

## History of the U.S. Army BCT Museum

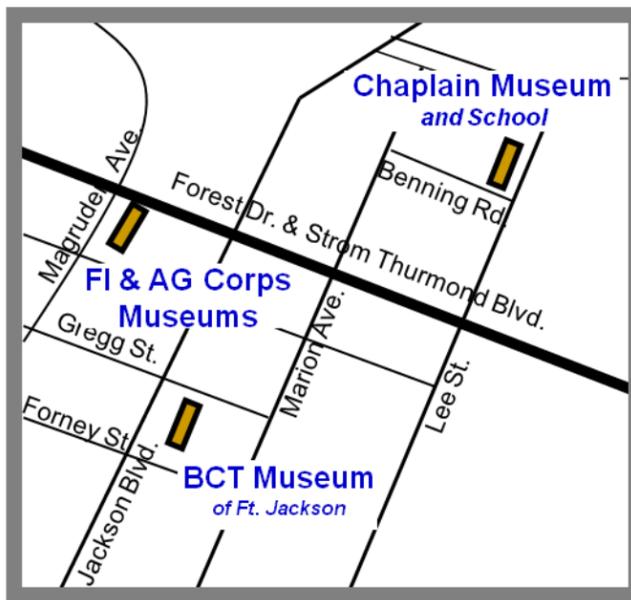
The US Army Basic Combat Training Museum was originally known as the Fort Jackson Museum when it opened its doors in 1974. It had a collection of 20 artifacts and was located in the old Post Exchange building on Jackson Blvd, across the street from Post Headquarters. From 1974 to 1985, the Fort Jackson Museum served as a historical warehouse of sorts, and it collected and displayed all types of weapons, uniforms, and militaria.

In 1985, the museum's collections were refocused and its mission became the history of Fort Jackson. The museum collections and gallery space were reorganized at that time, and new exhibits were developed that strove to tell the history of training at Fort Jackson. From 1985 to 2008, the museum quietly existed on the corner of Forney St and Jackson Blvd telling the story of how Fort Jackson opened its doors in WWI as Camp Jackson and quickly evolved into one of the largest Army training installations in the world.



In 2008, the museum rewrote its mission statement. The museum's focus

changed from the history of Fort Jackson to the history of basic combat training, and the name of the museum changed from the Fort Jackson Museum to the US Army Basic Combat Training Museum. Between 2009 and 2011, the museum went through a complete transformation: the museum collections were relocated, the museum was fully renovated, and a totally new storyline was developed in the museum's galleries. Today, the museum walks visitors through the experience of basic combat training, showing how the individual elements of training have evolved in the past century. While displaying the updates in equipment and training techniques that have transpired in the past 100 years, the museum simultaneously shows how the principles of basic combat training have remained the same from the turn of the twentieth century to today.



### Fort Jackson, SC

#### DIRECTIONS

Fort Jackson is located in Columbia, SC.

The visitor entrance to Fort Jackson is on Forest Dr., off of Exit 12 on I-77.

Visitors must present a photo ID, car registration, and proof of car insurance at the installation gate.

After entering the installation, turn right at the 2nd light onto Jackson Blvd. The museum is located across the street from Post Headquarters.

#### HOURS

Monday - Tuesday, Thursday - Friday  
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Extended Hours on Family Day  
9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

CLOSED Weekends and Federal Holidays

#### BASIC COMBAT TRAINING MUSEUM

BLDG 4442, JACKSON BLVD | FT JACKSON, SC 29207

803.751.7419

VISIT US ONLINE AT

<http://www.jackson.army.mil/Museum/Index.htm>



## History of Fort Jackson

**11 June 1917** Construction of Camp Jackson begins

**22 June 1917** First Soldiers arrive

**25 August 1917** 81st Division arrives to begin training. While here, the 81st develops the first shoulder sleeve insignia. General Pershing liked the idea and ordered it adopted for all Army units.

**11 November 1918** WWI ends

**September 1939** Germany invades Poland, WWII begins and lasts until August 15, 1945

**1 July 1940** 8th Division assigned to Camp Jackson to train enlistees

**15 August 1940** Camp Jackson renamed Fort Jackson

**Spring 1943** Fort Jackson receives its first female Soldiers

**25 June 1950—27 July 1953** Korean War

**July 1950** Racial segregation unofficially ends in basic training.

**16 March 1956** Fort Jackson becomes a permanent installation

**July 1958** TRAINFIRE, an aiming tool which uses pop-up targets placed at various distances rather than stationary bull's eyes, is developed and adopted at Fort Jackson.

