



United States Air Force Academy Basic Cadet Training

"We will not lie, cheat or steal, nor tolerate among us anyone who does. Furthermore, I resolve to do my duty and live honorably, so help me God."

2018 Edition

Basic Cadet Training (BCT) Overview.

Military Commitment: When a Basic Cadet arrives at the Academy, they will be asked to take the Oath of Office and sign an agreement that the Basic Cadet will fulfill the following obligations listed below:

Complete the course of instruction at the Academy and serve on active duty as a commissioned officer at least five years after graduation. Further, after entry on active duty, cadets may incur an additional active duty service commitment that extends beyond the minimum 5-year requirement stated above, i.e., currently a 10-year active duty commitment is incurred for those graduates who complete Undergraduate Pilot Training.



BCT Description: BCT is a 5 1/2-week transition period from civilian to military life. This Indoctrination to the overall Academy program includes the following elements: Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), Introduction to Living Honorably in the Profession of Arms (ILHPA), manual of arms, drill, customs and courtesies, introduction to basic Air Force weapons, a field encampment, and other general military subjects. There are two types of students: the primary student (Basic Cadet) and the leadership student (Cadre). This course is a graduation requirement for both Cadre (fulfills program leadership requirement) and Basic Cadets.

BCT Mission: The mission of Basic Cadet Training is to provide the Cadet Wing (CW) with highly disciplined, physically fit and motivated freshman also known as fourth class cadets and develop cadre into role models, instructors, and leaders that educate, train and inspire Basic Cadets for service in the Cadet Wing (CW).

BCT accomplishes its development objectives through two phases: 1st BCT and 2nd BCT. Basic Cadets must be present in the training environment (i.e., not hospitalized, on emergency leave, etc.) for at least 30 of the 38 days of BCT.

To graduate, each Basic Cadet must attend the requisite number of events and successfully complete all performance

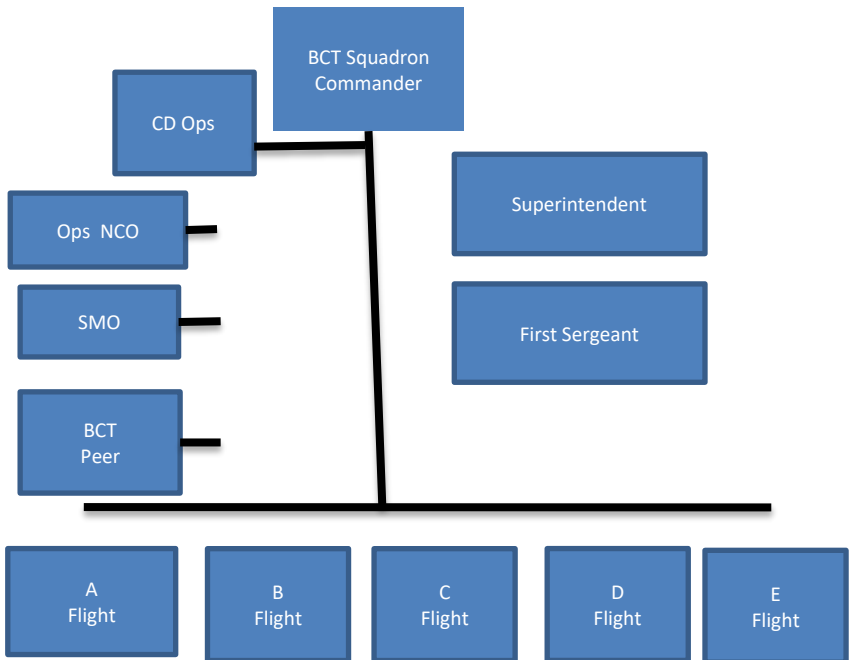
and knowledge objectives. Additionally, each Basic Cadet must demonstrate the military aptitude to become a fourth class cadet.

The **1st phase of BCT** is comprised of three weeks of training. This training is primarily conducted in the Cadet Area and the objectives mirror USAF Basic Training. Upper class cadets organize, coordinate and execute the processing, training and evaluation of Basic Cadets. Basic Cadets in-process, learn drill and ceremonies, customs and courtesies. They also participate in Physical Readiness Training (PRT) and attend classes in character and honor lessons, Equal Opportunity (EO) and sexual assault prevention.

The **2nd phase of BCT** is comprised of three weeks of training. The training is conducted in Jacks Valley Training Complex (JVTC) and includes field training, course orientation and execution. The CW reinforces training requirements previously taught, with extra emphasis on professionalism and teamwork to include a focus on the Warrior Ethos.

