

Graduation Frequently Asked Questions



Question 1: When will MEDCoE “open up” graduations to Family members?

Answer 1: MEDCoE conducted a “pilot” graduation on June 28, for 14 AIT Soldiers assigned to Bravo Company, 264th Medical Battalion, graduating from the 68P Radiology Specialist Course. The first open 68W Combat Medic AIT graduation, in support of over 200 trainees assigned to Delta Co. 232d Medical Battalion, was held July 9, indoors at the Academic Support Building, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. July 9 marked full-implementation of MEDCoE’s open graduations. All graduations are “invite only”; all guests must be on the trainee’s visitor list. **NOTE: for now, MEDCoE is allowing open graduations to continue. If COVID conditions degrade, guest attendance at graduations may be suspended. Please ensure any travel arrangements are refundable.** For more information see GRADUATION COVID MEASURES.

Question 2: My Soldier is expected to graduate. Where do I find their graduation information?

Answer 2: Graduation schedules that fall after the full implementation date of July 9 are be available through your Soldier’s assigned company. If you are unsure if your Soldier’s unit, or if the graduation information is not yet listed, please discuss with your Soldier who will have the latest information on their specific graduation. See 32d Medical Brigade contact information at the following link: <https://medcoe.army.mil/32d-medbde> or the NCO Academy: <https://medcoe.army.mil/ncoa-new>

Question 3: I am a non-DoD ID Card holder, how do I obtain Base access for my Soldier’s graduation date? What about DoD ID holders?

Answer 3: Non-DoD Identification Card holders must be placed on their Soldier’s visitor list in advance of the graduation and must enter JBSA-Fort Sam Houston through one of the following locations: **Walters Street Visitor Center:** 6 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday-Friday (closed holidays) // or **BAMC/I-35:** 24 hours per day/7 days per week. DoD ID Card holders will be granted-base access in accordance with current JBSA policy and are asked to adhere to the current JBSA mask policy while on the installation.

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All visitors may be asked to don a mask while in the MEDCoE unit footprint so ensure a mask is on hand at all times while on the installation. Visit the following link for more information: <https://www.jbsa.mil/Information/Gate-Hours-Visitor-Information/JBSA-Fort-Sam-Houston-Visitor-Info/>.

Question 4: Are vaccinations required for MEDCoE Graduations?

Answer 4: Yes, only Family/close friends who are on a Soldier's visitor's list, and who can demonstrate they are fully vaccinated for COVID-19 will be granted JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Base access for in-person graduations. Those unable to get fully vaccinated prior to the pilot graduation, may also show proof of a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours of the graduation event. The safety, well-being and readiness of our Soldiers remain our top priority.

Question 5: Will I be required to wear a mask during open graduations even if I show proof of full vaccination from COVID-19?

Answer 5: Yes, Families in attendance graduations will be required to wear a mask at all times during the ceremony (indoors and outdoors) and when in the unit areas, regardless of vaccination status. Please ensure you have a mask available at all times while on the installation and comply if asked to don a mask.

Question 6: Is a photo copy of my COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card acceptable proof of vaccination?

Answer 6: Hard copy (non-digital) proof of COVID-19 vaccination is required. Those unable to get fully vaccinated prior to graduation may also show proof of a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours of the event.

Question 7: How do I ensure I am on my Soldier's visitation list for graduation Base access?

Answer 7: Soldiers will work through their unit to ensure all family members attending graduation are on their visitation list in advance of the ceremony. Only Family members/friends listed on their Soldier's visitation list will be granted access to in person graduation at this time. Soldiers are limited to only two guests (to include children/infants) for in person graduations at this time. Please note confirmation of who is on the visitation access roster will not be provided by the units via phone.

Ensure your Soldier confirms the full name of each of their two visitors are on their unit visitation roster at least prior to the graduation date. See 32d

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Medical Brigade contact information at the following link:
<https://medcoe.army.mil/32d-medbde> or the NCO Academy:
<https://medcoe.army.mil/ncoa-new>

Question 8: I where do I park for access to my Soldier's graduation?

Answer 8: For parking instructions for the Academic Support Building (ASB) and MacArthur Field, see PARKING & MAPS. Parking instructions for all other graduations will be available through the unit. See 32d Medical Brigade contact information at the following link:

<https://medcoe.army.mil/32d-medbde> or the NCO Academy:
<https://medcoe.army.mil/ncoa-new>.

Question 9: Will I be allowed to visit / spend time with my soldier after graduation?

Answer 9: Due to an increased local positivity rate for people infected with the highly contagious Delta variant, off-post privileges for our Advanced Individual Training (AIT) population, our most vulnerable population, are paused effective July 30. Soldiers who remain on-post may visit with their families away from the unit areas. Some Soldiers, who will have a permanent change of station (PCS) move immediately following graduation, may not be permitted post-graduation visits.

Question 10: Why am I only allowed two guests for my graduation?

Answer 10: Soldiers are limited to two guests (to include children/infants) for in person graduations while JBSA venues are limited to 50% capacity. Soldiers must confirm that guests' names are on the unit visitation roster prior to the graduation date. See unit contact information for further questions. Please note confirmation of who is on the visitation access roster will not be provided by the units via phone. See 32d Medical Brigade contact information at the following link: <https://medcoe.army.mil/32d-medbde> or the NCO Academy: <https://medcoe.army.mil/ncoa-new>

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Question 11: Am I allowed to bring my USAR or ARNG Soldier home after graduation?

Answer 11: Everyone, to include our ARNG and USAR Soldiers, will work directly with their chain of command on their mode and conditions of travel before getting approval for movement. Ensure your Soldier has an approved plan prior to graduation. For assistance beyond their home station unit and the training company, they may reach out to the MEDCoE USAR/ARNG Liaisons.

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