Since World War II, the Department of Defense (DoD) has procured goods and services from Federal Prison Industries (FPI), also known as UNICOR, to support the Armed Forces and defense mission readiness. A component of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, UNICOR is a wholly government-owned and fiscally self-sustaining corporation established in 1934 by Executive Order 6917. It provides federal inmates with practical job experience in order to increase their prospects of becoming well-adjusted citizens when released from prison.

Facts and Figures

- UNICOR produces goods and services in over 80 federal supply classes at 102 U.S. factories
- Business sectors serviced by UNICOR: clothing and textiles, electronics, fleet solutions, industrial products, office furniture, recycling and services
- UNICOR exceeded the U.S. Small Business Administration's statutory small business goal by more than double in FY 2009, nearly 60% of UNICOR purchases came from small and disadvantaged businesses
- In FY 2009, UNICOR had $885.3 million in net sales and 79% of utilized revenue was for the purchase of materials, supplies, and equipment from private sector vendors
- In FY 2009, 16% of the eligible inmate population (18,972) worked for FPI
- UNICOR has recycled 185 million pounds of electronic equipment and implements a successful reuse and recycling program
- In FY 2009, FPI produced and sold $461 million in products and/or services for DoD

The DoD Connection with UNICOR

- “Go To War” products range from body armor and army combat uniforms to SINCGARS radio kits and EMP-shielded cables
- Fleet Solutions include retrofitted and re-manufactured HMMWVs, five-ton trucks, semi-tractor rigs, and other heavy vehicles
- In 2005 UNICOR received DLAs “Supporting the Warfighter” Award
- Federal Acquisition Regulation Subpart 8.6 and Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement 208.6 prescribe the applicable procurement policies and procedures
- UNICOR factories producing for the DoD are ISO 9001:2000-certified
- UNICOR subcontracts with defense prime contractors and partners with AbilityOne nonprofit agencies for cutting of military apparel fabrics
- UNICOR participates in the Operation Warfighter Program offering internship opportunities to wounded warriors recovering at Walter Reed Army Medical Center
- A DoD senior leader is a member of the FPI Board of Directors

Key Web Sites

DPAP Federal Prison Industries Section:
http://www.acq.osd.mil/dpap/cpic/cp/specific_policy_areas.html#federal_prison

UNICOR Homepage:
http://www.unicor.gov