



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
Easy Company, 1<sup>ST</sup> Battalion, 19<sup>TH</sup> Infantry Regiment  
8775 Albanese Drive, BLDG 3240  
Fort Benning, Georgia 31905-4925

08 June 2018

Easy Company Family and Friends:

Your Soldier recently reported to the 198<sup>th</sup> Infantry Training Brigade at Fort Benning, Georgia to begin training that prepares him to be a United States Army Infantryman. We are very proud of his decision to join this honorable and important profession of arms. His decision to join the Army is a significant one, undoubtedly influenced by the pride and patriotism you have instilled in him.

As your Soldier's Company Commander, I would like to welcome you to Easy Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 19<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment and to the Army family. Your Soldier has been assigned to Easy Company for his Initial Entry Training (IET). The Company Cadre takes pride in caring for and training these outstanding young men and building them into Infantrymen. Our Drill Sergeants are specially selected, highly trained, and proud of their mission. They teach, train, and assess your Soldier throughout the cycle, and assist him in every manner to help him graduate. The Drill Sergeants will instill in your Soldier self-discipline, physical tenacity, mental toughness, and the tactical skills required of an Infantryman. This letter provides important information about communication with your Soldier, emergencies, Family Day, and graduation.

**Mail:** We deliver mail nightly to your Soldier throughout his 14 weeks of training. Mail typically takes two days longer than usual to complete processing, but we will make sure he receives your letters. Please do not send packages containing the items listed in the "Contraband Items" section of this letter. Soldiers are encouraged to write letters home throughout their training. Due to the rigors of training, your words from home serve as a great source of comfort and motivation. If you have concerns or issues, I encourage you to contact the Company. You can write to your Soldier at the following address:

Last Name, First Name, Roster Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Easy Company, 1-19<sup>th</sup> IN  
8775 Albanese Drive, BLDG 3240  
Fort Benning, GA 31905

**Phone:** Soldiers are given phone privileges six times during training. These occur within the first **72 hours** of their arrival to the Battalion, and at the end of each phase (i.e., Red, White, Blue, Black, and Gold). These phone calls are granted as an earned privilege to the Soldiers, and the privilege can be suspended or withheld based on performance.

**Emergency Contact:** In the case of a serious emergency (i.e., death in the family, serious illness, etc.) contact your local American Red Cross to ensure that the message

will be sent through the proper channels. You may also call Battalion Staff Duty at (706) 544-9253. A cadre member will assist you and notify your Soldier through his Chain of Command. It is imperative that all emergency notifications are validated and delivered through the **American Red Cross (877-272-7337).**

**Family Day Pass:** The Family Day Pass consists of two days at the end of the Basic Combat Training (BCT), which is the first 9 weeks of training. This break represents the completion of IET, before your Soldier resumes specific Advanced Individual Training (AIT) immediately following the Family Day weekend. **An orientation briefing for families and guests occurs at 8:00 a.m. on August 11th in the 1-19<sup>th</sup> Battalion classroom located at 8775 Albanese Drive.** Soldiers concurrently receive a weekend safety briefing in the Company training area. At the completion of both briefings, Soldiers will be released to their family to spend the day. They will be required to return to the Company area no later than 7:00 pm on August 11th. The following day, August 12th, they will be released to their families again at approximately 8:00 am for the final day of pass; again, they will be required to return to the Company area no later than 7:00 pm. Soldiers will continue to adhere to the rules of IET, including restrictions from alcohol, tobacco, drug use, automotive driving, caffeinated items and other contraband. Soldiers will not be allowed to bring any such items back into the training area at the conclusion of each day of pass. Throughout the pass, Soldiers must remain in military uniform and observe all military customs, courtesies and discipline. You may enjoy this time to have dinner with your soldier, stay off post at any local hotel, and spend time getting re-acquainted with your soldier. Please remain in the Columbus, Georgia or Phenix City, Alabama area (within a 25 mile radius).

**Turning Blue Ceremony:** During the Turning Blue ceremony, your Soldier receives his Infantry Blue Cord, signifying that he has completed all requirements to earn the title of U.S. Army Infantry Soldier – he joins the ranks of the strongest, best equipped and most highly trained Soldiers in the world. The 1-19<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Lee S. Wallace, conducts an orientation briefing for families and guests on **13 September 2018 at 8:00 a.m. in the 1-19<sup>th</sup> Battalion classroom located at 8775 Albanese Drive.** After the briefing, all guests are directed to Pomeroy Field for the Turning Blue Ceremony at 9:00 a.m. Upon completion of the ceremony, Soldiers will be released to their family for the remainder of the day. **All Soldiers must return from pass no later than 7:00 p.m. that evening.**

**Graduation:** Graduation occurs on **14 September 2018 on Inouye Field outside the National Infantry Museum.** The ceremony begins promptly at 9:00 a.m.; I recommend that you arrive an hour early to allow time for parking and finding a seat. Upon completion of the ceremony, Soldiers will be released to travel to their follow-on assignments. As a general rule, Soldiers WILL NOT receive a pass after graduation; they will be transported directly to their follow-on assignments from the National Infantry Museum parking lot. For more information about graduation and the National Infantry

Museum, visit their website at [www.nationalinfantrymuseum.com](http://www.nationalinfantrymuseum.com). Click on “Plan Your Visit” and then “Graduations”.

