



Department of the Army

Golf Battery, 1st Battalion, 31st Field Artillery



Basic Combat Training

Greetings from the Fires Center of Excellence, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, home of the Field Artillery. The Trainees of Golf Battery are proving their toughness every day. They have become more knowledgeable, motivated, and fit to be an American Soldier. We are coming to the end of the training, and now it is time to look forward to graduation. The last graduation requirement is called the FORGE and happens in week nine of training. Remember, no news is good news! Your Trainee will be allowed to call home and communicate their status to you. There is no need to call asking for the information. Family Day will occur on the Thursday before graduation, at 9:00 a.m. Guests will be able to pick up their Trainee following the Family Day Celebration at Destroyer Park. You will be able to access the post through Key Gate East. Gates will open for access at 5:00 a.m. Your Trainee's pass will start at 9:30 a.m., and they will need to return to the battery before 8:00 p.m. While on pass, please ensure your Trainee maintains their military bearing during their time with you. They are no longer only representing themselves, but this unit, Fort Sill, the United States Army, and the Nation. Do not purchase contraband items for your Trainee, or allow your Trainee to purchase or consume these items while on the 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 Trainee to drive any vehicles. Do not use a cell phone while driving on the installation. Your Trainee is not allowed to use their cell phones while walking in uniform. Do not take your Trainee to play in any casinos. All trainees will be held accountable for their actions. Key Gate East closes at 6:00 p.m., so use Scott gate and take Bessinger St to cross under the Interstate. We suggest keeping up with Oklahoma weather that week and plan accordingly.

We will conduct graduation indoors at Cache Creek Chapel at 11:00 a.m. Please arrive before the start time of the graduation ceremony. You will access the post through Key Gate East. We highly recommend that guests carpool to mitigate the effects of limited parking. Only two family members over age 13 are authorized to attend. All children 12 and under are welcome to attend. If we have additional space, we will allow more guests. Immediately following indoor graduation, families will have time to congratulate their new Soldier. Following each graduation ceremony, guests will be allowed to spend time with their Trainee. Trainees will not be allowed to leave post and must stay in the immediate area. There will be an optional event at the Battery to demonstrate the Basic Training Experience to family members and also food trucks in the area. FAMILY TRAVEL TO AIT IS NOT AUTHORIZED.

During Family Day and Graduation, the Department of Emergency Services will conduct in-lane vetting. Vetting can ONLY happen through Key Gate East. Attendees 18 and older (16 and older if driving) will need to show a valid State ID, Military ID, or U.S.

passport at the entrance to gain access to the installation. In-lane vetting will last from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. You do not need to go to the visitor center for a pass on post. If you have a felony or warrant, please reach out to the Visitor Center for post access approval. Their number is 580-442-9604.

The purpose of Family and Graduation Day is to openly recognize the accomplishments of your Trainees who have worked hard in the last ten weeks. Your Trainee will be able to call with any updated information. We look forward to meeting you and hope you can attend your Trainee's graduation. Welcome to the Army Team.

Thank you for your continual support!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan McBain", written in a cursive style.

DANIEL R. MCBAIN
CPT, FA
Commanding