



WELCOME TO THE AIRBORNE AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE (ABNSOD)

“HOME OF THE U.S . ARMY’S TEST PARATROOPERS”

On behalf of the leadership and personnel of the Airborne and Special Operations Directorate (ABNSOD), we welcome you and your family to the unit. We extend our profound gratitude for your continued service, dedication, and sacrifice in support of our Nation’s defense.

ABNSOD stands as the U.S. Army's premier Airborne operational testing authority. We operate under the absolute conviction that America’s Warfighters must be equipped with the most advanced, reliable, and lethal capabilities required to fight and win our Nation's wars. As a new member of this select team, your expertise and dedication will directly impact the lethality and safety of our joint forces.

We are fully committed to ensuring a seamless transition for you and your family as you integrate into the unit. Your Command Team and your designated sponsor are standing by to assist you with any questions, coordination, or personal concerns during your onboarding process.

Once again, welcome to the team! LEARN, INFORM, TRUTH!





Organizational Structure & Leadership:

ABNSOD operates within a highly coordinated command structure dedicated to rigorous evaluation and mission excellence:



Command Level	Unit/Command	Location	Leadership
Major Command	Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC)	Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD	• MG Patrick L. Gaydon, Commanding General • CSM Bradford Smith, Command Sergeant Major
Parent Unit	Operational Evaluation Command (OEC)	Fort Hood, TX	• BG Shannon-Mikal Lucas, Commanding General • CSM Dave Sweeney, Command Sergeant Major
Local Command	Airborne and Special Operations Directorate	Fort Bragg, NC	• COL Scott Brannon, Director • CPT Lucas Eliasson, Unit Commander • MSG Manuel Perez, Senior Enlisted Advisor



Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC)



Mission:

ATEC performs test and evaluation, while in direct support of U.S. Army Transformation and Training Command (T2COM), to inform Army senior leaders, in order to provide Soldiers with the capabilities needed to fight and win our Nation's wars.

Vision:

To be a team of highly skilled test and evaluation professionals focused on informing equipping decisions for today's and tomorrow's warfighter.



U.S. Army Operational Evaluation Command (OEC)



Mission:

OEC conducts continuous, warfighter-informed testing and evaluation through a unified Continuous Evaluation Campaign to accelerate Army transformation, inform senior leader decisions, and ensure the Army fields dominant capabilities.

Vision:

Warfighter-Validated: Empowering their voice for the future fight.



Airborne and Special Operations Directorate (ABNSOD)



Mission:

The Airborne and Special Operations Directorate (ABNSOD) plans, executes, and reports on developmental and operational tests of aerial delivery and air transportation equipment, systems, and procedures supporting airborne and special operations forces. ABNSOD provides critical operational data to inform doctrine development, capability refinement, and the effective fielding of equipment to the Warfighter.

Vision:

A forward looking and respected operational evaluation directorate that focuses on current and future war-fighting requirements through the conduct of thorough, rigorous, realistic, honest, service unique, and joint testing.

Who we are:

The Army's independent operational testers for airborne, airdrop, and Joint Special Operations Forces. This unique agency is the home of the Army's only operational test parachutists with expertise in Static-Line, Military Free-fall Operations, and Aerial Delivery.



[Visit ABNSOD's Website](https://atec.army.mil/operational-evaluation-command/oec-abnsod/)

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ABNSOD History

OEC's most unique evaluation directorate is the Airborne and Special Operations Directorate (ABNSOD) at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. ANBSOD formally began as a service board activated in December 1944 at Camp Mackall, North Carolina. Its history can be traced back through the Testing and Developing Section of the Airborne Command, organized in 1942 at Camp Mackall, to the original Parachute Test Platoon, activated at Fort Benning, Georgia, in June 1940. Following the end of World War II, the Airborne Board was incorporated into Army Ground Forces Board on 1 October 1945.

As a direct descendant of the original parachute test platoon in 1940, this directorate is not only responsible for the operational testing of new parachutes and airborne equipment, but is also chartered to certify every item of Army equipment to be airdropped, airlifted, sling-loaded, or in any way transported or delivered by Army or Air Force aircraft.

