



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ECHO BATTERY, 1ST BATTALION, 79TH FIELD ARTILLERY
5970 S. BOUNDARY RD.
FORT SILL, OKLAHOMA 73503-4558

ASTF-KG-E

14 JUN 2024

MEMORANDUM FOR: Family and Friends of Class #54-24

SUBJECT: Welcome Letter, Class #54-24

Greetings from the Fires Center of Excellence at Fort Sill, Oklahoma!

My name is Captain Tucker Williams, the commander of Echo "ELITE" Battery, 1st Battalion, 79th Field Artillery Regiment. My Battery First Sergeant is First Sergeant Timothy S. Blair. I am pleased to write you concerning your Soldier who has been stationed here for Basic Training. Your Soldier is doing well and should have had an opportunity to contact you by the time you read this. Soldiers will have minimal phone privileges for at least the first four training weeks. After that initial period, they will have phone privileges regularly for a limited amount of time on Sundays if they are in a good training and disciplinary status.

We are extremely proud your Trainee has volunteered to join a time-honored profession of service to our nation in the United States Army. Over the next nine weeks, your family member will begin the transformation from a civilian to a Soldier in the United States Army. Your Trainee will learn the basic skills required to fight and win on today's modern battlefield. The training will be strenuous and demanding but will result in your Trainee developing discipline, self-confidence, and mental fortitude which will lead them to success in the future.

I want you to know that the Drill Sergeants and Cadre are extremely professional and dedicated to the care, safety, and training of your Soldier. They are selected from the top 10% of all noncommissioned officers in the U.S. Army within their branch and undergo rigorous training and certification to conduct training. The next nine weeks will be challenging for your Soldier, but we will do all that we can to ensure their success and give them a solid start to their military careers.

I am extremely dedicated to keeping Family and friends updated on their progress and I invite you to "Like" us on our unit Facebook page. Here, you will be able to find pictures, videos, and general updates on your Soldiers. I invite you to place wall posts to one another but please keep in mind that the primary purpose of this site is to keep family and friends informed. Please do not follow any links posted on the page. We will never charge you to view the Battery graduation. You can find us on Facebook at "Echo Battery, 1-79 FA Basic Combat Training." The battery webpage can be viewed at <http://sill-www.army.mil/434/1-79/echo/>. **The Facebook page will be the primary outlet for the dissemination of information to family and friends.**

I recommend each family enroll in the Army Family Team Building (AFTB). It is an online class for you to familiarize yourself with Army information and language. This course will pay dividends for you and your Soldier when you meet again.

Your Soldiers are extremely busy, but we try to make time for them to contact you electronically. This is not always possible due to training requirements so, I encourage you to write to your Soldiers.

A little bit of encouragement from home goes a long way. Please send letters. Care packages are allowed, but do not send packages with contraband items (tobacco, vapes, controlled substances, alcohol, pornography, food, medication, candy (to include cough drops, etc.)). Packages are opened by the addressee in the presence of a Drill Sergeant and subsequently screened for these items.

Letters should be addressed to:

(Line 1): Your Soldier's Name

(Line 2): 1st Platoon, Echo Battery, 1-79FA (Ask your Soldier for their Platoon#)

(Line 3): 5970 South Boundary Rd

(Line 4): Fort Sill, OK 73503

I highly encourage you to attend Family Day on the 15th of August 2024 at 9:00AM, and Graduation scheduled for the 16th of August 2024 at 9:00 AM. I will send out more detailed Family Day/Graduation information approximately one month before graduation. You can also find information on Ft. Sill and the Lawton, OK area through the Lawton Chamber of Commerce website. I recommend that you arrive by 14 AUG.

Graduation is a privilege granted to those Soldiers who are mentally and physically tough enough to complete basic training. Unfortunately, not all Soldiers find themselves able to meet our demanding standards. As we progress further into basic training, please have honest conversations with your Soldier about their progress as their performance will have an impact on whether or not they graduate.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or to alert the unit of an emergency situation regarding your Soldier or their *immediate* family. Our office telephone number is (580) 442-1317 and will normally be answered 24 hours a day. If the previous phone number is not answered and there is a true emergency, my higher headquarters can be contacted at (580) 442-1300, which is also manned 24 hours a day. As a last resort if an emergency arises, contact the American Red Cross. It is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year at 1-800-733-2767. Follow the instructions for contacting a military service member in order to

quickly get the message to the Unit and Trainee. In extreme cases, such as serious injury or death of an immediate family member, an emergency leave of absence may be granted in a case-by-case basis.

For Soldier specific information of a non-emergency nature, I invite you to email me at tucker.j.williams3.mil@army.mil. I attend as many training events as possible, but do check email often and will respond when able.

Once again, thank you for entrusting our organization with the care of your Trainee. I look forward to meeting you and hope you are able to attend your Soldier's graduation. Thank you for supporting your Soldier!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tucker J. Williams', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tucker J. Williams
Captain, Field Artillery
Commanding