

3275 BASIC MILITARY TRAINING GROUP



MISSION

LINEAGE

3275 Basic Military Training Group

STATIONS

Parks AFB, CA
Lackland AFB, TX,

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Maj Thomas G. Tracy

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

A trainee arrives at Parks Air Force Base by plane, train or bus from his home. He may have been a student, an office worker, an athlete or engaged in one of a thousand other fields of endeavor. However, once he arrives at Parks he becomes an airman.

His first introduction to Parks comes at the reception desk where he presents his papers and is introduced to his Tactical Instructor. The Tactical Instructor is responsible for a group of 50 to 55 airmen and he guides them through every phase of their ten-week training course.

The following three days the trainee has a processing schedule during which he is completely outfitted with the clothes he will use for athletics, for school, for fatigue duty, for sleeping—and, of course, the neat Air Force blues for dress wear. He is thoroughly examined at the hospital to make sure he is in "tip-top" condition before beginning his actual training schedule. At this time, the airman is given his first series of shots for typhoid, typhus, tetanus and smallpox. He gets his first "GI" haircut which nowadays is no longer a measure of getting the most for your money, so to speak, but a neat trim to make the airman look his best. The Base Chaplains then address the men, extending specific invitations to attend on-base services of the religion of their choice. The spiritual side of life is greatly encouraged in the Air Force. Next on the schedule comes a partial payment of their first pay to cover any needs they might have during their stay at Parks.

Actual training begins with basic close order drill. During this period, the airman is taught the accepted manner of marching in a group. He is taught how to conduct himself at all times, and is instructed in the accepted standards of military courtesy expected of airmen.

His training then moves on to more advanced subjects such as weapons, marksmanship, chemical warfare, military security, psychological warfare, and elementary aeronautics. These give him a sound foundation in the use of firearms, in the care and meaning of his uniform, in military courtesy and in the code of military justice. Mathematics receives special emphasis as it is of major importance to airmen studying in Air Force technical fields. He participates in field exercises that stress camouflage and survival and learns about psychological warfare and military security. Lectures, posters, and films are used to supplement actual physical training, and courses in current events are also an important part of his schooling. Physical fitness is self-explanatory as a good airman must at all times be in top-flight condition. As for current events, the airman must realize and accept his position in the world around him as he is affected by them and, often as not, might, indirectly, have an effect upon them.

Along about the thirty-fifth day of his training, the airman is introduced to the career counseling program. The various careers available in the Air Force are explained and their requirements enlarged upon for his understanding. Actually, the opportunities are limitless. There are about 42 career fields and the airman is placed in one of them, depending on the results of the array of aptitude tests he takes and his personal preferences, provided the Air Force requirements are satisfied.

The five days spent in field exercises is probably longer remembered than any other portion of the training program. Living under actual field conditions is exciting in comparison with the preceding formal instruction which the trainee has undergone. It is a proven military fact that the man with proper equipment and the necessary "know how" will be superior to an opponent in battle who has not had the advantage of training.

So it is here on bivouac that the airman learns cover and concealment, first aid, field sanitation procedures, scouting and patrolling plus many other important military subjects. He is made familiar with munitions through an actual demonstration. The trainee also receives practical instruction in the use of the gas mask. In the gas chamber he tests the effectiveness of his gas mask.

Yes, living in tents and eating meals out in the open is a realistic and stimulating part of "Life at Parks Air Force Base."

USAF Unit Histories
Created: 20 Sep 2021
Updated:

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