



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

RECRUIT TRAINING COMMAND
3355 ILLINOIS STREET
GREAT LAKES, ILLINOIS 60088-3127

Dear MOMMA ♥

Please accept my sincere appreciation for your support of your recruit's commitment to enlist in the United States Navy. You will play an important role as your recruit adjusts to a new way of life. Family support is critical to a successful transformation for a new Sailor and in their performance in the Navy, now and in the future.

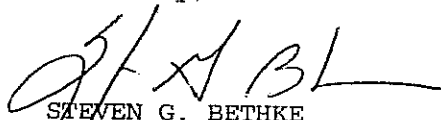
Recruit training (boot camp) is very demanding; most recruits find the first few weeks challenging as they adjust to the military environment and in some cases to their first time away from home. Their schedule of classroom instruction, military drill and physical fitness training provides little free time. Your recruit has been advised to write or telephone home when possible to share their experiences. With the many demands on your recruit's time, you may not hear from them as often as you desire. Encouraging letters and cards will certainly boost their morale and help during this abrupt and significant transition from civilian volunteer to Sailor.

The carefully selected staff of officers and senior enlisted personnel who are directly responsible for your recruit's training, welfare, safety and morale are among the best serving in today's Navy. Additionally, a highly skilled support staff of doctors, dentists, psychologists and chaplains are here to care for their physical, emotional and spiritual needs. The professionals will guide your recruit during the eight weeks of training as they transition from civilian to Sailor. At times, a delay or setback in training for academic, medical or other reasons may be necessary. I can assure you that any decision to delay a recruit's training is not made lightly and is always with the recruit's best interest in mind.

In addition to the information enclosed, I encourage you to visit our website at <http://www.bootcamp.navy.mil>. There you will find useful information regarding contacting your recruit and the formal recruit graduation - a military Pass-in-Review. Please also note the important information contained here from your recruit regarding graduation. Information is also posted on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/NavyRecruitTrainingCommand>.

I am personally committed to ensuring the well-being of your recruit! Thank you for supporting your recruit's desire to serve our great nation in the United States Navy. If you need any assistance, please feel free to contact our Public Affairs Office at (847) 688-2405.

Sincerely,


STEVEN G. BETHKE
Captain, U.S. Navy
Commanding Officer
Recruit Training Command

INFORMATION REGARDING RECRUITS AT RECRUIT TRAINING COMMAND (RTC), GREAT LAKES

CONTACTING OR VISITING RECRUITS

Below is your recruit's mailing address:
SR Last name, First name, MI

SHIP 02 DIV 932

RECRUIT TRAINING COMMAND

3600 OHIO STREET

GREAT LAKES, IL 60088 - 7105

We encourage you to send letters and cards to your recruit - your support continues to be invaluable. All USPS mail delivery - even express and overnight - typically takes between 5 and 10 days. Recruits may not receive any food items due to diet and sanitation concerns. For more information on what you may send, please visit our website or contact the Public Affairs Office at (847) 688-2405.

Recruits cannot receive incoming phone calls while at RTC. Should your recruit experience a delay in training due to illness, injury or test failure, they will be granted a phone call home that day to advise you of their situation.

In case of an emergency, please contact the American Red Cross at (877) 272-7337, who will notify RTC. This is the most expedient way to alert your recruit of a serious family emergency.

Recruits may not receive visitors while they are in training. Your first opportunity to see your recruit will be graduation, and the change may surprise you!

EMERGENCY LEAVE FOR RECRUITS

Emergency leave will very likely be granted in the case of serious illness or death of an immediate family member (spouse, child, parent, guardian or sibling). Illness or death of extended family members (e.g., grandparents, aunts, uncles or cousins) does not normally constitute grounds for emergency leave. Should such an unfortunate occasion arise, please contact your local American Red Cross.

