

WOCS Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is Physical Readiness Training (PRT) going to be like?

A: Some will tell you that PRT at WOCS is going to be easy. And for them it may have been true. But, for the majority, PRT can prove to be very challenging. Ensure that you are in top physical readiness prior to arriving to WOCS. In accordance with (IAW) Army Regulation (AR) 350-1, you will have to take and pass an enrollment Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) at Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) in order to enroll into class. IAW AR 350-1, the only authorized alternate event for the APFT is the 2.5 Mile Walk (with an approved Army G-3/5/7 waiver). The push-up and sit-up events are non-waiverable. Daily PRT will be strenuous. 1st Warrant Officer Company (WOC) follows Field Manual (FM) 7-22 and the Army's updated PRT program. If you are a poor runner, you should start working on your run now rather than a few weeks before reporting. Additionally, push-ups, pull-ups, sit-ups, and medium distance foot marches with at least 48 lbs. are highly recommended. If you aren't doing it now, start doing PRT five days a week.

Q: When should I begin the Distributed Learning (DL) portion?

A: Begin the distance learning portion as soon as you have access. **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE!** You will have two essays that you must complete in addition to two exams. There is a lot of material that is covered. You will be expected to know what was covered in DL. Failure to complete DL before reporting will cause a delay in your start date or dismissal from the course. Be sure to bring your DL grades with you. Call the WOCS DL Manager at 334-255-1326 if you have any questions.

Q: Where do I report once I arrive to Fort Rucker, AL?

A: Report in the Army Combat Uniform (ACU) to Headquarters & Headquarters Company (HHC), U.S. Army Warrant Officer Career College (WOCC), building 5901 on Skychief Street. We encourage you to arrive no later than 0800 on your report date. HHC Cadre or the Candidate Duty Officer will provide in-processing instructions and assign you a room in the billets. On report day, the class will have formation in the HHC area for WOCS orientation. Additional information is available at: <http://usacac.army.mil/cac2/wocc/wocourses.asp>

Q: When do I report once I arrive to Fort Rucker, AL?

A: PCS travel orders to attend WOCS will reflect a report date to HHC ten days prior to class start date. In accordance with ALARACT Message 155/2011(2.B.) dated 15 April 2011, permanent change of station travel orders will reflect a report date of ten days prior to class start date to support required in-processing requirements. This message does not apply to Soldiers who are slated to become non-flying aviation Warrant Officers in the following MOS: 150A, 150U and 151A.

Q: When should I stencil my clothing?

A: You will have approximately five to ten days at HHC before reporting to 1st WOC. You may use this time to mark your clothing IAW the WOC SOP. There is a stencil machine available at HHC but it is recommended that you bring your own one-inch stencil with your last name. Be aware, though, there are some items of clothing that only require free-hand lettering. You can save yourself some time by doing this prior to reporting to school. Ensure you note what color ink you are required to use prior to stenciling or marking by reading the WOC SOP.

Q: What if I am missing documents when I get there?

A: Although the cadre will try to help in every way they can, it is your responsibility to ensure that you have all documents annotated in the PRE-EXECUTION CHECKLIST. The documents most often missing are DA Form 2808 (Physical Examination), the initial enlistment contract, DD Form 214 (for a break in service or inter-service transfer), and the actual pre-execution checklist signed by the Commander and 1SG. Missing documents could delay your entering the course on time. If you are unsure about a document, you should contact HHC at 334-255-1967/1387.

Q: What if I have a minor injury but I am not on a profile?

A: If you have a minor injury but are not on a profile, it is in your best interest to ask for a later class date in order to fully recover. The level of physical activity will exacerbate the problem and you will not have much time to get it properly taken care of. If you are not 100 percent physically, do not start class. Wait until you are healed.

Q: What are some things I should review before I arrive?

A: Review FM 3-21.5 Drill and Ceremonies (D&C). Many candidates do not conduct D&C very often and have difficulties remembering how to conduct company/platoon formations and marching. This may seem like a minor task but it is part of leadership and your evaluations. It demonstrates attention to detail, confidence, professionalism, and the ability to take charge. Besides, it is a basic soldiering task. Review FM 7-22 to familiarize yourself with at least how to conduct preparation and recovery drills.

Q: How do I address the TAC Officers?

A: You may not address the TAC Officers as "Chief" while you are here. IAW AR 600-20; address warrant officers as "Sir/Ma'am" or "Mister" or "Mr/Miss Smith." Get out of the habit of using, "You guys," "Roger," "Check," "Negative," etc. "Yes sir/ma'am" and "No sir/ma'am" are the only responses you should use. In addition, you may not abbreviate the TAC Officers' last names, "Mister O", "Miss T", etc.

Q: Do I need to bring everything on the packing list?

