



## DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

D Battery, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 79th Field Artillery  
434<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade  
5970 South Boundary Road  
Fort Sill, Oklahoma 73503-6204



ATSF-KG-D

10 JUNE 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR Family and Friends of 434<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade

SUBJECT: Basic Combat Training Family Day and Open Graduations

Greetings from the Fires Center of Excellence, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, home of the Field Artillery. My name is Miguel A. Oquendo and I am the commander of Delta Battery, 1-79 Field Artillery Battalion. I am informing you that the 434<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade will be conducting in person graduations for class 50-21. The intent is to openly recognize the accomplishments of your Soldiers by conducting safe graduation ceremonies while maintaining COVID-19 protocol safeguards with no significant increase in COVID positive graduates upon arrival at their first unit of assignment or follow-on training.

Family Day will occur one day prior to the graduation date. During Family Day, guests will pick up their Soldier at the Fort Sill Conference Center, 6045 Sheridan Rd, Fort Sill, OK 73503, within the 434<sup>th</sup> FA footprint by entering Key Gate East. Guests will need to show a valid state or federally issued identification at the entrance to gain access to the installation. Once cleared, guests will pick up their Soldier and travel to an on or off post establishment for leisure time. Pickup will be at 0900 (9:00 a.m.) and Soldiers will need to be returned to the pickup location prior to 2000 (8:00 p.m.). While on pass, please ensure your Soldier maintains his or her military bearing during their time with you. They are no longer only representing themselves, but this unit, Fort Sill, the United States Army, and this nation. Please do not purchase contraband items for your Soldier or allow your Soldier to purchase, or consume these items while on pass. These items include, but are not limited to: tobacco products, drugs, alcohol, electronics, body spray, perfume, body piercing, tattoos, and pornographic material. Do not allow your Soldier to drive any vehicles. Do not use a cell phone while driving on post. Do not allow your Soldier to use their cell phones while walking in uniform. Do not take your soldier into any casinos in the pass area. All Soldiers will be held accountable for their actions.

Graduation ceremonies will begin promptly at 0930 (09:30 a.m.) on the Friday of the designated graduation week at the Fort Sill Polo Field. Following each outdoor graduation ceremony, guests will be allowed to spend time with their Soldiers in a designated area until 1145 (11:45 a.m.) of graduation day. It is highly recommended that you bring chairs, coolers (no alcohol), and umbrellas for shade for post-graduation activities in order to maximize social distancing. At 1200 (12:00 p.m.) all trainees will depart back to their unit area of operation to prepare to ship to their Advanced Individual Training (AIT) location. In case of inclement weather, indoor graduations will be held at the Cache Creek Chapel Complex at 0930. In the event that a graduation ceremony is moved indoors, only 2 family members over the age of 12 years old are authorized for attendance. Children younger than 12 are welcome to attend. Please arrive prior to start time of the graduation ceremony. Immediately following an indoor graduation, families will be provided 15 minutes to congratulate their new Soldier. Family travel to AIT is not authorized.

During Family Day and graduation, Department of Emergency Services will conduct in lane vetting through Key Gate between the hours of 0800-1000 (8:00 a.m. -10:00 a.m.) for all travelers 18 and over, and 17 year olds who are driving. This will alleviate the requirement to go to the Visitor Control Center for a pass. Please be aware that many rental car locations may not be open prior to 0900 (09:00 a.m.). Make sure to plan out your trip in advance.

A person may be denied access to Fort Sill if any criminal arrest information about the individual causes the garrison commander to determine that the individual presents a potential threat to the good order, discipline, or health and safety on the installation.

Please contact the Visitor Control Center for any other questions or concerns relating to access to Fort Sill. The number is (580) 442-9602/9603/9604. Keep in mind that they are very busy especially on Wed, Thurs, and Fri.

We look forward to meeting all of you and hope you are able to attend your Soldier's graduation. Thank you for the support of your Soldier!

////ORIGINAL SIGNED////

Miguel A. Oquendo

CPT, FA

Commanding