one of seven best-in-class veterans service organizations nationwide to receive its 2014 Seal of Distinction Award, which comes with an initial \$30,000 grant, along with operational advice and support, and the opportunity to apply for additional restricted funding to encourage further growth. National Able Network’s *Veterans Forward!* is a national model for transitioning service members into meaningful civilian careers. The program, led and operated by former military, offers veterans of all eras career counseling, best-practice job skills training, direct linkages to exclusive job opportunities, wraparound supportive services, and career advancement support. More than 500 Veterans benefit from the program each year.

National Able Network’s *Veterans Forward!* program addresses veteran unemployment challenges from both the perspective of job seeking veterans and of hiring managers. Veterans are highly-skilled, but often experience a steep learning curve when attempting to translate their military experience into civilian careers. Employer partners, eager to hire service members because of their exceptional leadership qualities, say that their greatest challenge is finding veteran job seekers. These needs intersect at Veterans Forward, creating a demand-driven talent exchange that serves the interests of both job seekers and businesses.

“We are honored to be one of only seven organizations in the nation to receive the Seal of Distinction Award from the Call of Duty Endowment in recognition of our mission to help veterans transition into meaningful careers,” said Grace Powers, President & CEO of National Able Network. “As a veteran, I know firsthand what our veteran job seekers are going through when they enter the civilian workforce and we are thrilled to use this award to extend them the support they need to parlay their skills into meaningful careers.”

Applicants for the Seal of Distinction had to meet a number of rigorous criteria to be considered, including opening their books to provide extensive documentation about their results in placing veterans in jobs. A sample of the metrics assessed included number of placements made, average cost per placement, average starting salary, retention rate, and a variety of organizational financial health indicators. All qualified applications were initially reviewed and evaluated by the Call of Duty Endowment’s Board of Advisors. Finalists were then independently assessed on a pro bono basis by Deloitte and approved by the Endowment’s Board of Directors.

“The Call of Duty Endowment is proud to offer its support to National Able Network, which is a model for how to deliver employment services to veterans in a smart and cost-effective manner,” said Dan Goldenberg, executive director of the Call of Duty Endowment. “Working with Deloitte, we’ve created an extremely rigorous process for evaluating veterans’ organizations to ensure that only those with the strongest track records of impact receive funding. We owe it to America’s veterans to hold all non-profits in this space to the highest standards.”

About National Able Network

National Able Network, Inc. is a leading non-profit organization specializing in providing career counseling, training, and placement services for disadvantaged job seekers of all ages and skill levels. Common in military drills and ceremonies, “Forward” is a preparatory command that is followed by an executory command. From the very first introduction into National Able Network’s “Veterans Forward!” program offerings, veterans immediately begin the first steps in preparing for their assimilation into civilian employment among a peer group who advise on personal experiences and offer a supportive environment from which to achieve personal and professional goals. By designing programs that are mission-driven and results-oriented, National Able Network is a leader in implementing workforce development strategies that strengthen local and national economies of scale. To that end, for every \$1 invested in a National Able Network client, \$5.95 is contributed back into the economy. National Able Network’s services for job seekers includes individualized short- and long-term career planning, nationally-recognized Job Readiness Training, access to wraparound services to meet basic needs, connections to post-secondary education and training, and job placement assistance. Each year, National Able Network provides career services to more than 125,000 individuals in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire. For more information please visit www.nationalable.org.

About the Call of Duty Endowment:

The Call of Duty Endowment is a non-profit, public benefit corporation conceived by Bobby Kotick, CEO of Activision Blizzard. The Endowment seeks to help organizations that provide job placement services for veterans. For more information about the Call of Duty Endowment, please visit www.callofdutyendowment.org.

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