

FEDTEX

Individual and Unit Tactical Gear, Uniforms and Personal Protective Equipment

May 19-20, 2026 Raleigh, North Carolina

Hosted By
US Senator Thom Tillis
US Senator Ted Budd
North Carolina Military Business Center



Individual and Unit Tactical Gear, Uniforms and Personal Protective Equipment

May 19-20, 2026 Raleigh, North Carolina

US Air Force Program & Opportunities

- Moderator: **Joe Tew**, Regional Program Manager (Western Carolina), NC Military Business Center
- David McCain, Human Systems Division Senior Materiel Lead, Air Force Life Cycle Management



Individual and Unit Tactical Gear, Uniforms and Personal Protective Equipment

May 19-20, 2026 Raleigh, North Carolina

US Air Force Program & Opportunities

- Moderator: Joe Tew, Regional Program Manager (Western Carolina), NC Military Business Center
- **David McCain**, Human Systems Division Senior Materiel Lead, Air Force Life Cycle Management

COMBAT READINESS DIRECTORATE

DAF 2026 Clothing & Textiles Focus Areas FEDTEX



**SML/Mr. David McCain
AFLCMC/ROU
20 May 2026**

DAF 2026 C&T FOCUS AREAS

Priorities	Challenges	Initiatives	Desired Outcomes
<p><u>USSF Mess Dress:</u> Develop a distinctive, high-quality formal uniform for the U.S. Space Force.</p>	Current materials and designs do not meet expectations for fit, comfort, durability, and Space Force identity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner with industry to develop modern formal fabrics and updated designs. Conduct fit and wear testing to validate performance and appearance. 	A professional, service-unique mess dress that improves member satisfaction, durability, and long-term value.
<p><u>Non PFAS Water Resistant Fabrics:</u> Transition to environmentally compliant, non-PFAS water-resistant materials.</p>	New environmental requirements limit traditional PFAS-based treatments, risking loss of performance if not properly replaced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and qualify compliant water-resistant fabrics. Revamp the Air Force All-Weather Coat using new materials. Procure quality Space Force All-Weather Coat with non PFAS materials. 	A fully compliant, high-performance outerwear solution that meets environmental standards without sacrificing protection or durability.
<p><u>Size Optimization:</u> Use real-time body measurement data to improve sizing, availability, and cost efficiency.</p>	Current size ranges and forecasts do not always match the actual force, driving shortages, excess inventory, and poor fit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Validate optimized “Alpha” size sets. Evaluate accuracy and field usability of portable body scanners. Establish military anthropometric database. 	Better-fitting uniforms, improved readiness and responsiveness, reduced inventory waste, and lower lifecycle costs.
<p><u>Quality Improvements Across Uniform Products:</u> Resolve persistent quality issues affecting readiness, appearance, and durability.</p>	Ongoing material and manufacturing inconsistencies across multiple uniform items.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner with DLA, AAFES, and industry to identify root causes. Implement material, production, and inspection improvements. 	More reliable, higher-quality uniform products that reduce complaints, returns, and replacement costs.



Individual and Unit Tactical Gear, Uniforms and Personal Protective Equipment

May 19-20, 2026 Raleigh, North Carolina

US Air Force Program & Opportunities

- Moderator: Joe Tew, Regional Program Manager (Western Carolina), NC Military Business Center
- David McCain, Human Systems Division Senior Materiel Lead, Air Force Life Cycle Management

FEDTEX

Individual and Unit Tactical Gear, Uniforms and Personal Protective Equipment

May 19-20, 2026 Raleigh, North Carolina

Hosted By
US Senator Thom Tillis
US Senator Ted Budd
North Carolina Military Business Center