

# DSCP Apparel Vendor Also Supplies Diversity, Opportunity, Community

By Frank I. Johnson, Jr.  
Defense Supply Center Philadelphia  
Chief, Public Affairs Office

**T**he Defense Supply Center Philadelphia only asks its vendors to be dependable and cost-effective," said George Rybarczyk, partner of Creative Apparel Associates in Harmony, Maine. "That's not asking a lot. We take pride in giving both America's warfighters and DSCP the best possible business value and quality customer service that they deserve."

DSCP also leads the way within the Defense Logistics Agency in creating business partnerships with 'other than large businesses including minority, woman-owned, and small disadvantaged businesses' amounting to more than \$2.5 billion annually from total sales exceeding \$7.8 billion a year. So it comes as no surprise that DSCP continues to cultivate supplier diversity with Native American-owned suppliers like Creative Apparel.

Creative Apparel is certified as a small (less than 500 employees), dis-

J&P Apparel Inc. that is owned by George and Sharon Rybarczyk.

"We're a company of many cultures, backgrounds and experiences and we take great pride in the diversity of the people working for us," said George Rybarczyk. Creative Apparel employs about 375 people in its plants and about one-third of its workers are Native American.

During a normal fiscal year, DSCP's clothing and textile directorate buys about \$100 million worth of the chemical and biological protection coats and trousers ensemble.

However, due to increased demands, DSCP expects to buy at least 842,000 of the ensembles valued at \$180 million this fiscal year. About 25 percent of these ensembles will come from Creative Apparel.

Visitors to any of Creative Apparel's plants today almost immediately walk into a sea of woodland and desert colored material being converted into the Joint Service Lightweight Integrated Suit Technology ensemble. The shell material is cut in Belmont, and the carbon-liner material for the uniforms is cut at the Eastport plant. The fabric is then shipped to Creative's other factories to be stitched into garments. The garments are then

oufflage layer repels water and its inner layer is designed to provide the user with protection from the effects of chemical and biological contami-



Sharon Stafford shows joining brings to outer shell of the JSLIST chemical protective coats at Creative Apparel's plant in Harmony, Maine. The ensembles inner layer is designed to provide the user with protection from the effects of chemical and biological contaminants, and toxic industrial material in any form including anthrax, sarin gas and smallpox. (Photo by Frank I. Johnson, Jr.)

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"Making the JSLIST ensemble is a very labor intensive process involving a lot of different operations," said David Carr, Creative Apparel's plant manager at the Harmony and Dover-Foxcroft facilities. "We take considerable care in making sure that each stitch of the ensemble is sewn perfectly because we know these suits could mean the difference between life and death."

Jack London said Creative Apparel brings to the table a unique combination of industry experience, business insight and executional know-how.

"One of DSCP's primary goals is to ensure the combat readiness and sustainment of America's military in peace and war," said London, DSCP's JSLIST program manager. "Creative Apparel has been an integral partner in breaking roadblocks and helping DSCP continue its practice of being a world class logistical support provider of clothing and textile products." ♦



From left, David Carr, Holly Sinclair, George Rybarczyk, Fran Jettreault, and Bonnie Jackson talk about the manufacturing process associated with JSLIST suits. Carr is the plant manager at Creative Apparel's Harmony and Dover-Foxcroft facilities; Sinclair is a lead inspector; Rybarczyk is Creative Apparel's partner; Jettreault is a floor supervisor; and Jackson is an inspector. (Photo by Frank I. Johnson, Jr.)

advantaged business and is owned by the Passamaquoddy Indian tribe (which has a 51 percent stake), and

packed and shipped from the Dover-Foxcroft plant.

The JSLIST ensembles' outer cam-