

Warrior Week:

An Evolution of Basic Field Training at Lackland AFB



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Introduction

Now over a year old, the Warrior Week of field training that new members of the Air Force enlisted force receive is fully integrated in the core curriculum for basic military training at Lackland AFB. Envisioned as a “new concept” in military training, Warrior Week’s origins can be traced to the Bivouacs of prior generations of Airmen. The study attempts to show, in limited detail, this evolution at Lackland AFB beginning with the traditional connotation and ending with our present system of training in the field. The reader must remember that as world situations changed, our Air Force changed too—sometimes we changed back.

Bivouac; n. – A temporary, often open-air encampment

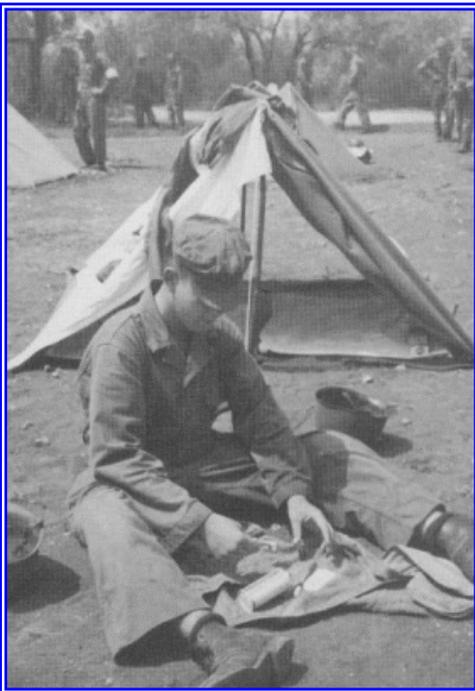


Early examples of Air Force basic field training were bivouacs; a part of basic training curriculum at Lackland that dated as far back as 1942. For short while during that time, the Recruit Detachment of the San Antonio Aviation Cadet Center (the first known enlisted basic

training unit at Lackland) actually conducted basic military training in field conditions. The first headquarters of the detachment established themselves in a supply tent during their first week of training operations. Later, the headquarters moved to an unroofed Post Exchange Building and finally, after 10 days, moved to a permanent building. The trainees were quartered in squad tents that were heated with wood-burning stoves and had to enjoy their meals served in mess kits from a field kitchen until a mess hall opened on Christmas day 1942.¹

Korean War Era

Following the war, “practical field training exercises” brought together as many subjects as needed to teach trainees how to live and work in a “field” environment. By 1953, due to the Korean War, a unique encampment area was set up behind the base hospital, now Wilford Hall, to resemble an air base in Korea. Trainees lived and trained in the field initially for two days and later for five days.²



Two-man “Pup Tent” in 1955

The January to June 1953 history of the 3700th Military Training Wing described a feature of the bivouac, “combat problems,” presented to the students during the portion of training called Airman’s Role in Base Ground Defense:

The installations in the basic training combat zone were named after actual places in Korea. Signs bearing the name of the installation in both English and Korean were placed in the area. ...A typical field training session in combat problems consisted of trainees marching down Teagon Road into the training area as if they were entering a combat zone. Before the noon chow call, the trainees evacuated Kimpo airstrip, destroyed and rebuilt bridges over the Wopan River, defended Old Baldy, crossed the Han River, extinguished fires in oil storage areas and cared for their wounded. Flights were divided

¹ Hist, Recruit Det, SAACC, “History of the Recruit Detachment, San Antonio Aviation Cadet Center, 5 Nov 1942-1 Jan 1943.

² Hist, 3543 AAF BU, “History of the 3543d AAF Base Unit of S.A. and AAF Regional & Convalescent Hospital,” 1 Jan – 31 Aug 1946, p 7, pp 48-80, pp 130-132; Hist, 3700th Military Training Wing, Jan-Jun 1953, Vol XXI, pp 31-38; Hist, 3700 MTW, Jul-Dec 1953, Vol XXII, specifically supporting document B-1, Course Outline, HQ TTAF, “Course Outline-Basic Military Training (Male) Course No. BT00010, 11 Dec 1953.

into defensive and offensive teams before instructors briefed them on their maneuvers. The attacking troops were identified by yellow tags and white arm bands. Before the invasion alarm was sounded, the trainees would have had a thorough briefing from their instructors on hazards in the area, safety precautions, wedge formations, field movements, care and handling of equipment and methods of carrying out their mission. Then the offensive teams approached the air base armed with gas masks, empty carbines and ammunition boxes, while the defensive team placed barrels on the runway to prevent landing of hostile aircraft, destroyed bridges to halt the enemy and sent out squads to meet the invading forces. Burning oil storage tanks were represented by ignited burlap bags under barrels. These fires were fought by trainees from the airstrip using portable fire extinguishers. When the defensive team sighted the enemy, they fought delaying actions, such as destroying the bridge; which the enemy had to repair before they could continue their offensive, and evacuated the airstrip. The bridge was “blown up” by removing and scattering the supporting beams. After this operation was completed, the battle was completed, the battle was reenacted, the defensive team played the part of the invader and the offensive team tried its hand at the role of holding off the attack.³

