

MEMORANDUM FOR Air Assault Course (AAC) Students

SUBJECT: Army National Guard (ARNG) AAC Student Memorandum of Instruction (MOI).

1. References:

- a. AR 40-501, Standards of Medical Fitness, 29 AUG 2003.
- b. TRADOC Reg 350-18, The Army School System (TASS), 26 MAY 00.
- c. Air Assault Program of Instruction (POI), Headquarters USAIC, G3/Directorate of Operations and Training: ATSH-OTT, 06 MAR 1996.
- d. Air Assault Course Management Plan (CMP), Headquarters USAIC, G3/Directorate of Operations and Training: ATSH-OTT, OCT 2000.

2. Purpose:

- a. To provide AAC students and sponsoring commands information about the NGB-ASM Air Assault Initiative Course. This MOI includes student prerequisites, enrollment procedures, and a course overview and lists the required documentation for in processing. Annexes to this MOI include, a packing lists, and reporting instructions/location.
- b. The purpose of the NGB-ASM Air Assault Initiative Course is to provide students the skills and knowledge required to be competent in the conduct of combat air assault operations. Upon successful completion of the course students are awarded the Air Assault Badge, and enlisted Soldiers are awarded the ASI 2B.

3. General.

- a. The United States Army Infantry School, Special Assistant to the Commanding General, Reserve Component (SACG-RC) is the course convening authority.
- b. During the AAC all soldiers in attendance are considered students and will be referred to as students throughout this MOI and the conduct of the course.
- c. Students will be assigned a roster number. This number will be used to account for and track student progress.

ATZB-WTC

SUBJECT: Army National Guard (ARNG) AAC Student Memorandum of Instruction (MOI).

4. Course Prerequisites/enrollment.

a. Commanders should consult the above listed references in 1a. and 1b. to determine if a soldier is eligible. Additionally, given the rigorous nature of this course, commanders are encouraged to select only highly motivated soldiers who are in superb physical condition for attendance to the AAC.

b. AAC is open to all soldiers who are current or new applicants to the ARNG:

1. Current Soldier Reenlisting with ARNG
2. New accession into the ARNG
3. Recently Commissioned 2LT

AAC is a branch/MOS immaterial course.

c. Unit commanders must use the Army Training Requirements and Resources System (ATRRS) when scheduling a soldier to attend the AAC. The school code for AAC under the NGB-ASM Recruiting and Retention initiative 964A course number 071-ASI2B, school year FY XX, and the course title is Air Assault.

d. Commanders must screen prospective students for the following medical considerations:

(1) Students over 40 must be medically screened ICW AR 40-501, Standards for Medical Fitness.

(2) Students must not have a temporary or permanent profile which prohibits students from participating in all scheduled training activities.

(3) Students may not wear contact lenses of any type while attending the AAC. Only standard military, or appropriate civilian type, glasses with a black (no logo) elastic retainer band are authorized. Any student found wearing contact lenses after in-processing will be dropped from the course for a safety violation.

5. AAC overview. The AAC is twelve days in duration consisting of a in-processing day, zero day, and ten days of AAC instruction. The AAC is conducted in three phases: Combat Air Assault, Sling Load Operations, and Rappelling. The AAC culminates with students conducting a 12-mile foot march.

a. In-processing the documentation listed below will be turned over to the AAC on In-processing day. Failure to submit all documents with in 72 hours of course start will result in the Soldier being dropped from the course.

ATZB-WTC

SUBJECT: Army National Guard (ARNG) AAC Student Memorandum of Instruction (MOI).

(1) Administrative documentation. The following items are required to enroll/attend the ARNG AAC:

(a) WTC Form 100.

(b) Copy of current physical completed within the past five years if under 40 or Periodic Health Assessment (PHA). If over 40, physical must be within one year. Current year DA Form 7349, Annual Medical Certificate signed by a physician/physician assistant.

(c) Five copies of student orders

(d) Identification card

(e) Identification Tags

(2) Complete packing list (See Annex B)

b. Zero Day. During zero day students will participate in a uniform/packing list inspection and be evaluated on their physical and mental stamina. Zero Day events.

(1) The obstacle course. Successfully negotiating 8 of 9 obstacles, to include two mandatory obstacles: the “tough-one” and the “confidence-climb”

(2) Two-mile run. All students in ACU’s and running shoes must complete a two-mile run in less than 18 minutes.

