



# Basic Training Information

## E/1-31<sup>ST</sup> Field Artillery



### **FROM THE COMMANDER:**

Greetings! I am Captain Joshua C. Onadeko, 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.

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 Drill Sergeants 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 personally ensure that your Soldier's basic training experience will be 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 Basic Combat Training. 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 time to write you as well. When writing your Soldier, use the following address:

Rank Last Name, First Name  
Ech BTRY, 1-31 Field Artillery  
\_\_\_\_ PLT, Class# 73-24  
5960 Rothwell Street  
Fort Sill, OK 73503

**\*(Your Soldier should have let you know what PLT they are in)**

Packages are generally not permitted because your Soldier can buy everything needed here at our local Post Exchange. However, if you choose to send your Soldier a package, please observe the following guidelines:

- X No alcohol or products containing alcohol, tobacco, or narcotics
- X No weapons
- X No medications (cough drops, ibuprofen, etc.)
- X No radios, TV's, cameras, cell phones, or other electronic devices
- X No pornographic or morally questionable materials
- X No magazines or books
- X **No food items, candy, cookies, snacks, etc. (this attracts rodents and can cause a disease outbreak)**

The following items are the authorized items:

- ✓ Stamps
- ✓ Paper and envelopes
- ✓ Unscented hygiene items
- ✓ Laundry soap
- ✓ COVID-19 masks (solid, neutral color only with no logos)

**PLEASE REFRAIN FROM SENDING PACKAGES! Your Soldier will not be allowed to maintain unauthorized items in their personal lockers.**

### **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 Noncommissioned 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. 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 failed portion. In the event the Soldier cannot pass or retake that portion, they will be considered for a transfer (recycle) to another unit in order to complete the remaining training requirements. Upon graduating with that unit, the Soldier will move on to Advanced Individual Training (AIT). We will ensure that your Soldier is afforded the opportunity to call home in order to keep you updated on their 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 Fort Sill, 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 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, they will be sent to another training unit to resume the missed portion of training.

## **FAMILY DAY AND GRADUATION INFORMATION**

Provided your Soldier meets all basic training requirements, Family Day will be held at **9:00 AM on Thursday, the day before graduation** and Graduation will be at **09:30 AM on Friday**. Your Soldier should know their graduation status by the end of the 9th week of training. As the time gets closer, I will issue a graduation letter that will go into more detail about Family Day and Graduation. This letter will also be posted on the Facebook page and website listed in this letter.

Family Day and Graduation have opened back up to IET families; however, there are still regulations and safety precautions we must follow. Both ceremonies will also be live-streamed for you to watch for anyone that will not be physically present. Family Day will be on the Battery Facebook page, and Graduation will be on the Fort Sill Livestream page. Details will be sent out in the graduation letter. Please wait for confirmation from your Trainee that they will graduate and check the Facebook page for changes before making any travel plans.

## **BATTERY WEBSITE**

The Battery maintains a webpage that is updated periodically. The website can be found at <https://sill-www.army.mil/434/1-31/echo/> Also, the Battery Facebook page can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/E131FA/>. There, you can find regular updates about your Soldiers' training and graduation information. Every attempt will be made to post pictures of 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.

## **POINTS OF CONTACT**

The best way to communicate with us is through the Facebook page. I highly recommend you use that for any communication because this will allow others to view our communication. The chances are high that others will have the same question, and this will provide me a way to send messages to all family members at the same time. 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.

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