1953 PRACTICAL FIELD EXERCISES IN BASIC TRAINING

Main Subject	Skills Training		Low Crawl	
Tent Pitching	Bivouac Procedures			
Sanitary Measures				
First Aid				
Chemical Warfare	Protective Measures	Gas Identification		
Airman’s Role in Base Ground Defense	Camouflage and Concealment	Defensive Flight and Support Flight formation	March Discipline	Demonstration of Defensive Weapons
Night Operations				
<i>Airmen bivouac in the field over 5 days and 4 nights</i>				
Source: Hist, 3700 MTW, Jul-Dec 1953, Vol XXII, specifically supporting document B-1, Course Outline, HQ TTAF, “Course Outline-Basic Military Training (Male) Course No. BT00010, 11 Dec 1953.				

³ Hist, 3700th Military Training Wing, Jan-Jun 1953, Vol XXI, pp 31-38.

Project Warrior Bivouacs

Bivouacs disappeared in the early 1960s. However, in 1985, the 322d Training Squadron (then 3702 BMTS) conducted a series of bivouacs to provide basic training airmen knowledge of wartime field conditions under an Air Force historical program called Project Warrior. The program's intended purpose gave "airmen a better understanding of not only Project Warrior, but also how their individual Air Force specialties may someday come into perspective during a wartime situation."⁴

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. While the project was in the 322d, only their instructors and trainees were involved, but by 1987, the Basic Military Training School took over the program and expanded participation to all BMT squadrons and instructors. In all cases, instructors from the Security Police Academy took part lecturing and attacking trainees as "enemy forces." In 1988, the history of the Military Training Center briefly described the weekend bivouacs:

The bivouac began with a 0530 (local) departure from Lackland AFB following the morning meal. Airmen arrived at Camp Bullis at approximately 0615 (local) and throughout the day, set up the base camp that would be used over the weekend. This task completed, the airmen and instructors returned to Lackland for the evening meal, reassembled, and returned to Camp Bullis for the actual field training portion of the exercise. Over the next three days students attended classes in safety, tactical sentry duties, camouflage and concealment, movements, map and compass reading, patrols, and land navigation. These classes were vital to the recruits' ability to complete the exercise on the last full day of the bivouac. This movement exercise tasked the trainees to navigate over land from one map point to another without being killed or captured. The 3280 TCHTG instructors acted as the aggressor forces and used M-16s with blank rounds to add realism to their pursuit of the recruits.⁵

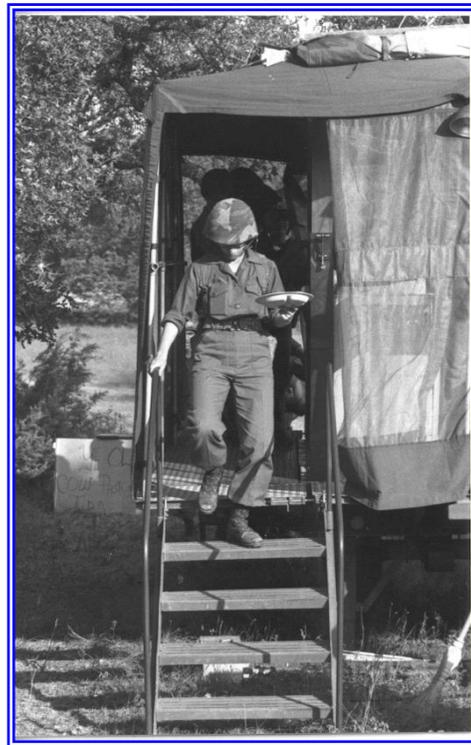
In March 1988, HQ AETC and members of the BMTS completed visits to Fort Jackson, SC, San Diego Naval Training Center, CA, and Parris Island, SC, to assess each of the services' BMT programs and make recommendations to the Air Force Basic Military Training School

⁴ Hist, AFMTC, "History of the Air Force Military Training Center," Jan-Dec 1988, Vol I, p68; Hist, AFMTC, "History of the Air Force Military Training Center," Jan-Dec 1989, Vol I, p 87.

Commander. One of the recommendations was to establish a “Field Training Week” that included the already established confidence course and M-16 weapons training. To round out the week of training, they recommended the addition of gas mask training, first aid and buddy care, day and night marches with flares, field survival, and high and low crawl technique instruction. They finally recommended that a “mock” base be established to accomplish the training and the trainees be subjected to a simulated rocket attack to teach them survival skills.⁶

The BMTS commander responded with “has merit, but do not have facilities, funds, or sufficient training days to incorporate into program.” He noted that over the previous 18 months, BMT conducted four project warrior bivouacs at Camp Bullis but the facilities there were limited to only 120 personnel and those bivouacs were conducted on long three-day weekends. The BMT School did look into moving training hours to accommodate expanding field first aid and buddy care training with M-16 training and the confidence course.⁷

The October 1988 bivouac had 98 basic trainees and 32 instructor personnel from BMT and the 3280th Technical Training Group (all volunteers). The “expanded” encampment lasted 5 days and 4 nights and consisted of basic survival and infantry type skills training. Personnel from the 6948th Electronic Security Squadron (Power Production and Equipment) and the 3700th Services Squadron Prime Ribs Team (Messing facilities) supported the encampment. This encampment was the first in the history of BMTS to include female basic trainees.



