



UNCLASSIFIED

# WELCOME TO THE AIRBORNE AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS TEST DIRECTORATE (ABNSOTD)



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

*We believe that American Warfighters deserve the best equipment to fight and win our Nation's wars. ABNSOTD provides this by informing fielding decisions through independent air transportability operational testing.*





# Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC)

## **Mission:**

U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command provides direct support to Army Futures Command and relevant, timely information to senior Army leaders to make future force decisions enabling Multi-Domain Operations through rigorous developmental testing and independent operational tests and evaluations.

## **Vision:**

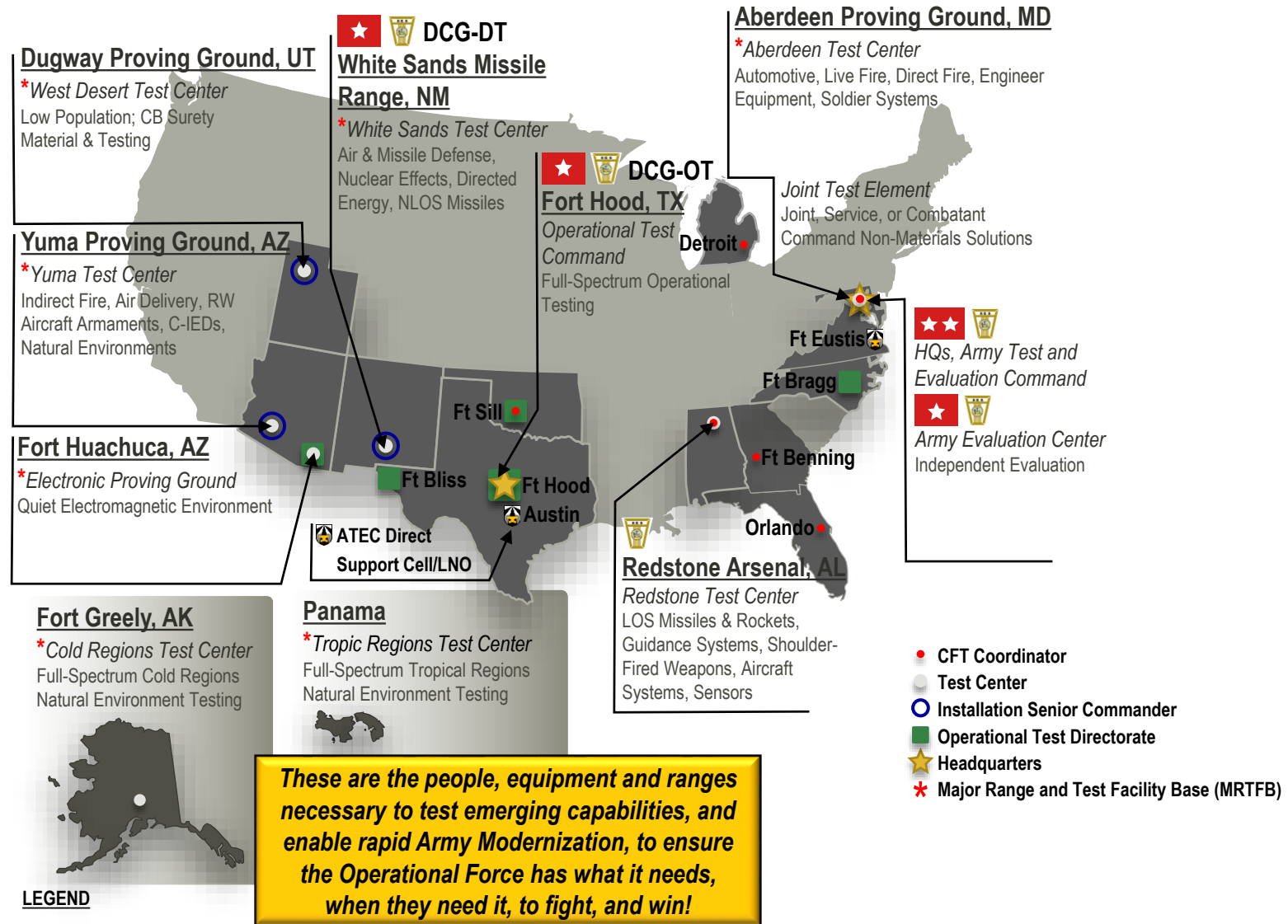
To be a team of highly skilled test and evaluation professionals focused on informing equipping decisions for today's and tomorrow's warfighter.

Visit ATEC's Website  
<https://www.atec.army.mil/>





# Army Test and Evaluation Command





# Operational Test Command (OTC)

## Mission:

U.S. Army Operational Test Command, in collaboration with our Test and Evaluation partners, conducts independent operational testing to inform acquisition and fielding decisions for Army and select multi-service Warfighting systems.

## Vision:

An adaptive and proficient team that is a fully integrated partner within the DOD enterprise; providing world-class, trusted, and independent operational testing in support of Service Members.

Visit OTC's website

<https://www.atec.army.mil/otc/index.html>





# Airborne and Special Operations Test Directorate (ABNSOTD)

## **Mission:**

ABNSOTD plans, executes, and reports on assigned five-year test program, operational tests, and field experiments involving doctrine, organization, and materiel relating to Joint Airborne and Special Operations Forces equipment, procedures and systems, to include aerial delivery and transportation items in support of air movement operations. Sustain the morale, welfare, and training of the ABNSOTD work force.

## **Vision:**

A forward looking and respected operational test directorate that focuses on current and future war-fighting requirements through the conduct of thorough, rigorous, realistic, honest, service unique, and joint testing. ABNSOTD ensures "Truth in Testing" while never compromising safety or performance.

Visit ABNSOTD's Website

<https://www.atec.army.mil/otc/directorates/abnsotd.html>





# ABNSOTD History

OTC's most unique test directorate is the Airborne and Special Operations Test Directorate (ABNSOTD) at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. The Airborne and Special Operations Test Directorate 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 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.

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





# Logo, Crest and Patch – What Do They Mean?



**ABNSOTD 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 skillsets of our Soldiers.



**OTC Crest:** The grid lines suggest study and precision; the colors black and white imply verification and clarity. The grid lines converge at the demisun, a symbol of enlightenment, emphasizing the search for truth and the promise of the future. The laurel wreath alludes to achievement, excellence, and high ideals; it is entwined by red scroll signifying military preparedness



**OTC 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

ABNSOTD 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).

*ABNSOTD conducts Operational Test & Evaluation. Testing new equipment in realistic conditions to 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 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.





# ABNSOTD Phone Numbers

Position	Phone number
S1 (Personnel)	910-396-1709
Security Manager	910-396-8563
S3 (Operations)	910-396-3308
S4 (Logistics)	910-907-3830
S6 (IT)	910-396-7918
Motorpool	910-396-4389
Aerial Delivery Rigging Branch	910-396-5659
Test Technology Brach	910-396--8587
PSOT/AD Test Branch	910-396-5985
Deputy of Test	910-432-3027
Chief of Test	910-396-8824
1SG	910-396-8302
Company Commander	910-396-8528
XO	910-396-4804
Deputy Director	910-396-4204
Director	910-396-2800





# FBNC / Fayetteville Local Info

For information about the local area, please reach out to your sponsor, or contact your supervisor. If you are unsure who your sponsor is, reach out to the S1. We look forward to welcoming you to the ABNSOTD Family.

