



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
BRAVO BATTERY, 1ST BATTALION 31ST FIELD ARTILLERY
6007 ROTHWELL STREET
FORT SILL, OKLAHOMA 73503-6208

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

ATSF-KJB

15 August 2012

Dear Parents, Family Members, and Friends:

Your Soldier is expected to graduate from Basic Combat Training at **10:00am (Central Time) on Friday, 14 September 2012**. We invite you to attend your Soldier's graduation ceremony. The graduation ceremony will take place at McMahon Auditorium in Lawton, OK. Because your Soldier will be in training, you will not be able to see him/her until **Thursday, 13 September 2012 at 9:00am**. The battery will host Family Day activities at Pride Park, to demonstrate the skills your Soldier has learned in the past 9 weeks. After the Family Day activities, Soldiers may be granted a local pass to visit with family and friends from **11:30 a.m. to 7:45 p.m.** You will have time to spend with your Soldier in the battery area after graduation during out processing.

For those of you arriving early for the graduation, I invite you to visit and tour the Lawton/Fort Sill community. The Lawton, Fort Sill area offers a vast array of attractions. As you may know, Fort Sill is located in southwest Oklahoma and is surrounded by the Wichita Mountain Wildlife Refuge. You can visit the Wildlife Refuge Center, and in the Lawton area, the Great Plains Museum. While on post you can tour Geronimo's Guard House and gravesite, the Old Post Quadrangle Museum, the Old Post Corral, the Prairie Crafters Store and Cannon Walk.

Family members and other guests are responsible for all of their own travel arrangements. If you fly into the Lawton-Fort Sill Regional Airport, I suggest you rent a car or take a taxi as a means of transportation to your hotel and graduation activities. The airport has a limited supply of rental cars, so make your reservations early.

On occasion, trainees fail to graduate within the usual 9-week period. Therefore if your Soldier has not been in contact with you, we ask that you please contact the battery approximately 1 week prior to graduation. At that point, we will be able to tell you whether or not your Soldier is on track to graduate with the rest of the class.

Some Important Notes:

- 1) The Soldiers will be very busy the last few days before graduation. I kindly ask that you do not make attempts to see your Soldier before Family Day Activities. Your Soldier will be very busy and therefore, will not be released or allowed to see friends or family prior to that time.
- 2) Soldiers will not be allowed to travel home or Advance Individual Training location with family members.

- 3) Soldiers with an MOS: 13B, 13D, 13F, staying at Fort Sill after graduation to conduct Advanced Individual Training may get pass privileges after in-processing at 1-78 FA BN. The 1-78 FA BN command reserved their right to release the Soldiers for pass until in-processing is completed.
- 4) Soldiers with an MOS: 14 series staying at Fort Sill after graduation to conduct Advanced Individual Training will be transported on the Friday after graduation. They will in-process with the 6th ADA BDE and will not be allowed pass privileges. Their new unit command reserved their right to release the Soldiers for pass.
- 5) Military Police guard every entrance to Fort Sill and conduct identification checks and/or vehicle inspections of all individuals traveling on post. This is to ensure the safety of the Soldiers and families who work and live here. Bring proof of insurance, registration for your vehicle, and a picture ID for all adults traveling to Fort Sill, as the gate guards will check these items as justification for your entrance. Fort Sill policy states that no one will operate a vehicle while using a cell phone. You may use hands free devices that only cover one ear, or pull off the road and come to a complete stop before using your phone.
- 6) It is permissible to photograph and videotape graduation activities, however this permission does not extend to the rest of Fort Sill. While photography is allowed of ceremonies and family or social events, unrestricted videotaping and photography by the public on the installation is prohibited. However, photography is allowed of historical exhibits at the Fort Sill Museum, including those, which are outdoors, but prohibited near family quarters and office buildings. You are welcome to bring a camera to the graduation, but please exercise caution and do not point it in the direction of installation facilities, buildings and military equipment which are not part of the graduation activities.
- 7) Please be aware that your Soldier will have travel arrangements made by the Army to go to their next duty station. Please check with your Soldier prior to making your own travel arrangements.

If I can be of assistance in any matter relating to your new Soldier, please feel free to write or call my cadre or me. The battery telephone number is (580) 442-5118 (we cannot accept collect calls). Thanks for supporting your Soldier. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,
DAVID J. LOVE
CPT, FA
Commanding

(2) Enclosures:

1. Graduation Window Pass
2. Agenda for Family Day and Graduation Day w/Map

U.S. ARMY FORT SILL

***434TH FIELD ARTILLERY BRIGADE
B / 1-31 FA***

TEMPORARY VEHICLE PASS

VALID

13 September 2012 – 14 September 2012

PLEASE FOLD AND PLACE IN THE LOWER LEFT
HAND SIDE OF DASH BOARD WHEN ENTERING
THE INSTALLATION. YOU MUST **BE PREPARED**
TO PRESENT A PICTURE IDENTIFICATION
CARD WHEN ENTERING THE INSTALLATION.

