



JOINT BASE LEWIS-McCHORD

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April 1, 2015

JBLM combats fiscal budget cuts and supports local proms with innovative money-making program

JOINT BASE LEWIS-McCHORD, Wash. – JBLM will launch a new pilot program this month to rent military vehicles and facilities to area high schools and students during the 2015 prom season. Funds raised will be used to offset fiscal budget cuts at the base.

Instead of riding to the prom in a traditional limousine, students will be able to choose between a Jeep, HMMWV, an 8-wheeled Stryker vehicle, or an MRAP (Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected) vehicle. The Jeep and HMMWV will carry two prom-goers each, while the Stryker and MRAP will carry eight.

JBLM will also rent hangars on base if local schools want to host their proms on base. The hangars are large enough to accommodate any school's prom.

Each military vehicle will come fully equipped with a licensed military driver and assistant driver, plus complimentary Meals-Ready-to-Eat (MREs) and olive-drab plastic canteens of potable water.

Rented military vehicles will pick up prom-goers at a place of their choosing, chauffeur them to the prom, and return them safely before O-dark-thirty.

HMMWVs will rent for \$100 per hour; the Stryker and MRAP will rent for \$250 per hour. Fuel cost is extra. Rent for a hangar will be \$5,000.

JBLM's one historic WWII-era M-38 Willys Jeep is available. Use of the Jeep on prom nights will be a hot commodity, so the base will auction its availability on a popular on-line auction site.

JBLM sits in the middle of several densely populated civilian communities with more than 15 school districts in the area. The base expects to raise substantial funds to offset recent budget cuts. Some high schools are already planning military or M*A*S*H-themed prom events. One local tux shop is stocking its store with a new line of tux and tails in multiple camouflage patterns.

JBLM has secured a special DOD exemption to authorize the base to use government equipment and facilities for fund raising, which is normally prohibited. The base has alerted local police departments to ensure they are aware of over-sized military vehicles on city streets during the prom season.

"Desperate times call for innovative measures," said JBLM resource management official April I. Nottrue. "If this pilot program is successful we will expand it next year to include helicopters."

Happy April 1st! You can't really rent or lease JBLM vehicles or facilities for proms, you can see a large display of military vehicles at JBLM Armed Forces Day on Saturday, May 16, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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