CHAPLAIN CARE

Chaplain Care is a Navy sponsored website that offers resources and referral information to service members and their families. Chaplain Care directs service members and their families to use AMCROSS as the primary source for conveying **emergency** messages. However, Chaplain Care is an approved source for verification and relay of **emergency** messages. Families may contact Navy Chaplain Care online at 1-877-418-6824 or online at www.chaplaincare.navy.mil.

RECRUIT GRADUATION

My graduation date: 01 JUL 2011

While a division's graduation date will not change, an individual recruit's graduation is dependent on successful completion of the training requirements. Should your recruit experience a disruption in training due to an academic or physical test failure, injury or illness, they will call home that day to advise you of the change.

At the end of the seventh week of training, recruits who have successfully completed all training requirements participate in a graduation ceremony - a military Pass-in-Review. All information regarding the graduation, including your recruit's division's graduation date, the schedule of events, rules for liberty and any other pertinent information, is located on our website at <http://www.bootcamp.navy.mil>.

PLEASE NOTE The graduation is being held **OUTDOORS**. Please check weather forecasts prior to arrival. Appropriate dress, as well as water to stay hydrated, is recommended for high temperature weather conditions.

If you will be driving a vehicle onto the base, you will need to download the parking pass for your recruit's graduation. These parking passes are located on the website in Adobe Acrobat format and are password protected. To locate the pass on the website, click on the "Families" tab. You will see a drop-down menu. Select "Graduation." Click "Upcoming Graduations" to find your recruits graduation date and select "click for gate pass." Please remember the parking passes are not accessible until 11 days prior to PIR.

The password for your recruit's graduation is: _____. You must enter the password in all uppercase letters. Please do not share this password with anyone outside of your recruit's intended guests for security purposes! If you lose this password, the Public Affairs Office is not authorized to provide it over the phone due to security reasons.

Should you not have access to the internet, please write your recruit a letter and ask them to mail you a gate pass.

Personnel experiencing technical difficulties can find troubleshooting tips on our website at <http://www.bootcamp.navy.mil/consent1.asp>.

Recruits are permitted to invite a maximum of **FOUR** guests **ONLY** to this graduation; no "extra" guests will have access to the ceremony. Please plan with your graduating Sailor who will attend the ceremony. Recruits submit their access list to security up to a week and a half prior to graduation. Your recruit is the only person authorized to put names on the access list. Please discuss this with your recruit via letters and confirm you have been added to the access list. Please do not call the Public Affairs Office for additional seats.

The names below are your recruit's intended guests.

YOUR RECRUIT'S INTENDED GUESTS (ONE PERSON PER LINE)

1. MOM
2. TORI
3. TRENTON
4. GRANDMA

All visitors age 13 and over must have valid, government-issued photo identification (driver's license, passport, etc.). Children age 12 and under must have a copy of their birth certificate and Social Security card. Graduation guests may enter the base at **4:30am** and **MUST** be on base by **7:45am**. Anyone arriving after **7:45am** will **NOT** be permitted to attend the graduation ceremony. Please join us on Facebook for graduation updates as the date nears: <http://www.facebook.com/NavyRecruitTrainingCommand>

All persons, articles and vehicles are subject to search. Metal detectors and other security devices are in use onboard Recruit Training Command. **Expect some delay at the security checkpoints.** Permitted carry-ons include: small purse, small diaper bag and camera/video equipment. Strollers, car seats and backpacks are allowed but discouraged due to space limitations. You can leave them in your car. **Due to security regulations, luggage is not permitted.** Contraband, including but not limited to: alcohol, illegal drugs, knives or weapons of any kind will be confiscated and you may not be permitted entry.

If you are a peace officer (policeman, etc.) and are required to carry a weapon at all times as a condition of your service; please contact Great Lakes Police Departments' Deputy Chief Knapp at james.b.knapp@navy.mil or 847-688-5555 well in advance of your visit to

discuss procedures and requirements. Weapons possession on federal reservations is highly regulated and those that violate are subject to arrest and prosecution.

RTC highly encourages you to purchase **REFUNDABLE** airline tickets in case your recruit does not graduate on time. If you fly into Chicago O'Hare, Chicago Midway or Milwaukee airports, you must arrange your own transportation from the airport to your hotel and RTC. All three airports are approximately 30-50 miles away from RTC Great Lakes.

