



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
STUDENT COMPANY, ARMY PUBLIC AFFAIRS CENTER  
8606 6TH ARMORED CAVALRY ROAD  
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE MARYLAND 20755

SAPA-PAC-SC

17 October 2024

MEMORANDUM FOR Public Affairs Mass Communications Specialists Course, Student Company, Army Public Affairs Center, Fort George G. Meade, MD 20755- 5620

SUBJECT: Army Student Welcome Letter and Class Guidance

1. Congratulations on selection to the Public Affairs Mass Communications Specialist (46S), Visual Information Specialist (46V) and Visual Information Equipment Operator Maintainer (46T) Courses. Soldiers will conduct all training at the Defense Information School (DINFOS) located at 6500 Mapes Road, Fort George G. Meade, Maryland.

2. The U.S. Army Public Affairs Center (APAC) Student Company (STUCO) is responsible for all Soldiers attending DINFOS 46S, 46V and 46T courses. Soldiers will conduct themselves with the upmost professionalism throughout the course and will be held to the standards expected of a U.S Army Soldier.

a. MOS-Transition (MOS-T) are Soldiers who've successfully obtained an MOS in the U.S. Army and are attending DINFOS to reclassify into the 46 CMF (Career Management Field).

b. MOS-Initial (MOS-I) are Initial Entry Training (IET) Soldiers who have successfully graduated Basic Combat Training and are attending DINFOS to obtain their first MOS in the U.S. Army. This is applicable to those IET Soldiers who failed to complete MOS training at another installation and are reclassifying to the 46 CMF.

3. Student Soldier In-Processing:

a. Upon arrival to Fort Meade, Soldiers will report to the Student Company Drill Sergeant office located at Building 8606 on 6th Armored Cavalry Road, Fort George G. Meade, Maryland. Soldiers will then receive further instructions.

b. Soldiers will receive an in-processing date and time from their Drill Sergeant, in which they will report to S1 to complete in processing. This will be their place of duty until they are complete.

c. First formation will be the following duty day after Soldiers report, unless Soldiers report on the weekend or holiday. Soldiers will report in the proper uniform for that formation in the uniform prescribed by the Drill Sergeant on Duty and in accordance with Army Regulation (AR) 670-1 and Department of the Army Pamphlet (DA PAM) 670-1. Standards are strictly enforced.

d. It is critical that Soldiers do not attempt to go to sick call or any other appointment on the first day of class. Failure to report at the beginning of the course may nullify reserved training status.

4. Billeting/Lodging:

a. All MOS-T Soldiers on Permanent Change of Station (PCS) orders will coordinate housing/billeting prior to arrival. MOS-T Soldiers on Temporary Duty orders (TDY) orders or those PCSing without family are reserved a barracks room in BLDG 8609. MOS-I Soldiers are reserved a barracks room in BLDG 8606. Buildings 8606 and 8609 are on 6th Armored Calvary Road, Fort George Meade, Maryland, 20755.

b. MOS-T Soldiers will only be in a PCS status to Ft. Meade, MD if they are attending the 46V or 46T courses. All Soldiers attending the 46S course will be TDY enroute or TDY and return. Soldiers will provide their DD 1610 (TDY) and orders (PCS) upon arrival.

5. Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT) and Army Body Composition Assessment (ABCP):

a. For all Professional Military Education (PME) courses starting on 1 October 2022 or later, all Soldiers must pass a record ACFT and Army Body Composition Assessment to graduate and/or receive a DA Form 1059. This requirement applies to all components. Referenced in AR 600-9 and AR 350-1.

b. All Soldiers are required to meet the Army's body-fat standards as outlined in AR 600-9. The 46S, 46V and 46T are MOS-producing courses which require a DA 1059; therefore, all Army Soldiers are required to meet height and weight standards. For further information on this requirement, please review AR 350-1 and AR 600-9. Only MOS-T Soldiers receive a DA 1059.

c. All MOS-T Soldiers will conduct an Army Body Composition Assessment and ACFT within the first 30-days of reporting to Student Company. Soldiers who do not meet the standards for the ACFT or Army Body Composition Assessment will be provided an opportunity for one retest. Failure to pass the ACFT and/or meet height and weight standards will result in administrative removal from the course, receive a reformed DA 1059, and returned to previous duty assignment.

d. Soldiers are not authorized to arrive on temporary profiles for MOS-producing courses. For Soldiers with permanent profiles, they will conduct all ACFT events not prohibited by a permanent profile. If a permanent profile prohibits the 2-mile run, an approved ACFT alternate aerobic event must be identified by the Soldier's primary care manager using a DA Form 3349, Physical Profile Record. Soldiers will ensure they inform cadre of their permanent profile upon in-processing to ensure proper accommodations are scheduled for their ACFT.

e. In accordance with Army Directive (AD) 2022-06, Soldiers who are pregnant or who are recovering from a pregnancy are exempt from regular unit physical readiness training and testing for the duration of the pregnancy and 365 days past pregnancy termination. Proper documentation from the Service Member's medical providers is needed for this waiver. Soldiers will receive a DA 1059 that will annotate, "Did not take ACFT IAW AD 2022-06".

6. Minimum required packing list items include:

a. Two sets of the Army Combat Uniforms (prescribed duty uniform) with proper rank, unit identification patch, name, and U.S. Army flag. This includes patrol cap with rank, boots, brown t-shirts, belt, and ID Tags.

b. Complete Army Physical Fitness Uniform:

- (1) APFU Jacket
- (2) APFU Pants
- (3) Two APFU Trunks
- (4) Two APFU Short-sleeve shirts
- (5) Two APFU Long-sleeve shirts
- (6) Fleece cap
- (7) Black (no label) gloves
- (8) Yellow reflective belt

c. Complete Army Service Uniform or Army Green Service Uniform. All uniforms must adhere to AR 670-1.

d. Two sets of business casual civilian attire (no jeans).

7. The Public Affairs Mass Communications Specialists Course is a Military Training Specific Allotment (MTSA) funded course. Student Company barracks rooms and meals at the Freedom Inn Dining Facility are available at no cost to the student. Soldiers will utilize these facilities unless their orders specify otherwise.

a. Rental cars are funded by the Soldier's unit. Soldiers will make arrangements prior to arrival at Student Company.

b. MOS-Ts are authorized Personally Owned Vehicles (POV) while in training. MOS-Is arriving via POV will turn in their keys to Drill Sergeant personnel upon arrival.

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All service members will ensure their registration, driver's license, and insurance is accurate and up to date prior to and for the duration of the course.

c. Dining facility hours of operation:

(1) Weekdays: 0700-0900 Breakfast, 1130-1300 Lunch, 1700-1830 Dinner

(2) Weekends: 0900-1300 Brunch, 1700-1830 Dinner

d. Privately Owned Weapons: Soldiers are not authorized to bring personally owned weapons or firearms to Fort Meade.

8. The point of contact for this memorandum is the Drill Sergeant Team for Student Detachment, Army Public Affairs Center at (301) 677-4064 and (301) 677-6167 or [usarmy.meade.hqda-ocpa.list.stuco-drill-personnel@army.mil](mailto:usarmy.meade.hqda-ocpa.list.stuco-drill-personnel@army.mil).



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