

after army basic training what happens

After Army Basic Training: What Happens Next? A Soldier's Journey

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Summary: This article explores the diverse pathways available to soldiers after completing Army basic training. It examines the various Advanced Individual Training (AIT) options, the challenges of adjusting to post-basic training life, and the long-term career opportunities and support systems available to veterans. Personal anecdotes and case studies illustrate the realities of this transitional period.

Introduction: The Dawn After Basic

After army basic training what happens? This question hangs heavy in the minds of countless recruits as they finally graduate from the crucible of basic training. The intense physical and mental demands of those initial weeks are behind them, but a new chapter, full of both excitement and uncertainty, is just beginning. It's a pivotal moment, a crossroads where the path diverges dramatically. This article aims to illuminate that path, providing insights into what awaits soldiers after they've earned their coveted basic training graduation certificate.

Advanced Individual Training (AIT): Specializing Your Skills

After army basic training what happens immediately? For most soldiers, the answer is AIT. This specialized training teaches soldiers the specific skills required for their chosen Military Occupational Specialty (MOS). An infantry soldier's AIT will be vastly different from that of a medic, a cyber specialist, or a mechanic. These courses can range from a few weeks to several months, depending on the complexity of the MOS.

Case Study 1: Private Davis: After graduating basic training, Private Davis entered AIT for his chosen MOS: 13F – Fire Support Specialist. His rigorous training involved extensive study of artillery systems, weaponry, and battlefield tactics. This specialized training equipped him with the skills necessary to excel in his role supporting infantry units on the battlefield.

Case Study 2: Private Rodriguez: Private Rodriguez chose the challenging path of becoming a 68W – Combat Medic. Her AIT involved intensive medical training, including emergency medical care, trauma response, and battlefield surgery simulations. The intensity and responsibility of this MOS required a higher level of dedication and commitment.

Adjusting to Post-Basic Training Life: Challenges and Opportunities

The transition from the highly structured environment of basic training to the relative freedom of AIT and beyond can be challenging. Soldiers often grapple with:

Homesickness: The initial separation from family and friends can be difficult to overcome.

Stress: The constant pressure to perform well in training and adapt to a new environment can take its toll.

Social adjustment: Forming new relationships and adjusting to the social dynamics of a new unit can be difficult.

However, this period also presents opportunities for personal growth and development:

Increased independence: Soldiers learn to manage their time, finances, and personal responsibilities.

New skills and knowledge: AIT provides valuable skills applicable both within and outside of the military.

Stronger bonds: Soldiers forge lasting friendships and bonds with their fellow trainees.

After Army Basic Training What Happens: Career Paths and Beyond

After army basic training what happens regarding career prospects? The possibilities are vast. Soldiers can continue serving on active duty, pursuing promotions and leadership roles within their chosen MOS. Others may choose to transition into the reserves or National Guard, balancing military service with civilian life. Still others will eventually leave active service entirely.

Anecdote: I remember a young soldier, Private Miller, who struggled initially after basic training. He missed his family intensely and found the pace of

AIT overwhelming. However, with the support of his drill sergeants and fellow soldiers, he persevered. He not only completed his AIT but went on to become a highly successful platoon sergeant, eventually earning a commission as an officer.

Support Systems for Soldiers:

The Army provides a range of support systems to help soldiers transition after basic training and throughout their careers. This includes:

Chaplains: Offer spiritual and emotional support.

Mental health professionals: Provide counseling and treatment for mental health concerns.

Transition assistance programs: Help soldiers plan for their future careers after leaving the military.

Conclusion:

After army basic training what happens is a transformative journey, filled with both challenges and rewards. It's a period of intense learning, personal growth, and the forging of lasting bonds. By understanding the different pathways available, and the support systems in place, soldiers can navigate this transition successfully and build successful and fulfilling careers, both within and outside of the military.

FAQs:

1. What happens if I fail AIT? Failure in AIT can lead to reclassification or separation from the Army.
2. Can I change my MOS after basic training? MOS changes are possible, but subject to Army needs and availability.
3. What kind of benefits are available after basic training? Soldiers receive medical, dental, and other benefits even after basic training.
4. How long is AIT for different MOSs? The length varies widely based on the complexity of the MOS.
5. Can I get married after basic training? Yes, but you should check regulations and procedures.
6. What are the chances of deployment after AIT? Deployment depends on your MOS and the current operational needs of the Army.
7. What if I have personal problems while in AIT? Seek help from your chain of command, chaplain, or mental health professionals.

