

**CONSTITUTION
OF
ASSOCIATION OF BRAGG SPOUSES
FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA**

Effective: May 2, 2025

**ARTICLE I
NAME, PURPOSE & AUTHORITY**

SECTION 1: Name – The name of this organization shall be the ASSOCIATION OF BRAGG SPOUSES (hereinafter referred to as “ABS”). ABS is a non-profit organization incorporated in the state of North Carolina by the filing of the Articles of Incorporation dated August 12, 2012 and as amended from time to time. Effective August 17, 2012, ABS is exempt from federal income tax under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

SECTION 2: Purpose – The purpose of ABS shall be to encourage personal growth, serve the community, and support each other wholeheartedly.

SECTION 3: Authority – ABS is established at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, as a private Non-Profit Organization with consent of the Installation Commander under the provisions of DoDI 1000.15 and AR 210-22, contingent upon the following conditions:

- A. To prevent the appearance of an official sanction or support by the Department of Defense (hereinafter referred to as “DoD”), The United States Army or Fort Bragg, ABS may not use the seals, logos, or insignia of any DoD component, organizational unit, or installation on the letterhead, correspondence, or its title. Any use of the name or abbreviation of a DoD component or installation may not mislead members of the public to assume this association is an organizational unit of DoD. If this association incorporates names or abbreviations of DoD components, organizational units or installations, it must receive prior written approval for such use by the Installation Commander.
- B. Programs and activities conducted will not prejudice or discredit the military services or other agencies of the United States Government.
- C. Activities will not be conducted in the name of an installation or organization of the United States Army establishment.
- D. Neither an appropriated fund activity nor a non-appropriated fund instrumentality may assert any claim to the assets of ABS, and ABS will not incur or assume an obligation to any private organization, except as may arise out of contractual relationships.
- E. ABS will not engage in any activities that are in conflict with authorized activities of appropriated or non-appropriated fund instrumentalities, as defined in AR 215-1.
- F. The nature, function, and objectives of ABS, together with provisions for proper distribution of residual assets and liabilities upon dissolution, will be established in the Constitution.
- G. ABS will be self-sustaining and receive no support, assistance, or facilities from

the Army or from non-appropriated fund instrumentalities as defined in DoDI 1000.15.H. The Installation Commander shall have the authority to enforce compliance by ABS with the conditions enumerated herein, to inquire into its activities, and to withdraw his/her consent for its existence if deemed in the interest of the United States Government.

- H. ABS is not established to provide morale, welfare, and recreational activities essential to the operation of the United States Army.
- I. All Members are personally liable if the assets of ABS are insufficient to discharge all liabilities. If liabilities exceed assets, each Member shall be assessed their pro rata share of the remaining debt after assets have been liquidated and applied toward liabilities.
- J. Neither the installation nor the United States Government will have any liability for the organization's actions or debts. AR 210-22.
- K. ABS will reimburse the United States Army for utility expenses for which it received benefit, but only if such utility expenses are great enough to warrant reimbursement. AR 210-22.
- L. ABS will neither propagate extremist activities nor advocate violence against others or the violent overthrow of the United States Government. AR 210-22.
- M. ABS will be responsible for ensuring applicable fire and safety regulations, environmental laws, local, state, and Federal tax codes, and any other applicable statutes and regulations are compiled within the operation of the organization. DoDI 1000.15.
- N. ABS will observe all applicable laws on labor standards for employment. DoDI 1000.15
- O. ABS will not imply that the installation supports any political organizations/activities unless the Installation Commander first sanctions and approves said implications.
- P. The Executive Board Officers of ABS shall ensure that both the Constitution and ABS Bylaws are reviewed every two (2) years to ensure that proper DoD and state rules are followed therewith.

ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1: Membership in this club is voluntary. ABS does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, national origin, age, disability, religion, or sexual orientation. ABS will not seek to deprive individuals of their civil rights. AR 210-22.

SECTION 2: The membership year is from 1 June – 31 May.

SECTION 3: Membership is limited to eligible persons residing in the Fort Bragg area. Membership shall consist of Members, Advisor(s), and Honorary Members.