Field Kitchen in 1988

⁵ Hist, AFMTC, “History of the Air Force Military Training Center,” Jan-Dec 1988, Vol I, p68.

⁶ Hist, AFMTC, “History of the Air Force Military Training Center,” Jan-Dec 1988, Vol I, p68; Hist, AFMTC, “History of the Air Force Military Training Center,” Jan-Dec 1989, Vol I, p 87; Hist, AFMTC, “History of the Air Force Military Training Center,” Jan-Dec 1988, Vol I, p68; Hist, AFMTC, “History of the Air Force Military Training Center,” Jan-Dec 1989, Vol 5, SD V-5 and V-6.

⁷ Hist, AFMTC, “History of the Air Force Military Training Center,” Jan-Dec 1988, Vol I, p68.

Although women had gone through the gas chamber in the late forties and early fifties, no other type of field training other than buddy care had been taught to them.⁸

Another 5-day, 4-night bivouac took place from 5 to 9 October 1989 at Camp Bullis. The bivouac set up began on 3 and 4 October with the specially selected trainees being transported to the campsite. On 5 October, the first day of the bivouac began at 0600 and included equipment issue, camp orientation, personal hygiene class, and tent preparation. The following morning, the trainees ate breakfast at the field kitchen before beginning their rigorous day of classes and exercises. These classes included camouflage and concealment, battle preparation, tactical sentry, combat casualty, individual movements, and formation movements. The cadre tested the trainees' knowledge during exercises in combat casualty and individual and formation movement. In the evening the flights prepared for retreat, formed as a squadron for inspection, and participated in a retreat ceremony. After retreat the trainees received more instruction on hygiene, tent preparation, tactical sentry, and battle preparation before all retired to bed at 0030.⁹

The next day began with reveille at 0500 hours. The trainees took care of hygiene and



Field Dining Tent 1989

chow then boarded trucks for the main Camp Bullis Confidence Course at 0700. After finishing the course, the trainees received training in map and compass reading, then, after lunch, departed in squads for the main camp. After arrival at camp, the cadre issued patrol orders,

⁸ Hist, AFMTC, "History of the Air Force Military Training Center," Jan-Dec 1988, Vol I, p68; Hist, IDATC, "History of the Indoctrination Division, Air Training Command, Jul-Dec 1948, p78 and extract history of the 3700th WAF Training Group.

⁹ Hist, AFMTC, "History of the Air Force Military Training Center," Jan-Dec 1989, Vol I, p 87; Hist, AFMTC, "History of the Air Force Military Training Center," Jan-Dec 1989, Vol 5, SD V-5, V-6.

gave the trainees some free time and formed the squadron for retreat. That evening, the trainees completed their battle preparation and tactical sentry duties before 0030 hours.¹⁰

The next day trainees resumed their routine and participated in guardmount before departing for Sikes Hill where they took classes on patrolling and land navigation. That afternoon and evening, the cadre tested the trainee's skills in their newly acquired knowledge. The last day of the bivouac included presentations of awards and a graduation ceremony before the trainees broke camp and returned to Lackland.¹¹

The October 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 September 1995, the priorities changed when the 17th Biennial Review of Air Force Basic Military Training Military Panel recommended that the 37 TRW explore the field experience possibilities for basic trainees.¹²

From the 1995 BMT Review the need to bring a warfighting atmosphere to Air Force trainees was identified. In response, the 737 TRG formed an Integrated Process Team (IPT) with representatives from BMT, 37 TRG, 37 SPTG, 37 LG, and 59 MDW that benchmarked basic training activities from the sister services. In 1996, the 737 TRG found a location near the 37 TRG "Prime Ribs" field training site at Lackland Annex and established a simulated bare base named "Diamondback Ridge."¹³

The 37th Civil Engineering Squadron, 37th Supply Squadron, and the 344th Training Squadron provided expertise and labor in construction of hard-back tents on concrete pads, a flag pole for reveille and retreat ceremonies, a shower, latrine unit, and a mobile kitchen. In August 1996, a month-long test program began with one flight per night staying at the training site. The

¹⁰ Hist, AFMTC, "History of the Air Force Military Training Center," Jan-Dec 1989, Vol 5, SD V-5, V-6.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Hist, AFMTC, "History of the Air Force Military Training Center," Jan-Dec 1989, Vol 5, SD V-5, V-6; Hist, 37 TRW, "History of the 37th Training Wing," Jan – Dec 1995, Vol I, p 28; Hist, 37 TRW, "History of the 37th Training Wing," Jan-Dec 1996, Vol I, p41-42.