If you are driving to RTC, please plan your trip carefully. By the Navy's standard, you should limit your daily driving time to 8 hours to prevent fatigue. Extreme weather conditions are common in the Great Lakes area and should also be factored in to your trip.

If you are utilizing a Global Positioning System, please input the following address:

Recruit Training Command
3355 Illinois St.
Great Lakes, IL 60088.

There is no guest housing, transportation or shuttle service provided by Recruit Training Command or the U.S. Navy. Lodging is available in the cities surrounding RTC. They include North Chicago, Waukegan, Lake Bluff, Lake Forest, Libertyville and Gurnee. A brochure from Navy Morale, Welfare & Recreation (MWR) has been included with a wide range of discounted travel and hotel options.

If driving on base, valid registration and proof of insurance is required. The use of cellular phones while driving on base is **prohibited**. Seat belts are required at all times while operating a motor vehicle on board RTC. Recruits are **prohibited** from operating motor vehicles, including motorcycles. Recruits **are not allowed** to be a passenger on a motorcycle. If a visitor of a recruit rides a motorcycle, proper protective clothing/equipment such as helmet, long pants, long-sleeved shirt, hard-soled boots and reflective vest are required at all times.

Most recruits are granted daytime liberty on the weekend following graduation, provided they are not transferring immediately to their next training activity. Please stay in touch with your recruit to find out their schedule as they are **the only person** who can give you this information.

INFORMATION AND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The RTC website contains very useful information for recruit's family members, including a section to answer many common questions. You will also find a handy family guide that contains all of the necessary information for contacting your recruit, graduation information and directions to the base.

If after visiting this site, you still have questions, please feel free to contact the Public Affairs Office at (847) 688-2405.

TRANSFER FROM RECRUIT TRAINING COMMAND

The Navy will provide recruits with transportation by common carrier (air, bus, and/or rail) to their next duty station or training activity after graduation. Due to federal travel regulations issued by the Department of Defense, recruits should not travel via common carrier on tickets purchased either by themselves or provided by family members.

LEAVE (AUTHORIZED ABSENCE FROM DUTY)

Upon successful completion of basic training, recruits normally transfer directly to their next duty station for technical training. Leave is usually granted during the time between their initial technical training and their first permanent duty station.

NAVY FLEET AND FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICE CENTERS

Navy Fleet and Support Family Centers provide assistance and services which support and enrich the lives of active duty and retired Navy personnel and families. Members of other armed service branches are also eligible. Services include: information and referral, counseling, family programs, career counseling, and hospitality kits. If you need immediate assistance, please visit their website at <http://www.nffsp.org>.

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DRIVING TO RECRUIT TRAINING COMMAND

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SOCIAL NETWORKING WEBSITE

Information is also posted on Facebook at:
<http://www.facebook.com/NavyRecruitTrainingCommand>

WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

The Naval Station Great Lakes MWR Department extends an invitation to you, your family, and friends to take part in the July 4th Centennial Celebration on Ross Field from July 2nd - 4th. The event is open to the public with FREE admission & parking.

Each day, the Celebration will include three stages with exciting live music and family entertainment, a bingo tent with thousands of dollars worth of prizes, and a craft fair with handmade items. The Gridiron Experience will feature interactive football activities and a "Kicks for Cash" competition. The Kid's Zone will feature plenty of activities for the little patriots including roving entertainment, costumed characters, and thrilling carnival rides/games.

There will be a fireworks display on July 3rd and 4th at 9:30p.m.

For full details, go to: www.facebook.com/GreatLakes4thofJuly

Great Lakes Naval Museum will be hosting a "History Day" in honor of the centennial of the Naval Station. The event begins at 10AM and will include craft activities, "Sailor skills" workshops, military reenactors, a birthday cake, and more. Please visit www.facebook.com/greatlakesnavalmuseum for more information.