

# Life on Base

## Basic Military Training



INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

Operační program Vzdělávání pro konkurenceschopnost

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## Warm-up

### *Work in pairs*

- Was the basic military training tough for you and how long did it take?
- What did you considered to be the most difficult?
- What did you do in your leisure time?
- Describe your accommodation.
- How big was the base you were?
- Give information about the military base and its facilities.
- What facilities would you add to your base?
- Have you ever visited a military base abroad? If so, what were the main differences between that base and yours?

# Basic Military Training

Basic training, or boot camp, is a soldier's initiation into the army. It is where new recruits learn the basics of military life and how to be soldiers. Basic training generally lasts a total of ten weeks in the US Army and twelve weeks in the UK. In both countries, soldiers are trained in:

- military organisation, as well as military values or ethos
- drill and ceremony (marching in formation and parade practice)
- first aid
- map reading and compass use
- nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) warfare
- basic rifle marksmanship (shooting practice at distances up to 300 metres)
- tactical field manoeuvres.

In addition to skills training, soldiers face tough physical conditioning , with daily running, push ups and sit ups, and weekly marches of up to ten kilometres. One of the biggest challenges is the obstacle course, sometimes called the assault course or confidence course (US English). After basic training, team adventure sports like climbing and canoeing are often encouraged or incorporated into further training.

Probably the most difficult thing for new recruits is adjusting to the discipline. There are constant inspections of uniforms, barracks, weapons and equipment. Recruits have little free time and in the first few weeks they can't even have books or radios.

Resource: King, N., Walden, R.: Campaign  
Kol. autorů: Breakthrough



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*Answer the following questions according to the text:*

- What do new recruits do in boot camp?
- How long does boot camp take in the US Army, how long in the UK?
- What are soldiers trained in?
- What is the obstacle course?
- Which team adventure sports can be incorporated into further training?
- What is the most difficult thing for new recruits?
- What kind of inspections are new recruits subject to constantly?
- How much free time do new recruits have?

*Match the following words and their definitions.*

- |                    |   |   |
|--------------------|---|---|
| 1 tough            | - | an abdominal strength training exercise   |
| 2 ethos            | - | a series of objects or structures to get over, under, or through in a training exercise |
| 3 marksmanship     | - | military recruit training   |
| 4 assault course   | - | the ability to shoot accurately   |
| 5 adventure sports | - | the set of ideas or attitudes   |
| 6 push up          | - | adapt oneself   |
| 7 sit up           | - | an exercise for strengthening arm muscles   |
| 8 adjust           | - | difficult to do or solve  |
| 9 barracks         | - | exercises which require a strong mental attitude  |
| 10 boot camp       | - | group of buildings used to house military personnel                                     |

## *Correct answers:*

- |                    |   |   |
|--------------------|---|---|
| 1 tough            | - | difficult to do or solve  |
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| 9 barracks         | - | group of buildings used to house military personnel                                     |
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*What can you find on a military base? Elicit vocabulary connected with the 6 categories below?*

buildings:

people:

accommodation:

security:

work:

spare time activities:

*What can you find on a military base? Check your answers.*

buildings:

mess hall  
admin block  
vehicle depot  
infirmary  
bachelors quarters  
visitors/ officers quarters  
gate  
guard post

security:

accommodation:

singles/ bachelors/ married quarters  
common room/ community room  
laundry/ laundrette

spare time activities:

leisure/ sports centre  
tennis/ volleyball/ squash courts  
football/ cricket/ baseball pitch/field

people:

OC (officer in charge)  
commander  
accountant  
housing officer  
IT technician  
secretary  
office  
copy room  
secretary's office  
computer room

work:

*Now ask questions about a military base and its facilities such as:*

- Who works on a military base?
  - What buildings can you find there?
  - What can you do there in your spare time?
  - What do soldiers on the base do about security?
- .....

*Match the facilities on the left with the activities on the right you associate with them. An example is given.*

FACILITIES:	ACTIVITIES:	ANSWERS:
1 assault course	a have a regular check up	1 b
2 HQ	b jump, crawl, climb, run	2 ____
3 married quarters	c make plans, issue orders	3 ____
4 gate	d work out, lift weights	4 ____
5 mess hall	e march, do parade drills	5 ____
6 fitness centre	f spend time with your family	6 ____
7 firing range	g have meals when at work	7 ____
8 NAAFI	h shoot at the target, load weapons	8 ____
9 parade ground	i go to the bar, shop, restaurant	9 ____
10 infirmary	j show your ID, sign in	10 ____

*Now, in pairs, elicit complete sentences, for example?*

A: What do you do on the parade ground? – B: I march and do parade drills.

NAAFI (BrE) = Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes – a bar, canteen or shop which is run by the NAAFI

# Questions? Suggestions?

## Thanks for your attention.



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