¹³ Hist, 37 TRW, "History of the 37th Training Wing," Jan-Dec 1996, Vol I, p41-42; Hist, 37 TRW, "History of the 37th Training Wing, Jan-Dec 1997, Vol I, pp39-41.

success of the program led to “Diamondback Ridge” becoming fully operational on 15 November with 200 trainees per night placed in the “frontlines of a combat environment.”¹⁴

BMT curriculum changed to allow the trainees to complete the FTX during their fourth week of training. Trainees received camp orientation, instruction in camp discipline and tactics, and lessons in leadership and teamwork principles. Instructors gave demonstrations and instruction in camouflage, noise and light discipline, and field encampment discipline. The tactics portion of instruction included camp security with inner and outer lines of defense and fortification techniques using sandbags. Additionally, a 250-meter low/high crawl course and 400-meter tactical obstacle course became part of the camp regimen.¹⁵

At night, the instructors attacked the trainees with weapons loaded with blanks. The trainees fought back using their flashlights to illuminate the attackers for a “kill.” By morning, the defending trainees received a debriefing explaining their mistakes and lauding their



Low Crawl at FTX

successes. A force march to test the trainees’ knowledge of the instruction given at “Diamondback Ridge” was included on the second day. The 2-day FTX evolved over the years from 1996 to 1999 to become an integral part in the concept of “Warrior Week;” the first major change in Air Force basic military training since the Korean War.¹⁶

BMT Future Vision

From the 18th Biennial Review of Basic Military Training in 1998, the BMT Future Vision Panel used the conceptual guidance found in *Airman 2010* that the Air Force developed to produce “value-based, technologically sound, expeditionary aerospace force graduates.” The average recruit of 1998 was male, white, single, and 20 years of age. He was either a high

¹⁴ Hist, 37 TRW, “History of the 37th Training Wing, Jan-Dec 1997, Vol I, pp39-41.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Hist, 37 TRW, “History of the 37th Training Wing, Jan-Dec 1997, Vol I, pp39-41; Hist, 37 TRW, “History of the 37th Training Wing, Jan-Dec 1998, pp 41-46.

school graduate or had a General Education Diploma. Wing leadership knew what they were getting from the Recruiting Service but needed to determine what the new recruit would evolve to after basic training. The panel addressed this in the form of two questions: What is an airman; and what should an airman know and be able to do after basic training?¹⁷

The panel found that an airman followed directions, paid attention to detail, demonstrated a “sense of mission,” understood and fostered the concept of teamwork, had respect for authority and demonstrated a positive attitude. An airman further demonstrated self-discipline, honorable conduct, responsibility, fired and cleaned the M-16 rifle, and demonstrated improvement in physical condition. An airman should be physically fit, motivated, a self-starter, and team oriented. They must also be technology aware, possessing a basic knowledge of information warfare and be multi-skilled, understand “aerospace” in concept and terminology, and must “possess an expeditionary mindset.” The Wing agreed with the definitions the panel arrived upon while HQ Second Air Force Operations Director summarily added that,

Airmen must also know that they are warriors...military men and women...and different from the private sector...not just a job...very serious business...perhaps life threatening (i.e., they must know/accept responsibility to defend our country...selflessness is key!)...Need to add this to our training...Bluing must take place...must know they are part of a DoD joint war-fighting team...AF...Navy...Army...Marines...and appreciate the roles of each.¹⁸

The panel recommended that the 737 TRG continue to train “with a focus on expeditionary force, core values and producing a self-sufficient airman.”¹⁹

Warrior Week Concept and Plan

From the 1995 BMT Review the need to bring a warfighting spirit to Air Force trainees was identified. To become known as “Warrior Week,” a concept formed from simply a 2-day field training experience into the first major change to Air Force basic military training in 50 years. The conceptual goals of “Warrior Week” training were threefold. First, provide a training

¹⁷ Ppr, 18 BMT Review, 18 BMT Review Validation Sheet Airman 2010, ca 3 Dec 1998.

¹⁸ Ppr, 18 BMT Review, 18 BMT Review Validation Sheet Airman 2010, ca 3 Dec 1998; Ppr, 18 BMT Review, 18 BMT Review Validation Sheet Airman of the Future, ca 3 Dec 1998; Ppr, 18 BMT Review, 18 BMT Review Validation Sheet Airman of the Future, ca 3 Dec 1998.

¹⁹ See note above.

experience that exposed recruits to field conditions and Expeditionary Aerospace Force (EAF) concept during a weeklong encampment. The basis for the AEF concept was found in publications such as "Joint Vision 2010" and the Air Force's vision of "Global Engagement: A Vision for the 21st Century Air Force." The "Warrior Week" objective was to expose airmen to the EAF concept of operations and the total force makeup of Air Expeditionary Forces (AEF). A second objective provided the airmen with a realistic experience, instruction in mobility line processing, daily survival skills during encampment, basic field hygiene, force protection and field religious services.²⁰

The second goal was to present instruction that satisfied the initial entry training and military survival skills. The objectives of this goal were twofold; first to expose airmen to contingency operations that included lessons in threat conditions and to teach recruits basic survival skills in a potentially hostile environment. The course instruction would include law of armed conflict training, code of conduct, security, self-aid and buddy care, weapons training, explosives ordinance recognition, and a full day of nuclear, chemical and biological (NBC) warfare training that included exposure in the gas chamber.²¹

