

Cadet Wing Training

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BCT OVERVIEW

BASIC CADET TRAINING

BCT is a 5.5-week indoctrination program for new United States Air Force Academy cadets ("Basic Cadets"). BCT guides the transformation of these civilians into military academy cadets, preparing them to enter a four-year officer commissioning program. It is the first step in the development of Basic Cadets into leaders of character for the United States Air Force.

BCT Mission: Develop Basic Cadets into highly trained, disciplined, physically fit and mission-ready freshman cadets.

USAF A appointees come to the Air Force Academy from all over the United States, bringing with them very different backgrounds and life experiences. The goal of BCT is to quickly adapt these diverse individuals to a military lifestyle, and instill the same set of skills and core values in each of them.



BCT is a total immersion in military culture, where civilian appointees undergo a dramatic transformation in order to become Air Force Academy cadets.



BCT TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

BCT training requirements are based on guidance from the Department of Defense, United States Air Force, and United States Air Force Academy. They also follow education and training guidance from USAFA's Commandant of Cadets, Dean and Athletic Director.

Official Instructions Driving BCT Requirements

- AFCWI 36-3501, Cadet Standards
- AFI 90-505, Suicide Prevention Program
- AFI 90-6001, Sexual Assault and Prevention Program
- AFI 36-2014, Commissioning Education Program
- AFI 36-2706, Equal Opportunity Program, Military and Civilian
- CoCI 10-100, Cadet Wing Summer Training Programs
- DODI 1322.22, Service Academies
- USAFAI 52-102, Religious Respect Training



BCT TRAINING DESIGN

FIRST BCT



Days
1-2

In-Processing

- Swearing In Ceremony
- Uniform and Equipment Issue
- Orientation Briefs



Days
3-5

Administrative Requirements

- Helping Agency Brief (Sexual Assault Prevention and Response, Chaplain, Mental Health, Equal Opportunity)
- Academic Placement Tests
- Medical/Dental Clearance



Days
6-24

Profession of Arms Indoctrination

- Physical Fitness Tests
- Military Drill Movements
- Military Customs and Courtesies
- Inspections
- Uniformed Code of Military Justice
- Air Force Heritage Education
- Air Force Capabilities Demonstration

SECOND BCT



Days
25-34

Field Training

- Expeditionary Skills (First Aid, Combat Arms, Field Living Conditions)
- Military Training Courses
- Capstone Field Training Exercise



Days
35-38

Transition to Academics

- Evaluations and Surveys
- Academic Year Preparation
- Military Memorial and Heritage Tours
- BCT Airman's Coin Ceremony
- Transition to Academic Year Squadron
- Acceptance Parade

38 TRAINING DAYS

- Strategically designed for a highly purposeful training experience
- Requirements-driven
- Organized based on logical time and sequence of instruction
- Optimized for small-groups
- Informed by lessons learned



At BCT, cadets face extraordinary physical and mental challenges, conditioning them for the rigor of Air Force Academy life.

Example Schedule - Training Day 6

This schedule shows an example of what one day of training might look like for members of a BCT Squadron.

0430	Reveille
0445	Physical Training
0545	Hygiene
0630	Transit
0645	Breakfast
0715	Transit
0730	Military Drill Movements Training
0930	Mock M-14 Weapon Issue
1045	Resiliency Training
1130	Transit
1200	Lunch
1230	Transit
1300	Uniform Alterations at Tailor Shop
1500	Introductions to Profession of Arms
1730	Transit
1800	Dinner
1830	Transit
1900	Uniform Code of Military Justice Briefing
2000	Transit
2030	Reflection (Journal Writing)
2100	Hygiene
2130	Taps

PHASED APPROACH

First BCT Phase

- Focused on familiarization with military standards
- Conducted in the Cadet Area, dormitories, parade field and terrazzo

Second BCT Phase

- Focused on field training, such as obstacles courses and field exercises to transform Basic Cadets into warrior Airmen
- Conducted at Jacks Valley Training Complex

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Q. WHY DOES USAFA BCT NEED TO BE 38 DAYS? WHY CAN'T IT BE SHORTER?

- A. The transformation of civilian appointees into military academy cadets in just 5 and a half weeks is no small undertaking. Every day of BCT is essential to this rapid assimilation into military culture, standards and values.

Additionally, the USAF and DoD require that mandatory lessons, training, placement exams, medical appointments, orientations, uniform and equipment issue and other actions for all Basic Cadets take place within a very specific timeframe after arrival at the Academy.

These requirements currently take a total of 38 days to accomplish. Making BCT less than 38 days would drive the curtailment or elimination of training and events, and hinder USAFA's ability to ensure cadets meet all requirements and are prepared for Academy life and membership in the U.S. Air Force.

Q. WHY DOES USAFA USE UPPER CLASS CADETS TO TRAIN BASIC CADETS? WHY NOT USE MILITARY TRAINING INSTRUCTORS LIKE THE AIR FORCE USES AT LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE?

- A. As part of our mission to develop leaders of character, USAFA uses BCT as a leadership laboratory for upper class cadets who receive specialized training from military training instructors to prepare for their role as instructors, known as Cadet Cadre. The Cadet Cadre execute the BCT mission under the supervision of officer and enlisted experts. Completing summer leadership programs such as BCT is a USAFA graduation requirement for upper class cadets.



Q. WHY DOES BCT TYPICALLY START THE LAST WEEK OF JUNE AND END THE FIRST WEEK OF AUGUST?

- A. BCT does not start earlier than the last week of June, as many incoming cadets do not graduate from high school until mid-June. BCT ends the first week of August, before the academic year and intercollegiate athletics training begin.

Q. WHAT HAPPENS IF A BASIC CADET CAN'T COMPLETE BCT?

- A. All Basic Cadets are required to meet BCT standards and complete training. Every opportunity and attempt is made to assist, mentor and train cadets so they can complete BCT. If BCT leadership feels a cadet is unable to physically or mentally complete BCT requirements after every attempt has been made to assist them, the cadet will meet a board of officers who will recommend disenrollment, deferment to the next BCT class, or continuation of BCT.

Q. WHAT ARE SOME RECENT CHANGES TO BCT?

- A. BCT has evolved and improved over time based on lessons learned and continuous process improvement. Here are some recent additions to the program:
- Journaling to improve resiliency and retention
 - Additional physical fitness time to improve fitness test preparedness
 - Water survival test which provides early identification of cadets needing additional swimming instruction and water skills
 - Protocol to prevent concussions
 - BCT Coin Ceremony to bolster Airman identity