**27 October 1958** Army Trainer Academy organized at Fort Jackson. This becomes the Noncommissioned Officer Academy, and in 1967 becomes the Drill Sergeant School

**1965-30 April 1975** Vietnam War

**27 January 1973** All-Volunteer Army created

**30 June 1973** 3rd Infantry Training Brigade deactivated. This ended an era of advanced infantry MOS skill training for enlisted Soldiers at Fort Jackson

**20 Sept 1995** Soldier Support Institute transferred to Fort Jackson

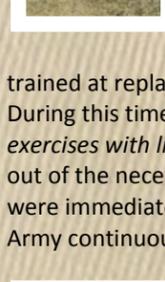
**14 October 1995** Full-scale gender integration in basic combat training units implemented

## the evolution of training

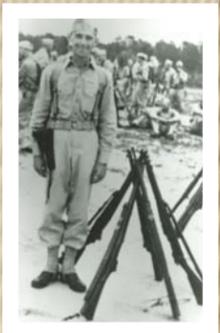
*The Basic Combat Training program that exists today has developed through a trial of errors. Since World War I, the Army has strove to create a perfect training program.*



In *World War I*, men were welcomed into the Army at recruit depots all over the United States, and then they reported directly to their service units where they were trained and sent overseas. When all deployable units were filled, extra men enlisting into the Army were kept at the recruit depots where they trained to be loss replacements. At least, that was the plan. Between 1917 and 1918, there never were extra men. In fact, the Army didn't have enough men to fill the regular deployment units. So, the Army had to start tearing apart existing units and reassigning men to units that were ready to go overseas. With the Soldiers being shuffled around so much, units weren't able to train Soldiers properly before they were sent into the war zone.



In *World War II*, the Army decided it needed a place for Soldiers to receive training before they were assigned to their regular units. So, starting in 1940, Soldiers were trained at replacement training centers before they were sent to the unit that they would serve with. During this time, the process of training was *standardized* for each specialty, and *field training exercises with live ammunition* were added. Unfortunately, just like in WWI, in 1942, the Army ran out of the necessary manpower to fill deploying units, and after 1942, upon joining the Army, Soldiers were immediately assigned to a unit and sent overseas without any training. As the war went on, the Army continuously struggled to develop a plan to meet the demands of battle.



After the war, the Army reduced its numbers, and it was finally able to commit energy to developing a training program. Early in 1946, the Army reduced the time Soldiers spent at replacement training centers by half by cutting out advanced individual training and concentrating on *basic military training* only. In 1947, the length of training returned to *13 weeks*, but the focus remained on basic military training.

During the *Cold War* (1947-1991), the Army had two major conflicts, the Korean and Vietnam Wars. During the Korean War, the Army pioneered a formal *advanced individual training* program. Formerly, Soldiers were given basic military training, and then they were assigned to a permanent unit where they would receive on-the-job training. In 1953, this pattern changed, and Soldiers were sent to specialty training after their basic training to learn the skills they would need for their particular job in the Army. In 1963, on the eve of the Vietnam War, the Army again improved the training program with the introduction of *drill sergeants and committee groups* to orchestrate training cycles. Drill sergeants, Soldiers specifically chosen for their leadership abilities and their accomplishments in the field, became the teachers, advisors, administrators, and leaders of basic training while committee groups, or specialty instructors, were placed in charge of hand grenades, infiltration courses, basic rifle marksmanship, night firing, close combat, individual tactics, and general subjects such as first aid. Since 1973, when the United States military became an *all-volunteer force*, the Army has striven to improve service life and to provide Soldiers with training that equipped them with lifelong skills in order to make the Army as a career choice more appealing.



