



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
Delta Battery, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 79<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery  
434<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade  
Fort Sill, Oklahoma 73503

REPLY TO THE  
ATTENTION OF:

ATSF-KG-D

15 October 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR Family and Friends of D/1-79 FA Soldiers

SUBJECT: Welcome Letter

Dear Friends and Family of Basic Combat Training Class 03-17,

Greetings from the Fires Center of Excellence, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, home of the Field Artillery. My name is Captain Tyler P. Claus, and I am your Soldier's Battery Commander for Basic Combat Training. The Battery First Sergeant is First Sergeant Federico Despiau. Your Soldier arrived safely at Fort Sill and has begun Basic Combat Training in Delta Battery, 1st Battalion 79th Field Artillery Regiment (D 1-79 FA).

We are extremely proud your Soldier has volunteered to join a time honored profession of service to our Nation in the United States Army. The Army is fortunate to have extremely patriotic, well qualified, and highly motivated individuals volunteer to join our team. Over the next nine weeks your Soldier will begin the transformation from a civilian to a Soldier in the United States Army. Your Soldier will learn the basic Soldier skills that are required to fight and win on today's modern battlefield. The training will be strenuous and demanding. The tasks your Soldier will perform develops the discipline and self-confidence necessary to be a successful Soldier in today's Army. Your Soldier will conduct physical training daily to build physical strength and conditioning and also instill teamwork, pride, and enthusiasm in themselves and their unit. Your Soldier will learn in great detail military customs, courtesies, and traditions as well as policies and procedures on how Soldiers conduct themselves as members of the military team. Additionally, they will learn how to engage the enemy with a rifle, learn how to care for their buddy using first aid, learn how to navigate with a map and a compass, all the while immersed in an environment of the seven Army values of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage; it is these values that shape who and what we are as Soldiers and warriors.

The cadre and Drill Sergeants who will be training your Soldier are a very dedicated group of professionals, genuinely concerned about the health, welfare, and training of each Soldier. We consider our Soldiers to be the most important asset of the Army's future. Your Soldier had the opportunity to call home during the first week of Basic Combat Training but phone privileges will be extremely limited for the next few weeks. Later in training your Soldier will have the privilege to use the phone on weekends, primarily Sunday afternoons. I do encourage you to write to your Soldier. A little bit of encouragement from home goes a long way in keeping the Soldier engaged and motivated.

While packages are allowed **please do not send** medication of any kind, food items, magazines, weapons/knives, clothing, or other “contraband” items (electronics, tobacco products, candy, etc...). All boxes are opened by the addressee, but checked for contraband items.

Send Mail to:

**PVT/PFC/SPC (Last Name, First Name MI.)**  
**D/1-79 FA, Platoon # (Example: 4th PLT), Class 03-17**  
**6007 ROTHWELL STREET**  
**FORT SILL, OK 73503-5001.**

Below are some frequently asked questions:

### ***WHAT CAN I DO TO ASSIST MY SOLDIER DURING TRAINING?***

The best thing you can do is to write positive letters. Soldiers look forward to daily mail call. Your Soldier is incredibly busy; so even if you do not receive a reply within the first couple of weeks continue to send **Positive Letters** to motivate them until they can reply. Your Soldier’s main focus is passing Basic Combat Training any outside distractions will hinder their ability to perform to their fullest potential and cause them to stay in Basic Combat Training longer than they have to.

### ***HOW ARE THEY TREATING MY SOLDIER?***

Your Soldier is not reliving those first 30 minutes of the movie ‘Full Metal Jacket’. 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 Non-commissioned Officers in the Army, and are highly qualified to train Soldiers. Only authorized and vetted personnel are allowed to interact in any way with your Soldier. We consider our Soldiers to be the most important asset of our Army’s future.

### ***MAY MY SOLDIER ATTEND RELIGIOUS SERVICES?***

Soldiers have the opportunity to attend weekly religious services of various denominations of their choice. They are allowed to attend a religious service and religious education classes as available through the Chaplain’s office. Soldiers are also permitted to seek counseling from an Army Chaplain who is on call 24 hours a day.

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

If your Soldier misses or fails a task required for graduation, he/she will be given another opportunity to make up the training. If a Soldier still fails to meet the requirement, I will decide whether or not that Soldier will graduate in accordance with the appropriate regulations.

