



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, 1ST BATTALION, 34TH INFANTRY REGIMENT  
• 12000 DIXIE ROAD  
FORT JACKSON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29207-5200



29 October 2012

Dear Family and Friends of Soldiers of the *Leyte Dragons* of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment (1-34<sup>th</sup> IN REGT).

Greetings from Fort Jackson!

Your Soldier has arrived safely at Fort Jackson, South Carolina and is assigned to 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, for Basic Combat Training. 1-34<sup>th</sup> IN REGT has a long distinguished history of service dating back to 1916 and enjoys the reputation as one of the best battalions at Fort Jackson.

As you know, Basic Combat Training is not easy. It is a challenging experience that transforms volunteers into trained, disciplined, physically fit and motivated Soldiers who espouse the Seven Army Values, understand the importance of teamwork and who are determined to complete their initial enlistment. For many Soldiers, the ten weeks with 1-34<sup>th</sup> IN REGT will be the toughest thing they have ever accomplished in their lives. I assure you that our Drill Sergeants and Officers, who are an absolutely first rate team of professional Soldiers, will do their best to assist in this transformation. We're honored to be your Soldier's first unit in the Army.

Your Soldier has committed themselves to the Army and we will challenge them to ensure they train to meet the Army standard. We encourage you to foster their morale with supportive mail and correspondence. In the event that an emergency arises involving an immediate Family member that requires your Soldier's presence, contact the American Red Cross at 1-877-272-7337. The Red Cross will contact the Battalion and assist the Soldier in returning home on leave. Please make sure you keep this Red Cross number so you have it readily available should the need arise. We will not be able to assist you without Red Cross verification.

**During Basic Combat Training, we curtail certain privileges such as the use of phones, receiving food items in the mail and visitation. While in our care, we will provide your Soldier quality meals in the dining facilities. Because of this and for health reasons, we do not permit Soldiers to receive, possess, or store food.**

**You and your guests are invited to attend the Graduation events at Fort Jackson, South Carolina on December 19th, 2012.** Over the next several weeks, your Soldier will make significant progress in the important areas of discipline, character, values, marksmanship, physical and mental conditioning, and teamwork, bringing them one step closer to their goal of graduating Basic Combat Training. No doubt, the prospect of these achievements makes you very proud and we hope you will join us in the celebration of your Soldier's accomplishments. We would like for you to share in the spirit of patriotism and express camaraderie with your Soldier as well as the Families of other Soldiers from across the Nation. We invite you to Fort Jackson for a fun-filled day to see what Army Basic Combat Training is all about it and witness your Soldier's tremendous accomplishments! ***WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR ARRIVAL!***

The Graduation events span two days, as an **exception** for the upcoming holiday **Family Day** will be held on **Tuesday** and the **Graduation** ceremony will be held on **Wednesday**. This will be an exciting time for the Soldiers and yourselves and we trust that they will be on their best behavior during these two special events and that you will support them adhering to the standards and appreciate their discipline.

**Family Day** will take place at Hilton Field, scheduled to begin at **10:00am** on **Tuesday, December 18th, 2012**. There will be a short series of military orientation speeches and demonstrations by the Battalion. Upon completion of the ceremony you will meet with your Soldier. Your Soldier may then be authorized a **pass** allowing you to spend the remainder of the day with them while experiencing the amenities and military life on the installation. Soldiers **are not** allowed to leave post on Family Day **"NO EXCEPTIONS"** (see Note 1). **\*Please monitor our facebook site: <http://www.facebook.com/134AlwaysForward> for any changes.** On **Tuesday** evening, we will also host a Graduation banquet in your Soldier's honor, either at the Officer's Club or NCO Club. I hope you can join your Soldier at this meal and meet some of the cadre. Your Soldier will also be required to attend a mandatory Red Cross, Family Readiness Group, and Army Community Services brief held at their Company at **7:30 pm**, which you may also attend.

The 1-34th Infantry Regiment **Graduation Ceremony** will take place at **Hilton Field at 10:00 am on Wednesday morning, December 19th, 2012**. This is when your Soldier will officially join the long line of distinguished men and women who, since 1775, have defended our freedom. We expect to graduate approximately 1,200 Soldiers. In case of inclement weather, Graduation will be held at the Solomon Center (SAC). Map of Fort Jackson and all Graduation activities location will be provided at the front gate. The inclement weather Graduation time for **Alpha and Bravo is 10:00 am-11:00 am, Charlie and Delta is 11:30 am- 12:30 pm, and Echo and Foxtrot Company is 1:00 pm-2:00 pm**.

