



Basic Combat Training Welcome Letter

Charlie Battery, 1-31st Field Artillery

August 22 – October 28, Class 79-16

FROM THE COMMANDER:

Greetings! I am Captain Landy Noland, your Soldier's Commanding Officer during his/her Initial Entry Training (IET) in the United States Army. Your Soldier arrived safely at Fort Sill and has begun Basic Combat Training (BCT) in this unit.

Over the next three months, your Soldier will learn the basic skills that are required to survive and win on today's battlefield. The training will be strenuous and demanding, but the tasks performed will help each Soldier develop the discipline and self-confidence necessary to be a successful Soldier in today's Army.

I want you to know that the cadres who will be training your Soldier are dedicated professionals, genuinely concerned about the health, welfare and training of each Soldier. We consider your Warrior to be the Army's most important asset, and I will personally ensure that we make your Soldier's experience both challenging and rewarding.

YOU WILL HEAR FROM YOUR SOLDIER SOON!

By now, you should have already received a phone call from your Soldier. All Soldiers are given the opportunity to call home within the first 48 hours upon

arrival to BCT and normally once weekly after week 3 of training. This is a privilege. However, it can be lost due to poor performance or misconduct.

I ask that you do not attempt to contact your Soldier by phone. If there is anything you should be concerned with regarding the health and welfare of your Soldier, the First Sergeant (1SG) and I will personally let you know.

YOUR SOLDIER WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Whether or not this is your Soldier's first time away from home, I am sure that your Soldier will miss you a great deal as you presumably will miss your Soldier, too. I strongly encourage you to write at every opportunity; you can be assured that your Soldier will have ample time to write you as well. When writing your Soldier, use the following address:

Rank Last Name, First Name
1-31st FA BN, C BTRY, __PLT
5955 Rothwell Street
Fort Sill, OK 73503-4482

Unfortunately, due to the limited storage capacity of our mailroom, we cannot accept large packages at this time.

Please observe the following guidelines when sending mail:

- No alcohol or products containing alcohol, tobacco or narcotics
- No weapons
- No radios, TVs, cell phones, cameras or other electronic devices
- No pornographic or morally questionable materials
- No magazines
- NO FOOD ITEMS**



WHAT CAN I DO TO ASSIST MY SOLDIER DURING TRAINING?

The best thing you can do is to write as many positive letters as possible, and as often as possible. Soldiers look forward to daily mail call.

HOW ARE THEY TREATING MY SOLDIER?

Today's Soldiers are treated fairly, firmly and with dignity and respect. **Abuse of any kind is not tolerated.** Drill Sergeants are selected from among the best Noncommissioned Officers (NCOs) in the Army, and are highly qualified to train recruits.



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WHAT HAPPENS IF MY SOLDIER FAILS A PORTION OF BASIC TRAINING?

If your Soldier misses or fails a task required for graduation, he or she will be given another opportunity to make up the training with another unit, which generally means the Soldier will graduate with his or her original class.

If a Soldier still fails to meet the requirement, the Brigade Commander will decide whether or not that Soldier will graduate or be recycled to another Basic Combat Training Battery; meaning he or she will have a new graduation date with another unit.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES

Should an emergency arise, the best means of notifying your Soldier is through your local **American Red Cross**. The field office in your area will contact the Lawton, Oklahoma field office who will, in turn, contact the unit. In extreme cases, such as serious injury or death, affecting immediate family members, an emergency leave of absence may be granted. Other leaves of absence during training are not normally authorized.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY SOLDIER IS INJURED DURING TRAINING?

Should any injury occur, your Soldier will receive appropriate medical attention from Fort Sill's large, professional medical staff at state-of-the-art medical facilities.

Additionally, Drill Sergeants are Combat Lifesaver qualified and carry medical aid kits. Depending on the nature and extent of



the injury there may be some delay in graduating.

GRADUATION INFORMATION

Provided your Soldier meets all basic training requirements, your Soldier will graduate on October 28, 2016. Generally, your Soldier would then ship to their next duty station following graduation from BCT, which will begin roughly on October 29, 2016.

In a few weeks, we will be sending you another letter with information concerning your Soldier's graduation. Your Soldier is not scheduled to complete his/her last graduation requirement until October 28, 2016 so if you wish to make travel arrangements early, be aware that we cannot guarantee that your Soldier is graduating until that time.

It is your Soldier's responsibility to notify you if he or she will or will not be graduating. I will say, however, that the vast majority of our Soldiers graduate on time.

POINT OF CONTACT

If I can be of assistance to you in any matter, please feel free to contact me by phone or email:

CPT Landy Noland
Phone:
 Office: (580) 442-0630

e-mail
 landy.r.noland.mil@mail.mil.

Please Visit Our Unit Website at:
<http://sill-www.army.mil/434/1-31/1-31c.html>

Or follow us on Facebook by searching:

C Battery, 1st Battalion, 31st Field Artillery (BCT)
 (updated weekly with newsletter & photos)