



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
F BATTERY, 1ST BATTALION, 31ST FIELD ARTILLERY
6060 ROTHWELL STREET
FORT SILL, OKLAHOMA 73503

ATSF-KJF

14 November 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: F Battery, 1st Battalion, 31st Field Artillery, 434th Fires Brigade Welcome Letter

Dear F (Foxtrot) Battery Family Member,

I am Captain (CPT) Hunter Gallacher, your Soldier's Battery Commander for Basic Combat Training (BCT) Class # 7-13 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 Foxtrot Battery, your Soldier is in the good hands of our Cadre. These hard working 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 on the modern battlefield.

We accomplish this mission by providing your Soldier with the most realistic, relevant, and best training available. As you will hear first hand from your Soldier, the training will consist of some of the most strenuous and demanding activities he/she has ever been through. BCT is not easy, nor should it be. However, every task your Soldier performs during this course will help develop the 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. Because of this, 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 and we have a number of resources available to alleviate and mitigate any financial, medical or personal issues.

This is not only your Soldier's first Army experience; it is likely yours as well. With that being said, we would also like to welcome you to the Army family. Like your family's values, our seven inherent Army values of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage are rooted deep in tradition and sewn into the very soul of every American

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Soldier. Your Soldier is currently learning about these values while living by the American 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 as much as you miss her/him, so I encourage you to write at every opportunity possible. 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 ample time to write and read their mail. Please understand that sending and receiving mail is a federally protected right, however access to the phone is not.

Our Soldiers are scheduled to graduate on February 8th at 1000 in the Sheridan Theatre located here at Lawton-Fort Sill, OK. I will send you more detailed information in the upcoming weeks explaining the events you can share with your Soldier prior to graduation, along with a map of the area, and list of local hotels for your convenience. We understand that by attending graduation events you are making great sacrifices with your time and money that require adequate planning. Your patience is much appreciated as we work to get the accurate graduation information to you as soon as possible.

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, OK. 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.

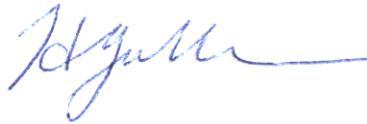
I'm enclosing some reference material containing answers to Frequently Asked Questions, links, and phone numbers that all contain information concerning the welfare of you and your Soldier. Please review it and feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I will do my very best to assist you in any matter relating to your Soldier.

The Battery also has a Facebook page where photos of your Soldiers in training will be uploaded on a weekly basis and you will have the opportunity to communicate with the Battery leadership as well as other family members. Questions may be directed through message service on the page and I will answer them as quickly as my work cycle allows. To access our Facebook page, search for "F Battery, 1st Battalion, 31st Field Artillery (BCT)" in the search block at the top of the Facebook home page. Your Soldier cannot be contacted through Facebook however you will be able to see their daily activities documented in photographs. Again, I encourage you to send your questions through the Facebook message service.

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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 and set out on the adventure that a life of service means. The support we have received from our families is invaluable. Thank you for the support you will provide your Soldier. It will propel them to success.



HUNTER A. GALLACHER
CPT, FA
Commanding

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1-BTRY Additional Duty Book