DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Headquarters, 31st Engineer Battalion (OSUT)
1st Engineer Brigade, U.S. Army Engineer School
Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri 65473-6300

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

March 19, 2012

Office of the Battalion Commander

Dear Parent :

I am writing to inform you that your Soldier has been assigned to the 31st Engineer Battalion at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri for one of the following: Basic combat training for approximately 9 weeks, combat engineer advanced individual training for approximately 5 weeks, or initial entry training for approximately 14 weeks. Upon successful completion of all training and graduation requirements, your loved one will graduate as a Soldier, U.S. Army Engineer, or a fully-qualified Engineer Soldier.

Soldiers here undergo a comprehensive program of instruction designed to train them both physically and mentally. They become proficient in many combat-oriented tasks, and they learn to live the Army Values: Leadership, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage. The training here is quite challenging for our new Soldiers, many of whom are away from home for the first time. However, our Noncommissioned Officers are among the finest in the Army and have been specially selected and rigorously trained to serve as Drill Sergeants. Our Drill Sergeants take pride in developing the young men and women entrusted to us, for most will return to the operational Army after their 2-3 year tour here and will see many of these Soldiers again. We are confident that our training programs work, and we will continue to ensure your Soldier is trained to the highest standards.

Our primary focus is training; therefore we discourage visits and phone calls home will be limited during the training cycle as they are distractions to the Soldiers. However, I do encourage you to write to your Soldier as often as you like. Your letters of encouragement can provide additional motivation and inspiration during the tougher days of training. Also, I encourge you to visit the Ft. Leonard Wood Family Readiness web page at http://www.wood.army.mil/family/SITpage.htm here you may learn about what your Soldier will be doing and what you can do to support your Soldier durning training and gather information that will help prepare you and your family for Army life. I cordially invite you to attend the graduation events at the end of the cycle . Your Soldier's Company Commander will send you a separate letter containing the time and location for each event and a link to the Company's Facebook page where you may follow the Company's activities and training .

Welcome to the Battalion Family. Thank you for supporting your Soldier and your Nation.

Sincerely,

Robert G. Dixon
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
Commanding