A. Members

a. Eligibility:

- i. Active-Duty members of the United States Armed Forces and their spouses assigned to and residing in the Fort Bragg area.
- ii. Retired members of the United States Armed Forces and/or their spouses residing in the Fort Bragg area.
- iii. Unmarried widows/widowers of deceased members of the United States Armed Forces residing in the Fort Bragg area.
- iv. Dependents (over 18 years) residing with a sponsoring member of the United States Armed Forces assigned to and residing in the Fort Bragg area.
- v. Dependents (over 18 years) of retired or deceased members of the United States Armed Forces assigned to and residing in the Fort Bragg area.
- vi. Foreign service members on Active Duty assigned to and residing in the Fort Bragg area and/or their spouses.
- vii. Members of National Guard and Reserves and/or their spouses assigned to and residing in the Fort Bragg area.
- viii. Any domestic partner of a member of the United States Armed Forces, recognized by the United States Armed Forces and/or DoD, assigned to and residing in the Fort Bragg area.

b. Duties and privileges:

- i. Members shall be in Good Standing, as defined herein and in the Bylaws of ABS, in order to be eligible to participate in ABS sponsored activities, vote, or hold elected office.
- ii. Members must possess documentation to verify eligibility in the form of a valid DoD ID card, or LES and a valid marriage license.

B. Advisor(s)

a. Eligibility:

- i. The spouse of the Commanding General – XVIII ABN CORPS or a person designated by the spouse of the Commanding General - XVIII ABN CORPS to serve as their place;
- ii. The spouse of the CSM – XVIII ABN CORPS or a person designated by the spouse of the CSM - XVIII ABN CORPS to serve in their place;
- iii. Any person appointed by the spouse of the Commanding General – XVIII ABN CORPS; or
- iv. Any person appointed by the ABS Executive Board.

b. Duties and Privileges:

- i. This person(s) shall serve as Advisor(s).
- ii. Advisor(s) are entitled to the same privileges of Members.
- iii. Advisor(s) are not required to pay dues.

C. Honorary Members

- a. Eligibility: honorary membership may be extended to distinguished persons (i.e. the spouse of the Mayor, distinguished business person, etc.) who do not meet the eligibility requirements for membership at the discretion of the Executive Board, with the approval of the ABS Board, for one (1) membership year.

b. Duties and Privileges:

- i. Honorary members are not required to pay dues.
- ii. Honorary members are not entitled to the same privileges as members.
- iii. Honorary members are eligible to attend ABS functions.

SECTION 4: Membership is necessary for participation in all club activities. An exception to this membership requirement may be granted with the approval of two-third (2/3rds) of the general Board with a quorum consisting of a majority of the general Board present to vote.

SECTION 5: If a person wishes to apply for a scholarship and is eligible to be a member of ABS, then they (or their parent(s)) must become a member of ABS during the current membership year in order to be eligible to apply for a scholarship as required by Article VII of the ABS Bylaws unless the Scholarship Committee deems it necessary to change the membership requirements for a specific scholarship (i.e. the scholarship for the benefit of dependents of those killed while on Active Duty). The Board may vote to allow exceptions to the membership requirement stated above, including, but not limited to, allowing for exceptions to the membership eligibility requirement, or allowing for non-members to apply for a scholarship with the implementation of an application fee.

SECTION 6: Guests of members are welcome at functions which are not designated as members-only. Anyone eligible for membership may attend only one (1) regular meeting, event, or function as a guest prior to joining as a member. Members-only functions will be open only to members and advisors, with the inclusion of Honorary Members at the discretion of the Board.

SECTION 7: Any or all of the following terminates membership:

- A. Member's permanent departure from the Fort Bragg area;
- B. Nonpayment of any dues or fees that are owed within thirty (30) days from being due;
- C. Written resignation to ABS;
- D. Change of membership status, which would affect membership eligibility;
- E. Removal for "Just Cause" as defined in the ABS Bylaws Article V; or
- F. Loss of "member in Good Standing" status as defined herein and in the ABS Bylaws Article V.

