

Warrant Officer Candidate School Frequently Asked Questions

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

A: Ensure that you are in **top physical readiness shape prior to arriving to WOCS**. You will have to take an Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT) at Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) before moving to 1ST WOC and starting class. The only authorized alternate events for the ACFT are the 5,000 meter row, 12,000 meter stationary bike and the 1,000 meter swim (with an approved DA G-3/5/7 waiver). Daily PRT will be strenuous. 1st Warrant Officer Company (WOC) follows Field Manual (FM) 7-22 and the Army's updated PRT program. You should start working on your physical stamina now. A Pre-WOCS PRT program can be found on the WOCS web page. Note: The Alabama heat can be a hard adjustment, in order to prepare yourself please ensure you are staying hydrated. <https://usacac.army.mil/organizations/cace/wocc/courses>

Q: Where do I report and in which uniform once I arrive to Fort Rucker, AL?

A: Report to Bldg. 315 for medical screening. Request a map at the gate upon arrival. If you are going to **report earlier than your actual ATRRS report date for WOCS**, report in the Operational Camouflage Pattern (OCP).

Currently a 7 day quarantine with a COVID-19 testing on day 8 is required for all new comers to Ft. Rucker. Plan accordingly. AVN (153A) students should add 10 additional days to allow for in processing to the post. You will in process after your quarantine time.

Q: When should I stencil/mark my clothing?

A: You should not stencil/mark your clothing prior to arriving. You will have approximately three to five days at HHC before reporting to 1st WOC. You may use this time to mark your clothing IAW 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 the Promotion Orders (E4 and below), DA Form 61 (Application for Appointment), copy of a profile if applicable (DA 3349), DA 2808 or Form 3.1 (Physical), Soldier Record Brief (SRB), initial enlistment contract, DD Form 214 (for a break in service or inter-service transfer), Orders bringing you to Fort Rucker, and the actual pre-execution checklist signed by your Commander and 1SG. Missing documents could delay entering the course on time. If you are unsure about a

document, you should contact HHC at 334-255-1967/1387/1297 or 334-470-7340 (CDO).

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 time to get it properly taken care of. If you are not 100 percent physically prepared, do not start class. Wait until you are healed.

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

A: Review the following references:

- Training Circular (TC) 3-21.5, Drill and Ceremonies. Many candidates do not conduct D&C very often and have difficulties remembering how to conduct company/platoon formations as well as how to march as a unit. This may seem like a minor task, but D&C is part of leadership and your evaluations. Drill and Ceremony is a basic soldier task. Mastery of D&C demonstrates attention to detail, confidence, professionalism, and the ability to take charge.
- Field Manual (FM) 7-22, Army Physical Readiness Training to familiarize yourself with how to conduct preparation and recovery drills. You must memorize the drills in the order they are conducted during PRT.
- FM 3-25.26 Map Reading and Land Navigation. It is your responsibility to be prepared for land navigation and its components. Such as plotting grid points, azimuth, pace count, and terrain association. Many candidates struggle with navigating terrain with a map and a compass. You will receive a full day worth of classroom instruction but that has not decreased the failure rate for the event. It is your responsibility to ensure you practice Land Navigation before reporting.
- Army Regulation (AR 25-50), Preparing and Managing Correspondence. Clear, concise writing is not a simple task. Writing complex reports or articulating the concerns of subordinates only increases the challenge. The ability to communicate effectively is crucial to your success as a Warrant Officer.

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

A: You **MUST** have everything on the mandatory items list. The items that are listed as optional are exactly that, OPTIONAL. Do not bring extra equipment unless authorized on the list. Females' pumps are optional for wear with the dress uniform. There is an additional list of updated mandatory items that includes toiletries and office supplies.

Keep toiletries to a minimum to avoid cluttering your Personal Security Area (PSA). If you have a rucksack, assault pack, and a hydration system ("Camel Back") it is mandatory that you bring them with you. This is imperative and beneficial for your training. If you don't have those items (street to seat and inter-service transfer candidates only), they will be provided to you.

Q: Should I buy all new uniforms and boots 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 or look worn out, you must have clothing that is sized and looks appropriately.

Q: How much money should I expect to spend?

A: Plan to spend anywhere from \$100-\$200. It is going to vary from person to person. You will spend money on the class shirts, laundry service (optional), alterations, basic needs, coffee fund, and the staff ride. If you use laundry services, the cost is \$100. You will need a little spending money for any other incidentals you may require while here. Also, most WOCS classes conduct a car wash to help offset the costs of class memorabilia. (Due to COVID-19: Car washes and staff rides are halted)

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 AR 25-50 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 do not know how to type, take a class on how to type fast. This will be advantageous to you and your fellow class mates.

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. Your Common Access Card (CAC) should not expire during the course and you should also know your CAC pin. Ensure that your finances and family matters (power of attorney) are taken care of prior to reporting for WOCS. Again, time is limited and you will disrupt your training if you require trips to finance or S1. In addition, worrying about unresolved personal problems is distracting and can affect your ability to learn while here. If you bring a vehicle, ensure that all your

paperwork (license, registration, insurance) is up to date, available for verification, and will not expire.

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

A: No. You will have occasional phone and media rights, but rights 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 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 you are granted 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. ADP 6-22 for Army Leadership is a good publication to read before reporting to WOCS.

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

A: Yes! The ASU is on the mandatory packing list. We recommend that you convert your uniform with your appropriate branch color and purchasing the WO1 shoulder boards and sleeve braid prior to arriving to Fort Rucker since the clothing sales here may not carry your branch.

