

737 TRAINING GROUP



MISSION

The 737 Training Group provides Air Force Basic Military Training for all enlisted people entering the Air Force, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard. The group conducts the Air Force's only enlisted recruit training program, ensuring orderly transition from civilian to military life. Recruits are trained in the fundamental skills necessary to be successful in an Expeditionary Air Force. This includes basic war skills, military discipline, physical fitness, drill and ceremonies, Air Force core values and a comprehensive range of subjects relating to Air Force life.

LINEAGE

School of Military Science, Airman activated, 1 Aug 1972
Redesignated Basic Military Training School, USAF, 8 Apr 1974
Redesignated 3720 Basic Military Training Group, 1 Feb 1992
Redesignated 394 Military Training Group, 1 Jul 1993
Redesignated 737 Training Group, 1 Apr 1994

ANOTHER SOURCE LISTS:

Redesignated 394 Military Training Group, 25 Aug 1992
Redesignated 37 Military Training Group, 1 Jul 1993
Redesignated 737 Training Group, 1 Apr 1994

STATIONS

Lackland AFB, TX, 1 Aug 1972

ASSIGNMENTS

Lackland Military Training Center, 1 Aug 1972
37 Training Wing, 1 Jul 1993

COMMANDERS

Col Deborah J. Liddick, #2013

Col Michelle Edmondson

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

1 Aug 1972-31 Jul 1974

1 Jan 1977-30 Apr 1978

30 Apr 1982-31 Dec 1983

1 Jul 1993-30 Jun 1994

1 Jul 1996-30 Jun 1998

1 Jul 2000-30 Jun 2002

1 Jul 2002-30 Jun 2003

Air Force Organizational Excellence Award

1 Jan 1986-31 Dec 1987

1 Jan 1988-31 Dec 1989

EMBLEM

Azure, a saltire within a diminished bordure Or. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "737TH TRAINING GROUP" in Blue letters.

SIGNIFICANCE: Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The crossroads represent the honors bestowed on the Wing by the 37th Pursuit Group, honors the Group earned in WWII serving as the "Defenders of the Crossroads," the Panama Canal.

MOTTO

In 1953, the Air Force gave the Wing permission to adopt the 37th Pursuit Group's insignia and motto, "Defenders of the Crossroads," as the Wing's official heraldry.

OPERATIONS

1 Sep 1975 The confidence course became a mandatory part of basic training for women. Women negotiated 16 of the 19 obstacles.

Aug 1980 Airman Basic Richard R. Crawford represented the three millionth graduate from Air Force BMT.

From 1985 to 1987, the bivouac involved only squadron instructors and male trainees on selected three day weekends at Camp Bullis. Trainees were picked based on their individual achievement in military and academic subjects and their overall progress in basic training. By 1987, the Basic Military Training School took over the program and expanded participation to all BMT squadrons and instructors. Still limited in scope, the bivouacs trained a fair number of trainees during their time at Lackland.

The 1989 Project Warrior Bivouac was the last of its type recorded at Lackland AFB. From 1990 to 1995, a combination of factors, Operations DESERT SHIELD/STORM, military budget cuts and downsizing, and reorganization, possibly led to bivouacs being placed at a lower priority. However in 1995, the priorities changed when the 17th Biennial Review of Air Force Basic Military Training Panel recommended that the 37TRW explore the field experience possibilities for basic trainees. The concept, called "Warrior Week," formed a simple two day field training experience into the first major change to Air Force basic training in 50 years. The Warrior Week objective exposed Airmen to the Expeditionary Air Force concept of operations and the total force makeup of Air Expeditionary Forces (AEF). The field training also provided Airmen with a realistic experience, instruction in mobility line processing, daily survival skills during encampment, basic field hygiene and force protection.

Dec 1990 BMT completed the sexual integration of basic training when all squadrons began training men and women.

Jul 1994 All BMT graduations were now conducted on Fridays.

Jul 1997 The first combined flight of men and women began all aspects of training together.

