



USAF Deployment Transition Center, Ramstein Germany Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) <http://www.ramstein.af.mil/Deployment-Transition-Center>



Q) How long is the program?

A) The DTC is a 2-day program of curriculum/relaxation with two added travel days, totaling 4 days. Most teams arrive in the afternoon on day 1 and depart in the early morning on day 4. During this time, members are typically on the DTC campus approximately 65-72 hours, but only 10 hours are strictly program marked. The rest/recovery time is intentional to facilitate individual decompression.

Q) What can I expect at the DTC?

A) Please read Attachment 1 below.

Q) Do I have to wear a uniform?

A) No, civilian attire is the uniform of-the-day (UOD) for all four days after you have had your in-brief. Please bring climate-appropriate clothing, as you will be outside for the majority of the off-site outing. DTC staff will transport personnel to the base exchange (BX) if shopping is needed. It is advised to pack a 72-hour bag prior to arrival. All other bags/gear can be stored inside the DTC's luggage rooms, if desired.

Q) Will I be reimbursed for my civilian attire?

A) No, according to AFI 36-3014, members must be TDY for at least 15 consecutive days or 15 accumulative days within a 30 day period in order to receive reimbursement for civilian attire. However limited civilian attire may be available to use via donations from a non-profit organization.

Q) Where will I be staying while at the DTC?

A) All attempts are made to use lodging on base, but when not available, off-base hotels are used. Accommodations are clean and include free wireless internet. Overnight guests are not permitted.

Q) Are meals provided for me while at the DTC?

A) No, however you will receive Per Diem for meals and incidentals and this rate is based on where you are lodged. Proportional meal rates (PMR) and standard per diem rates fluctuate, so please refer to the Per Diem Rates Query (<https://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/perdiemCalc.cfm>) for further information.

Q) How will I be getting home when the DTC is over?

A) Almost all redeploying personnel will take commercial flights out of Frankfurt Airport, Germany back to their home stations. Military flights may be used in certain situations. Your Unit Travel Representative (UTR) downrange will book your commercial flights home (they should send you and the DTC staff a copy of the final itinerary). Transportation to the airport will be coordinated by DTC staff.

Q) Can my family visit me while I'm attending the DTC?

A) Family members are not allowed to visit in your lodging room, but they are able to visit you during your free time. See attachment below for sample itinerary.

Q) Can my spouse/significant other attend the DTC program with me?

A) Yes, but travel and lodging must be procured at the member's expense. Spouses/significant others may join activities (excluding two small group discussions) on a space available basis. Advance notice must be provided to the Program Director to accommodate members.

Q) How much baggage am I allowed to bring?

A) While there is no limit to the number of bags you may bring, military flights restrict each bag to 70 pounds or less (commercial flights vary their requirements, so check their website in advance). We recommend that prior to leaving your deployed location you pack a 72 hour bag, as a precautionary measure for misplaced/lost luggage. Weapons need to be turned-in and shipped prior to DTC attendance (exceptions require advance approval).

Q) How do I get selected for the DTC following my deployment?

A) Some members will have attendance annotated on their orders (based on AFSC and mission set). Members can also be command nominated based on deployment exposure or home stressors.

Q) Do I need a government travel card?

A) Yes, you will need your GTC for lodging, as well as any charges for excess airline baggage.

Q) I am stationed at Ramstein. Do I have to stay in lodging?

A) Yes. You are on deployment orders until checking into your home base PERSCO. The cost of your lodging will be covered. While it may seem difficult to be so close to your family and not be able to stay in your home, this program was directed for you so you can spend time focusing on yourself and restoring your energies to return home. Family members are not allowed to visit in your lodging room, but they are able to visit you outside lodging during your free time. Spouses/significant others may join activities (excluding two small group discussions) on a space available basis. Advance notice must be provided to the Program Director to accommodate members.

Q) What is gained by DTC attendance?

A) You are attending the DTC due to the exceptionally dangerous and/or stressful tour of duty you performed, or due to extraordinary stress you will be returning to at home. The CSAF directed the stand-up of the DTC to bolster Airmen Resiliency and facilitate better family and unit reintegration through our *Combat Bridge's* unique curriculum. The program is designed to assist in reconstitution and reinforce/equip life coping skills. A study published in 2016 has shown benefit for attendees vs. non-attendees. See study graphic below in attachment.

Q) Can I drive at the DTC?

A) No, redeployers are not allowed to drive while at the DTC. Depending on class size, shuttle services will be provided to transport for food and classes. If there are no shuttle services available, your facilitators will set up times when they will provide personal transportation for food and classes.

Q) Can I leave the base while at the DTC?

A) Yes, you may leave the base on your free time if you have a Wingman and notify your class facilitators. You may not leave Germany.

Q) Will participation in the program affect my PRP or any other special duty status?