AGENDA

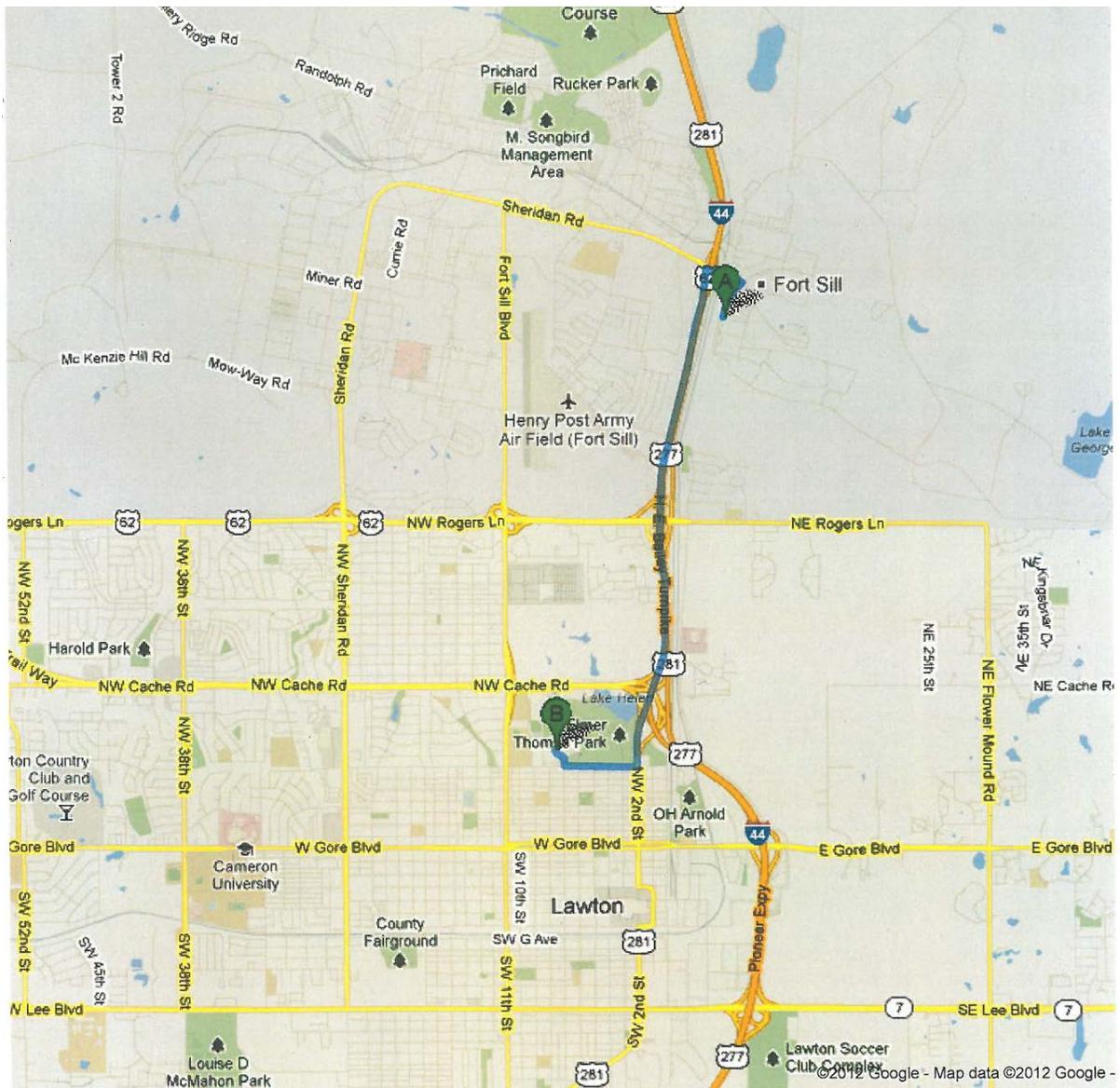
Thursday, 13 September 2012

9:00am – 11:30pm	Family Day Activities
11:30pm – 7:45pm	Family Day Pass (ALL SOLDIERS)
7:45pm	Accountability Formation (ALL SOLDIERS)

Friday, 14 September 2012

10:00pm – 11:00am	Graduation at McMahon Auditorium, Lawton
11:00am – 7:45pm	Graduation Day Pass (ALL SOLDIERS minus 13/14 MOS Soldiers)
11:00am – 5:00pm	Out-Processing at Bravo Battery

***Passes are NOT overnight. Soldiers must be present at 7:45 PM for the Accountability Formation. **Doors for McMahon Auditorium, Lawton will open at approximately 09:30am.**



Pride Park is located inside Key Gate across from the Gunners Inn.

The directions for graduation start from Bravo Battery 1-31 Field Artillery.

1. Head north on Rothwell Street toward Sheridan Road.
2. Take the first right onto Sheridan Road.
3. Take Sheridan Road past Key Gate.
4. Turn left to merge onto I-44/US-277 toward Wichita Falls, TX.
5. Take exit 39B to merge onto NW 2nd Street
6. Turn right onto NW Ferris AVE.
7. Turn right onto NW 7th Street.
8. Turn Left into the parking lot of McMahon Auditorium