Certification for every class and type of aircraft for airdrop of personnel and equipment, including new military, foreign, and commercial aircraft, comes as a result of testing by this directorate and is finalized with the publication of approved airdrop rigging procedures in the appropriate technical and training manuals. Directorate personnel perform extensive testing of Soldier equipment to be employed in airborne operations, ranging from new personnel parachute systems to any new or modified combat equipment or individual weapons systems.

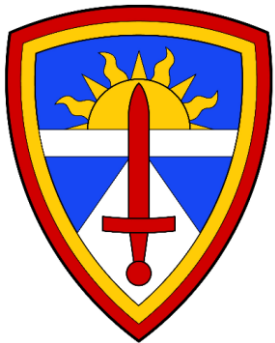
ABNSOD has the critical responsibility for providing dynamic, responsive, and quality testing in order to meet the needs of the airborne and special operations communities.



Unit Logo and Patch – What Do They Mean?



ABNSOD Logo: In 2017, the Directorate enhanced its unit logo to be inclusive of all conventional Airborne and Special Operations units. The logo changed from the Master Parachutist's Badge with super imposed Crossed Arrows of the Special Forces Branch to the red Arrowhead, honoring the 1st Special Service Force of WW2 with the Master Parachutists Badge and a super imposed Fairbairn-Sykes fighting knife (dagger) of the Special Operations community. The new logo contains the Shoulder Sleeve Insignia of the Army Test and Evaluation Command with the Special Forces, Ranger, and Airborne tabs to represent the skill sets of our Soldiers.



ATEC Patch: The Command's mission, to seek truth through testing and experimentation, is symbolized by the triangle, or fulcrum, balancing a bar and sun. The bar and triangle represent a scale; the sun signifies the search for knowledge, enlightenment, and high ideals. Yellow indicates the precious metal gold and represents "the worth of quality assurance of tested products." Dark blue alludes to the sky and space, suggesting the possibilities and discoveries of the future. The red sword characterizes the individual Soldier, whose combat preparedness is aided by the data and information products the organization provides. The white expresses the Command's search for the truth and sterling quality of the products produced.



Operational Test & Evaluation



ABNSOD conducts Operational Test & Evaluation (OT&E). OT&E is a field test of a system or piece of equipment under realistic operational conditions with Soldiers representative of those that will operate and maintain the system once it is fielded or deployed.

These tests determine the Soldier's ability to use the equipment to accomplish their mission (Effectiveness) and the reliability, maintainability, and availability of the equipment (Suitability).



Types of OT&E

- **Initial Operational Test (IOT)** - A dedicated field test, under realistic conditions, of production or production representative item of weapons, equipment, or munitions to determine the operational effectiveness, suitability, and survivability. The final step for items in the acquisition process prior to full rate production.
- **Limited User Test (LUT)** - Any type of operational test (OT) normally conducted during system acquisition other than the IOT. Normally addresses a limited number of evaluation issues such as airdrop.
- **Customer Test (CT)** – is conducted for a requesting agency. The requesting agency support requirements and provides funds and guidance for the test. Item is not directly responsive to a milestone decision.



What Requires Airborne Testing?



Vehicles and Heavy Equipment

- New vehicles
- Heavy Equipment
- Modifications to already approved equipment that will alter existing rigging procedures or exceed weight limitations or new equipment that does not have approved rigging procedures must be tested.
- New Cargo Systems

Personnel Combat Equipment

- Items of equipment that are not currently approved in a Safety Confirmation for use by operational Soldiers that will be attached externally to the jumper.
- Items of individual equipment that may be rigged internally in a weapons container or rucksack that could suffer degradation from impact should be tested.



Key personnel and points of contact



S1, Personnel, Military

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S1, Personnel, DA Civilian

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Director

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SHARP/SARC (16th MP BDE)

SFC Mattox Irine

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GOV: 910-568-9690

Military Equal Opportunity

SFC Sarmiento, Daniel

Email: daniel.sarmiento1.mil@army.mil

DoD Safe Helpline

1-877-995-5247

Fort Bragg 24hr Hotline

910-594-4267





ABNSOD/HQs physical address and 15.53-mile radius

For information about the local area, please reach out to your sponsor, or contact your supervisor.

If you are unsure who your supervisor is, reach out to the S1. Welcome to ABNSOD.