A) The DTC is not a medical program or mental health treatment and is not documented in the member's medical records.

Q) How confidential are my statements during small group discussions?

A) DTC staff members are trained that group and individual communications are confidential. The law of non-attribution applies. There is a professional duty to warn if any member is a threat to themselves (suicidal), others (homicidal), the mission, or unlawful in behavior (including UCMJ violations).

Q) I did a lessons learned after action report downrange. Why are we doing lessons learned again?

A) This portion of the program serves two purposes. First, the lessons learned session facilitates discussion about personal experiences that enable the reintegration education process. Second, facilitators will have the opportunity to rapidly transmit urgent Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTP) change requirements while the downrange formal After Action Report (AAR) process works. Though reports are written, no statements will be attributed to any individual.

Q) By coming through the DTC will I be delayed/extended en-route to return home?

A) The DTC curriculum is 2 days and begins the day after arrival. Delays are infrequent and dependent on travel out of theater. If the member is delayed arriving to the DTC, members should be prepared to adjust their flights home to meet the 2-day program itinerary (with the day prior and after scheduled for travel = 4 total days). The sooner you are aware of travel delays the sooner you can work with your UTR to reschedule your flight home.

Q) How can I be a facilitator for future DTC events?

A) Facilitators are selected by their respective MAJCOM Functional Area Managers (FAM). It is strongly desired that the member has deployment experience. If you wish to volunteer, notify your FAM via your chain of command. If you are an MRT or Air Advisor, contact the Program Director for more information on how you can volunteer with Command approval.

Q) Why was Ramstein AB chosen as the location for the DTC?

A) A location outside of the AOR provides the best venue to begin decompression. Most redeployers travel through USAFE soon after departing the AOR and using Ramstein takes advantage of current airflow routes. Additionally, the area supports 56,000 American DoD personnel and their families, so it feels a bit like "home", further helping with the transition from the deployed location.

Deployed Commander/ Senior Enlisted/ First Sergeant/ UDM Questions

Q) Who can attend the DTC program?

A) There are two ways to come to the DTC:

1. Annotated in Orders: Airmen are identified on their orders stating they will attend the DTC. This is a CFM/FAM decision before the deployment.
2. Commander Nominated: Airmen who are commander nominated are selected Airmen (preferably teams) from varying mission sets and any AFSC that meet any of the following requirements:

At any point in this deployment the member....

1) Participated in direct combat operations	6) Experienced injury or casualties to members within their unit
2) Experienced job related stress (i.e. high ops tempo)	7) Felt in danger of being killed or injured (high risk)
3) Was injured in mission activities	8) Discharged weapon and/or received fire (i.e. mortar, IED, etc.)
4) Was exposed to casualties/dead bodies (handling or video)	9) Had significant home-front stressors or changes
5) Witnessed personnel killed or injured (including video)	10) Witnessed or participated in morally questionable acts*

*e.g., friendly fire incident, civilian casualties, violation of ROEs, pain or suffering of combatants

Q) Is the DTC a Mental Health program?

A) No, there are no mandatory consultations with mental health professionals, although redeployers will have all resources available to them upon request and can meet with individuals as desired. Additionally, referrals for formal care can be made by DTC staff so the member is connected upon return to home station.

Q) Who should I contact if I think my redeployers should attend the DTC?

A) You may contact any of the following individuals:

1. DTC Email -- afdeployment.transitioncenter@us.af.mil
2. DTC Director of Operations -- DSN: (314) 478-4687
3. DTC SEL -- DSN: (314) 478-4588
4. DTC Program Director -- DSN: (314) 478-4649

B) What is the process to nominate an individual to attend?

A) Please see the nomination process at the following link: [DTC Nomination Tool](#)

Use the "DTC Nomination Tool" for nominating individuals. If you have any questions about this process, please email the DTC org box.

Q) How do we ship weapons prior to their redeployment?

A) Use the following link as a guide on how to ship weapons prior to redeployers leaving their deployed location: [Weapons Shipment Process](#).

Q) Who pays for the DTC (does it come out of the Commander's budget)?

A) Funding for the member utilizes the 7C LOA on existing TDY/CED orders. There is no cost to the Commander (home or deployed), the unit or the member for attendance. The member attends the DTC as part of authorized delay in travel during redeployment. The member hasn't signed into home station and remains on deployed orders. DTS filing will be done to account for the DTC attendance: lodging receipt, DTC Welcome letter, and non-availability letter if on-base lodging was not available.

Attachment 1
4 Day Itinerary

Prior to arrival: It is advised to pack a 72 hour bag prior to arrival. All other bags/gear can be stored inside the DTC's luggage rooms or you may take them to your lodging room.

