

2018 MER SAR FAQ:

All attendees must be safety current and have a current CAPF161 Emergency Notification Data form with them to turn in to ADMIN upon arrival, each cadet must have a PARENT AND COMMANDER signed CAPF31, and if required a CAPF163 (Permission for Provision of over the counter medications to a minor).

THE 2018 MERSAR MISSION # is 18-T-4472.

Driving Directions to Ft. Pickett:

The address for the base is 1 Military Rd, Blackstone, VA 23824. Once you arrive follow the MERSAR Signs to the sign in building. (Note the south gate is closed after business hours, everyone should use the main gate at the intersection of Military road and Darvills Road)

From the North:

Take I-95 South to Petersburg, VA. Merge onto I-85 South toward Raleigh/Durham. Take Exit 51, VA460W toward Blackstone, follow signs to Ft. Pickett.

From the South (NC):

Take I-85 North to VA Exit 27 - VA46 toward Blackstone/Lawrence, follow signs to Ft. Pickett. For more specific driving directions from your location, use www.mapquest.com or Google Maps.

37.0533° N, 77.9491° W

Fort Pickett, Coordinates

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LOTS OF INFO IN A SHORT AMOUNT OF TIME!

We try to send out info to members on a regular basis after you register. However nothing is really final until the week before MERSAR. So after registration closes, mass emails will go out to all participants. LOTS of information can be found at www.mersar.com for this year and last year's MERSAR.

Be on the lookout for lots of info coming to you the week of MERSAR.

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Billeting FAQ:

Billeting is included in registration price. We make the arrangements. (We have booked everything they have available)

Barracks is a bunk bed in a 45 man WWII concrete training barracks with 44 of your closest friends. Shared shower and Toilet facilities on each floor. (See Barracks FAQ below)

BOQ is a private room with a bed, TV, separate climate control, and some have a small mini fridge. Still have shared shower facility but only sharing with 12 people rather than 45. This is typically for Pilots and senior member staff.

UPGRADED BOQ is shared shower with only one other suitemate.

You can choose barracks/in the field and reserve a hotel room in town if you would prefer as well. Those arrangements would be on your own.

FOR BOQ: There is typically no carpet in the rooms. Bring flip flops and a small towel or carpet to place next to your bunk, so when you roll out you are not stepping on cold concrete floors. BOQ rooms come with Sheets, Blankets, pillows and pillowcases, and towels for the showers. They are not 1,000 thread count Egyptian cotton, so if you want something softer than a WWII green army blanket or towel, might want to bring it with you.

Coolers and personal refreshments are allowed for senior members in the BOQ's and barracks. No alcohol is allowed anywhere around Cadets.

All billeting (barracks and BOQ) are WIFI equipped. No Guarantee on connectivity or strength, but all are wifi equipped.

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Arrival times:

Your instructor will send out the actual class times for your course. Most have a briefing Friday after dinner with classes Saturday morning and Sunday morning. See the published schedule for more info.

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Meals:

Pilots and aircrews eat breakfast early and first because they have to head to the Flight line to get their day started.

A menu will be posted in the mess hall. All efforts will be made to accommodate your special food request or allergies.

The Kitchen in the mess hall is a busy place. If you are not on Food Unit team please refrain from wandering through the kitchen to avoid safety hazards and the possibility of spilled milk!

This is NOT your personal kitchen, please DO NOT take anything from the kitchen that has not been set out for consumption during the current meal.

Coffee is available round the clock in the mess hall.

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UNIFORM:

Uniform for MERSAR is any approved CAP uniform. Flight suits are only authorized for flight crews.

MER Commander has authorized the wear of the issued MERSAR T-Shirt under the flight suit and under the BDU's

For MER SAR STAFF ONLY, the RED MER SAR t-Shirt with BDU Pants, or the blue embroidered MERSAR Staff shirt with the Grey slacks, is the uniform of the day for MER SAR Staff for this event only.

