

Course Name: WEATHER OBSERVER

Intended Audience: Initial Training for Met Tech 121 Occupation

Abbreviated Title: QL3 (1986-2008)

Course Description:

The Weather Observer course is taught at the Canadian Forces School of Meteorology at 17 Wing located in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The aim of this course is to train personnel to:

- a. take weather observations
- b. disseminate observed data, and
- c. provide technical meteorological information to support operations

Subjects taught include elementary meteorological theory, surface instruments and observing, communications, upper wind observations, maintenance and automatic data processing. Practical training in simulators is an important part of the course and includes 11 days of practice (shift work) and 10 days of testing which leads to the awarding of the Weather Observer Qualification at the conclusion of the course.

Training Days: 67

Admission Standard:

High School Grade 10  
English Language Proficiency  
Linguistic Assistance is available

Course Name: METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVER BRIEFER TECHNICIAN

Intended Audience: Basic Occupation Training for Meteorological Technician (Met Tech)

Abbreviated Title: BOQ (2008-2011)

Course Description:

The Weather Observer and Briefer course is taught at the Canadian Forces School of Meteorology at 17 Wing located in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The aim of this course is to train personnel to:

- d. take weather observations;
- e. disseminate observed data;
- f. provide meteorological information to support operations; and
- g. present detailed environmental briefings.

Subjects taught include theoretical and applied meteorology; surface instruments and observing, communications, interpretation of weather data including satellite, radar and lightning detector, instrument maintenance, data processing, presentation, climate. The use of audio-visual equipment along with a high instructor to student ratio is required to ensure success. Upon graduation the graduates receive the qualification and can work under supervision. After the completion of the course in Winnipeg, the graduates will be posted to the Joint Meteorological Centre, at CFB Gagetown NB, where they will follow a 6 - 18 month On Job Training (OJT) program. Upon completion of the OJT program the Met Tech will be able to work independently as an Observer or Briefer.

Training Days: 114

Admission Standard:

Meet the Met Tech Occupational selection standards at Canadian Forces Recruiting Centres.  
Completion of Basic Military Qualification (BMQ) basic training.

Course Name: TACTICAL WEATHER SPECIALIST  
Intended Audience: Basic Occupation Training for Meteorological Technician (Met Tech)

Abbreviated Title: TWS

Course Description:

The Weather Observer and Briefer course is taught at the Canadian Forces School of Meteorology at 17 Wing located in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The aim of this course is to train personnel to:

- a. take weather observations;
- b. disseminate observed data;
- c. provide meteorological information to support operations; and
- d. present detailed environmental briefings.

Subjects taught include theoretical and applied meteorology; surface instruments and observing, communications, interpretation of weather data including satellite, radar and lightning detector, instrument maintenance, data processing, presentation, climate. The use of audio-visual equipment along with a high instructor to student ratio is required to ensure success. Upon graduation the graduates receive the qualification and can work under supervision. After the completion of the course in Winnipeg, the graduates will be posted to the Joint Meteorological Centre (JMC), at CFB Gagetown NB, where they will follow a 6 month On Job Training (OJT) program. Upon completion of the OJT program the Met Tech will be able to work independently as an Observer or Briefer.

Training Days: 103

Admission Standard: Meet the Met Tech Occupational selection standards at Canadian Forces Recruiting Centres.  
Completion of Basic Military Qualification (BMQ) basic training.

Course Name:           ADVANCED WEATHER OBSERVER

Intended Audience:   Advanced Training for Qualification to Corporal

Abbreviated Title:    QL5A (aka QL5 as the QL5B were DND leadership courses which did not have meteorological content)

Course Description:

The Advanced Observer course is taught at the Canadian Forces School of Meteorology at 17 Wing located in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The aim of this course is to train personnel to:

- a.     provide quality control of weather information
- b.     analyze current weather conditions, and
- c.     present basic environmental briefings to support operations

Subjects taught include meteorological theory, presentation of meteorological information to aviation, marine and climate users, quality control procedures, instrument maintenance, and administration. Students receive the Qualification upon graduation.