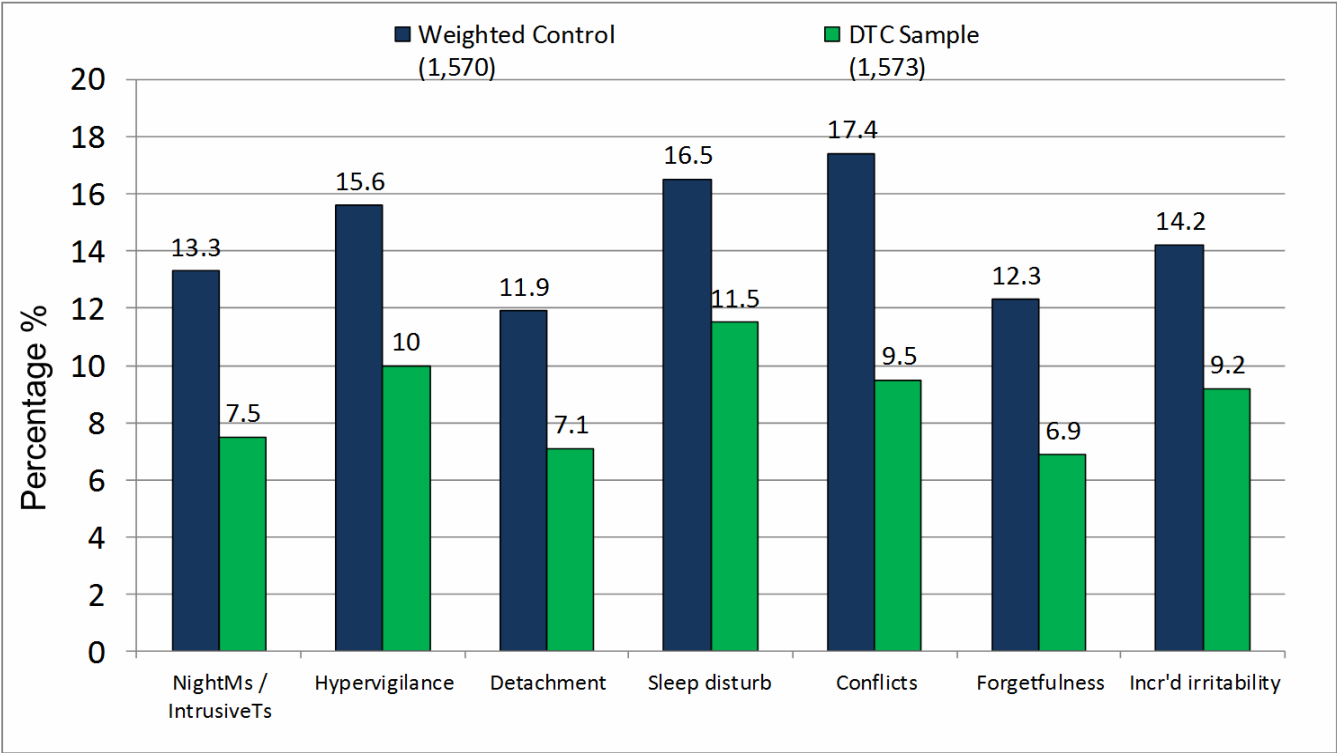
Day 1: Upon arrival at Ramstein AB, redeployers are transported to the DTC (5 minute drive). They are then given a Welcome Briefing, Rules of Engagement, and conduct a pre-survey. Afterwards, redeployers will go to their lodging to get settled in. The rest of the day is set aside for rest and relaxation at the individual's discretion. In rare cases when the members are lodged outside the local area, they will not be taken to the DTC, but directly to their lodging facility.

Day 2: Redeployers will have a morning discussion focused around an After Action Debrief/lessons learned. This is a group discussion, not a class lecture. Afterwards, redeployers will be taken to a local town for an experiential outing. The intent of the outing is to provide members with the ability to make choices about what to eat, where to shop, what to do, in addition to experiencing sounds, smells, and sights that may remind them of home, shifting their minds from the deployed location and what they have come to expect over the past 6 or so months.

Day 3: Redeployers have a morning "Combat Bridge" discussion. This is designed to give redeployers information and generate group discussions concerning the bridge (reintegration) from a combat related environment to a home environment. Redeployers have an interactive Responsible Drinking class and then enjoy recreational opportunities at the DTC facility and/or the surrounding location.

Day 4: Redeployers meet up in the morning at a pre-designated location. Lodging receipts will be picked up by the DTC staff and given to the redeployers in the morning. Redeployers will be transported to their respective terminal at Frankfurt International Airport.

AF/SG Post-deployment Health Assessment/Re-assessment Study
 Comparing Redeploying SFS, EOD, TACP & Convoy Ops; Jul '10 – Dec '11



*Schneider, K. G., Bezdjian, S., Burchett, D., Isler, W. C., Dickey, D., & Garb, H. N. (Military Psychology 2016, Vol.28, No.2, 89-103. American Psychological Association)