



82nd AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSN. INC.
ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER

PARATROOPER

www.82ndairborne-assoc.com



Chartered by the
United States Congress

The
"All Airborne" Fraternity

March 2024

Chris Mirowski, Editor

Army aims to equip an Army division with hand-held counter-drone gear

But one expert said the service may have underestimated just how much that will cost.



Photo courtesy of Air Force TSgt Dana J. Cable

A soldier demonstrates the use of a Drone Buster for U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Lapthe C. Flora, commanding general of Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa, during his visit to Chabelley Airfield, Djibouti, Oct. 31, 2020.

Sam Skove
Defense One
March 28, 2024

The Army's 2025 budget request includes \$13.5 million for hand-held anti-drone devices to equip a division and \$54.2 million for backpack-size jammers, an Army spokesperson

Airborne Dinner – **FIRESTONE**
Saturday, April 6, 2024
See page 7 for information and a map

See
"Counter
drone" on
Page 3



From the Chairman



Hello RMC,

I want to report that our return to the Arvada American Legion for the February Dinner was a success. The Arvada Legion's kitchen is under new management, and there is also a new Post Commander. Both stated they wanted the Rocky Mountain Chapter to return, and it was evident with the meal quality, the caring service, and the low price for what we received in return, they meant it. So, we accomplished our objective for the first leg of our 2024 plan to alternate the locations of the dinners between the North, Metro, and South Metro areas.

The next dinner is Saturday, April 6, and we'll be back in Firestone at the American Legion. RMC Trustee Bob Williams is planning another good meal for us. With the weather turning nicer and the days becoming longer, I want to encourage you to come out to fellowship with your fellow paratroopers. Please

don't make finances or a ride the issues that keep you from attending. We have resources, so contact Secretary Chris Cummings or me if you need assistance.

Also, we're coming up on the time of year when we start thinking about All-American Week and the Annual Convention. Information about both are on pages 5 and 6. All American Week is May 20 – 23. The Convention will be on August 14 – 17 in Orlando. I will not be able to attend this year. If you are, please contact me. The Chapter can pick up the tab for your registration, and I can designate you to vote on any legislative items in my place.

AATW!

Chris Mirowski
Chairman, RMC

Officers of the Rocky Mountain Chapter

Chairman

Chris Mirowski
585 Barnwood Dr.
Windsor, CO 80550
(970) 481-5839

Christopher.Mirowski@gmail.com

Vice Chairman

John McGuire
1112 Matthews St.
Ft. Collins, CO 80524
(719) 919-0793

Johnmcgruie@gmail.com

Secretary

Chris Cummings
1600 Iron Horse Dr
A105
Longmont, CO, 80501
(720) 418-0022

Cwc0022@gmail.com

Treasurer

Alan Jenkins
550 James St.
Highlands Ranch, CO 80126
(303) 641-9655

Ajenkins2112@gmail.com

Judge Advocate

Jose Aguayo
2122 W. 28th Ave
Denver, CO 80211
(970) 482-7364

Joseaguayo601@gmail.com

Sgt-at-Arms

Ron Mitchell
3275 Moore Ct.
Wheat Ridge, CO 80033
720-775-7591

rpmnow1@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Chris Mirowski

Quartermaster

Tom Lopez
8202 Dahlia St.
Henderson, CO 80640
(720) 363-0705

ThomasdLopez@outlook.com

Social Media

John McGuire

Paraglide Contributor

Chris Cummings

Trustees

Art Gallegos

Tom Lopez

Pat Kleckner

Mike Marsh

Don Schultz

Bob Williams

said Thursday.

The \$13.5 million will buy 20 Modi devices, 10 Smart Shooter devices, 10 Bal Chatri devices, and 20 Dronebuster devices.

But equipping a division may require more, said Samuel Bendett of the Center for Naval Analysis, an expert on Ukraine and Russia’s use of drones in Ukraine.

