



Department of the Army
Echo Battery, 1st Battalion, 79th Field Artillery
434th Field Artillery Brigade
5970 South Boundary Road
Fort Sill, Oklahoma 73503-4558

Dear Family and Friends:

Greetings from the Fires Center of Excellence, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, home of the Field Artillery. The Trainees of Echo 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. 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 Thursday, April 6, 2023, at 8:00am. Guests will be able to pick up their Trainee at Echo Battery, located at 5970 South Boundary Road, Fort Sill, OK 73503. Please follow signs for Echo 1-79. You will access the Post through Key Gate East. Gates will open for access at 8:00 a.m. **Your Trainee's pass will start at 8:00 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 this 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 piercings, 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 phone while walking in uniform. Do not take your Trainee to play in any casinos. **All Trainees will be held accountable for their actions.**

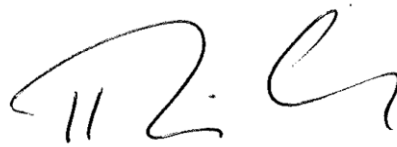
Graduation ceremonies will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. on April 7, 2023, at the Fort Sill Polo Field. You will access the Post through Key Gate West. We highly recommend that guests carpool to mitigate limited parking. Following each outdoor graduation ceremony, guests will be allowed to spend time with their Trainee on the

Polo Field until noon. We encourage families to bring chairs, coolers (no alcohol), and umbrellas for shade for post-graduation activities. At 12:15 pm, all Trainees will depart back to their unit area of operation to prepare to ship to their Advance Individual Training location. **FAMILY TRAVEL TO AIT IS NOT AUTHORIZED.**

Depending on the weather, we may conduct in-door graduation at the Cache Creek Chapel Complex. Please monitor the Echo Battery, 1-79 FA Facebook Page for any last-minute changes. Immediately following indoor graduation, families have 15 minutes to congratulate their new Soldier.

During Family Day and Graduation, the Department of Emergency Services will conduct in-lane vetting. Vetting can ONLY happen through Key Gate East and Key Gate West. Attendees 18 and older (16 and older if driving) will need to show a valid state ID or U.S. passport at the entrance to gain access to the installation. If you have military identification, you can use this card for post access. 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 base. If you have a felony or warrant, please reach out to the Visitor Center for post access approval. Their number is 580-442-9604.

If any information gets updated, you can find it on the Battery Facebook page. **Please remember not to click on any links or follow any guidance that is published by anyone other than the Echo Battery, 1-79 FA Facebook Page.** Your Trainee will also be able to call with any updated information. We look forward to meeting you and hope you can attend your Trainee's graduation. Thank you for your continual support!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Chen' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Devin L. Chen

CPT, FA

Commanding