



Basic Training Information

D/1-31st Field Artillery

“Demons”



CLASS# 63-21

07 July 2021 – 10 September 2021

FROM THE COMMANDER:

Please READ this ENTIRE letter, it contains important information that will answer most questions you may have about Basic Combat Training, both for you and about your Soldier.

Greetings! I am Captain Alexander C. Crosby, your Soldier's Battery Commander during Initial Entry Training into the United States Army. Your Soldier arrived safely at Fort Sill and will begin Basic Combat Training in my unit. During the ten-week training period, your Soldier will learn the basic skills that are required to survive and win on today's modern battlefield. The training will be very strenuous and demanding, but the tasks performed will help each Soldier develop the discipline and self-confidence necessary to be a successful Soldier in today's Army.

I want you to know that the Cadre who will train your Soldier are a very dedicated group of professionals who are genuinely concerned about the health, welfare, and training of each Soldier. We consider your Soldier to be the Army's most important asset, and I will personally ensure that we make your Soldier's basic training experience both challenging and rewarding.

YOU WILL HEAR FROM YOUR SOLDIER SOON!

By now, you should have already received a phone call from your Soldier. All Soldiers are given the opportunity to call home within the first 72 hours upon arrival to Delta Battery. Afterwards, Soldiers are occasionally afforded the **PRIVILEGE** to utilize the telephone; however, Soldiers may have this privilege revoked for poor performance or misconduct. I ask that you not attempt to contact your Soldier by phone. If there are any concerns regarding the health and welfare of your Soldier, a cadre member will personally let you know, or your Soldier will be allowed to call home.

YOUR SOLDIER WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Whether or not this is your Soldier's first time away from home, I am sure that your Soldier will miss you a great deal. I strongly encourage you to write at every opportunity. Your Soldier will have ample time to write you as well. When writing your Soldier, use the following address:

Rank, Last Name, First Name
Delta Battery, 1st BN, 31st Field Artillery
___Platoon (Example: 4th PLT), Class# 63-21
5955 Rothwell Street
Fort Sill, OK 73503-5001.

Mail delivery to Soldiers is **Extremely Slow**. This is a systemic problem and one that I'm sure may frustrate you when your Soldier has sent you letters and states that they have not received any packages from you. I **assure you** that we are doing everything we can to ensure your Soldiers receive their mail in a timely manner. Please be patient.

PLEASE REFRAIN FROM SENDING PACKAGES! Your Soldiers only have a small drawer to store personal items, and will not have space to keep items sent from home. **Your Soldier can buy everything he/she needs here at our local Post Exchange.** However, if you choose to send your Soldier a package, please observe the following guidelines:

These are CONTRABAND for your Soldiers while they are in Basic Combat Training.

- No alcohol or products containing alcohol, tobacco, or narcotics**
- No weapons**
- No radios, TV's, cameras, or other electronic devices**
- No pornographic or morally questionable materials**
- No magazines**
- No food items, candy, cookies, snacks, etc.** (These attract rodents and can cause a disease outbreak.)
- No MEDICATIONS** (Any medication (over-the-counter or prescription) will be provided by Army Medical professionals.)

WHAT CAN I DO TO ASSIST MY SOLDIER DURING TRAINING?

The best thing you can do is write as many encouraging letters as possible. Soldiers look forward to daily mail call. Small tasteful photos are also a great motivator for Soldiers.

HOW ARE THEY TREATING MY SOLDIER?

Today's Soldiers are treated fairly, firmly, with dignity and respect. Abuse of any kind is not tolerated. Drill Sergeants are selected from among the best Non-Commissioned Officers in the Army and are highly qualified to train recruits.

MAY MY SOLDIER ATTEND RELIGIOUS SERVICES?

Yes. Soldiers have the opportunity to attend weekly religious services of various denominations and bible study. Soldiers are also permitted to seek counseling from an Army Chaplain who is on call 24 hours a day.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY SOLDIER FAILS A PORTION OF BASIC TRAINING?

If a Soldier fails to meet any of the graduation requirements, every effort will be made for the Soldier to retake the portion he/she fails. In the event the Soldier cannot pass or retake that portion, he/she will be considered for a transfer (recycle) to another unit to complete the remaining training requirements. We will ensure that your Soldier is afforded the opportunity to callhome in order to keep you updated on his/her status.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES

Should an emergency arise, the best means of notifying your Soldier is through your local American Red Cross. The field office in your area will contact the Lawton, Oklahoma field office who will, in turn, contact me. In extreme cases, such as serious injury or death affecting immediate family members, an emergency leave of absence may be granted (case-by-case basis only). Other leaves of absence during training are not normally authorized.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY SOLDIER IS INJURED DURING TRAINING?

