



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
BRAVO BATTERY, 1ST BATTALION, 79TH FIELD ARTILLERY
6007 ROTHWELL ROAD
FORT SILL, OKLAHOMA 73503-5000

January 13, 2016

ATSF-KG-B

Commander, Bravo Battery 1st Battalion, 79th Field Artillery

Dear Friends and Family Members,

The Soldiers of Bravo Battery are proving their toughness every day. They are motivated, fit, knowledgeable, and ready to graduate! Before they do, however, there are still a couple more weeks of rigorous necessary training.

This is the time of the cycle when families are anxious to make their travel plans to see their Soldier graduate. This letter will provide you with useful information in order to make your travel plans. You may want to consider not making travel purchases until you have heard from your Soldier that they will graduate. I will ensure your Soldier contacts you on the day they are eligible to graduate. When you make your travel plans, please keep in mind travel time to the airports; approximately 1.5 hours to Oklahoma City and 20 minutes to Lawton Regional Airport.

While you are here, we ask that you help preserve historical Fort Sill. Please wear appropriate attire. There is no dress code, but vulgar or distasteful slogans or exposures are not acceptable for these family events. All civilians and military personnel entering Fort Sill must present a valid driver's license and a visitor's pass which can be obtained at the Visitor's Control center located at the Sheridan gate or Military ID at the gate. All personally owned vehicles are subject to search by Fort Sill Police.

Personally owned firearms are not allowed on Fort Sill or at the graduation facility. Large bag's, parcels, backpacks will not be permitted at these events. Use of cellular phones while driving on Fort Sill is strictly prohibited. Please cooperate with these measures.

The Family Day Ceremony will begin at 10:00a.m. On February 17th, 2016 at Sheridan Theatre, located just inside Sheridan Gate. Family Day highlights your Soldier's achievements over the basic combat training cycle through a series of demonstrations on weapons, tactics, drill and ceremony, and physical fitness. Then, I will provide essential information on the pass policies for Family Day and Graduation. At the conclusion of this ceremony, your Soldier will be released on pass.

The Graduation Ceremony will begin at 1:00p.m. on February 18th, 2016 at The Hilton Garden Inn. During the ceremony, please feel free to take pictures of your Soldier as they graduate. The graduating class will be seated together and will not have an opportunity to socialize during this time.

Here are the timelines for Family Day and Graduation:

Family Day: February 17th, 2016

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| 9:00a.m.-10:00a.m. | Arrival for Family Day Activities |
| 10:00a.m.-10:30a.m. | Family Day Ceremony |
| 10:30a.m.-10:45p.m. | Battery Commander in brief to family and friends (welcome and pass guidelines) |

11:00a.m.-7:45p.m. Pass Privileges
7:45p.m -8:00p.m. Accountability Formation

Graduation: February 18th, 2016

12:45a.m.-1:00p.m. Doors Open and Seating begins
1:00p.m.-2:00p.m. Graduation Ceremony
2:00p.m.-2:15p.m. Soldiers Travel back to Battery
2:30p.m.-2:45p.m. Pass briefing/sign out on pass
2:45p.m.-8:45p.m. Pass Privileges
8:45p.m.-9:00p.m. Accountability Formation

Immediately following the graduation, we will release the Soldiers on pass; except for Soldiers remaining at Fort Sill (13 and 14 series MOSs). 13 series Soldiers will ship to 1-78 FA BN at 2:30p.m. The families and friends of 13 series Soldiers need to attend a brief to sign their Soldier out on pass at 12:00p.m. at 1-78 FA BN Headquarters' at (BLDG 2735 Bragg Street, Fort Sill, OK 73503). 14 series Soldiers will ship to 30th ADA BDE (BLDG 4402 Blair Street, Fort Sill, OK 73503) at 2:45p.m. The families and friends of 14 series Soldiers can meet at the battery and follow their Soldier to 30th ADA BDE.

Soldiers with follow on assignments at different posts will be released after graduation and must report back at 8:45pm for accountability. These Soldiers will be shipped that night to their follow on assignment. Soldiers will travel by government arranged travel to their follow on assignments.

I hope you enjoy your visit to the Lawton/Fort Sill Area. Lawton/Fort Sill offers a vast array of attractions. As you may know, Fort Sill is located in southwest Oklahoma and is surrounded by the Wichita Mountains. If you take a drive through the Wichita Mountains, you can visit several tourist sites, such as the Holy City and the Wildlife Refuge Center. In Lawton, you can enjoy the Great Plains Museum and enjoy some entertainment. On Fort Sill, you can tour Geronimo's Guard House and Gravesite, the Old Post Quadrangle Museum, and the U.S. Army Field Artillery Museum. You can find additional information about local hotels and restaurants in the Lawton/Fort Sill area at the Chamber of Commerce website: <http://www.lawtonfortsillchamber.com/>. Additional information can be found at <http://sill-www.army.mil/INDEX/maps/> and <http://sill-www.army.mil/>.

You can contact me via telephone at any time at the following number (580)442-1314 or the following email address robert.j.simmons96.mil@mail.mil. On behalf of the Battery's Cadre and Drill Sergeants, we look forward to meeting you and hope you enjoy your Soldier's graduation.

“Peace through Victory”

ROBERT J. SIMMONS
CPT, CM
Commanding

Battalions will develop standardized maps of to direct families to Graduation, AIT, and Family Day. These maps will cover on-post locations and McMahon Auditorium, if applicable. These maps will not identify any commercial business. Training units will not recommend any commercial business.