ARTICLE III EXECUTIVE AND GENERAL BOARD

SECTION 1: The ABS Board shall be responsible for carrying out the purpose and objectives of this organization and shall be responsible for the operation and management of ABS and its activities in accordance with the approved Constitution, Bylaws, and any Internal Operating Procedures (hereinafter referred to as "IOP") or any applicable Standard Operating Procedures (hereinafter referred to as "SOP"). All Board Members are expected to attend Board meetings; each position shall have one (1) vote. The Parliamentarian and the Advisor(s) shall not have a vote in any situation. The President

shall vote only in the event of a tie.

The ABS Board, serving without compensation, shall consist of the following members:

A. Executive Board

- a. The Executive Board shall be composed of the elected officers, the Parliamentarian, and the Advisor(s). The Executive Board shall meet as needed.
- b. The following officers from the membership: President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be elected by Members voting in April or May each year. A quorum shall consist of 20% of membership voting. The vote of the majority of the quorum shall govern.
- c. The Parliamentarian shall be appointed by the President, with the majority approval of the Executive Board.
- d. The Advisor(s) are appointed as detailed in Article II, Section 3.B of this Constitution.
- e. The term of office shall be one (1) year beginning 1 June and ending 31 May. No elected officer may hold the same office for more than two (2) consecutive years unless there is no one willing or available to hold the office.

B. General Board (Standing Committee Chairs)

- a. The General Board may consist of those positions as stated in the Bylaws Article II, Section 8 and be appointed by the President with the approval of the Executive Board.
- b. The General Board shall be representative of all types of membership and include Officer and Enlisted Spouses to the best extent possible.
- c. No Member shall hold the same Board position for more than two (2) consecutive years unless there is no one willing or available to hold the position. .

SECTION 2: The Executive and the General Board (hereinafter referred to collectively as “the Board”) shall:

- A. Formulate plans and establish IOPs and any applicable SOPs for ABS in accordance with this Constitution and Bylaws;
- B. Prescribe the scope of activities, services, and facilities;
- C. Ensure that ABS is properly administered, its funds safeguarded, that all due income is received in full and properly recorded and prescribed, and approve expenditures and creditor relationships;
- D. Administer operational funds;
- E. Administer welfare funds for the educational and charitable purposes of the Fort Bragg community; and
- F. Adhere to the duties as outlined herein, in the ABS Bylaws and any IOPs.

SECTION 3: Resignation of the Executive and General Board should be submitted in writing to the President prior to the time of resignation. Vacancies shall be filled as soon as possible and as prescribed in the ABS Bylaws Article II Section 12.

SECTION 4: An effort shall be made to ensure that both the Executive Board and the General Board have inclusive representation including both Officer and Enlisted spouses to the extent possible.

ARTICLE IV ELECTIONS

SECTION 1: In February the Parliamentarian shall ask the current elected officers (who are interested and eligible for reelection) if they wish to run for the same office. If the person currently holding the office is eligible for reelection, and interested in holding the same position, they should inform the Parliamentarian and be given the opportunity to be placed on the slate in that position. The Parliamentarian then shall contact all current members to gain potential candidates.

SECTION 2: The Parliamentarian shall serve as the Nominating Chairperson and appoint a committee including the Advisor(s) and work to present a slate of nominated officers for the upcoming membership year. If possible, the person nominated as President should have served on the ABS Board in the current board year in order to encourage continuity.

SECTION 3: The names of the candidates nominated by the Nominating Committee shall be presented to the Membership via email/and or newsletter at least seven (7) days prior to the elections. The elections shall be held in April or May. Elections may be held electronically.

SECTION 4: The officers of ABS shall be elected by the Membership in April or May by electronic vote. The officers shall be elected by a majority of the votes cast with a quorum consisting of 20% of Membership voting in order for the election to be valid. Voting shall be via secret ballot in the event of a multiple slate. Abstentions will not be included in the quorum and should be subtracted from the number required for a quorum and will in no way impact the outcome of the vote. If a voting member abstains from voting, their vote shall not be counted as a Yes vote or a No vote and will not impact the final outcome. Telephonic, proxy or email voting may take place as per Article IV of the ABS Bylaws.