Finally the third goal, "Infuse a "warrior spirit" in trainees and strengthen field training curricula to add rigor into basic military training." The infusion would include the field training experience, successful completion of the confidence course, field physical conditioning, and an overview and instruction in the meaning of patriotism. The realism of the weeklong field encampment was paramount to the success of each of the stated goals. The physical plant layout and requirements established in the concept are shown in the following table and illustration.²²

²⁰ Ppr, 18 BMT Review, 18 BMT Review Validation Sheet Basic Training Rigor/Warrior Preparedness, ca 3 Dec 1998; Ppr, 18 BMT Review, 18 BMT Review Validation Sheet Warrior Week Concept, ca 3 Dec 1998; Plan, 737 TRG, Warrior Week Concept of Operations, undated.

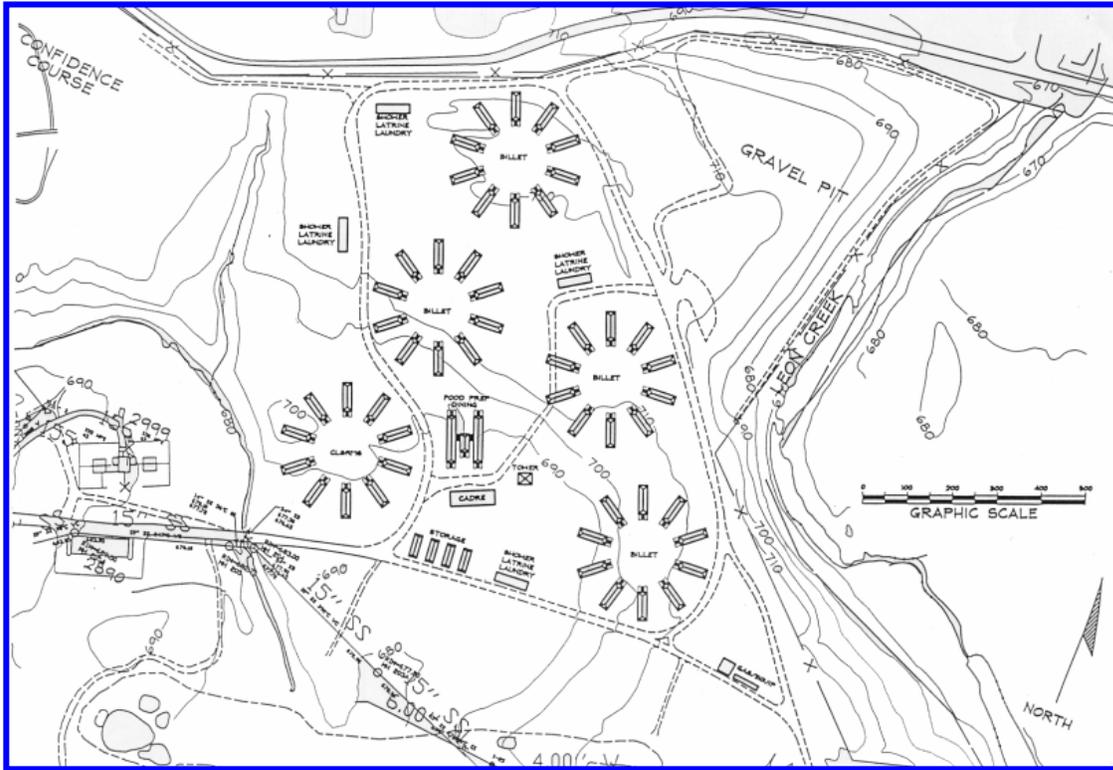
²¹ Plan, 737 TRG, Warrior Week Concept of Operations, undated; Memo, AF CESA to 37 TRW/CC, subj: Mission Ready Basic Military Training (BMT) Initiative, 23 Jan 1998.

²² Plan, 737 TRG, Warrior Week Concept of Operations, undated.