8. How do I prepare for the transition from the military to civilian life after AIT? Utilize the Army's Transition Assistance Program (TAP).
9. Is it possible to transfer to a different branch of the military after basic training? This is generally not possible, but you can explore your options after completing your contract.

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Rifles) in Saudi Arabia and Iraq. Warren recounts the initial shock of hearing about Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and his Regiment's preparation for deployment during Operation Desert Shield. He describes the stress and sometimes mind-numbing boredom of being deployed deep in the desert of Saudi Arabia, constantly preparing for a possible Iraqi invasion. He recalls the terrifying experience of the start of the air war of Operation Desert Storm and the workmanlike action during combat against Iraq's Republican Guard forces during Operation Desert Sabre. With It or in It brings clarity and focus to their unceasing efforts to bring the conflict to a swift and decisive end. Finally, Warren describes the triumphant return of the Brave Rifles to Ft. Bliss, Texas, and the waiting arms of their families and loved ones.

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Marine Corps culture and lays bare the absurdism of 21st-century war, the manned-up vulnerability of those on the front lines, and the true, if often misguided, motivations that drove a young man to a life at war. Searing in its honesty, tender in its vulnerability, and brilliantly written, *Eat the Apple* is a modern war classic in the making and a powerful coming-of-age story that maps the insane geography of our times.

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after army basic training what happens: *Killing for the Republic* Steele Brand, 2019-09-10 How Rome's citizen-soldiers conquered the world—and why this militaristic ideal still has a place in America today. For who is so worthless or indolent as not to wish to know by what means and under what system of polity the Romans . . . succeeded in subjecting nearly the whole inhabited world to their sole government—a thing unique in history?—Polybius The year 146 BC marked the brutal end to the Roman Republic's 118-year struggle for the western Mediterranean. Breaching the walls of their great enemy, Carthage, Roman troops slaughtered countless citizens, enslaved those who survived, and leveled the 700-year-old city. That same year in the east, Rome destroyed Corinth and subdued Greece. Over little more than a century, Rome's triumphant armies of citizen-soldiers had shocked the world by conquering all of its neighbors. How did armies made up of citizen-soldiers manage to pull off such a major triumph? And what made the republic so powerful? In *Killing for the Republic*, Steele Brand explains how Rome transformed average farmers into ambitious killers capable of conquering the entire Mediterranean. Rome instilled something violent and vicious in its soldiers, making them more effective than other empire builders. Unlike the Assyrians, Persians, and Macedonians, it fought with part-timers. Examining the relationship between the republican spirit and the citizen-soldier, Brand argues that Roman republican values and institutions prepared common men for the rigors and horrors of war. Brand reconstructs five separate battles—representative moments in Rome's constitutional and cultural evolution that saw its citizen-soldiers encounter the best warriors of the day, from marauding Gauls and the Alps-crossing Hannibal to the heirs of Alexander the Great. A sweeping political and cultural history, *Killing for the Republic* closes with a compelling argument in favor of resurrecting the citizen-soldier ideal in modern America.

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1997-01-01 Norman speaks of life in Boone, Iowa, and his Spartan beginning. He also shares the gripping story of combat on 32 B-17 missions over Nazi Germany. Then on to private life as a lawyer, Governor of Iowa and a Federal staff member. To order a book, please call 1-800-750-6997 (in Iowa) or 1-800-453-3960 (Outside Iowa) and ask for McMillen Publishing. To fax an order, dial 1-515-232-8820, To mail order, send to: McMillen Publishing, 413 Northwestern, Ames, IA, 50010, to order online: denise.sundvold@sigler.com. or michelle.purviance@sigler.com.

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after army basic training what happens: Letters to Boot Camp Hayden Hodges, 2012-05-23 From July to Sept. 2014 all book sales will go to housing our homeless veterans here in the US. Check out <http://www.gofundme.com/b34yes> for more information. Thank you! Letters to Boot Camp provides the reader with a heart wrenching and awe inspiring look into the lives of a mother and her son as he made his way through Boot Camp on Parris Island. - Once they're shipped out to Boot Camp, the only things that those of us left at home can really do for them is to write and pray. And if you're lucky, smuggle in the occasional treat. (I did.) It wasn't easy, but I wrote him every day, and he wrote me as often as he could. Inside these pages you'll find our personal story, our personal letters, and a good deal of information you may find useful. I like to think of Parris Island as a place of miraculous change and growth. Yeah, change isn't easy, and growing often hurts, but the end result is worth every bit of it. - On November 7, 2011, in a hotel lobby, I smiled and gave my son one last big hug. I told him I loved him and how proud I was of him. The last thing I said was, You go kick some ass Baby, and I'll be there waiting when you're done. He had to go, so with that I turned around and walked out. Yes, I did look back, and yes, he did grin and wave. From there he would go to MEPS one last time and then get on a bus with all his new best buddies to Parris Island where they would be made into Marines. -

