DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
DELTA BATTERY, 1ST BATTALION, 19TH FIELD ARTILLERY
5960 ROTHWELL STREET
FORT SILL, OKLAHOMA 73503

ATSF-KF-D 2 November 2016

Dear Delta Battery Families,

First, let me introduce myself. I am Captain (CPT) Alexander Kneefel, your Soldier's Battery Commander for Basic Combat Training (BCT) Class #77-16 in the 434th Field Artillery Brigade, Fort Sill, Oklahoma. As you already know, your Soldier has safely arrived, in processed, and has already begun their 9 week journey towards becoming a Soldier in the United States Army.

As a member of Delta Battery, your Soldier is in good hands with my Cadre. These hardworking Noncommissioned and Commissioned Officers make up the most dedicated and professional team in the United States Army. We serve as coaches, teachers, mentors, and leaders whose mission is more than just making sure your Soldier graduates from BCT. Our goal is to provide our Army with well-trained, motivated, team oriented, and disciplined Soldiers. Your Soldier will exude the Warrior Ethos, the Army Values, and demonstrate a winning attitude. Upon graduation, they will be mentally, physically, and emotionally prepared for the rigors of combat in order to fight and win today's wars on the modern battlefield.

We accomplish this mission by providing your Soldier with realistic and relevant training. As you will hear first-hand from your Soldier; the training will consist of some of the most strenuous and demanding activities they have ever been through. BCT is not easy, nor should it be. Every task performed during this course will help develop your Soldier's discipline, self-confidence, and knowledge; necessary to be a successful Soldier in today's Army.

We consider our Soldiers to be our Nation's most precious resource and a key asset of the Army's future. Your Soldier's development only begins with training. What makes the Army a unique organization and culture is that taking care of Soldiers and their families is our foremost priority. Please know that like you, we are genuinely concerned about your Soldier's overall health and well-being. Additionally, we have various resources available to alleviate and mitigate any financial, medical, or personal issues.

In this same vein, it is most likely that this is not just your Soldier's first Army experience; it is likely yours as well. Therefore, we would also like to welcome you to the Army family. Like your family's values, the Army possesses and promotes its seven Army values of: Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage. These values are rooted deep in tradition and are sewn into the very soul of every American Soldier. Currently, your Soldier is learning these values, through training and living by the Soldier's Creed.

At times, this experience will seem to be very difficult for your Soldier. For many of our younger Soldiers, this is their first time away from everything they know, to include: home, family, and friends. Naturally, your Soldier misses you very much; I encourage you to write at every available opportunity. **Simply put, Soldiers love getting mail**. Your sentiments of pride and encouragement provide a great deal of strength in the morale and motivation of your Soldier. Rest assured that your Soldier will be given time to write and read their mail. 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 opportunity to use the phone on weekends, primarily Sunday afternoons. <u>While packages are allowed, please do not send any of the following: magazines, medication,</u>

electronic devices, weapons, knives, alcohol, food, tobacco products, pornography, or anything that could be considered morally questionable. Send mail to:

Rank, Last Name, First Name
1-19TH FA BN, DELTA BTRY, # PLT
5970 S. BOUNDARY ROAD
FORT SILL, OK 73503-6204

I highly encourage you to attend the family day activities on **26 January 2017** and graduation **27 January 2016**. We will send out a detailed graduation information letter with times and locations by week seven of your Soldiers' training. Lawton-Fort Sill and our surrounding communities offer a vast array of attractions, activities, and accommodations during your stay. As you may know, Fort Sill is located in southwest Oklahoma and is surrounded by the scenic Wichita Mountains. The Wichita Mountain Wildlife Refuge includes a visitor center and several tourist sites such as the Holy City and historic Medicine Park. Lawton-Fort Sill boasts attractions such as the Great Plains Museum, while offering many restaurants and hotels to choose from. A must see is our National Historic Landmark, Old Fort Sill, which includes the original Cavalry Barracks built by the 10th U.S. Cavalry Buffalo Soldiers in 1869, and Geronimo's one-time cell at the Guard House. The Fort Sill Museum also offers many rare artifacts and a Cannon Walk with a collection of over 200 historic Artillery Pieces. You can also find information about the local area at the Lawton-Fort Sill Chamber of Commerce website; www.lawtonfortsillchamber.com.

Furthermore, Family and friends will have the opportunity to spend time with their Soldier on both Family Day and Graduation. We understand that by attending the family day and graduation events you are making great sacrifices with your time and money that require adequate planning.

Additionally, the Battery also has a Facebook page where photos of your Soldiers in training will be uploaded on a regular basis and you will have the opportunity to communicate with the Battery Leadership as well as other family members. Questions may be directed through the message service on the page and I will answer them as my work allows. Here is the website: https://www.facebook.com/pages/Delta-1-19-Field-Artillery/123770917700536. I spend most of the time away from the office training Soldiers in the field. If a true emergency arises at home (i.e. serious injury, illness, or death of a family member) please call the American Red Cross at 877-272-7337 in order to quickly get the message to the unit and the Soldier.

Lastly, I would like to thank you and your family for the service of your Soldier. Every single member of my Cadre attended Basic Combat Training at the beginning of their career. We all understand what it means to leave family behind. The support we have received from our families is invaluable. Thank you for the support you will provide your Soldier.

Death before Dishonor!

KNEEFEL.ALEXANDER.P.1285957954

Digitally signed by KNEEFEL.ALEXANDER.P.1285957954
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ALEXANDER P. KNEEFEL
CPT, FA
Commanding