Warrior Week Encampment

Sleeping Tents	Environmentally controlled sleeping capacity for 1,000 people for seven nights, each week for 49 weeks. Each tent will house 25 trainees.
Classroom Tents	Environmentally controlled units with the capacity to seat 100 airmen at any given time. Trainees will sit on benches in a configuration of two rows of ten benches with 5 trainees per bench. Whenever required, classroom instruction may take place within permanent building structures (i.e. Combat Arms Training and Maintenance (CATM) dry fire building).
Latrines and Showers	Daily shower and latrine support for 1,000 people.
Supply Storage	Four permanent supply storage facilities to hold items such as sleeping bags, extra cots, blankets, kevlar helmets/vests, rucksacks, shelter halves, and other mobility related items.
Messing Area and Meals	Environmentally controlled field kitchen tents to support feeding dinner to 200 trainees at any given time. Breakfast and lunch will consist of MREs and dinner will be a hot meal. All meals will be prepared and delivered to the site by food service personnel but served by recruits. Services require a 2-pallet storage area for MRES.
Conference Room	Support continuing instructor training, DV briefings, and a latrine/shower capability for staff use.
Communications	Capability to broadcast information (to include exercise alarm conditions and emergency warnings) throughout the site, as well as telephone connectivity to and from all base agencies (command post, FTX, services, transportation, etc.), and a LAN capability within the command bunker with connectivity to outside agencies.
Lighting and Power	Lighting for the encampment area, and primary and secondary electrical power for lighting, communications, and HVAC.
Area Preparation	Prepare areas for tent placement, ground cover that will withstand heavy foot traffic, clear fields of fire, and defensive cover and concealment.
Security	Construction of one 40' cadre observation tower for 360-degree line of sight visual assessment of the trainee complex. Additionally, construction of four 10 foot towers for trainee observation and defense.
HAZMAT Storage	Permanent facility to store hazardous materials (cleaning supplies, gas, paint, etc.). Must be collocated with the supply structure.
NBC Storage Structures	Environmentally controlled structure capable of storing suits/boots/masks in separate areas: 600 for issue and 600 for cleaning.
Road and Bridge	Repair road and bridge leading to training encampment.
Environmental Survey	Soil sampling Environmental Baseline Survey (EBS) and Environmental Assessment (EA) of the desired encampment site.
Source: Plan, 737 TRG, Warrior Week Concept of Operations, undated.	

Warrior Week Site



Source: Plan, 737 TRG, Warrior Week Concept of Operations, undated.

To produce mission-ready airmen that helped satisfy initial entry training requirements and survival skills, the group envisioned the addition of a gas chamber and classroom to the physical plant to provide NBC indoctrination training. A 600 square foot tent with the capacity for 100 airmen was planned for each training activity.²³

The 737 TRG was responsible for changing the recruit training schedule to accommodate all Warrior Week requirements during the fifth week of basic training when approximately 1,000 trainees would deploy, live and train at the site. The five major components of training established by the group were (1) mobility processing and field encampment living, (2) initial training in military survival skills, (3) weapons training with the M-16 rifle, (4) completion of the confidence course, and (5) in the field experience.²⁴

²³ Plan, 737 TRG, Warrior Week Concept of Operations, undated.

²⁴ Ibid.

The 37 CES was tasked to design the field encampment as a standard deployment layout considering the physical surroundings and operational needs. The camp was to be located next to the existing confidence course. The confidence course contained 21 obstacles over a 1.5-mile course that would provide the necessary military skills training needed. The field training exercise and live fire range were located at Lackland Annex.²⁵

Flight sizes were envisioned to be the standard 48 personnel. Given physical plant capacity limitations, Warrior Week group flights would be scheduled to participate in each of the different major components of training at different times. For example, one quarter of the encamped force would be undergoing field training at Lackland Annex while another quarter would be testing their physical capabilities at the confidence course. The remaining half would be either undergoing academics or NBC training.²⁶

To manage operations at the encampment, a dedicated element of instructors would be responsible for 24-hour coverage of staging area operations/oversight and training, initial military survival skills training and field PC, a spirit challenge and a culminating ceremony. The encampment instructors would work in teams of six MTIs with one as a team leader. Each team would follow their respective flights through the weeklong deployment. Another team would be assigned to the Lackland Annex for field training while still another would accomplish confidence course training. The individual flight MTIs would conduct other academic subjects as required. Overall, the 737th Training Support Squadron Commander was responsible for the Warrior Week encampment and the implementation of the concept and planning. The following table shows the planned four phases for creating Warrior Week.²⁷

²⁵ Plan, 737 TRG, Warrior Week Concept of Operations, undated.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Ibid.

Warrior Week Implementation

Phase I	Curriculum and Concept Planning: Jun 98
	Reduce dormitory inspections to find the additional time needed in the schedule (i.e. limiting formal dormitory inspections to the first 3 weeks).
Phase II	Design, Development, and Insertion of Warrior Week Curricula: TBD
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Move current warrior week activities not in the 5th week of training into that week. Instruction on AEF mission/concept and IET military survival skills training on AEF mission and concept, and IET military survival skills training (without application). - Flight MTIs take-on responsibility for teaching academic subject material other than IET military skills training. - Select team to perform AEF mission/concept and IET military skills training. - This team will eventually expand to serve as the field encampment staging area cadre upon implementation of Phase III.
Phase III	Initial Operating Capability (IOC) of Warrior Week Encampment: (Unknown)
	<p>Desired target date is Jul 99; however, activation of this phase depends on the results from soil testing and the environmental analysis, and subsequent funding, acquisition, and construction timelines to satisfy supply and physical plant requirements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trainees deploy and live in the tent encampment. - Mobility processing and encampment staging area orientation. - IET military survival skills training include practical application under field conditions. - NBC training limited to uncertified MTIs.
Phase IV	Completion of First Duty Station Initial Entry Certification Curricula: (Unknown)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NBC training through certified trainers for full qualification. <p>Employment: 737TRSS academic instructors will perform certification training for flight instructors. The 737TRG functional manager ensures academic training requirements are added to the MTIs curriculum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The 737TRSS curriculum element will develop IET military skills lessons. <p>737 TRSS academic element will certify encampment cadre on these subjects.</p>
Source: Plan, 737 TRG, Warrior Week Concept of Operations, undated.	

