



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
BRAVO BATTERY, 1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION, 40<sup>TH</sup> FIELD ARTILLERY  
6050 NE ROTHWELL STREET  
FORT SILL, OKLAHOMA 73503

02 September 2016

Dear Friends and Family Members,

The Soldiers of Bravo Battery are proving their toughness every day. They are motivated, fit, knowledgeable, and ready to graduate! Before they do, however, there are still a couple more weeks of rigorous necessary training. This is the time of the cycle when families are anxious to make their travel plans to see their Soldier graduate. This letter will provide you with useful information in order to make your travel plans. You may want to consider not making travel purchases until you have heard from your Soldier that they will graduate. I will ensure your Soldier contacts you on the day they are eligible to graduate. When you make your travel plans, please keep in mind travel time to the airports; approximately 1.5 hours to Oklahoma City and 20 minutes to Lawton Regional Airport.

While you are here, we ask that you help preserve historical Fort Sill. Please wear appropriate attire. There is no dress code, but vulgar or distasteful slogans or exposures are not acceptable for these family events. All civilians and military personnel entering Fort Sill must present a valid driver's license or Military ID and Visitor Gate Pass at the gate. All personally owned vehicles are subject to search by Fort Sill Police. Personally owned firearms are not allowed on Fort Sill or at the graduation facility. Large bags, parcels, backpacks will not be permitted at these events. Use of cellular phones while driving on Fort Sill is strictly prohibited. Please cooperate with these measures.

**As of just recently, Fort Sill has instituted a new policy that requires all vehicles coming onto Fort Sill to either have a valid Military ID or a valid Driver's License with a current Visitors Pass. The Visitors Passes can be obtained either attached to this letter, or through the Fort Sill Visitor Control Center (VCC). Please note, only those friends and family members who do not have a current Visitors Pass will need to go to the Fort Sill VCC to obtain one. Battery Representatives will be posted at the VCC approximately 2 hours before the Family Day Ceremony and before any requested time that family members are expected to enter post. When going to the VCC, please go directly to the Drill Sergeant or Battery Representative that will be posted in the building to obtain a pass and do not wait and stand in line to be seen at the counters. You do NOT need to fill out any forms or have a background check completed to receive a pass at this time but the process will go faster if you have the FS Form 118A already complete. The address to the Fort Sill VCC is 6701 Sheridan Road, Fort Sill, OK 73503 which is located just outside post on Sheridan Road prior to entering into Bentley Gate.**

The Family Day Ceremony will begin at 09:00 a.m. on October 6th, 2016 at Bravo Battery, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 40<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Battalion's Drill Pad (see reference map). Family Day highlights your Soldier's achievements over the basic combat training cycle through a series of demonstrations on weapons, tactics, drill and ceremony, and physical fitness.

Then, I will provide essential information on the pass policies for Family Day and Graduation. At the conclusion of this ceremony, your Soldier will be released on pass.

The Graduation Ceremony will begin at 10:00 a.m. on October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at the Cache Creek Chapel located on Fort Sill. Exiting on Key Gate from the Highway, Family members will follow the Blue line which is painted on the road to parking for the Graduation ceremony. During the ceremony, please feel free to take pictures of your Soldier as they graduate. The graduating class will be seated together and will not have an opportunity to socialize during this time.

Here are the timelines for Family Day and Graduation:

Family Day: October 06, 2016

08:00 a.m.-09:00 a.m.	Arrival for Family Day Activities
09:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.	Family Day Ceremony
10:00 a.m.-7:50 p.m.	Pass Privileges
8:00 p.m.	Accountability Formation

Graduation: October 07, 2016

9:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m.	Doors Open and Seating in Cache Creek Chapel
10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.	Graduation Ceremony
12:00 p.m.-12:30 p.m.	13/14 series Soldiers Travel back to Battery
11:00 a.m.-7:50 p.m.	Pass Privileges
8:00 p.m.	Accountability Formation

Immediately following the graduation, we will release the Soldiers on pass; except for Soldiers remaining at Fort Sill (13 and 14 series MOSs). 13 series Soldiers will ship to 1-78 FA BN at 12:00 p.m. The families and friends of 13 series Soldiers need to attend a brief to sign their Soldier out on pass at 3:00 p.m. at 1-78 FA BN Headquarters' at (BLDG 2735 Bragg Street, Fort Sill, OK 73503). 14 series Soldiers will ship to 30<sup>th</sup> ADA BDE (BLDG 4402 Blair Street, Fort Sill, OK 73503) at 3:00 p.m. The families and friends of 14 series Soldiers can meet at the battery and follow their Soldier to 30<sup>th</sup> ADA BDE.

Soldiers with follow on assignments at different posts will be released after graduation and must report back at 8:00 p.m. for accountability. These Soldiers will be shipped that night to their follow on assignment. Soldiers will travel by government arranged travel to their follow on assignments.

I hope you enjoy your visit to the Lawton/Fort Sill Area. Lawton/Fort Sill offers a vast array of attractions. As you may know, Fort Sill is located in southwest Oklahoma and is surrounded by the Wichita Mountains. If you take a drive through the Wichita Mountains, you can visit several tourist sites, such as the Holy City and the Wildlife Refuge Center. In Lawton, you can enjoy the Great Plains Museum and enjoy some entertainment. On Fort Sill, you can tour Geronimo's Guard House and Gravesite, the Old Post Quadrangle Museum, and the U.S. Army Field Artillery Museum. You can find additional information about local hotels and restaurants in the Lawton/Fort Sill area at

the Chamber of Commerce website: <http://www.lawtonfortsillchamber.com/>. Additional information can be found at <http://sill-www.army.mil/INDEX/maps/>, <http://sill-www.army.mil/>, and <http://www.fortsillgraduation.com/index.asp>

You can contact me via telephone at any time at the following number (580) 442-1213 or the following email address [christopher.n.shepherd.mil@mail.mil](mailto:christopher.n.shepherd.mil@mail.mil). On behalf of the Battery's Cadre and Drill Sergeants, we look forward to meeting you and hope you enjoy your Soldier's graduation.

**ALL FOR ONE!**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CNS', written in a cursive style.

CHRISTOPHER N. SHEPHERD  
CPT, FA  
Commanding