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MISCL:

1. Fuel in approved pre-identified corporate aircraft and all corporate ground vehicles is funded to and from MERSAR. For ground vehicles, make sure you or your wing ES team enters a Sortie for your inbound /outbound trip. ONLY ONE SORTIE needs to be entered per ground vehicle for the entire weekend (for transpo to and from, if your vehicle is used on a sortie during the event a separate sortie will be entered by ground ops (if needed)). As such, all Vehicles are the property of the event, and we cannot guarantee that you will be able to use your vehicle for your personal or unit transportation during the event. Shuttles are available and if we have extra vehicles you may request to be issued one from the transportation officer.
2. Everyone will receive a commemorative MERSAR t-Shirt and MERSAR Patch. Both are authorized by the MER Commander for wear on/with the approved uniform combinations. (For aircrews, there are Velcro backed versions as well.) Additional patches and shirts will be available for purchase at the ADMIN Building or at check-in or checkout.

3. CHECKIN is in the ADMIN building Follow signs upon arrival. Follow the signs from the main gate and they will lead you right to us. Please plan to arrive at Fort picket no later than 9:00pm Friday night. It is preferred that all personnel arrive at picket on Friday before 6pm if possible so you can get signed in and attend the dinner briefing. (More specific information will come out regarding in-processing and instructions for registration for your particular course.)
4. For Seniors: There will be a Friday night and Saturday night social at the 464 465 BOQ's. All seniors are welcome at these events, whether you are in the BOQ or not. Also the Fort Pickett / MWR Leisure / activity center on west Parade Road is open during our weekend. They have a full kitchen available, as well as tv's pool tables, video games and wifi. Coolers and personal BYOB refreshments are usually allowed at this event.
5. While all food is provided for you during the weekend, coolers with personal drinks and food are allowed, but must be kept in your BOQ or barracks rooms. No alcohol is allowed in areas where cadets are housed.
6. If you have additional questions: Please refer to the following contact info

Air OPS Questions: Lt Col Bissell AIR BOSS: dbissell@ncwgcap.org

Ground Ops / Ranger Questions: Lt Col Midkiff Ground Boss: Sardog72@yahoo.com

Staff Questions: Col Smith Incident Commander: fsmith@scwgcap.org

Or- Lt Col Henderson: jehenderson1@msn.com

7. There WILL BE an MSA (Military Support Authorization) for this event. While the Front Gate will have a copy, we suggest you print it and bring it along with you to Ft. Pickett.
8. If you have your copy of the MSA on your person, you will be allowed to make purchases at the Base Exchange. They have a very good BX with everything from cold drinks to clothing to local items and food. They are closed on Sunday so buy your stuff Saturday.
9. The MERSAR STORE will be open in ADMIN any time ADMIN is open and you can purchase numerous MERSAR theme items like Coins, Extra T-Shirts, Patches, Mugs, etc. The store will accept Check, Cash, Credit cards and money orders. We are no longer able to barter for Chickens and pigs as the PETA people just don't have a sense of humor.

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BARRACKS FAQ: MER SAR attendee:

You have selected Barracks as your lodging option, and you are NOT currently signed up for a field based course (ranger or GT) IE: Not sleeping in the field with the crickets...

So by our records this means you are sleeping in the barracks: (If you plan to sleep in the field with the snakes you can ignore the message below, and go prancing about your Merry Ranger Way..)

Just a few FAQ's regarding the Barracks at Pickett. These are WWII "basic training" barracks.

You will receive:

1. 1 BARE mattress (TWIN SIZE – Not California King!)
2. 1 Bare Pillow
3. 1 bunk bed
4. 1 footlocker
5. 1 Wall locker.
6. A gender assigned floor (guys together on lower floor, Girls together upstairs)

The floors are concrete, the showers and toilet facilities are shared.

You MUST bring:

1. Your own bedding, sheets, pillow case, blankie, and stuffed animal. (None of these will be provided for you)
2. Sleeping bags are acceptable, and as long as you are comfortable, we are comfortable.