Please remember that only the Soldiers who meet all requirements will graduate. Most Soldiers complete the training on time, but some do not. If a Soldier fails to pass a mandatory event or is injured, he may be recycled to another Company to complete the missed training. We encourage your Soldier to keep you informed throughout the cycle about his status in training through mail communication and end-of-cycle phone calls.

The Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) office can assist the Family and friends of graduating Soldiers in referring them to local hotels and car rental agencies. You can visit their website at [www.benningmwr.com](http://www.benningmwr.com). On-post accommodations are limited and on a first-come, first-served basis so you must call ahead to check availability: (706) 689-0067. MWR also offers the opportunity to stay at the Uchee Creek Recreation area. Uchee Creek provides individual cabins that are completely furnished, including a kitchen, for about the same price as a hotel room. Uchee Creek can be reached at (706) 545-4053 (details are also available on the MWR website). Please visit the following websites for assistance:

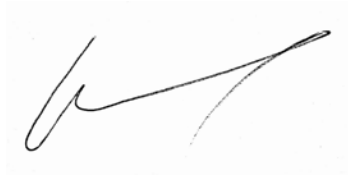
[www.benningmwr.com/maps.php](http://www.benningmwr.com/maps.php) (Click on “Sand Hill” for a map of the area)  
[www.benningmwr.com](http://www.benningmwr.com) (Information on Ft. Benning facilities and services)  
[www.visitcolumbusga.com](http://www.visitcolumbusga.com) (Info for the local area)

Should you have any serious concerns or need information, assurance or advice about your Soldier, you can contact me via e-mail at **[kevin.j.aabel.mil@mail.mil](mailto:kevin.j.aabel.mil@mail.mil)** or on my office phone at 706-544-9570. You may also contact 1SG Andrew Schmith at [andrew.d.schmith.mil@mail.mil](mailto:andrew.d.schmith.mil@mail.mil) or call 706-544-9525. Due to the rigors of training and a very busy schedule, we ask that calls pertain to that of a serious nature (i.e. a family emergency, financial issue, etc.). E-mail is the best way to reach us as we may not always be near our office phone.

**Facebook:** Easy Company (@easycompany119) has a Facebook page that we use to keep family and friends informed of training; we post almost daily pictures and information. Please visit us by searching “@easycompany119” in the Facebook search bar. 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 19<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment also has an official Facebook page that they use to post more general information about the Battalion. Please visit them as well!

Again, thank you for the years of effort that you have invested in your Soldier. I assure you that we will train him and take care of him, giving him the opportunity to become a US Army Infantry Soldier. We look forward to meeting you on Family Day or at Graduation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Aabel', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

KEVIN J. AABEL  
CPT, IN  
Commanding

### **ENCLOSURE 1**

Listed below are some key events to mark on your calendar:

**\*Please note if times change you will be notified via Facebook\***

<b>GRADUATION ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
Battalion Commander Family Briefing	11 August 2018	8:00 AM	1-19 IN Classroom
Family Day Pass	11-12 August (not overnight)	9:00 AM	Ft. Benning/Columbus, GA
Soldiers Return from Pass each day	11-12 August 2018	7:00 PM	Company Area
Turning Blue Orientation Brief	13 September 2018	8:00 AM	1-19 IN Classroom
Turning Blue Ceremony	13 September 2018	9:00 AM	Pomeroy Field
Soldiers Return from Pass	13 September 2018	7:00 PM	Company Area
Graduation Ceremony	14 September 2018	9:00 AM	National Infantry Museum

### **CONTRABAND ITEMS**

Please do not send packages containing any of the items listed below. Initial Entry Training Soldiers are not authorized to have them.

- Any type of food items
- Civilian reading material (except for religious text, i.e. The Bible, The Book of Mormon, the Koran, etc.)
- Personal firearms and/or knives and razors
- Civilian clothing
- Medication of any type (prescription or over the counter)
- Cameras, video or audio tapes or CDs
- Stuffed animals and/or dolls
- Plants (live or artificial)
- Liquids of any sort
- Cash (in excess of \$100.00)
- Any type of tobacco products or nicotine patches and/or gum
- Any caffeine products
- Any type of pornographic materials to include pictures, photographs, post cards, magazines, etc.