

**Welcome! Here is some very important information:**

To: all Families of Co A 1-131 INF

Wednesday July 7 at 8:00 AM there will be a Farewell Formation Ceremony at the Bartonville Armory. Everyone is invited. The State of Illinois Adjutant General Brigadier General Randall Thomas, the 66<sup>th</sup> Brigade Commander Colonel Robert Pratt, and the Commander of the 1 - 131 INF Lieutenant Colonel Robert Benjamin will be in attendance. Please arrive at least 30 minutes in advance. Please bring lawn chairs if you cannot comfortably stand for periods of 45 minutes or longer. We will release 131 yellow balloons, in clusters, during the ceremony on behalf of each soldier in the company. In addition, the media will be in attendance.

In the lobby of the Armory you will find a hospitality table for the families. There you will find information on the day and on the family support program. We have alerted the 2 local RAPIDS sites (locations to get DEERS ID's) and they are open and available to issue ID's for our group from 9:00 AM until 3:30 PM. An appointment and arrangements will be made for you at the hospitality table, if you would like to get your ID. If you plan to get your ID please bring: Your military ID (if you have one), your valid drivers license or State picture ID, and a certified copy of all dependents birth and marriage certificates. If you plan to drive to the 182AW location your vehicle will need a valid registration and a valid proof of insurance. (The US Marine Corp location does not require vehicle checks)

Children are welcome. Please bring childcare and children's activities. There is a park across Airport Road named Alpha Park and there are outdoor activities there if you are interested.

Immediately following the formation there will be a family readiness meeting on the upper floor in room 204. This meeting is intended for our new attachments and anyone that has not been able to attend the other 2 meetings. It is not necessary for families that were at the Mob Brief on June 19 and/or the Tues June 33 meeting to attend – although all are welcome!

Lunch will be served at 11:30 and all of the families are welcome. The meal is being catered by Famous Dave's BBQ and will have a variety of BBQ's, salads and bread. The cost is 9.00 per adult, 4.50 for 12 years and under and free for 3 years and under. You must RSVP to Dana Olson at [danajolson@yahoo.com](mailto:danajolson@yahoo.com) OR respond to the phone call invitation you will receive Tuesday or Wednesday – by Thursday July 1 at noon. Money will be collected from the soldiers at the Armory on Tuesday July 6. Cash Only Please! (We cannot accept checks)

You will have an opportunity to purchase magnetic yellow ribbons for your cars to support the troops (for \$5.00 each) and order custom made ID bracelets with your soldier's initials on them at the Armory on July 7. All proceeds will benefit the Family Support Group Fund.

There are no plans for the families following lunch. Please check with your soldier for his orders regarding release on that day.

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Co A 1-131 INF Family Readiness Group TOP TEN NUMBERS TO HAVE

**General Questions and Help:**

1.Fred Lane, 66th Brigade Family Readiness Contact in Bartonville  
ofc: 309/697-7922  
cell: 217/622-0140  
[fred.lane@il.ngb.army.mil](mailto:fred.lane@il.ngb.army.mil)

2.Dana Olson, Co A Family Readiness Group Chair  
home: 309/690-7962  
[danajolson@yahoo.com](mailto:danajolson@yahoo.com)

**Pay Questions:**

3.1-888-PAY-ARMY (1-888-729-2769)  
[www.mypay.dfas.mil](http://www.mypay.dfas.mil)

**Health Benefits:**

4.Tricare 1-877-874-2273  
[www.healthnetfederalservices.com](http://www.healthnetfederalservices.com)

**Legal Help:**

5.Fred Lane (above) for a connection to the JAG

**Monetary Grants:**

6.Illinois Military Family Relief Fund

866/524-4564

[www.operationhomefront.org](http://www.operationhomefront.org)

**Home Repair Needs:**

7. Homeland Assistance 24 hour free emergency residential family assistance by reputable union contractors in our area.

contact Fred Lane or Dana Olson

**Personal Assistance:**

8.Army One Source

800/464-8107

[www.armyonesource.com](http://www.armyonesource.com)