In 1998 trainees received a \$250 'smart card,' to be used on purchases while at Lackland. The new system replaced the old system of three cash payments while in training.

Oct 1999 Trainees began warrior week

Jun 2003 Airmen in the final week of training began the new tradition called the Airmen's Run.

The changes resulted from the need to meet current and future operational Air Force requirements. In September 2004, the 20th Basic Military Training Review Committee met at Lackland and recommended significant changes in the focus, curriculum and schedule.

The most significant changes:

-- Air Force basic training mirrors the Air Expeditionary Force cycle -- trainees prepare to deploy, deploy to field exercises, and then reconstitute. The AEF construct is the Air Force's way of organizing, training, equipping and deploying forces for contingency operations while remaining ready to meet national crises.

-- M-16A2 weapons training -- recruits use a trainer rifle identical to the real weapon in every way except its ability to fire an actual round of ammunition. The weapon is issued day one of week one. Unlike the previous M-16 training weapon, trainees can tear-down, clean and reassemble the parts. This training immediately connects the trainees with a warrior role, ingrains weapon safety and security and allows the trainee to become comfortable with the weapon prior to the field deployment exercises.

-- Early classroom instruction and application in developing basic war skills is now taught in the early weeks of training. The focus is to communicate war skills as a first priority. Basic Airmanship subjects such as history and Air Force doctrine, previously taught in the first two weeks, have been moved to the fifth and sixth weeks.

-- "Basic Field Security" and "Self Aid and Buddy Care" are now taught in the classroom with application immediately following, prior to trainee deployment to field training. These lessons were previously taught in the field. Now, trainees have more time to practice scenarios in the field and apply the skills learned in the classroom.

-- New classroom subjects in war skills include "Role of the Warrior," "Mental Preparation for Combat," "Basic Self-Defense," "Basic Leadership" and "Combat Recovery."

-- A mock mobility line process has been added. Trainees are checked for items and medically screened prior to receiving a deployment briefing, which includes operations, intelligence, medical and security briefings. This concept adds realism to the field deployment and exposes trainees to a mobility experience. It reinforces the message: "You are either deployed or preparing to deploy."

-- Trainees deploy to a field environment and apply the war skills learned in the classroom. This experience prepares the trainees for realities of the Expeditionary Air Force. The field training, previously called 'Warrior Week,' was moved up from the fifth week of training to the fourth.

-- Daily evening "Airman's Time" mentoring sessions -- instructors relate daily training events to warrior and Airmanship qualities and values required of all Airmen.

The single difference in the eight and one-half week program and the program BMT implemented on Nov. 7, 2005 is that all war-skills training is accomplished prior to the deployment exercise. The Air Force also instituted subject content that was previously deferred or reduced due to time constraints in foundational subjects such as Air Force history, organization, sexual assault prevention & reporting and suicide prevention. Another tangible benefit of increasing the time in BMT is that training learned in earlier phases of BMT will be reinforced in later weeks of training. All of the changes better prepare warrior-Airmen for success in the 21st Century.

Aug 2005 Selected trainees were issued backpack water pouches in a yearlong study to see if they would replace canteens.

On Nov. 7, 2005, BMT changed its curriculum to focus on a new kind of Airman -- one who is a

'warrior first.' The goal is to instill a warrior mindset in trainees from day one and better prepare Airmen for the realities of the Expeditionary Air Force.

In February 2006, Air Force leaders made the decision to lengthen BMT to an 8-1/2 week course from the current 6-1/2 week program. Extending BMT will produce more lethal and adaptable Airmen that have the basic war fighting skills and the confidence to use those skills to defeat any current or future adversary.

Implemented November 2008, the two additional weeks of training are used to enhance and reinforce BMT's current war skills training. BMT now includes an intense four-day Basic Expeditionary Airman Skills Training exercise called BEAST which will replicate the sights, sounds and emotions Airmen will experience in the deployed environment.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

Created: 29 February 2024

Updated:

Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.