Upon conclusion of the Graduation on **Wednesday, December 19th, 2012** Soldiers with Family members present may depart after receiving their departure instructions / briefing from their Company Commander to begin Holiday leave starting from **Thursday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012** through **January, 2013 (see Note 2)**. Those Soldiers accompanied by Family but not departing immediately may be granted a pass to visit the surrounding Columbia area (see Note 3). We request that you let your Soldier know **no later than Monday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012** if you will be taking your Soldier home for the holiday after graduation. Soldiers will be required to make transportation coordination starting on **November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012** for the holiday and this information will greatly assist your Soldier's decision making process. While it is possible for you to purchase your Soldier a ticket, this can be problematic in arranging further travel. It is recommended that your Soldier purchase their own tickets for holiday travel. (see Note 4).

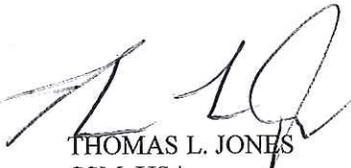
It is very important for you to continue confirming your Soldier's progression (Graduation status) through Basic Combat Training. Occasionally, a Soldier's Graduation date is delayed due to an injury, illness, training requirements or disciplinary actions. We will tell your Soldier to inform you as to whether or not they have met all Graduation requirements before you travel to Fort Jackson. However, often Soldiers choose to inform spouses and significant others instead of informing all Family members of their Graduation status. That, we have no control over but ask that you continuously write and ask that your Soldier keep you up to date on their Graduation status.

Soldiers **NOT** graduating will be shipped to the Holdover Battalion on **Tuesday, December 17, 2012**. Soldiers pending separation will **NOT** be afforded the opportunity to participate in Family Day, Graduation, or be allowed to take holiday leave. Upon arrival through Gate 4 at exit 12, if you have any additional vehicles with Family members, you can receive a vehicle pass by showing a valid driver's license and vehicle registration with insurance to the Officers on duty. You will also notice upon entering the gate that there is a **blue line** painted on the road. This line will guide you directly to Hilton Field where Family Day and Graduation will be held.

If you have questions or need more information, visit our web site at <http://www.facebook.com/134AlwaysForward>. If sending an email please include the Company your Soldier is assigned to; we have nearly 1,200 Soldiers assigned and this will assist in alleviating confusion.

I hope to see you at our Graduation events. Our Battalion motto is "Always Forward!"—You will hear your Soldier say that phrase often when you arrive!

**Always Forward!**

  
THOMAS L. JONES  
CSM, USA  
Command Sergeant Major

  
ERIC C. FLESCH  
LTC, IN  
Commanding

- 2 Enclosures:  
1. 1-34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion General Information  
2. Family Checklist

Enclosure 1: **1-34<sup>th</sup> INFANTRY REGIMENT GENERAL INFORMATION**

Location: Fort Jackson is located in Columbia, South Carolina, near the Interstate 77 and Interstate 20 intersection.

Hotel Information: Lodging near Fort Jackson is limited, so make your reservations as soon as possible. Call the Solomon Activity Center (SAC), 1-800-221-3503 for Hotel referrals.

Although public parking is not available at the Battalion Headquarters, you may drop off and pick up guests that require assistance in the front of the Battalion outside of the barricades. There is public parking across the street from the Battalion.

**Note 1: Family Day Passes:** Following the Family Day Ceremony, Soldiers may be granted a pass to visit any on-post facility on **Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012**. These facilities include the Officer's or NCO Clubs, the Solomon Center, the Post Exchange (PX), the Museum, and other common areas. The approval authority for this pass is the Soldier's chain of command; please confirm with your Soldier. Soldiers must return to the barracks no later than **7:30 pm for their Red Cross, Family Readiness Group, and Army Community Services Brief, which you may attend. Soldiers will not be authorized to depart the post for any reason.**

**Note 2: Graduation Day for Soldiers departing immediately on Holiday Leave:** Those Soldiers being transported by privately owned vehicles may depart after receiving a briefing from their Company Commander. The Soldier will be charged leave based on the amount of days requested by the Soldier and the authorized travel time to their designated Advanced Individual Training (AIT) location. **Soldiers must report to their assigned AIT location on time; date and time will be relayed to each individual Soldier.**

**Note 3: Graduation Day for Soldiers NOT departing with Family members:** Following Graduation on **Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012**, Soldiers may be granted a pass to visit the surrounding Columbia area or Soldiers may have to immediately return to the battalion area in preparation for departing on holiday leave. Soldiers will begin travel for Holiday leave starting on **Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> 2012**.

**Note 4:** After holiday leave all Soldiers must report to their Advance Individual Training (AIT). Travel to that duty station can be by privately owned vehicle (with the Family member that signed them out of Basic Combat Training; Soldiers cannot drive on their own) or by government transportation. Government transportation will be coordinated for them here **no later than November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012**.

**Note 5:** Please confirm if your Soldier will graduate. Soldiers not graduating will be shipped to the Holdover Battalion on **Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012** for continued separation out of the military.

**Note 6: Cellular Telephones and Other Personal Electronic Devices:** The following restrictions apply to all persons who operate a vehicle of any type on Fort Jackson.

