



Department of the Army  
C Battery, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 40<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery  
434<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade  
5955 Rothwell Street  
Fort Sill, Oklahoma 73503-6204



Dear Family and Friends:

Greetings from the Fires Center of Excellence, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, home of the Field Artillery. The Trainees of Chaos Battery are proving their toughness every day. They have become more fit, knowledgeable, and motivated 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, which is a culminating exercise and takes place in Week 8. 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 information. Family Day will occur on June, 4, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. Guests will be able to pick up their Soldier at Gauntlet Field. You will access the installation through Key Gate East, which will open for access at 7:00 a.m. and will remain open until 1:00 p.m. Your Soldier's pass will start at 9:00 a.m., and they will need to return to the battery before 8:00 p.m. When returning from Family Day you will need to enter through Key Gate West.

We want you and your Soldier to enjoy your time together, but there are some rules your Soldier must obey. While on pass, please ensure your Soldier 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 Soldier or allow your Soldier to purchase, consume, or take part in 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 Soldier to drive any vehicles. While you are driving on the installation, it is against the law to use your cell phone without a hands-free device. Your Soldier is not allowed to use their cell phones while walking in uniform. Do not take your Soldier to enter or gamble at any casinos. If you are staying at a casino hotel, your Soldier must enter through the hotel lobby, not the casino lobby. Your Soldier must stay within Lawton, Elgin, Cache, and Medicine Park area. All Soldiers will be held accountable for their actions.

Graduation ceremonies will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. at the Cache Creek Chapel Complex. You will once again access to the installation through Key Gate East. We highly recommend that guests carpool, to mitigate limited parking. Following the graduation ceremony, guests will be allowed to spend time with their Soldier at Destroyer Park until 12:00 p.m. We encourage families to bring chairs, coolers (no alcohol), and blankets for post-graduation activities. There will also be food trucks to purchase food and drinks from. We also suggest keeping up with the beautiful ever changing Oklahoma weather that week and plan accordingly. At 12:00 p.m., all Soldiers will depart back to their unit to prepare to ship to their Advance Individual Training (AIT)

location.

**FAMILY TRAVEL TO AIT IS NOT AUTHORIZED**

As a reminder for those that have a trainee in the Split Option Program, If you have confirmed that your trainee is traveling home with you, after the conclusion of the graduation ceremony we will provide instructions on where to go and to collect your trainees' belongings and to sign them out. Once you are back home, please remember that your trainee will have to contact the Battery and confirm they have made it safely home for accountability purposes.

**ACCESS TO FORT SILL:**

As of May 7, 2025, you will need a REAL ID to gain access to Fort Sill. During Family Day and Graduation, you will need to go online to the Visitor Welcome Center website or in person and obtain a pass to gain access to Post. If you do not have a REAL ID, you may present two forms of acceptable ID, such as a non-compliant driver's license + U.S. Passport or Veterans Health ID Card, additionally, if you have military identification card (Military Retiree or Dependent ID or DOD Common Access Card), you can use these cards for installation access. If you are presenting a Foreign Passport, you will need to contact the Visitor Welcome Center ahead of time to receive and complete the extra steps required to get a pass and access to Post. If you have a felony or warrant, please contact the Visitor Welcome Center for post access approval. Their number is 580-442-9604 or visit their website at <https://sill-www.army.mil/vcc>.

Your Trainee will also be given opportunities to call with any updated information. We look forward to meeting you and hope you can attend your Soldier's graduation. For those who are not able to attend the graduation in person we are going to livestream it at: <https://www.youtube.com/@USArmyFortSill/streams>

Welcome to the Army Family! Thank you for your continual support!

Very Respectfully,

\\ Original Signed //  
EDWIN L PITTS III  
CPT, FA  
Commanding