(3) Upon successful completion of all zero day events and administrative processing, students will be in-processed into the AAC. Those students who fail to meet the standards for any event or portion of an event will result in the soldier not being admitted into the AAC and returned to their respective unit/command.

c. Phase I, Combat Air Assault.

(1) During this phase of the AAC students receive instruction on the various aspects of combat air assault. This includes; aircraft orientation, aircraft safety, aero medical evacuation, pathfinder operations, and hand and arm signals.

(2) Students will be administered and must pass two tests during this phase; a written test and a performance oriented, hand and arm signal test. Students may re-test each exam one time.

ATZB-WTC

SUBJECT: Army National Guard (ARNG) AAC Student Memorandum of Instruction (MOI).

(a) The written test consists of 50, multiple choice, questions. Students must score 70% or better to pass this test.

(b) Hand and arm signals, students will successfully perform at least seven of the ten hand and arm signals.

c. Phase II, Sling Load Operations.

(1) During this phase students receive instruction on preparing, rigging and inspecting of various military sling loads to include the A22 Cargo bag, Cargo net, M998 HMMWV, and M149 series water trailer.

(2) Students will be administered and must pass two tests during this phase; a written test and a performance oriented, hands-on test. Students may re-test each exam one time.

(a) The written test consists of 50, multiple choice questions. Students must score 70% or better to pass this test.

(b) Hands-on test, students will inspect 4 of 6 sling loads identifying 3 of 4 deficiencies in 2 minutes or less per load.

d. Rappelling Phase. During this phase students receive instruction on tying a hip rappel seat, hook-up techniques, lock-in procedures, belay procedures, and combat rappel. Students will conduct multiple rappels from a rappel tower and from U.S. Army rotary wing aircraft. Students must complete the following for this phase of the course, students may re-test each event one time:

(a) Tie a rappel seat in 90 seconds or less with no deficiencies.

(b) Conduct three evaluated rappels:

(1) Rappel without equipment, executing three breaks.

(2) Rappel executing a lock-in

(3) Rappel with combat equipment, executing three breaks.

e. 12 mile foot march. Students must complete a 12 mile foot march with prescribed equipment weighing between 25-30 pounds, in three hours or less. At the conclusion of the foot march, students' uniform and equipment will be inspected. Students who fail to

ATZB-WTC

SUBJECT: Army National Guard (ARNG) AAC Student Memorandum of Instruction (MOI).

meet the time standard or adherence to the prescribed packing list, will receive a NO-Go for the 12 mile foot march event.

f. Standards of conduct.

(1) Students will be required to perform in various roles as part of the student chain of command. Military custom and courtesy, physical fitness and military appearance and bearing are stressed and reinforced throughout the course.

(2) All students will meet the Army appearance and inspection standards IAW AR 670-1.

(3) Alcohol is not permitted during the course. Tobacco is not permitted during POI hours. Any student caught using these products will be dropped from the course.

(4) The course convening authority may release soldiers for the following reasons:

(a) Failing a re-test in any phase of the course.

(b) Lack of motivation; Students who request to not complete the AAC.

(c) Medical drop. Students injured and receive an LOD or evacuated to a treatment facility for an injury requiring an absence from training in excess of one hour.

(d) Missing one hour of training.

(e) Serious Observation Report (SOR). Students who commit an honor violation, disrespectful, disobey cadre, or commit a serious safety violation are subject to immediate release at the discretion of the AAC Commandant/NCOIC.

(5) AAC Cadre will counsel each soldier that fails any event following its completion. AAC cadre will maintain a student evaluation packet outlining the soldier's performance. The student evaluation packet will include: Zero Day Assessment results, all Phase I-III tests/retest results, 12-mile road march results. Additionally, any SPOT reports and end-of-course critiques will be maintained. If a soldier is released from the Air Assault Course, a copy of the student counseling will be sent to the unit commander, upon request. Students dropped from the AAC may not return earlier than 90 days from their release or at the discretion of the SACG-ARNG and the Air Assault NCOIC/OIC.

ATZB-WTC

SUBJECT: Army National Guard (ARNG) AAC Student Memorandum of Instruction (MOI).

g. Recycle. Students failing the Air Assault course at any phase will have up to six months to complete the course. If the student does not successfully complete the course after returning within the six-month window, he/she will have to start at zero day. Student must present all supporting documentation to re-enter the course within the six-month window.

