

THE OFFICER BASIC COURSE (OBC)

Overview

According to policy CCI 325.05, a 2-week Officer Basic Course (OBC) is mandatory training for all officers called to extended active duty after 30 September 2008. Officers must complete OBC within ninety (90) days of reporting to their duty station unless this is waived by the Surgeon General. If waived, OBC must be completed within six (6) months. Officers who have completed the earlier Basic Officer Training Course (BOTC) and the online IOTC exams are exempt from OBC training.

In general, officers will Call to Active Duty (CAD) directly to OBC, meaning that new officers will attend OBC before reporting to their duty station. Currently, most courses except for those in November/December start the second Friday of the month. Note that officers are expected to travel for training on Thursday (<http://dcp.psc.gov/COTA/obcdates.aspx>). Officers joining the Epidemic Intelligence Service and the Bureau of Prisons will attend OBC after their required training is complete and will travel in on Friday. The first Friday is spent on administrative details of the CAD. Detailed information regarding the course, travel, uniforms, and expectations will be provided to participating officers approximately six (6) weeks prior to each course.

Officers who successfully complete OBC will receive the PHS Commissioned Corps Training Ribbon (CCTR).

Details

The OBC is an official Temporary Duty Assignment (TDY) that provides a comprehensive orientation to the Corps officer that includes but is not limited to:

- basic Corps information
- career development
- leave and compensation
- readiness and deployment
- promotion process
- military customs and courtesies
- awards
- other essential information

The OBC training is currently held at Holiday Inn Gaithersburg, 2 Montgomery Village Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD, 20879 (this is subject to change). This is an in-residence course (including the weekend); all officers are under official TDY orders assigned to the training location and must be available for activities during the course twenty-four (24) hours a day including the graduation ceremony, for the entire 2-week period. *Participants will not be permitted to commute back and forth to their home or agency during this 2-week course.*

There is no cost to your program for this training. All travel arrangements and funding is now handled by OCCO through a travel management contract with Educational Services Incorporated (ESI). *ESI, not your agency, will handle the travel, lodging and per diem.* Travel directives are official orders and cannot be changed by the officer without the approval of the issuing authority (OCCO). Therefore, officers are committed to attend the training barring the development of a valid emergency.

For the first seven (7) days of OBC (Friday-Thursday), officers must dress in black and white. The standardized dress for these seven days will be: black pants (*skirts optional for females*), white shirts (*long or short sleeves; no t-shirts; no neckties are required*), black shoes for male and females (*black socks with pants, flesh tone hose for females wearing skirts*). On the second Friday of the course, the uniform of the day will be the CNT or poly-wool khaki (*skirts and berets are not authorized for wear*). Beginning on the second Monday, uniform wear will either be the khaki or Service Dress Blues, as specified by the Cadre. Officers must either bring required uniforms to OBC or pre-order them from the Bethesda Uniform Center (NEX; 301-295-1489). OBC Cadre recommends the latter as they deal with USPHS officers on a daily basis and understand USPHS uniform needs. Officers will travel to the NEX Uniform Support Center on the first Saturday of OBC for fittings and tailoring.

Course Training

1. Certification in Basic Life Support (BLS)
 - American Heart Association BLS for Healthcare Providers or the American Red Cross CPR/AED for Professional Rescuers
 - Officers with a current BLS card should bring the ORIGINAL card with them to OBC.
 - Officers without up-to-date certification will be able to complete BLS training during the first weekend at OBC.

2. Office of Force Readiness and Deployment (OFRD) requires completion of four (4) FEMA EMI Courses as outlined below:
 - IS-100.b Introduction to Incident Command System
 - IS-200.b ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents
 - IS-700.a National Incident Management System (NIMS), An Introduction

- IS-800.b National Response Framework, An Introduction

These courses must be completed by the second Monday of OBC. *There will be limited time to work on these courses during OBC, so officers are encouraged to start (or complete) them before attending OBC.* Upon successful completion of the courses, you will receive a confirmation e-mail. The officer must bring a copy of this e-mail or a copy of the certificate-embedded in the e-mail to the OBC. Officers can access these courses via the FEMA website (<http://training.fema.gov/IS/crslist.asp>). *Officers must make sure to save the completion certificate for each course as they will not transfer over to the OFRD website.*

Questions Regarding OBC

Please contact your agency liaison for any questions/concerns regarding OBC. If for some reason, your liaison is unable to provide an answer, you may contact the OBC Cadre (<http://dcp.psc.gov/COTA/cadre.aspx>) via email. Travel questions should be directed to Lauren Santiago at ESI, laurens@esi-dc.com.