



Basic Combat Training Welcome Letter

Charlie Battery, 1-31st Field Artillery

October 2011 - December 2011, Class 01-12

FROM THE COMMANDER:

Greetings! I am Captain Samuel Rivera, your Soldier's Commanding Officer during his/her Initial Entry Training 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 Cadre who will be training your Soldier is a very dedicated

group of professionals who are 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 Fort Sill and normally once weekly thereafter. This is a privilege; however, that can be lost for poor performance or misconduct.

I ask that you 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 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 ___
6007 Rothwell St.
Fort Sill, OK 73503-4482**



Unfortunately, due to the limited storage

capacity of our mailroom, we cannot accept any 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, TV's, 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?

Relax, your Soldier is not reliving those first 30

minutes of *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 (NCOs) in the Army, and are highly qualified to train recruits.

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 Training Battery.

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 me. 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 Ft. 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 Friday, **15 December 2011**. As per normal scheduling, your Soldier would then ship to their next duty station or home on block leave sometime between 16-17 December 2011. 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 11 December 2011, so if you wish to make travel arrangements early, be aware that we cannot guarantee that your Soldier is graduating until that time. I will say, however, that the vast

majority of our Soldiers graduate on time.

POINTS OF CONTACT

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

Battery Commander

CPT Samuel Rivera

Phone:

Office: (580) 442-0630

Cell: (580) 402-4073

e-mail

Samuel.a.rivera20.mil@mail.mil

CHARGERS PAVE THE WAY!



Please Visit Our Unit Website at:
<http://sill-www.army.mil/434/1-31/1-31c.html>
(updated weekly with newsletter & photos)