3. Your own towel, shampoo, soap (actually there are lots of bars of soap lying around leftover in the shower from previous guests, so this is not really a "MUST" Your call...:-)

Those of us who have done this before recommend

1. Flip flops for the showers
2. Little mat or carpet to step on when you roll out of your rack
3. Padlock or two for your lockers to secure your belongings.
4. Headsets for when you want to tune out the guy at the other end of the bunks who will not shut up.
5. Small personal fan for air circulation if you like that to sleep.

REQUIRED RELEASE FORMS for CADETS:

ALL attendees at MERSAR College (seniors and cadets) must bring a completed CAPF 161 (Emergency Information) to the event, present a copy of the CAPF 161 at sign-in and each member should retain a copy on their person.

ALL cadets at MERSAR College must bring a completed CAPF 160 (CAP Member Health History and release consent) and the Consent portion of the CAPF 160 must be signed by a parent or guardian. A copy of the CAPF 160 should be given to the assigned Health Services Officer and a copy should be retained by the cadet.

Cadets at MERSAR College may bring a completed CAPF 163 (Permission for Provision of Minor Cadet Over-The-Counter Medication) and the Consent portion of the CAPF 163 must be signed by a parent or guardian. A copy of the CAPF 163 should be given to the assigned Health Services Officer and a copy should be retained by the cadet. This is a good idea because without this we cannot even administer an aspirin for a headache.

LINK TO FORMS PAGE AT NHQ: <https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/members/publications/forms/>

Current CAP forms are available at the above link in both fillable MS Word and fillable PDF versions which can then be printed and brought to MERSAR College.

Failure to have these forms completed and available could possibly result in a liability issue. This is easy to avoid by just filling out the forms and bringing them to MERSAR College.

MERSAR College Safety Officer

VOLUNTEERS VOLUNTEER!

Mersar is "all hands on deck" it truly takes a village to pull this off. CAP Volunteers are always the first to step up, and this is never an issue, but with nearly 300 members participating this year, it needs to be said. If you see somewhere that you could be of assistance jump in and help!

Like: Kitchen help. Cleanup after meals, Washing Dishes, wiping down tables etc. (there will be a "DUTY LIST" Posted and each WING will be on duty in the mess hall to help with cleanup after each meal. If you are a member of the wing that is on Duty, please be sure and pitch in to help! THANK YOU!

Admin checkin or checkout

Loading or unloading of anything. Etc.

Cleanup of the buildings and barracks on checkout.

VEHICLE AND AIRCRAFT FORMS to BRING

1. All pilots **MUST** bring and submit a current, completed CAPF 71 from their aircraft at check in. Review the CAPF 71 for squawks. Any pilot bringing an aircraft without a CAPF 71 must complete a CAPF 71 on site.
2. **ALL** CAP vehicle drivers **MUST** provide a completed CAPF 73 at check in. Any driver bringing a CAP vehicle without a CAPF 73 must complete a CAPF 73 on site.

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SAFETY CURRENCY REMINDER!!! All participants and staff for the MER Staff College need to check the expiration date for their safety currency. All attendees will need to be "safety current" prior to departure from home for MERSAR.

No one will be allowed to "play" unless they are safety current, and that includes transportation flights and CAP vehicle transportation to Blackstone, VA for the event.

Members have a week to update their safety currency via e-services or in-person safety training at a unit meeting. There will be no provision to get it done after arrival.

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COMMUNICATION: IMPORTANT: PLEASE follow the instructions below and register to receive the texts so you will receive important and urgent communications via this means.

OPT-IN TEXT ALERT SYSTEM IN USE!

To receive **IMPORTANT** info and alerts:

Please **OPT-IN** to our text alert system by sending the word
MERSAR2018

To Number - 84483

Normal message and data rates apply - and we will use this only for MER SAR 2018 information. You will be able to opt-out at any time by texting **STOP** to 84483.

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