



SQUADRON COMMANDERS COURSE (Formerly IDC)

Course POC: NGB/HRT, Training and Development Division

Registration: Through Base Education and Training Managers (BETM)

Course Overview: The ANG Squadron Commanders Course traces its roots to the ANG Squadron/Flight Commanders Course which was developed at the ANG Professional Education Center at McGhee Tyson ANG Base, TN in 1984 by order of the Director ANG. The Curriculum Development Division solicited the assistance of both seasoned and relatively new Commanders from the field to develop a “tool kit” type course to provide new Commanders “What I wish I had known prior to assuming command.” The course has been revised and updated continually, based on student feedback and Director ANG guidance, in an effort to provide relevant and current information to assist new Commanders with their leadership responsibilities. A cadre of instructors with a wide range of subject matter expertise from NGB and field units across the country present the various blocks of instruction in a five-day format for classes of approximately 50-75 flight and squadron commanders ranging in rank from O-2 to O-6 (with the majority of the students at the O-4/O-5 level) four times per year. Attendance at the course is unit funded. The course was held at the ANG/TEC until 2011 when it was moved to the ANGRC at Joint Base Andrews.

Course Outline: The course is administered by a volunteer Course Director (O-6) from the field with an O-6 Seminar Leader, as well as support staff from the field and NGB/HRT staff. The blocks of instruction and instructor schedule are managed by the Course Director. Registration for the course is handled through the Base Education and Training Manager at the student’s base, and overseen by HRT staff and the Course Director. The Course Director provides reporting instructions and other information to the students in advance through email and routine BETM distribution. A welcome package with course schedule, maps of the local area and other instructions are prepared by the support staff and given to students on the first day of class. Students are required to complete critiques for each instruction block, as well as an end of course critique. The support staff compiles and produces an in-depth Course Report which is distributed to the Director, Air National Guard, ANG Leadership and the course instructors.

Course Objectives: The overarching objective of the course is to provide current and future ANG Commanders and other leaders the “tools” they need to become better leaders with enhanced core competencies. The various blocks of instruction use different approaches and provide differing levels of detail as appropriate for the instruction block. At course conclusion students should be much more knowledgeable of leadership principles, understand the requirements of a myriad of ANG programs for which they are expected to provide oversight and guidance, and have a roadmap of subject matter experts and other resources for specific assistance that may be required by future situations. A final objective is to motivate students to pursue additional training, developmental opportunities and challenging assignments throughout their careers, in order to maximize their own potential while continually improving Air National Guard capabilities.