



a new Intensity

Building war fighters from day one

photos by Master Sgt. Efrain Gonzalez

It's not your father's basic training. It's not even your supervisor's basic training.

The Air Force wants Airmen thinking, living and breathing air and space expeditionary culture, and recent changes to the basic training curriculum at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, are helping breed war fighters from the first haircut.

Physical fitness and field training are the most obvious and dramatic changes. From gas mask training to a 36-hour exercise replicating life in a deployed environment, Air Force training officials say the changes will better prepare the next generation of Airmen for the reality of war.

The basic military training curriculum developers work closely with the Air and Space Expeditionary Force Center at Langley Air Force Base, Va., to ensure training keeps pace with operational Air Force requirements. But the training isn't stagnant. Plans call for adding increased anti-terrorism training, application of basic security in a mock urban environment and more "real world" scenarios to the basic training schedule. ☺

After helping build a temper tent, basic trainee Samuel Reyna takes cover in the mud during a Warrior Week mock attack. Warrior Week simulates a tent encampment, including field showers and latrines, medical dispensaries, mess kitchen, and meals, ready-to-eat. It also includes a 36-hour exercise in field conditions, with no heat or air-conditioned tents, and only one hot meal from a mobile field kitchen. It takes place the fifth week of basic military training, one week shy of graduation, and prepares trainees for worldwide deployment.



Trainees high-crawl through Warrior Week's mud-laden combat tactics course during a simulated camp evacuation under attack. The camp evacuation is one of several realistic exercises the trainees complete during the week. Others include self-aid buddy care casualty carries and gas mask confidence training.



Ignoring the cold, wet ground around him, an exhausted trainee succumbs to sleep (left) after completing "Hell's Half Mile" at Warrior Week's training ground. Basic trainees Stephen Weaver (below, from left), Christopher Mann and Ryan Locke rest after completing the grueling obstacle-laden course that exposed them to a combat-like environment. Warrior Week is designed to create an air and space expeditionary mindset among the trainees, preparing them physically and mentally to deploy and operate in field environments.





Staff Sgt. Charles Thompson (above right), a combat weapons instructor, helps trainees qualify on the M-16A rifle. Other training includes learning anti-terrorism measures; recognition of unexploded ordnance; nuclear, biological, chemical and conventional defense; field security and safe troop movement practices. A basic trainee (right) negotiates an obstacle during a confidence course run at the training ground. Warrior Week includes two confidence course challenges and a two-and-a-half-mile formation run to build physical stamina and confidence.



Basic trainees practice donning chemical warfare suits before entering the gas chamber. Before heading to the field for Warrior Week, trainees complete training on the Law of Armed Conflict, the Code of Conduct and other academic classes to prepare them for the field exercise. The exercise includes donning protective gear under various stages of attack and applying security survival skills learned throughout the week.