Training Days:               43

Admission Standard: High School Grade 10  
At least one year of observing experience  
English language proficiency  
Linguistic Assistance is available

Course Name: WEATHER BRIEFER

Intended Audience: Advanced Training for Qualification to Sergeant

Abbreviated Title: QL6A

Course Description:

The Briefer course is taught at the Canadian Forces School of Meteorology at 17 Wing located in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The aim of this course is to train personnel to present detailed environmental briefings and provide technical meteorological information to support operations. Over one third of the course is devoted to practical operations composed of preparing and presenting weather briefings. The use of audio-visual equipment along with a high instructor to student ratio is required to ensure success. Subjects taught include theoretical and applied meteorology, analysis, interpretation of weather data including satellite and radar, presentation, climate and administration.

Training Days: 60

Admission Standard: High School Grade 10  
English language proficiency  
At least one year of observing experience  
Linguistic Assistance is available

Course Name: SPECIALIZED WEATHER SUPPORT

Intended Audience: Advanced Training for Qualification to Warrant Officer

Abbreviated Title: QL6B

Course Description:

The Specialized Weather Support course is taught at the Canadian Forces School of Meteorology at 17 Wing located in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The aim of this course is to provide highly specialized training to personnel who will then be capable of supporting such diverse operations as ship-based helicopters, land-element combat groups and search and rescue units. Personnel are trained to provide operations personnel with weather information in the form of forecasts and advice on meteorological matters in various parts of the world. Subjects taught include applied meteorology, oceanography, analysis and interpretation, prognosis, and climatology. In the forecasting portion of the course, personnel are taught to assess basic weather data and prepare aviation forecasts up to 12 hours in support of helicopter operations. They are also taught to provide oceanographic information and guidance in support of ship exercises. Training labs are very practical and closely resemble routines performed at operational units.

Training Days: 55

Admission Standard: High School Grade 10  
English Language proficiency  
At least one year of briefing experience  
Linguistic Assistance is available

Course Name: SHORT RANGE FORECASTER

Intended Audience: Specialized Training for Employment as On-Site Forecaster

Abbreviated Title: SRF

Course Description:

The Short Range Forecaster course is taught at the Canadian Forces School of Meteorology at 17 Wing located in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The aim of this course is to train personnel to become proficient in providing short range aviation terminal forecasts, amendments and weather warnings at an on-site location. The course consists of a Diagnosis and Prognosis phase. The Diagnosis phase is based on the philosophy that a thorough understanding of the present weather situation and its evolution is essential prior to attempting a prognosis of future events. The Diagnosis phase lasts 7 weeks and concentrates on the application of theoretical concepts to actual weather situations and the meteorological processes that were involved in their evolution. The Prognosis phase covers the last 12 weeks of the course. It concentrates initially on forecasting procedures, techniques and guidance for each weather element which is then added to the forecast production process in the practical simulator. Simulator time increases as classroom work decreases until SRF trainees are in full day weather office simulation commencing in week 16. Completion of the formal theoretical portion of the course must be followed by an intense period of on-site accreditation lasting a minimum of 6 months to a maximum of one year.

Training Days: 89

Admission Standard: High School Grade 10  
English language proficiency  
At least one year of briefing experience  
Linguistic Assistance is available

Course Name: METEOROLOGICAL FORECASTING COURSE

Intended Audience: Advanced Training for Qualification to Master Corporal

Abbreviated Title: FCSTR (beginning 2012)

Course Description:

The Forecaster (FCSTR) Course for meteorological technicians is taught at the Canadian Forces School of Meteorology at 17 Wing located in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The aim of this course is to provide highly specialized training to personnel who will then be capable of supporting diverse navy, army, and air force operations in the form of weather forecasts and their impact on various assets and activities. They will also provide advice on meteorological matters in various parts of the world. Subjects taught include: analysis, diagnosis and forecasts of weather systems and elements; various observing platforms (satellite, radar, lightning, radiosonde); numerical weather forecast models; and oceanography.

After completion of the course in Winnipeg, many graduates will be posted on HMC Ships to provide forecast support to naval operations as well as their Air Detachments. However some graduates will be posted to the Joint Meteorological Centre (JMC), at Gagetown NB, where they will follow a 6-12 month On Job Training (OJT) program, after which they will provide forecast support to a wide range of operations across the Canadian Forces home and abroad.

Training Days: 115

Admission Standard:

Completion of TWS and associated OJT or legacy QL6A qualification  
At least one year of briefing experience  
English Language proficiency of CBB. (Linguistic Assistance is available)