During BCT the Cadet Cadre Command Structure consists of the following positions:

BCT Cadet Squadron (Sq) Organizational Chart



BCT Cadet Squadron position definitions.

Cadet Squadron Commander (Sq/CC). Commands BCT squadron comprised of Flights similar to an Academic Year (AY) squadron consisting of Basic Cadets and associated flight cadre.

Cadet Squadron Director of Operations (Sq/DO). Second-in-command and primary advisor to the Sq/CC. Responsible for day-to-day operations of the squadron and coordinates with the flight commanders.

Cadet Operations Squadron Staff. Responsible for executing Squadron Commander direction and established policies and directives.

Cadet Superintendent. Squadron Superintendents provide leadership and management in organizing, equipping and training towards accomplishment of group and squadron missions.

Cadet First Sergeant. First Sergeants provide sound advice to commanders on a wide range of topics including discipline, morale, health, welfare, mentoring and professional development of squadron.

Cadet Operations NCOs. Reports to and is responsible to Director of Operations. Maintains and processes all necessary forms in a timely manner.

Cadet Military Guidance Officer/Peer. Serves as a Peak Performance Center (PPC) trained squadron consultant, able to assist Basic Cadets on personal adjustment, acclimation and adaption to the military training environment.

Cadet Squadron Medical Officer (SMO). Responsible for ensuring Basic Cadets receive appropriate medical care, squadron personnel use appropriate Risk Management.

Cadet Flight Commander. Responsible for the management, training, and proficiency of assigned flight personnel as well as the morale, welfare and evaluation of Basic Cadets under his/her supervision.

Cadet Assistant Flight Commander. Assists Flight/CC and assumes responsibilities in his/her absence.

Cadet Element Leaders. Reports to and is responsible to Flight Commander. Responsible for the morale, welfare, training and proficiency of all assigned Basic Cadets.

Physical Training Participation. Basic Cadets must participate and/or be medically projected as available to participate in at least 67% of all scheduled physically rigorous activities. Partial participation, based on specific injury, is awarded at the discretion of the event OIC.



Jack's Valley Training Courses (JVTC) Description: Assigned cadre will provide professional orientation training and assessment using JVTC courses completion criteria. Cadre use USAFA-approved lesson plans emphasizing safe and proper procedures and techniques. Mandatory BCT graduation requirements include successfully completing the Obstacle, Assault, Confidence and Leadership Reaction courses. Self-Aid Buddy Care and Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defense are conducted in-line with USAF requirements.

Below are the Jacks Valley Training Center courses:

Assault Course. Teaches rifle fighting and pugil-stick techniques and competition in controlled scenarios through demonstration-performance method via the use of obstacles/stations.

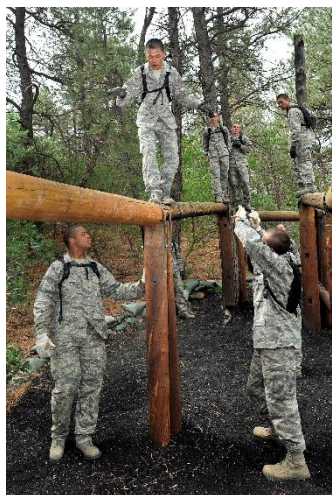


Combat Arms Training and Maintenance (CATM). Trains Basic Cadets on the nomenclature, assembly/disassembly and safe operation of the Colt M-4 rifle and provides Basic Cadet with an opportunity to fire the M-4.

Confidence Course Flight. Develops and assesses Basic Cadets' self-confidence, physical dexterity, teamwork and cohesion by guiding them through obstacles, varying in height and complexity, as individuals and in teams.

Leadership Reaction Course (LRC). Provides Cadets with experiences in functional leadership, effective followership, group and individual problem solving, and group dynamics by working through numerous exercise scenarios.

Obstacle Course. Requires Basic Cadets to negotiate physically challenging obstacles to assess their physical fitness, agility, confidence and awareness of personal capabilities.



Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN). Trains, orients and assesses Basic Cadets on fundamental

CBRN and Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) skills and assists with getting basics prepared for gas training.

Self-Aid Buddy Care (SABC). Trains Basic Cadets on the principles of SABC and assesses their ability to satisfactorily demonstrate injury recognition, response, treatment and transportation through a variety of situations.

Physical Training. USAFA requires cadets to be physically fit. Basic Cadets arrive in various states of physical fitness and have to adapt to altitude and climate changes. Athletic intramural competitions are conducted to develop physical fitness, sportsmanship, teamwork, cohesion, skill, stamina and the competitive spirit.