# experience training

Experience the Army's evolution of basic combat training from 1918 to present

Basic Combat Training in 2011 is a 10 week cycle, divided into 3 phases. After being received and welcomed into the Army at Reception, Soldiers are assigned to a training unit, and they start *Red Phase*. In Red Phase, Soldiers experience Victory Tower, a team development course, land navigation, a gas chamber, hand-to-hand combat, and first aid. After learning the fundamentals, Soldiers enter *White Phase* where they learn to operate their M16s and they challenge their physical comfort zones in the confidence course. In *Blue Phase*, Soldiers apply everything they have learned in training in two field training exercises. They maneuver the night infiltration course under live fire; they throw 2 live grenades; they shoot an M249 squad automatic weapon; and they witness the power of a claymore mine, the M203 grenade launcher, and the AT4 rocket launcher. Their training finishes with a 4-day field training exercise called *Victory Forge*, where working as a team they must accomplish a given mission.



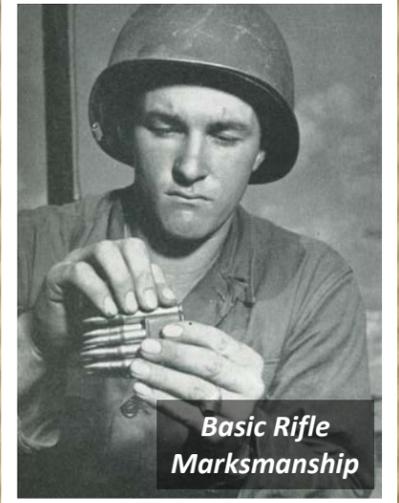
Reception



First Aid



Gas Masks



Basic Rifle Marksmanship

Week 0  
Reception

Week 1  
Victory Tower, First Aid, Teamwork Development Course, Land Navigation, Classroom Instruction

Week 2  
CBRNe (Gas Masks), Fit to Win obstacle course, First Aid, Combatives/ Hand-to-Hand combat

Week 3  
Basic Rifle Marksmanship, Combatives/ Pupil Sticks



Land Navigation



Drill & Ceremony



Combatives



Confidence Course

Week 4  
Basic Rifle Marksmanship, Rifle Qualifications, Combatives



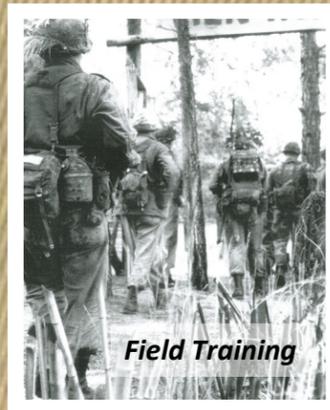
U.S. Weapons

Week 6  
Night Infiltration Course, Urban Assault Course, Field Training Exercises

Week 5  
Rifle Qualifications, Confidence Course, Advanced Rifle Marksmanship



Rations

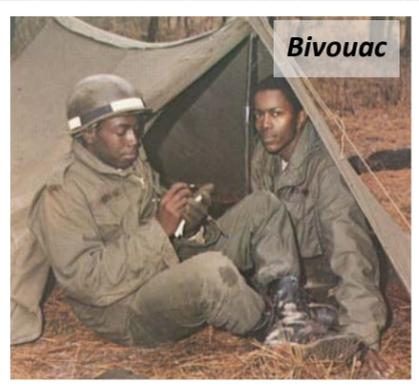


Field Training



Grenades

Week 7  
Post Detail, Hand grenades, Buddy Team Movement and Live Fire, Combatives

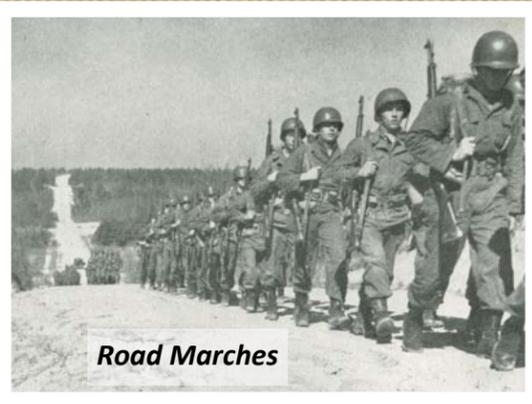


Bivouac

Week 8  
Convoy Operations, Grenade Launchers, Squad Automatic Weapons, Rocket Launchers, Combatives

Week 9  
Victory Forge, Military Operations on Urban Terrains

Week 10  
Out Processing, Family Day, Graduation



Road Marches



Victory Forge



Graduation