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Business Buzz: Exclusive opportunity to network

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Anyone who does business with the military and its contractors know which events throughout the year are "must attend" for networking and deal-making.

Next year, there will be another event that you may want to add to your list.

The North Carolina Defense Business Association - the Fayetteville-based organization that works to link DoD contractors and businesses with jobs and build defense and homeland security industry clusters - is planning its first symposium and exposition on April 19-20 at Pinehurst Resort.

It is billed as an "exclusive opportunity to network with both civilian and military leaders representing the best of North Carolina." People who attend will get to participate in "hands-on assessments of some of the finest products produced and obtain valuable information on how your company can conduct business with the military and other government agencies in N.C."

Admission for government, industry, military and exhibitors is free for exhibit areas, program sessions and social functions. There's a fee schedule for booth rentals.

Joy Thrash, executive director of the Defense Business Association, said one thing that will make this event unique is that it's designed to appeal to a wide spectrum of North Carolina businesses interested in doing work with the military or other government agencies.

"This symposium and expo will take into consideration companies that deal with any DoD bases, or contracts," Thrash said. "It might be somebody who wants to work at Camp Lejeune or the National Guard. It's not cluster-specific, like technology, or something like that."

For more details or to sign up, call 483-2221 or send an e-mail to suggsgroup@suggsgroup.com.