“At the very least, each platoon should probably have [a hand-held anti-drone device], based on what we’re seeing in Ukraine so far,” he said.

The Modi and Dronebuster are both jamming systems, while the Bal Chatri detects the signals of potential enemy drones overhead. The Smartshooter, by contrast, is a rifle scope that calculates where to aim to take down fast moving drones.

The backpack jammers are the Terrestrial Layer System Manpacks, a system that provides both signals intelligence and jamming capabilities.

The Army previously said it was equipping two divisions with hand-held counter drone weapons: the 82nd Airborne and 1st Cavalry.

The 82nd Airborne and 1st Cavalry received the same types of hand-held counter-drone devices the Army requested for fiscal year 2025: the Modi, Smart Shooter, Bal Chatri, and Dronebuster. The 1st Cavalry trained 80 soldiers on the equipment, out of its force of 19,500. It is unclear how many sets the units received.

The Army also wants to beef up its air defense with larger counter-drone weapons, according to the fiscal year 2025 budget.

The service is seeking more jammers, including \$82.5 million to buy the Mobile-Low, Slow, Small Unmanned Aircraft Integrated Defeat System (M-LIDS) and \$26.4 million for the Fixed Site-Low, Slow, Small Unmanned Aircraft System Integrated Defeat System, or FS-LIDS.

The Army also asked for more money to buy systems that destroy drones outright, including \$117 million for Coyote drone interceptors, and \$88 million in research and development for the directed-energy variant of the Maneuver Short Range Air Defense (M-SHORAD) vehicle, \$204 million for increment three of the M-SHORAD, and \$22 million for increment one of the M-SHORAD.

As U.S. military bases in the Middle East face continuing drone attacks, Army leaders have praised Coyote interceptors as one of the most successful counter-drone systems. In January, the Army bought 600 Coyote 2C Interceptors for \$75 million, at a cost of around \$125,000 per interceptor.

Ukrainian troops use thousands of hand-held drone jammers and detectors, providing a much higher density of hand-held anti-drone devices than the U.S. Army currently fields. But the use reflects a battlefield reality—troops on both sides of the war use tens of thousands of drones each month for strikes and observation.

US Army Europe and Africa launches “80 Days to D-Day” social media campaign

March 18, 2024
**WIESBADEN,
Germany**

In honor of the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings, U.S. Army Europe and Africa and U.S. commands historically linked to the event will countdown to the official commemoration on June 6, 2024.

The campaign will feature historical/educational content celebrating the sacrifices of those who risked everything to invade the European mainland and defeat Nazi tyranny.



Operation Overlord—commonly referred to as D-Day—was the largest air, land and sea invasion ever executed. It marked the beginning of the Allied liberation of Nazi-occupied Europe. More than 160,000 Allied troops from the United States, Britain, Canada, and other nations landed on five beaches along a 50-mile stretch of heavily fortified coastline. Despite facing fierce resistance from German forces, the Allies ultimately secured a crucial foothold in France, paving the way for the eventual liberation of Europe.

For more information, contact USAREUR-AF Public Affairs at media@army.mil or +49.611.143.537.0005.

To see all the posts, follow the hashtag #80DaysToDDay and these accounts:
Historical Unit Twitter Facebook Instagram

ALL AMERICAN WEEK 2024

May 20-23, 2024

The 82nd Airborne Division Association President and Board of Directors cordially invite all Association Members to join us as we celebrate All American Week with the 82nd Airborne Division.

Hotel reservations have been arranged, for registered Association members, at IHG Army Hotel (Airborne Inn - Moon Hall).

IHG Army Hotel (Airborne Inn – Moon Hall) - The Registered Member room rates are \$89.00/night for a standard queen (up to 2 people per room) + tax and includes buffet breakfast.

