

FACT SHEET

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ATFA-PT/680-2056  
7 August 2001

SUBJECT: Basic Officer Leader Course for International  
Military Students

1. TRADOC has developed a new two-phase Basic Officer Leader Course (BOLC) that will replace the great majority of Army Officer Basic Courses (OBC) beginning in FY 03. Chaplain and some medical OBCs will continue to be offered.
2. All U.S. Army second lieutenants will attend a common 7 week Phase I currently conducted at Fort Benning, Georgia. In Phase I students will become competent and confident leaders grounded in field craft, skilled in leading soldiers, training subordinates, and employing and maintaining equipment. In Phase II, conducted at the various branch schools, students will be involved in both common core and branch-specific technical training. Total course lengths are not expected to increase over that of the current OBCs.
3. Some International Military Students (IMS) will participate in two pilot BOLC classes in FY 02, while most will attend regularly scheduled OBCs. Students scheduled for Phase I of the first pilot will report 21 Oct 01 at Fort Benning, Georgia and will report for Phase II on 2 Jan 02 at their respective branch schools. Billeting cost for Phase I will be \$10/day. IMS selected for the first pilot were originally scheduled for Armor OBC (2), Field Artillery OBC (3) and Adjutant General OBC (3). Students will require a plane ticket from Fort Benning to the Phase II installations.
4. Students scheduled for Phase I of the second pilot will report 6 Jan 02 at Fort Benning, Georgia and will report for Phase II at their respective branch schools. IMS selected for the second pilot were originally scheduled for Infantry OBC (10), Aviation OBC (3), Intelligence OBC (2) and Finance OBC (2). (NOTE: BOLC has replaced the Infantry OBC originally scheduled to begin in Jan 02.)

5. IMS will need to be in good condition for BOLC. Physical training is required, since BOLC is physically rigorous (74% of Phase I is in the field). The course includes foot marches, combatives, confidence course, bayonet assault and combat water survival.
6. Beginning in FY 03, BOLC Phase I will be conducted at two locations (as yet unidentified). Phase II will continue to be conducted at branch schools.
7. IMS scheduled for BOLC should NOT bring dependents. During Phase I students will be required to live in barracks when they are not in the field. They would not be able to live with their dependents, which could create financial hardships. Dependents would have to cope with life in a foreign country on their own.
8. The Informational Program (IP) will be available to IMS during Phase I of BOLC. IP events will be conducted primarily on weekends.
9. The current plan is that all IMS scheduled for BOLC beginning in FY 03 will go to both Phase I and Phase II. IMS who might come only for Phase II would be at a great disadvantage compared with their U.S. peers.
10. Additional information about BOLC is available at <http://www-benning.army.mil/11th/2-11INF/BOLC/index.html>.