



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
CHARLIE BATTERY, 1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION, 79<sup>TH</sup> FIELD ARTILLERY,  
5960 NE ROTHWELL ST.  
FORT SILL, OKLAHOMA 73503-6200

ATSF-KG-C

03 Dec 2012

Dear Families and Friends,

On behalf of the Drill Sergeants and Cadre of Charlie Battery, I would like to wish you and yours a Happy Holiday season and a wonderful New Year. We know you are eagerly awaiting the return of your Soldier for Holiday Block Leave (HBL). This leave is a privilege and an important opportunity for your Soldier to be with their family and friends during this holiday season. We ask that you assist us with ensuring your Soldier remains safe while on leave, returning to the unit on time and ready to continue their training.

Holiday Block leave starts at 4 p.m. on December 19, 2012, and ends January 2, 2013. It is imperative your Soldier return no later than 9 p.m. January 2<sup>nd</sup> in order to continue training on time. Your Soldier has a return ticket and it's their responsibility to make it back on time. We also know travel can be unpredictable. In the event of a travel related situation that precludes your Soldier from returning as scheduled – such as weather delays or cancelled flight – please contact the Battalion Staff Duty at (580) 442-6549. We also ask you to contact the Battery First Sergeant or myself at (580) 442-1358 or 1326.

Should an emergency arise such as a death in the immediate family, you should notify us through your local American Red Cross office who will in turn contact us. In the unfortunate case your Soldier fails to return, they will be listed as absent without leave (AWOL). This is a violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, which carries consequences that will follow them for the rest of their military career. We have had a spotless record of Soldiers going AWOL and we hope to keep it this way.

If your Soldier requires emergency medical care, they should go to the closest treatment facility with their identification card. For any routine type medical issues your Soldier must call the TRICARE number within their specific region. The region designation and corresponding numbers are listed on the Holiday Block leave contact card provided to your Soldier prior to departing Fort Sill.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call or e-mail the battery First Sergeant at [jerry.morales1.mil@mail.mil](mailto:jerry.morales1.mil@mail.mil) or myself at [gregory.k.funk.mil@mail.mil](mailto:gregory.k.funk.mil@mail.mil) or call my office at (580) 442-1326 (this is a government phone number and cannot receive collect calls). During HBL, the Battery will only be operating during selected days from 7 a.m. – 12 p.m. If you cannot reach any battery personnel via phone, you may e-mail me in the event of an emergency. Training will resume on January 7<sup>th</sup>, and will continue until your Soldier has met all Initial Entry Training graduation requirements.

The support of family and friends is vital to the success of all Soldiers. Encourage your Soldier to continue training hard in order to achieve the goals they set prior to entering the Army. Have a safe Holiday Season; we look forward to continuing training with your Soldier upon their return.

Sincerely,

GREGORY K. FUNK  
1LT, FA  
Commanding Officer