



March 29, 2006

Major General Ann E. Dunwoody  
Commanding General of the Army Combined Arms Support Command (CASCOM) and Fort Lee  
HQDA, ODCS, G-4  
500 Army Pentagon  
Room 1E394  
Washington, DC 20310-0500

Dear Major General Dunwoody:

On behalf of the members of the American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA), National Textile Association (NTA) and the Parachute Industry Association (PIA), we are writing to request an urgent meeting with you to discuss the dire state of the U.S. textile, apparel and footwear manufacturing industry.

Representatives of our respective associations include: Felicia Cheek, AAFA; Bill Gerrow, Performance Textiles and PIA; Bill Kernodle, Clemson Apparel Research Center; Michael Mansh, Pennsylvania Apparel, LLC and AAFA Government Contracts Committee (GCC) Chairman; Dan Pezold, Duro Industries and NTA Government Textiles Committee (GTC) Chairman; and Hardy Poole, NTA. This group has had two very productive meetings with the Colonel John Norwood, Project Manager of Soldier Equipment and his staff in Ft. Belvoir in August of 2005 and most recently in January of 2006.

The purpose of these meetings has been to address serious industry wide problems that the textile, apparel and footwear industry supplying the military has been dealing with for some time. Some progress has been made with regard to the management of contracts; however, we feel that the industry is in a serious state of regression and certain issues need to be discussed at a higher level, particularly with regard to certain procurement process alterations that may not be in the best interest of the industry or the Department of Defense.

Together, we represent over 700 firms with thousands of employees - the core of the industrial base of manufacturers and suppliers of specialized sewn products to the military. It is our goal to keep this industry viable and with your help to strengthen the supply chain through better contracting practices and communications. For this reason, **we urgently request that a meeting be scheduled with the representatives of our associations at your earliest convenience in April** and prior to our planned industry congressional visit day later this spring. We are also requesting a meeting with Admiral Lippert. Finally, attached please find our prior correspondence for background information and outlining our efforts on these issues.

Thank you for your interest and participation, and we look forward to your response. Please contact Felicia Cheek with AAFA at 703-797-9039 or [fcheek@apparelandfootwear.org](mailto:fcheek@apparelandfootwear.org) if there are questions and for setting up a meeting.

Sincerely,



Kevin M. Burke  
President & CEO  
American Apparel & Footwear Association



Karl Spilhaus  
President  
National Textile Association



Cliff Schmucker  
President  
Parachute Industry Association

Enclosure