4. Point of contact for the ARNG AAC is 2LT Gregory A. Calhoun at commercial (706) 604-6324 or at gregory.a.calhoun@conus.army.mil

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Colonel, Infantry
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2 Enclosures

1. ANNEX A (Training Schedule)
2. ANNEX B (Packing List)

ANNEX B (Air Assault Course Packing List) to Army National Guard (ARNG) AAC
Student Memorandum of Instruction (MOI).

1. The following packing list details the required uniforms and equipment for the AAC. Unit commanders and first line supervisors will pre-inspect their soldiers before they report to the AAC. As part of the zero day activities, students will conduct a full uniform and equipment inspection. Therefore, students must arrive at zero day in the “zero day” uniform and hand carry all other items. Soldiers who report to AAC without required uniforms and equipment will be released from the course.

2. All items of clothing and equipment on this packing list will be clean and serviceable. BDU’S will be sewn and boot shined prior to Zero Day. Failure to have any of the below items in clean and serviceable condition (missing fasteners, holes, etc.) will result in the soldier being denied enrollment into the course. Ultimately, it is the decision of the Air Assault NCOIC as to whether or not the equipment is clean and serviceable.

3. This packing list prescribes the minimum number of items required for inspection on Zero day. Students should bring additional items, sets of uniforms, to last the length of the course.

4. The uniform for the Obstacle Course and 2-Mile Run will be BDU’s / ACU’s (complete), black socks, patrol cap, camelbak, ID Tags (around neck), ID Card (left breast pocket). Each soldier will hand carry the water proof bag (marked with last name and last four of their SSN on 2” tape) with running shoes and reflective belt inside.

a. Packing List.

Qty	Clothing/Equipment	Worn	Rucksack	Carried
1	BDU / ACU cap w/rank only	X		
3	BDU / ACU Shirt	X	2	
3	BDU / ACU Pants	X	2	
4	Brown / Tan T-shirt	X	3	
2	Belt, Black, web w/open face buckle, Tan riggers belt	X	1	
2	Boots, combat, black leather, hot weather OR desert boots (NO SLICK SOLES)	X	1	
4	Socks, Black or green cushion sole	X	3	
	Underwear (optional)	X		
1	ID tags (2) long and short chain	X		
1	Military ID card	X		
1	Running shoes with white socks			X
1	Water proof bag			X
1	Ballistic Helmet (Kevlar or MICH) w/ sweat band and chin strap, less camouflage cover.		X	
1	IPFU (Shorts, Pants, Jacket, Long Sleeve & Short Sleeve shirts, Watch cap & Reflective Belt or Vest)		X	
2	Ear plugs w/case		X	
1	Rucksack (large)		X	

ANNEX B (Air Assault Course Packing List) to Army National Guard (ARNG)
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Qty	Clothing/Equipment	Worn	Rucksack	Carried
1	Canteen, 1 quart w/cup and cover			X
1	Pistol Belt			X
1	LBE Suspenders			X
1	Work gloves, leather (black) w/Inserts		X	
1	Camelbak or equivalent see item d	X		
1	Poncho		X	
1	PolyPro Top		X	
1	Personal Hygiene kit		X	
1	Gortex Jacket or Field Jacket (w/name and rank)		X	
1	Flashlight, Angle (military) w/Red Lens and Batteries			X
1	Goggles, military or civilian (milspec)		X	
2	Brown towels		X	
1	Lock combination		X	
2	Pens, black ink			X
1	Laundry Soap			X

b. Load Bearing Vest (LBV) may be used in lieu of the LBE, but **MUST** have at a minimum the items listed above (with exception of ammo pouches).

c. Students will be issued The Air Assault Handbook at the conclusion of zero day.

d. Camelbak or equivalent will be black, tan, green or military pattern. The camelbak used will carry water only, no backpack styles authorized.

e. Unauthorized items.

(1) Dietary supplements are not authorized for use by any personnel at any time throughout the course.

(2) No cellular phones or pagers. (during duty hours)

(3) No fixed blade or folding knives over 4”.

(4) No civilian clothes of any type. (during duty hours) Exceptions are running shoes and undergarments.

(5) No alcohol products

(6) No tobacco (cigarettes, snuff, dip) during duty hours.