user: army pass: onsource

**9.Our Unit Information:**

Company A, 1-131st Infantry

3101 South Airport Road, Box 100

Bartonville, Illinois 61607-1775

309/633-1178

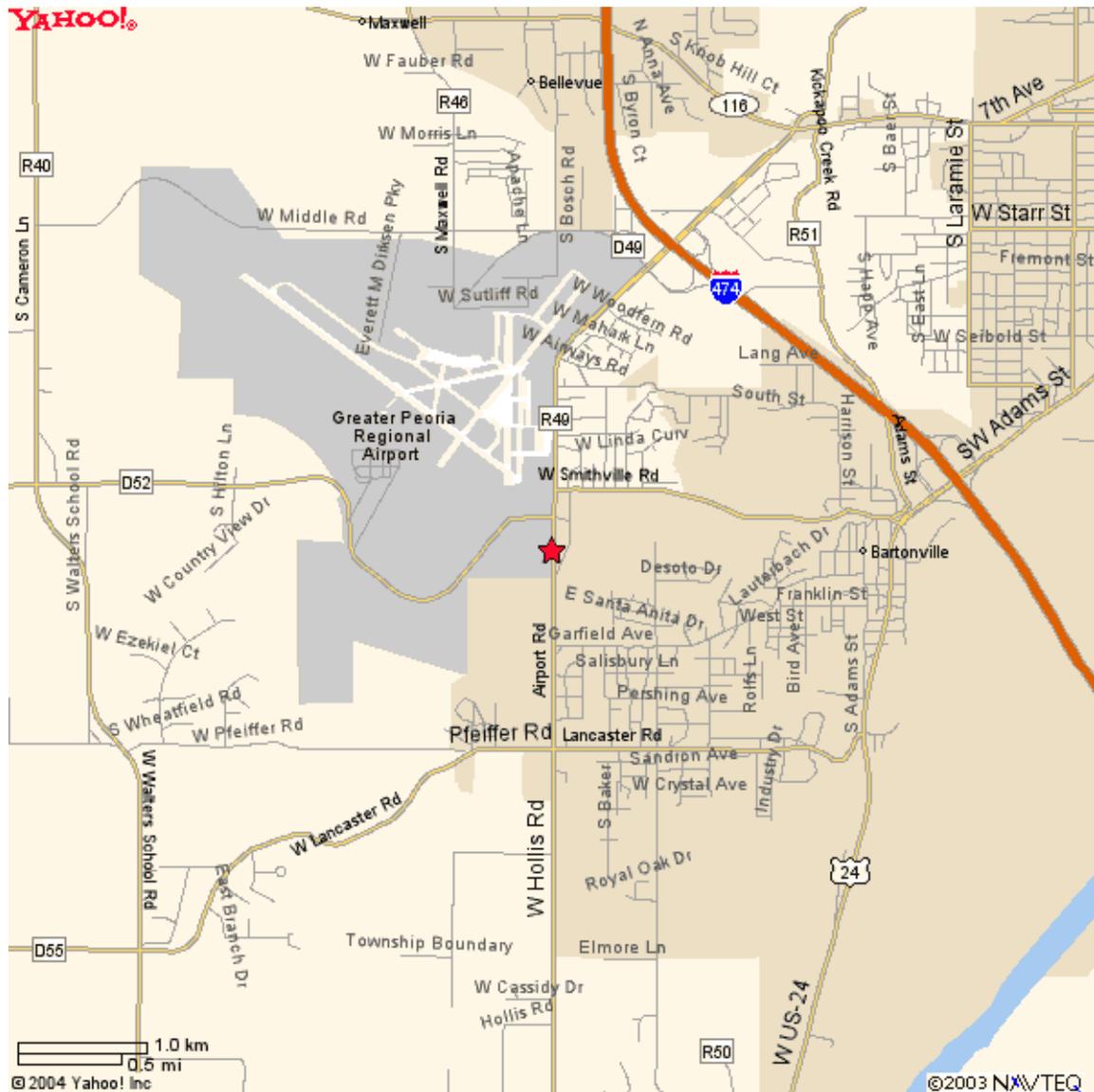
10. your soldiers social security number, rank and a copy of their orders.

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**Odds and Ends:**

- We need volunteer videographers and photographers to record the Farewell Formation and Send-off. Please get in touch with Dana if you or someone you know would be able to help out. Thanks!
- Please feel free to wear Red, White and Blue on the day of the Send-off. This will help show our support for the troops!
- Expect to receive a newsletter about once a month, with information in it regarding meeting notes, upcoming events and updates on promotions and activities among our soldiers at Ft. Polk.
- Our next Family Support Group meeting will be **Tuesday, August 3, 2004 at 6:30pm**. These meetings will take place at the Bartonville armory unless otherwise specified.

## Maps and Directions:



10. From Bloomington: Take the **I-74 WEST** exit towards **PEORIA**
11. Take the **I-474 WEST** exit towards **MOLINE-ROCK ISLAND/PEKIN**, exit #99 - go **0.1** mi
12. Continue on ramp - go **1.4** mi
13. ramp becomes **I-474 WEST** - go **7.7** mi
14. Continue towards **AIRPORT ROAD**, exit #5 - go **0.4** mi
15. At Airport Road Stop Light Turn Right – (South)
16. The Armory is on the right hand side of the road