Building Warrior Week

The realization of the Warrior Week concept began to take shape on 6 January 1999 when the 820th Red Horse Squadron broke ground at the main encampment site behind the existing confidence course at Lackland main base. Known as the “Torch,” the site layout differed from the original plan, given allowances for terrain and funding. The 820th cleared the land, installed water, electric, and sewage lines, and poured the concrete foundations for the facilities. On 29 January, construction of four field latrines began and by 23 February the first of 50 concrete slab foundations for temper [temperature controlled] tents to house 30 trainees each were poured. The 820th began construction of the K-Span facility that housed the offices of the cadre and medical staff on 16 March. By 16 May the hardened facilities, latrines, K-span, etc., were completed and the 820th turned the site over to the 737 TRG for completion. The only item envisioned in the concept that did not come to fruition was the building of a chemical warfare training gas chamber due to environmental concerns that needed addressing.²⁸

Far from complete, the site was finished through the efforts and support from personnel in units across Lackland AFB; as tents still needed erecting, more land needed clearing and landscaping, and the cots, sleeping bags, and foot lockers for the living quarters needed to be acquired. Civil engineers, supply troops, basic trainees, guard and reserve personnel, and military training instructors all pitched-in to finish the encampment prior to 1 October 1999. On that day both BGen Michael N. Farage, 37TRW Commander, and Col Stefan Eisen Jr., 737 TRG Commander, cut the ceremonious ribbon signifying the official opening of “Warrior Week.” On 3 October, the first flights of trainees arrived at the site for their fifth week of training. On 9 October, they became airmen. The following table depicts the “Torch” layout as completed and the construction timeline.²⁹

²⁸ Ppr, 737TRSS, “The History and Evolution of Warrior Week,” Jun 00; POI, LMABM9T000 Part B, “Plan of Instruction United State Air Force Basic Military Training [Warrior Week], 1 Dec 1999; Ppr, 737TRSS, “Talking Paper on Warrior Week Development,” undated.

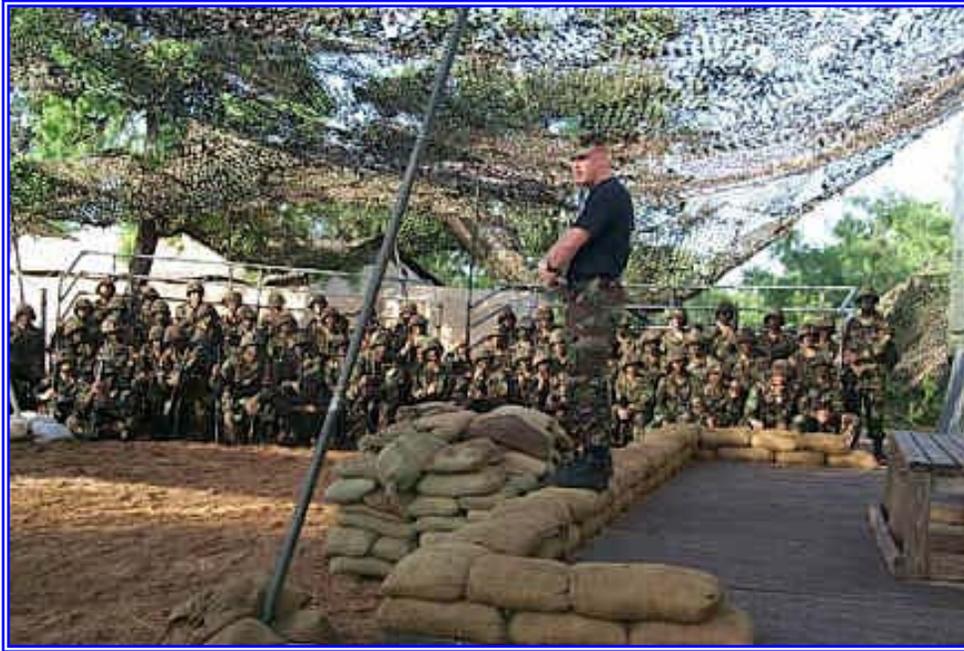
²⁹ See Note Above.

WARRIOR WEEK SITE CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE

Date	Action Completed
6 Jan	820th Red Horse broke ground at the encampment site opposite the confidence course.
12 Jan	Road encircling the camp cleared and female sleeping area cleared and leveled.
15 Jan	Dirt for protective berm poured.
25 Jan	Pipe trenches dug; first concrete slabs for the latrines and female tent slab poured.
29 Jan	Latrine walls started.
2 Feb	Retaining wall in female sleeping area erected.
12 Feb	Male sleeping area cleared and leveled.
19 Feb	Walls on latrines completed.
23 Feb	First male tent slab poured.
5 Mar	Overflow sleeping area cleared and leveled.
12 Mar	Roofs on latrines; First overflow area slab poured.
16 Mar	Concrete walls for K-Span poured.
19 Mar	Last male tent slab poured.
23 Mar	Last overflow slab poured.
26 Mar	Concrete walls for K-Span completed.
9 Apr	Roof on K-Span. 
23 Apr	Last female tent slab poured; Electrical boxes placed next to all tents; K-Span concrete poured.

