



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 79th Field Artillery
434th Field Artillery Brigade
Fort Sill, Oklahoma 73503



Dear Family Member,

6 Nov 2012

I wanted to take this opportunity to pass along some information that may be helpful to you concerning your Soldier going through Basic Combat Training in the U.S. Army. I want you to know that the Drill Sergeants who will be training your Soldier are a very dedicated group of professionals, genuinely concerned about the health, welfare, and training of each Soldier. We consider our Soldiers to be the most important asset of the Army's future.

During this training period, Charlie Battery will learn basic Soldier skills that are required on the modern battlefield. The training will be very strenuous and demanding and the tasks performed will help to develop self-confidence.

Should an emergency arise, the best means of notifying your Soldier is through your local American Red Cross. The Field Office in your vicinity will contact the Lawton Field Office who, in turn, will contact me. Any emergencies affecting immediate family may result in emergency leave being granted. All other leaves of absence during training are not normally authorized.

Charlie Battery is scheduled to graduate on Thursday, January 31, 2013 at 10:00 am at Ft. Sill, OK. My next letter, which you will receive in around four weeks, will include more information as to the location as well as a map and a list of hotels in the area for your convenience. Please check with your Soldier before making definite plans.

If an emergency arises, in which I can be of assistance, please feel free to call or write. This office is open 24 hours a day. My address is 1LT Gregory K. Funk; Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 79th Field Artillery; U.S. Army Training Center; Ft. Sill, OK 73503. My telephone number is 580-442-1358 (we cannot accept collect calls). Please understand that we have over 200 Soldiers going through training and cannot provide individual updates. We also have a site on Facebook, which is located at "Charlie Battery 1-79 FA Basic Combat Training" which may also be helpful to you and your family.

GREGORY K. FUNK
1LT, FA
Commanding

Frequently Asked Questions / Concerns

-I have not heard from my Soldier in a few days.

We try to give Soldiers an opportunity to call home on Sundays after completion of their third week (Red Phase). This is dependent on time availability, however, as training and administrative requirements take priority. Most Sundays, however, Soldiers should have an opportunity to call home.

-I have sent mail to my Soldier which they have not received / my Soldier has sent mail that has not arrived.

The mail system for Basic training runs much slower than the typical civilian mail system. After arriving at the Post Office on Ft. Sill mail will be picked up and delivered to our higher headquarters and eventually picked up by the Battery. This usually adds a few days to the delivery time.

-My Soldier has not gotten paid.

All finance issues can be resolved by the Soldier and his platoon Drill Sergeants. Following the first pay period the Drill Sergeants will identify issues with Soldiers' pay. Soldiers need to bring up issues to their Drill Sergeant in order for them to be fixed. However, once they bring up the issue it can be resolved efficiently.

-How do I get tickets to Graduation / how many people can come to my Soldier's Graduation?

The Graduation ceremony is held in an auditorium either at Ft. Sill or in Lawton (the city outside Ft. Sill). There are no assigned seats, so no tickets are needed. Also, there is no limit on space available, so everyone is welcome to attend that would like to.

-I plan on coming to Graduation; can I get a list of hotels in the area and directions to Graduation?

As mentioned in the letter I will be sending out a second letter as we get closer to Graduation with pertinent information about the event. Included in this letter are maps to the Battery area on Ft. Sill and to the Graduation site, a list of hotels in the area, and a schedule of events for Family Day and Graduation.

When will I be able to see my Soldier at Graduation time?

There will be two opportunities to spend time with your Soldier. The day prior to Graduation is our Family Day demonstration. At the conclusion of this demonstration Soldiers will be given a day pass to spend with their family. Soldiers must remain in the

Lawton/Ft. Sill area and return to the Battery by 8:30 pm. Again, following the Graduation ceremony Soldiers will be given another day pass with the same restrictions as the Family Day pass.

-It's the first time my Soldier has been away and I just wanted to see how he was doing / make sure everything is okay.

As mentioned in the letter we train over 200 Soldiers each Basic Training class. The schedule is very demanding for both the trainees and the cadre training them. We truly do not have the resources or time available to provide individual updates on Soldiers. If there is an emergency or a Soldier is hospitalized we will contact their family.

-I want to write to my Soldier, what is their address?

(Soldier's name)
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