



# BASIC TRAINING INFORMATION

## B BATTERY, 1-31<sup>ST</sup> FIELD ARTILLERY

### *“BANDITS”*



#### FROM THE COMMANDER

Dear Bandit Parents, Family Members, and Friends:

As the commander of Bravo Battery, 1-31 Field Artillery Battalion, I am sure you are all eager to hear that your Soldier is expected to graduate from Basic Combat Training in the upcoming weeks. Graduation is a two (2) day event, comprising of Family Day and Graduation Day.

#### TOWN HALL MEETING

Bravo Battery will host a **Town Hall Meeting on Tuesday at Cache Creek Chapel, 18 February 2020 at 6:00pm (Central Time)**. This will be an informative meeting where you can find out about the activities that will take place on Family Day and Graduation Day. All are invited to attend and no reservations (RSVP) are necessary.

#### FAMILY DAY

Bravo Battery will host **Family Day activities at Bravo BTRY, located at Building 5955 on Wednesday, 19 February 2020 at 9:00am (Central Time)**. Family Day is a time for the Soldiers to demonstrate the skills they have learned in the past nine (9) weeks. All are invited to attend and no reservations (RSVP) are necessary. Immediately following Family Day activities, Soldiers are granted a local pass to visit with family members and friends. Passes will be granted from 10:30 am to 8:00 pm. Soldiers must remain in the Lawton/Fort Sill area. Please do not worry; you will have more time with your Soldier after graduation.

#### GRADUATION DAY

**Graduation is scheduled for 10:00am (Central Time) on Thursday, 20 February 2020.** The ceremony will take place at the **Cache Creek Chapel**. Again, the event is open to all who wish to attend and no RSVP is necessary.

**If your Soldier is leaving Fort Sill** and going to another Army Post to conduct follow-up training, he/she will be granted a local pass immediately following graduation. Soldiers on pass are required to return to the Battery area **no later than 8:00 pm that evening**. Again, **Soldiers on pass are restricted to the Lawton/Fort Sill area.**

#### SOLDIER WITH FOLLOW-ON TRAINING IN FORT SILL

If your Soldier is conducting follow-on training with the Field Artillery or Air Defense Artillery here at Fort Sill, he/she will return to the Battery Area immediately following graduation. At that time, they will finish up any final paperwork with the Battery, then he/she will ship to their follow-on

training site here on Fort Sill. Typically, the Soldiers are given a weekend pass once they get to their schoolhouse. However, this is at the discretion of the follow-on command.

## **ARRIVING EARLY IN FORT SILL**

Please understand that, because your Soldier will still be training up to Family Day, you will not be able to see him/her until the **19 February 2020**. For those visitors who arrive early for graduation, I invite you to tour the best of the Lawton/Fort Sill community.

## **THINGS TO DO IN THE LAWTON/FORT SILL**

The Lawton/Fort Sill area offers a vast array of attractions. As you may already know, Fort Sill is located in southwest Oklahoma and is surrounded by the Wichita Mountain Wildlife Refuge, where you can still see live grazing buffalo. In the Lawton area, you can tour the Great Plains Museum. While on Fort Sill, you can visit Geronimo's Guard House and gravesite, the Old Post Quadrangle Museum, the Old Post Corral, the Prairie Crafters Store and Cannon Walk (with these historic sites, taking photographs and video are allowed). Furthermore, the Fort Sill Conference Center is the perfect location to obtain information on the various activities that are available to Soldiers and Families during Family and Graduation Day. The Fort Sill Conference Center is located immediately on your left after passing through Key Gate East.

## **TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS**

Please note that family members and other guests are responsible for their own travel arrangements. If you fly into the Lawton-Fort Sill Regional Airport, I suggest you rent a car or take a taxi as a means of transportation to your hotel and graduation activities. The airport has a limited supply of rental cars, so make your reservations early.

## **WHAT IF YOUR SOLDIER DOESN'T GRADUATE IN TIME?**

On occasion, trainees fail to graduate within the usual 9-week period. Therefore, we ask you that you continue to stay in contact with your Soldier as he/she will notify you if they are or aren't in track of graduating on time with the rest of the class.

## **SOME IMPORTANT NOTES**

1) The Soldiers will be very busy the last few days before graduation. I kindly ask that you do not make attempts to see your Soldier before Family Day Activities. Your Soldier will be very busy and, therefore, will not be released or allowed to see friends or family prior to that time.

2) Military Police guard every entrance to Fort Sill and conduct identification checks and/or vehicle inspections of all individuals traveling on post. This is to ensure the safety of the Soldiers and families who work and live here. **Bring proof of insurance, registration for your vehicle, visitor access pass, and a government issued ID for all adults (16 years and older) traveling to Fort Sill, as the gate guards will check these items as justification for your entrance.** Fort Sill policy states that no one will operate a vehicle while using a cell phone

(this includes texting). You may use hands free devices that only cover one ear, or pull off the road and come to a complete stop before using your phone. **The hours of Key Gate East are from 5 AM to 2 PM. Key Gate West is open 24 Hours.**

3) We ask that you park in the parking lots located close to the battery for the Graduation Ceremony. The area surrounding the Cache Creek Chapel Complex will be very congested and in order to make your trip safer and more enjoyable, please park in the parking lots located nearest to the battery.

4) It is permissible to photograph and videotape graduation activities, but this permission does not extend to the rest of Fort Sill. While photography is allowed for ceremonies and family or social events, unrestricted videotaping and photography by the public on the installation is prohibited. However, photography is allowed of historical exhibits at the Fort Sill Museum, including those which are outdoors, but prohibited near family quarters and office buildings. You are welcome to bring a camera to the graduation, but please exercise caution and do not point it in the direction of installation facilities, buildings and military equipment which are not part of the graduation activities.

**Please be aware that your Soldier will have travel arrangements made by the Army to go to their next duty station. Please check with your Soldier prior to making your own travel arrangements.**

#### **BATTERY CONTACT INFORMATION**

Please feel free to contact the Battery through the Battery Facebook page if there are any issues, concerns or questions.

Kindest regards,

JOSHUA R. HAGLER  
CPT, FA  
Commanding