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14 May	Trainees erect first Temper tents.	
24 May	Interior wall of K-Span started	
28 Jun	Last tent erected; mulch spread between tents and on trails; landscaping timbers used to line all walkways.	
16 Aug	First test flight arrived.	
8 Sep	K-Span and latrines camouflaged; helicopters in place.	
1 Oct	Ribbon cutting ceremony.	
3 Oct	First flights arrived.	
9 Oct	First flights graduated.	
Source: Ppr, 737TRSS, "The History and Evolution of Warrior Week," Jun 00.		



Training for an AEF Environment

Warrior Week

No matter the terminology or methods used to teach basic trainees the art of living, working, and fighting in the field, the concept known as “Warrior Week” became reality on 1 October 1999. From this date, instructors provided a training experience that exposed trainees to field conditions in the Expeditionary Aerospace Force (EAF). The week-long encampment gave trainees realistic experience, instruction in mobility line processing, daily survival skills during encampment, basic field hygiene, force protection and field religious services.³⁰

Course instruction included law of armed conflict training, code of conduct, security, self-aid and buddy care, weapons familiarization training, explosives ordnance recognition, and nuclear, chemical and biological (NBC) warfare defense training. These courses eliminated the need for gaining commanders to provide initial training at the trainee’s first duty station. To complete Warrior Week, all trainees negotiated the confidence course, passed field physical conditioning, and attended an overview and instruction in the meaning of patriotism. The 737

³⁰ Ppr, 737TRSS, “The History and Evolution of Warrior Week,” Jun 00; POI, LMABM9T000 Part B, “Plan of Instruction United State Air Force Basic Military Training [Warrior Week], 1 Dec 1999.

TRG incorporated the 2-day FTX at the “Scorpion’s Nest,” formerly “Diamondback Ridge,” into the Warrior Week curriculum allowing the most realistic training environment possible for the trainees. The 737 TRG changed the BMT plan of instruction to “block” similar academic areas of instruction together to allow the fifth week of BMT to become Air Force enlisted trainee’s “Warrior Week.”³¹

The initial Warrior Week cadre took fact-finding trips to the basic training installations of the Army, Navy and Marine Corps to import some of their ideas and concepts to enhance the experience for Air Force trainees. One idea incorporated throughout BMT was addressing new recruits as “trainees” until completion of Warrior Week in their fifth week of training. Upon completion, the “trainee” earned the title of “Airman” and received their “US” lapel insignia and an Airman’s coin during a culmination ceremony. The coin represented the trainee’s passage into the ranks of airmen.³²

³¹ Ppr, 737TRSS, “Talking Paper on Warrior Week Development,” undated; POI, LMABM9T000 Part B, “Plan of Instruction United State Air Force Basic Military Training [Warrior Week], 1 Dec 1999; Ppr, 737TRSS, “The History and Evolution of Warrior Week,” Jun 00; E-Mail, MSgt Bailey, 737TRSS/TSOW to 37TRW/HO, “Cadre,” 20 Jun 2000.

³² Ppr, 737TRSS, “The History and Evolution of Warrior Week,” Jun 00; Ppr, 737TRSS, “Talking Paper on Warrior Week Development,” undated; SSS, 2AF/CCX, “Basic Military Training (BMT) Coin Proposal, 31 Aug 1999, w 4 Atch.

The following table shows the content of the Plan of Instruction and new subjects taught at warrior week:³³

WARRIOR WEEK SUBJECTS

SUBJECT	HOURS	NEW
Processing (conducted in conjunction with other activities)	0	
Warrior Week Preparation	2	
Camp Overview	.5	
Expeditionary Aerospace Force/Aerospace Expeditionary Force Posture	.5	Yes
Field Hygiene	.5	Yes
Field Training Experience Mission Assignment Notification	.5	
Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Defense Training	12.25	Yes
Terrorism/Anti-Terrorism Measures	5	Yes
Unexploded Ordnance	.75	
Law of Armed Conflict	1	
Code of Conduct	1	
Self Aid and Buddy Care	3	Yes
Confidence Course	4	
Combat Arms Training	8.5	
Field Training Experience Issue	1	
Field Training Experience In-Brief/Intelligence Briefing	1	
Field Training Experience Weapons Safety	2	
TEMPER Tents and Defensive Fighting Positions	3	
Basic Field Tactics and Field Security	10	
Basic Field Communications and Notifications	3.25	
Field Physical Conditioning	3	
Out Processing and Equipment Turn In	2	
Source: POI LMABM9T000 Part B, "Plan of Instruction United State Air Force Basic Military Training [Warrior Week], 1 Dec 1999.		

³³ POI, LMABM9T000 Part B, "Plan of Instruction United State Air Force Basic Military Training [Warrior Week], 1 Dec 1999; Ppr, 737TRSS, "The History and Evolution of Warrior Week," Jun 00; Ppr, 737TRSS, "Talking Paper on Warrior Week Development," undated.