Similar to the intramural season during the academic year, Basic Cadets will represent their squadrons in various sports and will compete against other BCT Operations Squadrons. All squadron sports are co-ed. Varsity Sports teams will consist of recruited athletes and walk-ons. This offers a safer and more competitive environment for those Basics Cadets desiring to compete at the intercollegiate level.

Field Day during Basic (13 Jul 18). 1st BCT intramurals culminates with Field Day. All Basic Cadets must participate in at least one Field Day sports event.

1st BCT Daily Routine (29 Jun – 21 Jul 18). During 1st, BCT cadets have a busy schedule of military training such as learning how to take orders, set up their rooms and march as a flight. Basic Cadets are awakened at 4:30 a.m. to begin their day. During the day Basics take Academic placements tests, get issued items and military training until Taps and lights out at 9:30 p.m.

2nd BCT Daily Routine (22 Jul – 1 Aug 18). During the 2nd Basic cadets have a busy schedule of military training in a “deployed” location. They live in a tent city and are awakened by 5:15 a.m. Basic Cadets do different military training to include weapons training, obstacle courses and team building exercises until Taps and lights out at 9:30 p.m.

Personal Time. Basic Cadets will use Personal Time for personal hygiene, to study, read and/or write letters, clean their dormitory room, seek necessary medical attention if needed, and/or prepare for the next day.

Aptitude Standards. Basic Cadets must demonstrate satisfactory aptitude throughout BCT and in conjunction with the cadet chain of command, squadron Air Officer Commanders (AOCs) are responsible for subjectively assessing future potential. Aptitude is not graded during the first three days of BCT and AOCs make the final determination as to whether or not a Basic Cadet has earned

a failing weekly grade. Below is what is taken into account for these recommendations.

Inspections Types during BCT.

AM Inspections (AMI). All Basic Cadets must pass a minimum of two AM inspections. Failing three or more areas or receiving an auto-failure constitutes a room failure.

Saturday AM Inspection (SAMI). Basic Cadets who fail this inspection are counseled on failed area(s) the day the inspection is completed and acknowledge the failure. Basic Cadets are reevaluated on the failed areas and referred to the Sq/CC for further counseling and aptitude review for subsequent failures.

Written Evaluations. All Basic Cadets must score 80% or above on the standardized tests of foundational Air Force knowledge (e.g., chain-of-command, standards & discipline, customs & courtesies).

Drill. Basic Cadets are evaluated on individual drill movements in groups of four or less. Substandard performance requires remedial drill training and reevaluation.

Military Bearing and Adaptability. Basic Cadets must have military bearing and must conduct themselves in

a manner that respects the chain-of-command as well as military order and discipline.

Medical Information. USAFA has a medical clinic on the base in the cadet area to meet the needs of the Basic Cadets during and after BCT. Only certified medical personnel should diagnose a medical condition.

Mandatory Drug Testing Procedures. Basic Cadets must go through mandatory drug testing.

Weight Management. If a cadet exceeds or falls below healthy weight standards, actions will be taken to help the cadet get within standards. Basic Cadets who are recruited for an intercollegiate (IC) sport and are identified by their coaches as needing to maintain weight for weight-class sport may also be referred to nutritionist.

Medications: All medication in a Basic Cadet's possession will be examined by an Air Force medical officer and will be taken away without replacement unless it is ESSENTIAL for continued treatment during BCT. Medical care is available throughout BCT and medications are prescribed on an as-needed basis.

Optical Support: Basic Cadets are issued an additional pair of uniform military spectacles at In-Processing based on the prescription information that was

submitted from their eye doctor. The military spectacles given must be worn at all times during basic training. Contact lens wear is **FORBIDDEN** throughout the duration of BCT to include in-processing day.

Basic Training Squadrons. There are normally 8 to 10 BCT Squadrons depending on how many new officers the U.S. Air Force requires. Currently there are 8 BCT Squadrons. Each basic cadet is assigned to a squadron, A through H. The names and colors are listed below. Within each squadron cadets are divided into four flights (a, b, c, d). The BCT squadrons are temporary, existing only for the six weeks of basic training.



Below are charts reflecting BCT squadron breakouts and the breakdown of squadrons for the Academic Year.