Rooms for individuals with disabilities are available upon request. Members should contact the hotel directly for reservations and questions regarding rooms:

IHG Army Hotel (Airborne Inn-Moon Hall)

Bldg. D-3601 Darby Loop, Fort Bragg NC 28310 (910) 853-7624 (POC Ms. Monica Wells) ihgarmyhotels.com

Group code: AAW

If you have not paid your separate registration fee with the Association, you will not be eligible for the discounted hotel group rates, nor be able to use our block of rooms!

There will be no transportation provided to or from the airport. Taxi service and Uber/Lyft is available.

Registration is \$155. REGISTRATIONS MUST be received by 5 May 2024.

After 5 May 2023, late registration increases to \$180 per person.

Registration can be mailed in or you can register online at <http://www.82ndairborneassociation.org/events.html>

The Association Dinner Social will be on Thursday, 23 May, at the Iron Mike Conference Center.

The Fayetteville Chapter Picnic Lunch is scheduled for Monday, 20 May and will be held at the Fayetteville Chapter Clubhouse (transportation will be provided to/from the Clubhouse for the Picnic Lunch).

The Fayetteville Chapter is also hosting a Southern BBQ Dinner on Wednesday, 22 May and it will be held at Moon Hall.

The meals for these events, and drinks and snacks in the hospitality room, are included in the registration fee.

Check in and registration packets will be available at the Association Registration Desk located in Moon Hall.

Golf Scramble information will be put out shortly.



82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION 78TH NATIONAL CONVENTION August 14-17, 2024 Orlando, Florida



Convention Registration
QR Code

The 82nd Airborne Division Association President and Board of Directors cordially invite all Association Members to join us in Orlando, FL for the Association's 78th National Convention. Registration for the Convention is \$195 per attendee. This covers food, snacks, and drinks, in the hospitality room, plus 2 formal dinners*, a true bargain. Please register early as the registration fee will increase to \$225 per person after July 25, 2024.

Upon arrival at the hotel, please be sure to check in at the Association registration desk for your welcome packet. Signs will be posted for the location of our registration desk in the hotel.

You can register online at <http://www.82ndairborneassociation.org/events.html> or you can mail in your registration to:

82nd Airborne Division Association
PO Box 87482
Fayetteville, NC 28304



Hotel reservations have been arranged for registered Association members at The Rosen Centre for ONLY \$94 per room night (plus tax), and this is extended 3 days prior and 3 days after the convention to enable you to make this not only a great convention but also a fantastic vacation opportunity. Please note that the hotel reservations cut off date is July 10, 2024. (Starting July 11, the room rate goes up to \$106 (plus tax), so book early!

Room is limited, so book NOW!



In addition to the fantastic room rate, a 15% discount on select on-site restaurants will be available to members registered for the Convention. Also, if you have handicap plates, valet parking will be provided free to our registered members.

Hotel Reservations need to be made directly with the hotel:

THE ROSEN CENTRE
9840 International Drive, Orlando, FL
800-204-7234
(reference 82nd Airborne Division Association)

Hotel Reservation QR Code



Or go directly to their website and book your room at:
[82nd Airborne Div. Assoc. Annual Convention 2024 Online Hotel Booking Link](#) or
scan the QR Code

REMEMBER, an adult must be registered for the convention to receive the Association group rate at check out. Come to the 78th Annual Convention and stay a few extra days to enjoy comradery and family fun in the sun at Theme Parks, Dining, Music, and Shopping or just stay in the pool!

We will be adding a link in the coming days on our website for Visit Orlando. Through Visit Orlando, discounts will be available to our registered members for select restaurants, theme parks and events in the Orlando area! Be sure to check back at our website periodically!

*Memorial Dinner – Coat and Tie/Cocktail

*Banquet – Coat and Tie/Evening Attire



ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER "ALL AIRBORNE"

DINNER: April 6, 2023

3:00 – 5:00pm

Firestone American Legion Post 1985

870 1st Street

MENU: Baked (unbreaded) chicken parmesan with noodles and marinara, salad, desert, and coffee and tea.

PRICE: \$15.00 all inclusive ...per meal

The price is right and the company is good. Don't miss this opportunity to fellowship with your fellow paratroopers.