- No vehicle operator shall use a cellular telephone or any other personal electronic device in any form or manner unless safely parked.
- No vehicle operator shall wear portable headphones, earphones, or any other listening device unless safely parked.

Personal electronic device(s) are defined as: Any cellular telephone (to include "hands free" devices), any personal data assistant, any device that performs computer functions, any device that sends or receives electronic mail, any device that plays a video game, any device that plays videos of any kind, any device that transmits television images.

\*\*\*\*\* In the interest of safety, we ask that during your time here you do not visit ranges, training areas, bivouac sites, training facilities or any other site posted as a restricted area.

Enclosure 1: 1-34<sup>th</sup> INFANTRY REGIMENT GENERAL INFORMATION CONTINUED

Soldiers on pass on Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012 will NOT: wear civilian clothes; consume or purchase alcohol; drive a vehicle; Smoke or purchase tobacco products; talk on cell phones while walking or wear headphones while walking; or do anything or allow Family members to conduct themselves in any way that will delay their departure for the holiday and shipment to Advanced Individual Training (AIT). Violating these restrictions may subject the Soldier to punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Parents/visitors are not allowed to make purchases at the PX or gas station without their service member.

Enclosure 2: FAMILY CHECKLIST

FAMILY MEMBER NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print)

\_\_\_\_\_ Driver's License-Photo ID/current Vehicle Registration/current Insurance Card

\_\_\_\_\_ Contact phone number while traveling: ( \_\_\_\_\_ )  
(Area code)

\_\_\_\_\_ The vehicle being used to transport my Soldier is mechanically in good/safe operable condition with no known safety hazards.

\_\_\_\_\_ The vehicle is equipped with operable seat belts and that all passengers will utilize seat belts while traveling.

\_\_\_\_\_ Soldiers traveling in a vehicle:

- Are not allowed to consume any alcoholic beverage during transit.
- Are not allowed to consume any tobacco product during transit.
- Are not allowed to operate a motor vehicle while in transit to their block leave location.
- Must wear their ACU (Army Combat Uniform) at all times until they reach their leave destination.
- **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL SOLDIERS DRINK ALCOHOL WHILE IN UNIFORM.**

\_\_\_\_\_ We will ensure our Soldier arrives at the designated Advanced Individual Training (AIT) post by the date, time, and location specified on their official military orders.

\_\_\_\_\_ In the event of a traffic delay, motor vehicle accident, inclement weather delay or medical emergency, I understand that I or my Soldier must contact the losing and gaining unit, notifying both units of the reason for delay and provide arrival date and time.

\_\_\_\_\_ In the event of a medical emergency, I will take my Soldier to the nearest civilian or military hospital and notify both the losing and gaining unit.

\_\_\_\_\_ In the event of the death of my Soldier, I will contact the nearest American Red Cross Office.

\_\_\_\_\_ Your Soldier may make purchases for you on post at the Post Exchange (PX) and AAFES. Exceptions are: alcohol and tobacco products. Please cooperate with PX personnel on this matter.

ENCLOSURE 3: Vehicle Travel Information Letter

Dear Family Member,

You may also choose to drive your Soldier, immediately following the Graduation ceremony, from Fort Jackson to your holiday destination, then onward to a designated post in the United States in order for them to complete Advanced Individual Training (AIT). Transporting your Soldier is strictly a personal choice and not an obligation. Only a parent, legal guardian, spouse or other immediate family member (brother, sister, aunt, uncle, grandparent) over the age of 18 may transport your Soldier. Please understand that only your Soldier will be reimbursed for a portion of this travel.

Below is a list of common AIT locations, the number of miles to that post, and the number of travel days your Soldier is allowed. If you choose to transport your Soldier, please have your Soldier contact the Company Commander or First Sergeant as soon as possible. If you chose not to transport your Soldier other travel arrangements will be provided.

**LIST OF ADVANCED INDIVIDUAL TRAINING SITES  
FOR TRAVEL BY SOLDIERS IN A PRIVATELY OWNED VEHICLE**

<u>INSTALLATION</u>	<u>MILES</u>	<u>TRAVEL DAYS ALLOWED</u>
ABERDEEN PROVING GROUNDS, MARYLAND	519	2
FORT BELVOIR (Alexandria), VIRGINIA	451	2
FORT BENNING (Columbus), GEORGIA	283	1
FORT BRAGG (Fayetteville), NORTH CAROLINA	165	1
FORT EUSTIS (Newport News), VIRGINIA	390	2
FORT GORDON (Augusta), GEORGIA	76	1
GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI	599	2
FORT LEE (Richmond), VIRGINIA	332	1
FORT MEADE (Annapolis), MARYLAND	481	2
NAVAL AMPHIBIOUS BASE (Little Creek), NORFOLK, VA	379	2
PENSACOLA, FLORIDA	496	2
REDSTONE ARSENAL (Huntsville), ALABAMA	407	2
FORT RUCKER (Euphala), ALABAMA	383	2