

# Army OCS Phase One: A Comprehensive Guide to the Initial Training Phase for Future Officers

Army Officer Candidate School (OCS) is a rigorous training program designed to transform civilians into commissioned officers in the United States Army. Phase One of OCS, known as the Basic Officer Leader Course (BOLC), serves as the foundation for this transformative journey, providing candidates with the essential knowledge, skills, and leadership qualities required to succeed as future leaders.



## Army OCS Phase One: Guide for Prior Service and Recent College Graduates by Raine Mertz

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

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## BOLC Overview

BOLC is an intensive 6-week residential training program conducted at Fort Benning, Georgia. Candidates are immersed in a highly structured environment where they are challenged both physically and mentally. The

training focuses on developing a strong foundation in military customs and courtesies, leadership principles, combat tactics, and physical fitness.

## **Phase One Training Modules**

BOLC is divided into four distinct training modules, each with its specific focus:

- **Module 1: and Assessment** Candidates are introduced to the OCS program and undergo a series of assessments to evaluate their physical fitness, academic aptitude, and leadership potential.
- **Module 2: Warrior Foundation** This module builds the candidates' foundation as Army soldiers. They receive training in weapons handling, land navigation, first aid, and basic combat skills.
- **Module 3: Tactical Officer Development** Candidates transition into a leadership role as they plan and execute squad-level combat missions. They learn about troop leading procedures, decision-making, and tactical communication.
- **Module 4: Leadership and Professional Development** This module emphasizes ethical decision-making, communication skills, and the role of an officer within the Army. Candidates participate in seminars and discussions on military history, leadership principles, and the Army's values.

## **Physical and Mental Challenges**

BOLC is physically and mentally demanding. Candidates face rigorous physical training, including running, obstacle courses, and combat drills. They also undergo extensive classroom instruction, field exercises, and

leadership evaluations. The program pushes candidates to their limits and prepares them for the rigors of military life.

## **Leadership Development**

Leadership development is a central focus throughout BOLC. Candidates learn the principles of effective leadership, including motivation, communication, and decision-making. They are given opportunities to practice their leadership skills in various scenarios, gaining valuable experience that will serve them well in their future military careers.

## **Success in Phase One**

Success in BOLC requires a combination of physical fitness, academic proficiency, and a strong drive to succeed. Candidates who demonstrate motivation, resilience, and a commitment to leadership are most likely to excel in the program. The following tips can help candidates prepare for and increase their chances of success:

- Maintain a high level of physical fitness.
- Study diligently and be prepared for academic challenges.
- Embrace the leadership opportunities and actively participate in training.
- Seek guidance and support from instructors and fellow candidates.
- Remain positive and motivated throughout the demanding training.

Army OCS Phase One, or BOLC, is a transformative experience that shapes the future of aspiring military officers. It provides candidates with the essential knowledge, skills, and leadership capabilities necessary to

succeed in their chosen field. By embracing the challenges of BOLC, candidates develop the physical, mental, and ethical foundation that will serve them well as they progress through their military careers and beyond.



Caption: Army officer candidates undergo rigorous training during BOLC, building their physical fitness, leadership skills, and combat readiness.



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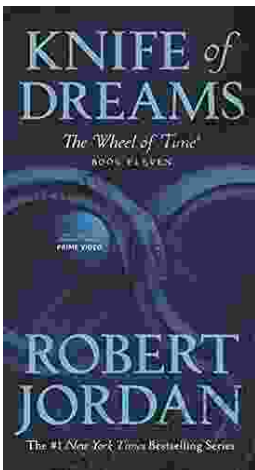
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