SECTION 5: The Parliamentarian, with assistance from at least one (1) other Nominating Committee member, shall count the votes.

SECTION 6: In the event of a vacancy of an office of the elected Executive Board:

- A. President:
The First Vice President shall assume the office of President. Should the First Vice President decline the office, the Second Vice President shall be asked. If the Second Vice President declines, the First Vice President shall assume duties until an official election is held.
- B. Treasurer:
The First Vice President shall assume the office of Treasurer. Should the First Vice President decline the office, the Second Vice President shall be asked. If the Second Vice President declines, the First Vice President shall assume duties until an official election is held.
- C. All other vacancies shall be filled as soon as possible by the President with the approval of the Executive Board.

SECTION 7: If there are no nominations of candidates for the Executive Board, and a slate can not be set for voting of new elected officers, then the current Executive Board shall have the discretion to appoint interim Board Members who shall assume duties until an elected executive board can take over responsibilities.

ARTICLE V RECORDS

SECTION 1: The Secretary shall maintain a historical file consisting of the following permanent records:

- A. The ABS Constitution and ABS Bylaws with all current revisions.
- B. Records of approval of the ABS Constitution and ABS Bylaws and all amendments thereto.
- C. Current list of ABS elected officer's names, addresses, and phone numbers.
- D. Current list of ABS Members.
- E. Copies of all ABS Executive Board and General Board minutes.
- F. Copies of all After Action Reports.
- G. Copies of all financial records.
- H. Copies of all policies.
- I. Any other historically significant documentation including but not limited to membership numbers, fundraising totals, etc.

SECTION 2: All records of ABS, excluding the uncleared financials for the month of May, will be cut off at the end of the fiscal year, 31 May. These records will be held for at least seven (7) years, after which time they may be destroyed. The monthly financial statements shall be placed with related records when they are completed; using the applicable provisions of the DoDI 1000.15 series as a guide.

ARTICLE VI INSURANCE

SECTION 1: ABS understands that it is required to obtain adequate insurance to protect against public liability and property damage claims or other legal actions that may arise as a result of activities of ABS or one or more of its members acting on its behalf, of the operation of any equipment/apparatus or device under the control and responsibility of ABS, in accordance with DoDI 1000.15 and AR 210-22. ABS certifies that all North Carolina and federal jurisdiction laws are met regarding the amount of liability coverage.

SECTION 2: ABS must carry proper insurance for any sponsored event, which is open to the public and liability is not covered by the government. It is the Treasurer's duty to ensure proper insurance is purchased and paid for prior to the event.

SECTION 3: ABS must ensure that it carries the proper insurance for any of its buildings used and any property housed in said building(s). It is the Treasurer's duty to ensure proper insurance is purchased and paid for annually.

ARTICLE VII PROPERTY

SECTION 1: The property of ABS shall consist of such articles as may properly come into its possession. The ABS Property Chairperson, or, if there is no ABS Property Chairperson, the President, shall account for this property and shall keep a written inventory in accordance with sound business practices, using DoDI 1000.15 as a guide. One (1) copy of this inventory shall be kept by the Property Chairperson, one (1) copy by the President, and one (1) copy in the property room.

SECTION 2: The First Vice President, Second Vice President and Fundraiser Chairperson(s) along with any Board Members who work with ABS property in the conduct of their duties shall assist the Property Chairperson in the completion of the annual Property Room cleaning and organization day. Board Members who acquire property as a result of their position shall report their acquisitions to the Property Chairperson and sign-over all property at the end of the board year. In the event of a resignation, the Board Member should return acquired property immediately.

SECTION 3: The President along with the Property Chairperson shall update the current property contract and have it approved annually by the Executive Board to be signed by any person, unit, or organization renting ABS property to ensure that the proper payment(s) will be made and that the property will be returned in the same state in which it was rented. Any fees associated with damage or missing property shall be assessed according to said contract. Board Members using property for membership events do not have to sign said contract, but do need to coordinate with the Property Chairperson to avoid errors with paid rentals.

