FEDTEX

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) *Tour Begins at 10:30 am. Transportation is not provided. RSVP required, lunch included (fees will be applied at registration)*
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.	**Matching Woven, Knit and Nonwoven Products to Federal Demand with FutureTEX** / **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 21st St NW, Hickory, NC 28601). *RSVP Required on registration.*

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) Kim Glas, President & CEO, National Council of Textile Organizations (invited) **TBA**			
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**	**Becoming a Good Teaming Partner, Component Supplier or Subcontractor**	
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.	**Automating for Readiness: How US Manufacturing Can Scale**	**US Army Program and Opportunities**	**The Textile Talent Pipeline: Building the Future Workforce for Textiles**	
4:00 p.m.	**Adjourn**			