



# Basic Training Information

## Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion 22nd Field Artillery



**14 February 2024 – 19 April 2024 CLASS# 25-24**

### **FROM THE COMMANDER:**

Greetings! I am CPT Jon Tait R. Ortiz, your Soldier's Battery Commander during Initial Entry Training into the United States Army. Your Soldier has 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!**

Your Soldier has recently completed 15 days of Controlled Monitoring and will begin week three of Basic Training. All Soldiers are given the opportunity to call home at this time. Afterwards, Soldiers are occasionally afforded the PRIVILEGE to utilize the telephone (usually during weekends after their third week of training); However, Soldiers may have this privilege revoked due to poor performance or misconduct. I ask that you do not attempt to contact your Soldier by phone. If there are any concerns regarding the health and welfare of your Soldier, I 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**  
**Bravo Btry 1-22 Field Artillery**  
\_\_\_\_ PLT, Class# **25-24**  
**6007 Rothwell Street**  
**Fort Sill, OK 73503-5001.**

**(Your Soldier should have let you know what PLT he/she is in)**

Packages are generally not permitted because 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:

- ✓ **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 or books**
- ✓ **No liquids, food items, candy, cookies, snacks, etc. (this attracts rodents and can cause a disease outbreak)**

**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.**

The following items are authorized and great items to send:

- Stamps
- Paper and envelopes
- Unscented hygiene items
- Special laundry soap
- COVID-19 mask (solid, black only with no logos)

## **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 mail call. Small tasteful photos are also a great motivator for Soldiers.

## **HOW ARE THEY TREATING MY SOLDIER?**

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

## **MAY MY SOLDIER ATTEND RELIGIOUS SERVICES?**

Absolutely. Soldiers have the opportunity to attend weekly religious services of various denominations and bible study after Controlled Monitoring. Soldiers are also permitted to seek counseling from an Army Chaplain who is on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

## **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 in order to complete the remaining training requirements. If a Soldier fails the final ACFT, (Army Combat Fitness Test) every effort will be made to provide that Soldier an opportunity to retake the ACFT. Passing the ACFT is a graduation requirement and if he/she still cannot pass prior to graduation, the Soldier may be assigned to the Fitness Training Unit (FTU). Upon passing the ACFT at FTU, the Soldier will move on to his/her Advanced Individual Training (AIT). We will ensure that your Soldier is afforded the opportunity to call home in order to keep you updated on his/her status.

## **IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES**

If a true emergency arises at home (i.e. serious injury, illness, or death of a family member) please call the American Red Cross Emergency Communications Center, for help 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days in a year, at **1-800-RED-CROSS** and follow the instructions for contacting a military service member, in order to quickly get the message to the unit and the Trainee. The field office in your area will contact the Lawton, Oklahoma field office who will, in turn, contact us. In extreme cases, such as serious injury or death affecting immediate family members, an emergency leave of absence may be granted, (this is case-by-case basis only). Other leaves of absence during training are not normally authorized.

## **WHAT HAPPENS IF MY TRAINEE TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 DURING TRAINING?**

After testing positive for COVID-19, the Trainee is moved to our COVID Operations unit known as Task Force Phoenix for a minimum of 5 days per Center of Disease Control (CDC) guidance. Once the Trainee is asymptomatic for 3 days, they will return to their unit. Our goal is to get the Trainee caught up on training requirements so they can graduate with their unit however, in some instances depending on the events missed the Trainee might have to be recycled to another unit, which would change their graduation date.

## **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 Warrior Training Rehabilitation Program (WTRP) to recover. Once the Soldier recovers, he/she will be sent to another training unit to resume the portion of training he/she missed.

## **FAMILY DAY AND GRADUATION INFORMATION**

Provided your Soldier meets all basic training requirements, Family Day will be held at **09:00 AM on Thursday, April 18th, 2024** at Destroyer Park, and Graduation will be at **10:30 AM on Friday, 19th April, 2024** at the Polo Field on Fort Sill. Both ceremonies will be live streamed as well. The links will be included in the graduation letter. I understand that you will want to make travel plans early in order to get the best travel deals. However, please talk to your Soldier at every opportunity regarding his/her graduation status. I recommend that you **DO NOT** make any plans or travel arrangements which cannot be changed or canceled until you have received notice from your Soldier that he/she will graduate. Your Soldier should know his/her graduation status by the end of the 8th week of training (**week of 2nd April**).

As the time gets closer, I will issue a graduation letter that will go into more detail about Family Day and Graduation. This will also be posted on the website listed in this letter.

## **SHIPPING TO ADVANCED INDIVIDUAL TRAINING (AIT)**

Your Soldier will ship to AIT beginning on **April 20th, 2024** (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.** 13 Series (Field Artillery), 14 Series (Air Defense Artillery), 94M (Radar Repair), 94S (Patriot System Repairer) series Soldiers who are attending AIT here at Fort Sill will ship to their gaining unit by the afternoon of graduation day, **April 19th, 2024**. After graduation, shipping dates to AIT are TENTATIVE due to current COVID-19 procedures.

## **BATTERY WEBSITE**

The Battery Facebook Page can be found below. Also, our Battalion Facebook page. There, you can find occasional updates about your Soldiers' training, graduation information, directions, and maps of the Ft. Sill-Lawton area. Occasional photos will be posted of your 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.

Graduation Livestream: [www.livestream.com/firescenter](http://www.livestream.com/firescenter)

Brigade Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ftsillbasictraining](http://www.facebook.com/ftsillbasictraining)

Battalion Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/1stBN22ndFA/>

Battery Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BravoBrutes>

Battery website: <https://sill-www.army.mil/434/1-22/bravo/>

## **POINTS OF CONTACT**

The best way to communicate with us is through the Facebook page. However, if you have an extremely important, sensitive, time urgent message, please look below for our e-mail. We attend as many training events as possible to witness firsthand your Trainees transforming into the Army's next Soldiers, but we do check our e-mail often.

Battery Commander: CPT Jon Tait R. Ortiz

Email: [jontait.r.ortiz.mil@army.mil](mailto:jontait.r.ortiz.mil@army.mil)

First Sergeant: 1SG Vernon L. Hindsman

Email: [vernon.l.hindsman.mil@army.mil](mailto:vernon.l.hindsman.mil@army.mil)

In closing, transforming your Trainee from a Civilian into a Soldier is our mission. Without them, we would not be here. We will do whatever it takes to see that your Trainee is successful, but your son or daughter must possess the desire to become part of the U.S. Army. Encourage your Trainee to succeed and they will, just like the many who have come before them.

Respectfully,

Jon Tait R. Ortiz  
CPT, FA  
Commanding