BCT Squadrons

A	Aggressors	Light Blue
B	Barbarians	Orange
C	Cobras	Purple
D	Demons	Green
E	Executioners	Navy
F	Flying Tigers	Red
G	Guts	Maroon
H	Hellcats	Yellow



Breakdown for the Academic Year

Cadet Wing		40 Squads	App. 3900-4100 Cadets	
Groups				
1 st Group – Squads		1 - 10	App. 1000 Cadets	
2 nd Group – Squads		11- 20	App. 1000 Cadets	
3 rd Group – Squads		21 - 30	App. 1000 Cadets	
4 th Group – Squads		31 - 40	App. 1000 Cadets	
Squadron				
			App. 100 Cadets	
Flights within Squad	A B C	App. 30 – 35 Cadets in each		
Elements within Flights 1 2		1 2 3	App. 10 – 12 Cadets in each	

Academic Year Squadron: After BCT, the basic cadets will enter their academic year squadron. The Cadet Wing (ie, all cadets at the AFA) are divided into 40 squadrons of approximately 110 cadets, with 25-30 from each class. The cadet squadron (CS) is the basic unit in which cadets live and operate.

BASIC TO ACADEMIC SQUADRON CONVERSIONS

Ltr	BCT Squadron		BCT Flight to Academic Squadron				
			a	b	c	d	e
A	Aggressors	Academic Squadron	1	2	3	4	5
B	Barbarians	Academic Squadron	6	7	8	9	10
C	Cobras	Academic Squadron	11	12	13	14	15
D	Demons	Academic Squadron	16	17	18	19	20
E	Executioners	Academic Squadron	21	22	23	24	25
F	Flying Tigers	Academic Squadron	26	27	28	29	30
G	Guts	Academic Squadron	31	32	33	34	35
H	Hell Cats	Academic Squadron	36	37	38	39	40

Communicating with Cadets during Basic Cadet Training (BCT). Mail is the only way to communicate during this time. Mail those letters and cards often. No Packages will be accepted during BCT. Suggest numbering mail (i.e., 1, 2, 3,) to ensure your Basic doesn't think they are missing mail.

Basic Cadet Deciding to Leave. If a Basic Cadet decides to leave the Academy they will fill out a form. Please know that the BCT Cadet Wing leadership counsels the Basic Cadets if they are thinking of leaving to ensure that it is truly their wish or perhaps it is a quick decision. The out-processing form will be routed through a process and until it is finalized the Basic Cadet normally can change their mind.

Swearing In Ceremony. On Friday after In-Processing there will be a Swearing-In Ceremony for the incoming class where you can watch the class swear-in at Stillman Parade Field.

Sponsor Family. All new appointees will be given a local sponsor family. It is a home away from home where cadets can get away from the campus and chill. This is local volunteers to support cadets.

Doolie Day Out (DDO) is held in July and on DDO the cadets get to meet their sponsor families. Only registered

sponsor families with assignment letters will be permitted to enter the pick-up area.

Rodeo. The Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo is held in July and lets the Basic Cadets take time out of their busy summer schedule to attend and a chance to relax and enjoy one of the area's oldest western heritage traditions.

Jacks Valley is the location of the second part of BCT. The cadets are sent on "Deployment" to a tent city where they learn combat skills, train on the obstacle course, confidence course, assault course and participate in team building exercises. This is a rewarding but difficult part of BCT.

BCT Coin Ceremony. Upon the return from Jack's Valley there is a BCT Coin Ceremony. Each Basic is given a coin in honor of completing Basic Training and one Basic from each BCT Squadron is recognized as an Outstanding Cadet. This event is not for parents.

Privacy Act Releases. Unless a cadet gives the USAF Academy specific permission to release Privacy Act information (Academic or Medical information), USAFA staff will only be able to discuss procedures with parent.

Family Emergencies. For family emergencies call the USAFA Parent Liaison, 1-877-268-3383 or (719) 333-3828,

or e-mail: USAFA.ParentLiaison@usafa.edu and she will try answer or forward the issue to BCT leadership as needed.

Acceptance Day Parade. Held in August. This is unique parade as it is a wedge formation and the BCT squadrons will march and join the rest of the cadet wing. You won't see another parade like this until the Graduation Parade when the seniors leave the Cadet Wing in a wedge formation.

Cadet Help. A variety of organizations are readily accessible for cadets to get help when they need it. In most instances, cadets need to initiate contact with the following organizations. In some cases, cadets will be directed to seek guidance. Parents can find out more information on Helping Agencies at the USAFA Website link: <https://www.usafa.edu/helping-agencies/>.

Photo access. One of the ways we do this is through social media venues such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Flickr and YouTube. The Association of Graduates (AOG) also provides pictures for a cost. You can sign up with their Webguy using this link: <http://www.usafawebguy.com/>.

FB: www.facebook.com/USAFA.Official

Twitter: @AF_Academy

Instagram: AF_Academy

Flickr: AF_Academy

