DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 1ST BATTALION, 34TH INFANTRY REGIMENT
5500 MARION AVENUE
FORT JACKSON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29207-5200

6 May 2011

Dear Family and Friends of Soldiers of the *Leyte Dragons* of 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment (1-34 IN Regt)

Greetings from Fort Jackson!

Your Soldier has arrived safely at Fort Jackson, South Carolina and is assigned to 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, for Basic Combat Training. 1-34th 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 1-34th IN REGT will be the toughest thing they have ever accomplished in their lives. I assure you that our Drill Sergeant 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, posses, or store food.

You and your guests are invited to attend the graduation events at Fort Jackson, South Carolina on July 13th, 2011 and July 14th, 2011. in 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 this achievement 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. Make a day of it and witness your Soldier's tremendous accomplishments. We invite you to Fort Jackson for a fun-filled day to see what Army Basic Combat Training is all about! ***WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR ARRIVAL!***

The graduation events span two days with Family Day on Wednesday and then the Graduation ceremony on Thursday. This will be an exciting time for the Soldiers and yourselves and we trust your Soldiers will be in good hands during these two special events.

Family Day will take place at Hilton Field, scheduled to begin at **9:00 am** on **Wednesday, July 13th, 2011.** There will be a short series of military orientation speeches by the Battalion and Company Commanders, and spokespersons from the Red Cross and Army Community Services. Upon completion of the speeches, 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 **(see Note 1 of Enclosure 1). *Please monitor our facebook site:** http://www.facebook.com/134AlwaysForward **for any changes.** On **Wednesday** evening, we will also host a graduation banquet in your Soldier's honor, either at the Officers club or NCO Club. I hope you can join your Soldier at this meal and meet their Drill Sergeants.

The 1-34th Infantry Regiment **Graduation Ceremony** will take place at **Hilton Field** at **9:00 am** on **Thursday morning, July 14th, 2011.** 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 600 Soldiers. In case of inclement weather, graduation will be held at the Solomon Center (SAC). **Due to limited seating** in the SAC, the graduation ceremony will be held at various times. The graduation time for **Alpha** and **Bravo** Companies will be **1000am – 1100am** and **Charlie** Company will be from **11:30am – 12:30pm.**

Upon conclusion of the Graduation on **Thursday, July 14th, 2011**, Soldiers with Family members present may depart after receiving their departure instructions / briefing in regards to POV travel to allowed AIT locations from the Company Commander **(see Note 2 of Enclosure 1).** Those Soldiers accompanied by Family but not departing immediately may be granted a pass to visit the surrounding Columbia area **(see Note 3 of Enclosure 1).**

We request you stop sending mail to your Soldier two weeks prior to graduation (June 30, 2011). Fort Jackson is the largest training facility in the Armed Forces and we process countless pieces of mail daily. It will be in everyone's best interest if you wait until your Soldier reaches his or her next duty assignment before you send mail, otherwise your Soldier may not receive it before graduation. Even next day air or priority mail may not reach your Soldier in time.

Upon arrival through Gate 4 on exit 12 on the highway, 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. It is very important for you to continue confirming your Soldier's progression (i.e. graduation status) through Basic Combat Training. Occasionally, a Soldier's graduation date is delayed due to an injury, illness, or training requirement. Sometimes a Soldier may graduate a week early to meet subsequent Advanced Individual Training (AIT) requirements. 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.

If you have questions or need more information, visit our web site at http://www.facebook.com/134AlwaysForward or send an email to ATZJ-C-F@conus.army.mil. If sending an email, please include the Company your Soldier is assigned to; we have nearly 1200 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!

RONALD E. DAVIS
CSM, USA
Command Sergeant Major

QUINCY E. NORMAN
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
Commanding

4 Enclosures:
1. 1-34th Infantry Battalion General Information
2. Family Checklist
3. Vehicle Travel Information Letter
4. Fort Jackson Map

Enclosure 1: **1-34th 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.

1st Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment Headquarters is located within walking distance of the SAC and parking is available in the SAC parking lot. 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.

Note 1: Family Day Passes: Following the Family Day Ceremony, Soldiers may be granted a pass to visit any on-post facility on **Wednesday, July 13th, 2011**. 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 these passes is the Soldier's chain of command; please confirm if your Soldier is authorized a pass. Soldiers must return to the barracks no later than **10:00 pm**. **Soldiers will not be authorized to depart the post for any reason.**

Note 2: Graduation Day Pass for Soldiers departing immediately for AIT: Those Soldiers being transported by privately own vehicle may depart after graduation with their parent or guardian upon receiving a briefing from their Company Commander. The Soldier will be charged leave based on authorized travel time to their designated Advanced Individual Training (AIT) location.

Note 3: Graduation Day Pass for Soldiers NOT departing with Family members: Following Graduation on **Thursday, July 14th, 2011**, Soldiers accompanied by immediate Family may be granted a pass to visit the surrounding Columbia area; please confirm if your Soldier is authorized a pass. All Soldiers on pass must return to the barracks at a time specified by their company chain of command, not to be later than **8:00 pm** on Thursday, July 14th. Soldiers begin travel to Advanced Individual Training (AIT) from **July 14th to July 15th**.

Note 4: Cellular Telephones and Other Personal Electronic Devices: The following restrictions apply to all persons who operate a vehicle of any type while on the Installation.

- 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(s), earphone(s), 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.

Soldiers on pass on the 13th or 14th July of must NOT: Wear civilian clothes; Consume alcohol; Drive a vehicle; Smoke or purchase tobacco products; Wear headphones in uniform; or do anything or allow family members to conduct themselves in any way that will delay their shipment to Advanced Individual Training (AIT). Violating these restrictions may subject the Soldier to punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

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: (_____)_____

____ 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.
- 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 their 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

INSTALLATION	MILES	TRAVEL DAYS ALLOWED
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