**ARTICLE VIII
PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

Robert's Rules of Order (newly revised) shall govern all parliamentary procedures not covered by this Constitution and/or the ABS Bylaws.

**ARTICLE IX
AMENDMENTS AND REVISIONS**

SECTION 1: Amendments to the Constitution and ABS Bylaws may be proposed by any member in good standing and must be submitted in writing to the Board. Both the portion of the present Constitution and the proposed amendments will be disseminated.

SECTION 2: The Executive Board shall ensure that both the Constitution and the ABS Bylaws are reviewed every two (2) years to ensure that proper DoD and state rules are followed therewith.

SECTION 3: Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws will require the following:

- A. Constitution:
 - a. A quorum consisting of a majority of the ABS Executive and General Board positions filed with two-thirds (2/3rds) vote of approval; and
 - b. A quorum consisting of 20% of Membership voting at a ABS membership meeting or via electronic vote with a two-thirds (2/3rds) vote of approval; and
 - c. Approval of the Installation Commander, XVIII AIRBORNE CORPS and Fort Bragg through DMWR-FMB.
- B. Bylaws:
 - a. A quorum consisting of a majority of the ABS Executive and General Board positions filled with a two-thirds (2/3rds) vote of approval; and
 - b. Approval of the Installation Commander, XVIII AIRBORNE CORPS and Fort Bragg through DMWR-FMB.

SECTION 4: Amendments to the Internal Operating Procedure (IOP) shall be made accordingly:

- A. The Executive Board is empowered to amend the IOP of ABS upon a majority vote and changes will be effective immediately upon adoption.
- B. Amendments to the IOP are subject to the review of the Installation Commander, XVIII AIRBORNE CORPS and Fort Bragg through DMWR-FMB.

SECTION 5: All methods of voting shall be conducted as outlined herein and in the ABS Bylaws Article IV.

ARTICLE X
DISSOLUTION

SECTION 1: Dissolution of ABS shall be determined by the following:

- A. A quorum consisting of a majority of Board positions filed with two-thirds (2/3rds) vote of approval; AND
- B. A quorum consisting of 20% of Membership voting at an ABS membership meeting or via electronic vote with a two-thirds (2/3rds) vote of approval; OR
- C. At the direction of the Installation Commander, XVIII AIRBORNE CORPS and Fort Bragg through DMWR-FMB; OR
- D. By judicial dissolution; OR
- E. By administrative dissolution by the North Carolina Secretary of State.

SECTION 2: If ABS is forced to temporarily suspend its activities, all of the assets of ABS will be frozen for up to one (1) year. At the end of that time, the Executive Board will determine the future of the organization and its assets consistent with the purpose stated in Article I herein.

SECTION 3: All residual assets and properties, after payment of all liabilities shall be disposed of in a manner consistent with the purpose stated in Article I herein and as determined by the ABS Board. If liabilities exceed assets, each Member shall be assessed their pro-rata share of the remaining debt after assets have been liquidated and applied toward liabilities.

**ARTICLE XI
ADOPTION**

SECTION 1: This Constitution shall become accepted as changed by a two-thirds (2/3rds) vote of the voting members present in a duly constituted regular or special meeting of the membership or via electronic vote with a quorum of at least 20% of Membership voting. Upon approval of the Installation Commander, XVIII AIRBORNE CORPS and Fort Bragg through DMWR-FMB, this Constitution shall then supersede all previous Constitutions and amendments except that this Constitution shall neither affect already elected/appointed officers nor contracts already entered into until such officers have completed their designated term and/or said contracts have reached their expiration.

SECTION 2: The Board reviewed and approved revisions to this Constitution at a meeting held in May 2025. The following Board Members accept and approve this Constitution:

President

First Vice President

Second Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

Parliamentarian

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED THIS _____ DAY OF May 2025.
(Supersedes Constitution dated 2024).

FOR THE INSTALLATION COMMANDER, XVIII AIRBORNE CORPS AND FORT BRAGG
through DMWR-FMB.