after army basic training what happens: The French Foreign Legion Jean-Denis G.G. Lepage, 2007-12-25 This book gives the reader a straightforward and continuous survey of the history of the French Foreign Legion. By outlining the Legion's vicissitudes, victorious campaigns, epic marches, heroic and sometimes hopeless stands, dirtiest combats and dramatic defeats, but also by briefly placing the Legion back in the historical background of France, and by describing its development, organization, uniforms, equipments and weapons, the author hopes to dispel myths, and try to give a true and accurate picture of what the French Foreign Legion has been from 1831 until today. There are well-researched, detailed line drawings throughout.

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life-threatening challenges on a daily basis. However, less visible threats also impact the mental health of our military men and women. Experts examine challenges on the battlefield, such as women coming to terms with life after being prisoners of war, or soldiers dealing with mistakenly killing civilians. But life in the armed forces presents less dramatic, daily challenges. Away from the front lines, soldiers have to raise their families, sometimes as single parents. Children have to learn what it's like to be in a military family, and to make sense of war. Gay or lesbian officers cope with a don't ask, don't tell policy. An unprecedented range of contributors—military officers, medical doctors, psychologists, psychiatrists, and professors—take us onto the bases and the battlefields and inside the minds of military personnel who face far greater challenges than most of us ever see in the headlines. These volumes also highlight factors that make members of the military resilient and stable, as well as programs and practices that can ease the psychological burdens of military personnel, families, and children. Readers can better understand how society views our military and military operations, and how each one of us can play a role in supporting our armed forces.

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after army basic training what happens: A Historical Review and Analysis of Army Physical Readiness Training and Assessment Whitfield East, 2013-12 The Drillmaster of Valley Forge-Baron Von Steuben-correctly noted in his Blue Book how physical conditioning and health (which he found woefully missing when he joined Washington's camp) would always be directly linked to individual and unit discipline, courage in the fight, and victory on the battlefield. That remains true today. Even an amateur historian, choosing any study on the performance of units in combat, quickly discovers how the levels of conditioning and physical performance of Soldiers is directly proportional to success or failure in the field. In this monograph, Dr. Whitfield Chip East provides a pragmatic history of physical readiness training in our Army. He tells us we initially mirrored the professional Armies of Europe as they prepared their forces for war on the continent. Then he introduces us to some master trainers, and shows us how they initiated an American brand of physical conditioning when our forces were found lacking in the early wars of the last century. Finally, he shows us how we have and must incorporate science (even when there exists considerable debate!) to contribute to what we do-and how we do it-in shaping today's Army. Dr. East provides the history, the analysis, and the pragmatism, and all of it is geared to understanding how our Army has and must train Soldiers for the physical demands of combat. Our culture is becoming increasingly "unfit, due to poor nutrition, a lack of adequate and formal exercise, and too much technology. Still, the Soldiers who come to our Army from our society will be asked to fight in increasingly complex and demanding conflicts, and they must be prepared through new, unique, and scientifically based techniques. So while Dr. East's monograph is a fascinating history, it is also a required call for all leaders to better understand the science and the art of physical preparation for the battlefield. It was and is important for us to get this area of training right, because getting it right means a better chance for success in combat.

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after army basic training what happens: *Head Space and Timing* Duane K. L. France LPC, 2019-05-26 Every veteran has a story. You just have to listen to it. It can be surprising how difficult it is...and also how easy...for a veteran to be able to tell their story. The impacts of combat, deployments, or even just military experience in general are felt long after a veteran leaves the service. The guns do not always go silent when a veteran leaves the military...neither should the veteran. When combat veteran and retired Army Noncommissioned Officer Duane France retired, he knew he wanted to continue to serve his fellow veterans. As a grandson, nephew, and son of combat veterans, he grew up knowing the impact of combat and military service on veterans and their families, and as a leader with five combat and operational deployments, he saw the same things happening in the service members of his generation. After starting to work as a clinical mental health counselor exclusively for veterans and their spouses, Duane started to write his observations and experiences on his blog, Head Space and Timing, located at www.veteranmentalhealth.com. This book is a collection of 52 articles designed to help veterans, those who support them, and those who care for them to understand the military experience and to change the way they think about veteran mental health.

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