

JSLIST System Gets Customer's Endorsement

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Jack London, a program manager at Defense Supply Center Philadelphia was waiting for his flight at the Regional Airport in Bangor, Maine, when a soldier standing close to him was asked his opinion of the Joint Service Lightweight Integrated Suit Technology chemical protective overgarments.

"It's a nice piece of equipment and much better than the old ones," said the young soldier, just returning from a two-month deployment in Kuwait. "I'm glad to be home from Iraq, and fortunately I never had to use it [JSLIST] in a hostile environment but I was comfortable knowing we had them readily available and in good supply."

London, who purchases the JSLIST system for DSCP, was pleased with the soldier's unsolicited endorsement. Ironically, London and other DSCP representatives had just completed a two-day visit to Creative Apparel and the Group Homes Foundation, Inc., located in Maine. Both organizations are actively involved in the production of the JSLIST system under contract with DSCP's clothing

and textile directorate. The JSLIST system provides the user with protection from the effects of nuclear and biological contaminants, and toxic industrial material in any form, including anthrax, sarin gas and smallpox.

"The purpose of this visit was to emphasize the criticality of the JSLIST program and to meet with some of the vendors involved in the JSLIST program," said William Kenny, DSCP's executive director for business operations. "We talked extensively about mutual supply and production concerns.

"We're seeking solutions and doing all that we can to improve production and to get more domestic product," Kenny emphasized. "This trip was very productive and informative."

Group Homes, which is a part of the National Industries for the Severely Handicapped, operates the Little River Apparel facility where the JSLIST system is made. Its purpose is to provide employment to people with disabilities, as well as people



An employee at the Group Homes Foundation in Belfast, Maine, sews the JSLIST chemical protective overgarment. Group Homes is part of the NISH, the organization that provides jobs for people with various physical and mental disabilities.

without disabilities. Creative Apparel is 51 percent co-owned by the Passamaquoddy Indian Tribe, and J&P Apparel Inc., that is owned by George and Sharon Rybarczyk. ♦