



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 4TH ABCT, 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION
JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, ALASKA 99505

I am Colonel Matt McFarlane. I command the unit your Paratrooper was recently assigned to. As the parent or family member of a Paratrooper assigned to 4th Airborne Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, I would like to welcome you to the Spartan Family. This Brigade, commonly called the "Spartan Brigade," is the only Airborne Brigade assigned to the Pacific Theater. Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, often referred to as JBER, is located just north of Anchorage, Alaska, America's "Last Frontier." I am sure your Trooper will find this assignment personally and professionally rewarding.

Quality of life and support for Paratroopers and their Families are essential to the command. It is even more important given the fast pace of today's Army. In an effort to keep you connected to your Spartan Family and abreast of happenings within the unit, we have two important channels of communication for you. Our Family Readiness Support Assistant (FRSA), Christie Apland, and the Brigade's websites are invaluable tools that will help link you to the JBER Military Community and stay abreast of your Paratrooper's activities.

Christie Apland has served as the Spartan FRSA since January 2011. She has worked with the Brigade through all stages of the deployment cycle, while the Brigade is home and in combat. Charged with supporting families and empowering them to be ready for whatever comes their way, Christie is a wealth of knowledge with countless resources at her disposal. I encourage you to use her extensively as this Brigade prepares for its next mission. She is most easily reached by email at christie.a.apland.civ@mail.mil.

We offer several ways to access information about the Spartan Brigade. We post the latest pictures and information to keep you informed on the [Spartan Facebook](#) page. Additionally, the [Brigade website](#) and the [JBER website](#) offer a variety of information on the local community.

Again, welcome to the Spartan Family. I consider it a privilege to lead your Trooper and this Brigade. I can assure you that my top priority is caring for and developing the leader in your loved one. If I can be of assistance in the future please feel free to contact me by email at matthew.w.mcfarlane.mil@mail.mil.

All the Way! Arctic Tough! Sparta Lives!

Sincerely,

MATTHEW W. MCFARLANE
Colonel, U.S. Army