Should any injury occur, your Soldier will receive appropriate medical attention from Fort Sill's state of the art medical facilities. Additionally, Drill Sergeants are Combat Lifesaver qualified and carry medical aid kits. Injuries that prevent Soldiers from graduating will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Any Soldier who is injured during training and cannot complete the remaining training requirements will be transferred to the Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Program (PTRP) to recover. Once the Soldier recovers, he/she will be sent to another training unit to resume the portion of training he/she missed.

TOWN HALL, FAMILY DAY AND GRADUATION INFORMATION

The Town Hall meeting is an opportunity for you to talk to me (the Battery Commander) and the Battery First Sergeant and ask us any questions about proceedings of the next couple days. The **Town Hall** meeting will be held **via Live Stream at 09:00 A.M. Central Time on Wednesday, 08 September 2021.**

Provided your Soldier is not facing any administrative actions Family Day will be at **09:00 A.M. on Thursday, 9 September 2021** at the **Fort Sill Conference Center Parking Lot located at 6045 Sheridan Road, Lawton, OK 73503.**

Provided your Soldier meets all basic training requirements and is not facing any administrative actions your Soldier will **graduate at 09:30 A.M. on Friday, 10 September 2021** at **Fort Sill Polo Field located at 6322 NW Currie Road, Lawton, OK 73503.**

As the time gets closer, I will issue a graduation letter that will go into more detail about Demon Town Hall and Graduation. This will be posted on the Facebook page and website listed in this letter.

SHIPPING TO ADVANCED INDIVIDUAL TRAINING (AIT)

Your Soldier will ship to AIT beginning on **10 September 2021** (the day after graduation) via government-provided transportation. **No Soldier is authorized to proceed to AIT by any method other than what is coordinated by the government. Field Artillery and Air Defense Artillery Soldiers who are attending AIT here at Fort Sill will ship to their gaining unit by the afternoon of graduation. Passes are typically granted once AIT assumes responsibility of those Soldiers.**

BATTERY WEBSITE

The Battery maintains a webpage that is updated periodically. The website can be found at <http://sill-www.army.mil/434/1-31/delta/>. Also, a Battery Facebook page can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/D131FA/>. There, you can find weekly updates about your Soldiers' training, graduation information, directions, and maps of the Ft Sill/Lawton area. Every attempt will be made to post pictures of all Soldiers during their training. Although it is not possible to identify and label each individual Soldier in these pictures, we will do our best to have plenty of images for you to view.

BATTALION WEBSITE

The Battalion maintains multiple social media pages of all 5 Batteries that is updated regularly. The links are as follows Facebook <https://facebook.com/ProudAmericanBN/>, Instagram

https://www.instagram.com/1_31FA, Twitter https://twitter.com/1_31FA . There, you can find more pictures and videos of Trainees throughout their time in Basic Combat Training.

POINTS OF CONTACT

A great deal of information is published both on the Facebook page and a follow-up Graduation letter will be mailed later in the cycle. If this letter, the Facebook page, or the Graduation letter do not contain the information you need, or if there is a specific issue related to your Soldier, please feel free to contact any of the following people by phone, mail, or email (if you think it can be answered on the Facebook Page, please ask your questions there).

***///ORIGINAL SIGNED///
Battery Executive Officer
1LT Maxwell Parsons
Demon 5***

***///ORIGINAL SIGNED///
Battery First Sergeant
1SG James Hammack
Demon 7***

***///ORIGINAL SIGNED///
Battery Commander
CPT Alexander Crosby
Demon 6***

Useful Websites:

Agency: Adventure Travel
Website: www.fortsillgraduations.com
Phone #: 580-250-4040 or 800-540-9030
Email: travel@adv-travel.com
Hours: Monday-Friday 9am to 5 pm
Saturday 10 am to 3 pm
Sunday: Closed
Address: 4700 Mow-Way Road, #154
Fort Sill, OK 73503

www.sill.armymwr.com

www.sill.armymwr.com/programs/visitor-control-cen

www.fortsilltravel.com

