



Individual and Unit Tactical Gear, Uniforms and Personal Protective Equipment

May 25-26, 2027 Hickory, North Carolina

Location Legend

- Exhibit Hall, Hickory 3-4
- Catawba 5-6

- Off-Site
- Conover 1-3
- Catawba 3
- Catawba 4

Tuesday, May 25, 2027

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Manufacturing Solutions Center, Catawba Valley Community College (301 Conover Station Southeast, Conover 28613) <i>Tour Begins at 10:30 am. Transportation is not provided. RSVP required, lunch included (fees will be applied at registration)</i>	
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Exhibitor Set-Up: Hickory Metro Convention Center, 1960 13th Ave Dr SE, Hickory, NC 28602	
1:00 p.m. – 1:50 p.m.	Is the Federal Government Right for My Company? A Beginner's Guide to Defense Opportunities	
2:00 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.	The 20-Minute Bid/No-Bid Decision: Reading a Solicitation Like a Contracting Officer	
3:00 p.m. – 3:50 p.m.	Where NC Fits: Matching Woven, Knit and Nonwoven Products to Federal Demand	DLA DIBBS Hands-On: How Textile Buys are Posted, Awarded and Qualified
4:00 p.m. – 4:50 p.m.	Becoming Ready for Federal Contracting: Cybersecurity and Compliance	Supplying the Supply Chain: Selling Berry-Compliant Materials to Primes
5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Evening Welcome Social, Dale Earnhardt Regional Innovation Complex & Hickory Aviation Museum (821 21 st St NW, Hickory, NC 28601). <i>RSVP Required on registration.</i>	

Wednesday, May 26, 2027

7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Registration, Check-In and Light Refreshments			
8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Welcome and Orientation: Jimmy Hendrix, Executive Director, North Carolina Military Business Center Keynote Remarks: The Defense Textile Industrial Base: What Government Needs from Industry Now Brigadier General Sean P. Kelly, Commander, Defense Logistics Agency Troop Support (invited)			
9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	The Future Battlefield: Textile Challenges Looking for Solutions Mr. Michael J Codega, Associate Director, US Army Combat Capabilities Development Command, Soldier Center (invited)			
9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	Break with Snacks and Refreshments in the Exhibit Hall			Trade Show and Networking
9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	The Future Battlefield: Advanced Materials and Smart Textiles	US Navy and Marine Corps Program and Opportunities	Aerial Delivery & Space Flight Textiles	
10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Break with Snacks and Refreshments in the Exhibit Hall			
11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	The Battlefield Challenge: Industry Innovation	US Homeland Security and Coast Guard Program and Opportunities	Defense Logistics Agency: Opportunities, Challenges and Industry Engagement	
12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch and Remarks Dr. Garrett Hinshaw, President, Catawba Valley Community College Berry Amendment and Beyond: Protecting America’s Textile Industrial Base David Costello, Executive Director, Warrior Protection & Readiness Coalition (invited) Automating for Readiness: How US Manufacturing Can Scale Frank Henderson, CEO, Henderson Sewing (invited)			
1:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.	Break with Refreshments in the Exhibit Hall			Trade Show and Networking
1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	FutureTEX: Building the Next Generation of America’s Defense Textiles Industrial Base	US Air Force Program and Opportunities	Nonwoven Opportunities for Defense Textiles	
2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Break with Snacks and Refreshments in the Exhibit Hall			
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Becoming a Good Teaming Partner, Component Supplier or Subcontractor	US Army Program and Opportunities	Meet the Primes: Reverse Pitch and Supplier Meetings	
4:00 p.m.	Adjourn			