### ***IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES***

If there is an emergency on the home front, call the American Red Cross at 877-272-7337 with the information. The field office in your area will contact the Lawton, Oklahoma field office, who will contact me. In extreme cases, such as serious injury or death affecting immediate family members (spouse, parent, grand-parent, child, sibling, or in-law), 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 professional medical staff. Additionally, Drill Sergeants are Combat Lifesaver qualified and carry medical aid kits to all training.

### ***MEDICAL INFORMATION RELATED TO MY SOLDIER***

Due to the Privacy Act and HIPAA, we do not have the legal authority to release ANY medical information regarding illness, injury, or otherwise to you. However, your Soldier is authorized to do so if he/she so chooses.

Family and friends are a big part of the Army family and although your loved one cannot call each night to keep you informed of their progress and achievements, we will attempt to bridge that gap through frequent updates to the Battery's Facebook page: [https://www.facebook.com/DeltaDawgs179FABCT/?skip\\_nax\\_wizard=true#!/DeltaDawgs179FABCT/](https://www.facebook.com/DeltaDawgs179FABCT/?skip_nax_wizard=true#!/DeltaDawgs179FABCT/) digital photos that show some of the training your Soldier conducts here. I will also send out important Family Day and Graduation information on our Facebook Page and also via U.S. Mail later in the cycle.

I highly encourage you to attend the Family Day activities on 15 December 2016 at 9:00 a.m., and Graduation on 16 December 2016 at 10:00 a.m. We will send out a detailed graduation information packet with maps, times, and locations by week six of your Soldiers' training. Due to increased security levels on Fort Sill no bags (i.e. backpacks, large hand bags, etc.) will be allowed at the family day or graduation. The only exception is purses, which will be subject to search upon entry. You can also find information about Ft. Sill and the Lawton area at the following website: <http://www.lawtonfortsillchamber.com/index.php?pr=Lodging>. There is also great information on the 434<sup>th</sup> FA BDE website at: <http://sill-www.army.mil/434/index.htm>. Family and friends will have the opportunity to spend time with their Soldier after both Family Day and Graduation so please plan to spend a couple days in the local area. In order to receive access to Fort Sill for family day/graduation every person attending age 18 or older must have a DoD identification card or a visitors pass issued by the Fort Sill Visitor Control Center. An approved list of DoD ID cards can be found at: <http://sill-www.army.mil/vcc/approved.html>. To obtain a visitor's pass every person age 18 and older must download a Fort Sill Form 118a at <http://sill-www.army.mil/vcc.html>. Once the form is completed for every member in your party wanting access to Fort Sill the completed forms need to be mailed to:

**T6701 Sheridan Road,  
Building #T6701  
FORT SILL, OK 73503-0000  
Tel: 580-442-9602 or 9603**

Please ensure you fill in your driver's license and social security numbers or the Fort Sill Visitors Center will not process your gate pass. They must receive your completed form no later than the end of your Soldier's third week of basic training (6 November 2016) so your request can be processed. Delta Battery will pick up the approved visitor's passes and distribute them the day prior to Family Day (14 December 2016) at the Visitor Control Center. **It is Highly Encouraged to arrive to Fort Sill the day before Family to pick up your pass.** If you wait for the day of Family Day there will be a long line at the VCC and you may miss the Family Day activities. If you do not complete the above listed steps to receive a visitor's pass in week 6 you will have to complete the process upon arrival to Fort Sill before you can gain access. Make sure your Soldier's unit information *Delta 1-79 FA* and the reason you are coming to Fort Sill on your Fort Sill Form 118a. For more information on the Visitor Control Center visit <http://sill-www.army.mil/vcc.html>.

Also attached with this letter is an information sheet about the Army Family Team Building training program. It is an online course designed to give family members that are new to Army life a baseline of Army knowledge and resources to aid in their transition. The training is open to anyone who has access to a computer and the internet. We highly encourage you to complete the training to learn some valuable information about the Army.

A great deal of information is published both on the Facebook page and a follow-up Graduation letter will be mailed later in the cycle. If this letter, the Facebook page, or the Graduation letter do not contain the information you need, or if there is a specific issue related to your Soldier, please feel free to contact either myself or the First Sergeant.

On behalf of the battery, we look forward to meeting you, and we hope you are able to attend your Soldier's graduation. Thank you for the support of your Soldier.

Battery First Sergeant  
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