If you have doubts about the process, just bring your enlisted ASU and the Candidate Laundry Officer will coordinate the process with a local vendor. The class will have an opportunity to turn in their uniforms the day after you report here. This is done at your own expense. Keep your receipt in case, for one reason or another, you do not graduate.

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

A: 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 of 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: 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 U.S. 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: Currently graduations are closed to the public due to COVID-19?

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 1400 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 in/out of Atlanta (ATL), GA. For planning purposes, be sure to check their website for flight times.

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 (APFU 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 components of the full uniform 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: 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 and stored in accordance with Fort Rucker Regulation 190-1, Chapter 15.

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

A: IAW AR 623-3, no.

Q: Will I be allowed to start training if my Secret security clearance has not been granted, or if I am due for a periodic reinvestigation during training?

A: No. You must have an adjudicated SECRET clearance upon your arrival at HHC, and it must be valid after your scheduled graduation date (i.e. you must not be due for a periodic reinvestigation until after your scheduled graduation date). Check with your unit security officer to ensure the correct access is granted in JPAS and that you have a signed non-disclosure agreement (SF312) on file. If you do not meet security clearance requirements you will be returned to your home station or placed in an administrative hold at HHC pending a valid clearance. If you cannot initiate your periodic reinvestigation due to the 30 day limit and your upcoming class, the matter will be resolved here.

Q: IAW 600-8-19, my losing unit should promote me to E5 prior to my departure for WOCS. They are refusing to process the promotion. What should I do?

A: This is not uncommon. If your losing unit does not process your promotion to E5 prior to departing for WOCS, then your promotion will be processed by HHC during your in-processing.

Q: I am a “street to seat” candidate, can I bring my family and Household goods with me to Fort Rucker before I graduate WOCS?

A: No. You are not authorized movement of your Dependents or HHGs at government expense until you graduate WOCS.

Q: I am a single soldier and will continue my training at Fort Rucker after I graduate from WOCS. Can I reside in BOQs or Barracks once I am a WO1?

A: No. Fort Rucker does not have BOQs and Officers are not authorized to stay in the barracks. It is your personal responsibility to find somewhere to live upon your graduation from WOCS.

Q: I am a “street to seat” candidate. When will I be authorized Basic Allowance for Housing BAH?

A: There are different categories for BAH.

1. Service member that has dependents is authorized BAH w/dep while attending WOC School.
2. Single Soldier can be authorized BAH by obtaining a 4187 from HHC authorizing BAH. They submit the 4187 along with a 5960 (BAH Form).
3. Service member upon graduation from WOC School are authorized BAH.

Q: I am a NG/USAR Aviation Candidate. Can I relocate my HHGs and Dependents?

A: Yes. Your State should provide all the necessary information upon your selection.

Q: If I arrive after hours to Fort Rucker where do I check in?

A: If you arrive after 1700, call **(334) 470-7340** for further instructions.

Q: I am an inter-service transfer. Do I need to bring my prior service uniforms?

A: No. You will need to arrange an initial clothing issue with HHC once you arrive.

Q: I am a 153A going to WOCS. When should I arrange housing for myself and or my family?

A: Upon receiving your orders, contact the housing office by visiting their website at <http://rucker.corviasmilitaryliving.com/contact-us> to start planning. If you are authorized to bring your dependents, you will have time during your installation in-processing to sign for housing. If you are single, or if dependent travel is not authorized in your orders, do not sign a lease prior to completion of WOCS, you will be provided a barracks room upon arrival. If you have questions, please contact HHC cadre for assistance or further guidance.

Q: Will I be allowed to take leave or 10 days PTDY after I complete WOCS?

A: Currently due to COVID-19 requirements, no leave will be authorized. You are encouraged to take leave at your losing unit and not arrive with use/lose leave. Regardless of the ATRRS reservation, the student will start in the first available class and will most likely not have an opportunity to take leave after WOCS or in-between phases of training.

Q: Will I be given time to buy personal items such as toiletries and uniform items during WOCS?

A: You will have time during in-processing to purchase any toiletries and uniform items you need. Please keep in mind that Fort Rucker's Military Clothing and Sales Store is small and may not have your specific uniform item or size in stock. After you begin training, your TAC Officer will let you know the authorized times to purchase any additional items you need throughout the course.

Q: Do I need to complete the Cyber Awareness Course before reporting to HHC?

A: Yes, just go ahead and complete the course and bring the certificate. The course should be current and no expire during your time at WOCS.

Q: What should I do if I cannot complete the blackboard registration?

A: Click on the following link:

<https://cgsc2.leavenworth.army.mil/STUDENTS/WOCC/index.asp?u=1>

Q: Do I need an EPIPEN for major allergies?

A: Yes, it must be current. If it's expired, you will not cross to 1st WOC.

Q: Am I allowed to make a booklet out of my blackboard student handout?

A: Yes, it is highly recommended but not mandatory.

Q: Am I allowed to wear the Improved Hot Weather Combat Uniform (IHWCU) at Warrant Officer Candidate School?

A: Yes

Q: Would I be able to update the DD 214?

A: Yes, ensure you bring copies of all awards and decorations you want to include on your file. This is a great opportunity to ensure your records are up to date.

Q: Do I need to bring the USAREC Form 3.1 or DD 2808 for my physical?

A: Either document will suffice the requirement. The USAREC Form 3.1 is preferred.