



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY



*By the time you are old enough to read this letter, the print will be faded and the paper will be yellowed. However, it is with great pride and pleasure that we welcome you today as the newest member of the “Phantom Guardians”. Your father is a OCCUPATION in 231<sup>st</sup> Target Acquisition Detachment, IIIrd Corps Artillery at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, a unit responsible for providing safe, timely, and lethal artillery fires wherever and whenever called upon.*

*One of the sacrifices that soldiers face is separation from family members. Your parents understand that. As they anxiously awaited your arrival, at times it was difficult for your father to be by your mother’s side. Our training program causes separation but also ensures we are prepared to fight and defend our nation’s freedom. Your father’s dedication to preserve the American way of life requires him to be ready to go anywhere at any time. It is that sort of dedication and selfless service that allows us to remain the greatest nation in the world. Your mother and father have both given up a part of themselves in many ways so that you, your family, and all Americans can enjoy freedom.*

*We know he may be away as you discover the fun of crawling, the excitement that comes from taking your very first step, the thrill of riding your first bicycle, or the enjoyment of reading your first book. We also know that he loves you and is proud of you. Try to understand and take pride in him. Remember, he is answering an especially demanding call- the call of freedom.*

*We congratulate you on becoming the newest member of the \_\_\_\_\_ family, and want you to know that we are committed to caring for soldiers and families because people are the Army.*

*Again, welcome to the 231<sup>st</sup> TAD Family. Be assured that I speak for every member of the command when I tell you how happy I am to have you in our ranks.*

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1LT, FA