A: Yes and no. There are two packing lists. One that has mandatory clothing items and another that has optional items. You MUST have everything on the mandatory items list. This should be your entire initial issue. Do not bring extra unless authorized on the list. If it specifies a color, it must be that color (i.e. white underwear). On the optional items list you should only bring those things that will make you more comfortable. Females should bring pumps for the reception. There is also a list of updated mandatory items that includes toiletries and office supplies. Keep toiletries to a minimum to avoid cluttering your Personal Security Area (PSA). You may want to wait on office supplies until you arrive to Fort Rucker. Previous students may have left behind many of the items that you will need such as index cards, one-inch rings, medical tape, two-sided tape, etc. You can always purchase them here at Clothing Sales or the mini-mall if there are no extras in the class admin room.

Q: Should I buy all new uniforms prior to arriving?

A: No! Many candidates spend over \$500 purchasing clothing items that they already own. If your uniform items are still serviceable do not feel that you have to replace them. However, if they are serviceable but do not fit properly, you must have clothing that is sized appropriately.

Q: How much money should I expect to spend?

A: Plan to spend anywhere from \$300-\$500. It is going to vary from person to person. You will spend money on the class shirts, hat, shoelaces, laundry, alterations, basic needs, coffee fund (once caffeine rights are earned), and the Andersonville, GA Staff Ride dinner.

Most classes decide to order and purchase class coins but this is not mandatory. If you use laundry services, it is around \$100-\$150. You must have the Army Service Uniform /ASU (The Army Service Uniform is a graduation requirement; those who do not possess it, will not graduate this course), you will also need to have your ASU altered (trouser/slack officer braid and coat sleeve braid). Lastly, you will need a little spending money for any other incidentals you may need while here.

Also, most WOCS classes conduct a car wash to help offset the cost of their class reception.

Q: Will I have to do much writing?

A: You will be required to write essays and memos while you are here. The format is outlined in the WOC SOP and AR 25-50. Become familiar with it and the military writing style as warrant officers need to know how to write well and clearly articulate their thoughts on paper (memorandums, awards, evaluations, operation orders, standard operating procedures, email, etc). There are limited computers available for candidates' use. When everyone has an essay due at the same time, it is very difficult to meet deadlines. If you don't know how to type, take a class. This will be advantageous to you and your fellow class mates.

Q: What do Army National Guard (ARNG) and Reserve candidates need to bring with them?

A: In addition to packing list items and paperwork on the pre-execution checklist, ARNG and Reserve candidates need to make sure that your Warrant Officer recruiter arranges for the proper physical examination. Also, make sure that you bring a copy of your contract paperwork. If you are deferring your appointment, bring a copy of your certification with you. Any other paperwork (including finance) pertaining to you being placed on Active Duty will help ease your process. Bring a copy of your DD Form 214 if you had a break in service or are an inter-service transfer.

Q: Can I keep a "low-profile" and still get through the course?

A: If you are planning to "hide in the shadows" during this course, you need to change your attitude. Everyone will hold one or more leadership positions while here. All are subject to evaluation. Additionally, informal leadership is evaluated. The TAC Officers will notice if you are trying to hide. You will be put on the spot at some point.

Q: Will I be able to take care of any personal issues that may arise while at WOCS?

A: Emergencies happen, but in most instances these emergencies could have been prevented by a little pre-planning. Ensure that your finances and family matters are taken care of prior to leaving for WOCS. Again, time is limited and you will disrupt your training if you require trips to finance or human resources. In addition, worrying about unresolved personal problems is distracting and can affect your ability to learn while here.

Q: Will I be able to contact my family regularly?

A: No. Though you will have occasional phone and media rights, they are never a guarantee. Anticipate that you may be able to contact your family once or twice a week. This is to minimize distractions for the candidates. This course is very short and intense. If you have special

circumstances, you may go through your candidate chain of command who will request permission from your TAC team to use the phone or internet outside of designated phone and media times. You may have to submit a memorandum before they grant you permission.

Q: What is the key to success in this course?

A: There are many traits and skills that will contribute to your success: Motivation, determination, self-discipline, physical readiness, professionalism, time and stress management, and the desire to learn. However, more important than your personal success is the success of the group. You must be a team player first and foremost. You must have good communication and interpersonal skills. There is no room for individualism during this course.

Q: How much sleep do I get?

A: You are going to be tired during this course. Plan on getting approximately six hours of sleep at the most as this is how much time is allotted on the training schedule. It takes time to adjust especially because you start and end your day based on speed. Be prepared to pull nightly duties as well. There are no exceptions if you have a 0400-0530 candidate duty officer shift. You will still participate in PRT and attend academics.

Q: Should I bring the Army Service Uniform (ASU) to WOCS?

A: Bring the Army Service Uniform. This is a graduation requirement; those who do not possess it, will not graduate this course. Make sure you have the long-sleeve white shirt, short-sleeve white shirts, and trousers IAW the packing list. We recommend purchasing the WO1 shoulder boards and sleeve braid (with your appropriate branch color) prior to arriving to Fort Rucker since the clothing sales here may not carry your branch. Keep your receipt, though, in case, for one reason or another, you do not graduate.