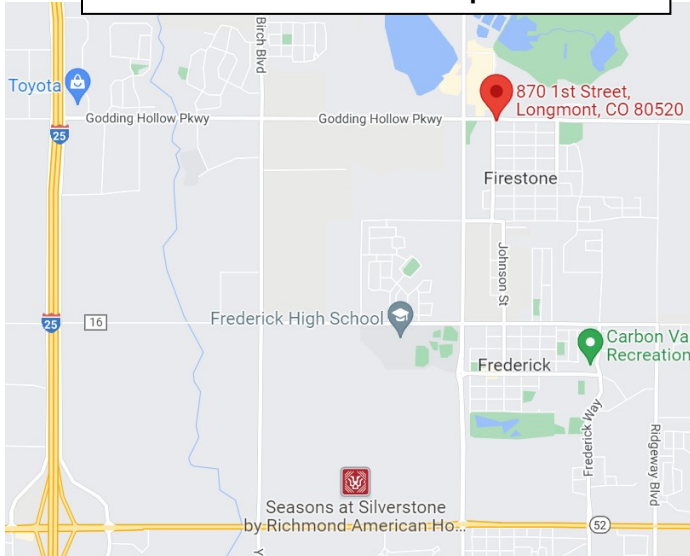
Firestone is just east of Longmont in Northern Colorado.

Directions

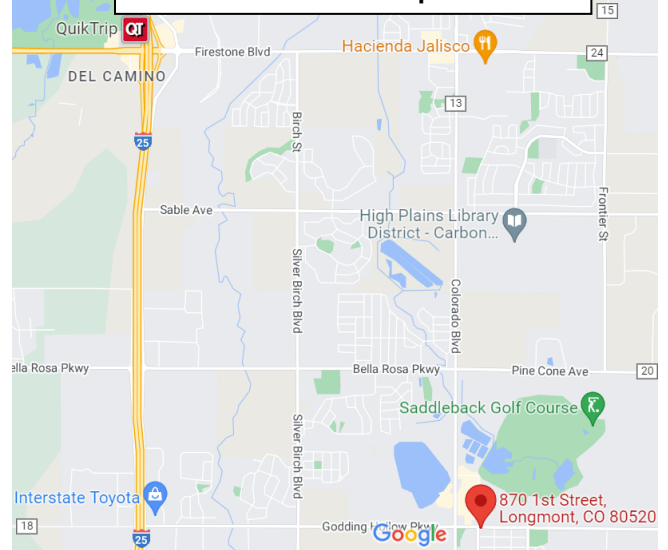
(South of Firestone) Take 1-25 north to Highway 52 (exit 235). Travel eastbound to Colorado Blvd and turn left. Continue northbound to Grant Ave and take an immediate right on 1st Ave and you're there.

(North of Firestone) Take I-25 south to Highway 119 (exit 240 - Firestone Blvd). Travel eastbound to Colorado Blvd and turn right. Continue southbound to Grant Ave and take an immediate right on 1st Ave and you're there.

Metro/Southern Colorado map directions



Northern Colorado map directions





*82nd Airborne Division Assn. Inc.
1600 Iron Horse Dr
A105
Longmont, CO 80501*

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The “**All Airborne**” Fraternity

Rocky Mountain Chapter 2024 Calendar of Events

March

16th Officers Meeting
Northglenn IHOP

April

6th Airborne Dinner
American Legion
Firestone

June

1st Officers Meeting
Northglenn IHOP

22nd Airborne Picnic

August

3rd Officer's meeting (IHOP)
24th Airborne Dinner
American Legion
Firestone

October

7th Officers meeting (IHOP)
26th Airborne Dinner
TBA – South Metro

November

11th Veterans Day Parade
Loveland
TBA Colorado Springs
Veterans Day Parade
18th Officers meeting
(IHOP)

December

14th Annual Business Meeting &
Airborne Dinner
American Legion
Arvada