Q: Will I receive an annual clothing allowance as an officer?

A: No annual allowance, but you will receive a one-time payment of \$400 after appointment. IAW the Department of Defense Financial Management Regulation (DoDFMR) Volume 7A, Chapter 30, "All officer personnel commissioned or appointed in the Regular or Reserve Components of the Army, Navy, Air Force, or Marine Corps are authorized \$400 as reimbursement for the purchase of uniform and equipment, regardless the source of commission or previous enlisted status." Furthermore, if you are on active duty or active duty for training for more than 90 days, you will receive an additional, one-time uniform allowance of \$200.

Q: I've been selected for WOCS and already have the enlisted ASU. Can I purchase the officer Army Service Uniform (ASU) coat and bring it to WOCS or should I bring the enlisted coat?

A: You will have the opportunity to have your enlisted ASU coat altered from enlisted to officer. You can also opt to purchase the officer ASU coat prior to WOCS. However, just because you purchase the officer ASU does not guarantee your successful completion of WOCS.

Q: As an ARNG Soldier, can I wear State awards on my Class A/ASU uniform?

A: Reference AR 670-1, para 29-6j. Under Title 32, you may. However, if you are under the provisions of Title 10, you cannot.

Q: As an inter-service transfer (to the Army from another service), am I authorized to wear the awards or badges from that service?

A: Reference AR 670-1, para 29-6d and 29-13g; AR 600-8-22, para 8-3c. Personnel may wear service medals and service and training ribbons awarded by other US Services with the exception of a few specific awards, ribbons, and medals. Per AR 600-8-22, written authority from Human Resources Command (HRC) and Army G-1 must be obtained before wearing badges awarded by other US Services.

Q: What time is graduation?

A: Unless otherwise noted, WOCS graduation begins at 1000 and is held at the Fort Rucker Aviation Museum.

Q: What is the earliest I can arrange for travel (flights) after graduation?

A: It is recommended that you do not plan/schedule to fly out of the Dothan Regional Airport (DHN) earlier than 1300 on graduation day. It takes about 30-45 minutes to get to the airport from Fort Rucker. Delta Airlines is the only airline that flies in/out of Dothan with connecting service into/out of Atlanta (ATL), GA. For planning purposes, be sure to check their website for flight times.

Q: Are Vibram Five-Finger barefoot running shoes authorized during WOCS?

A: No. According to the US Army Physical Fitness School at Fort Jackson, SC, these types of barefoot shoes are not authorized for wear during the Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) or during PRT. Refer to ALARACT Message 239/2011.

Q: Is the Fire Resistant ACU authorized during WOCS?

A: Yes. Fire Resistant ACUs (FR ACU) are authorized; however, the Army Aircrew Combat Uniform (A2CU) is not.

Q: Do I need to bring the winter items (IPFU pants and jacket, fleece cap, all-weather coat) to WOCS in the spring/summer?

A: Yes. Those items are part of the packing list as well as mandatory possession items IAW AR 670-1.

Q: I cannot find the black leather glove shells that are on the packing list. Are the foliage green inserts and shells with Velcro tab permitted for WOCS?

A: Yes – Either black or the foliage green light duty utility gloves are acceptable.

Q: Are commercial boots authorized for wear during WOCS?

A: Yes – As long as they meet all requirements in AR 670-1 (including the 8-10 inch height requirement) and associated ALARACT messages that govern wear of the ACU.

Q: Are sew-on skill/identification badges, the US Army tape, and name tapes allowed on the ACU during WOCS?

A: Yes per ALARACT Message 230/2011. However, ensure you do not remove the Velcro rank attachment on the ACU coat since you will need it to affix the WOC insignia. Furthermore, do not sew on the WOC insignia to your ACU coat. When you transition from the intermediate phase to senior phase of training, you will remove your subdued WOC insignia and attach the non-subdued WOC insignia (using the Velcro attachment).

Q: Am I allowed to bring a privately owned weapon (POW) to WOCS?

A: We encourage you to leave your POW at your home station. The only exception is for those in a PCS status. However, if you bring a POW, it must be registered with the Provost Marshal's Office, turned in at HHC, and stored in the arms room. Fort Rucker and United States Army Aviation Center of Excellence (USAACE) Regulation 600-1 defines a POW or dangerous weapon as firearms, knives with blades in excess of four inches, switchblades, metal knuckles, tasers, nunchucks, blackjacks, hand-held bows, or other instruments that can be used as a weapon. If you are in doubt, leave it at home.

Q: Will I receive a DA Form 1059 (Service School Academic Evaluation Report) upon successful completion of WOCS?

A: IAW AR 623-3, no.