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Hey Mom,

Sorry I haven't had a chance to write you. I've been in a mess of confusion about graduation. Basically, you can just disregard the last letter. Well, they told all the hardstarts that instead of transferring to Charlie and graduating on the 19<sup>th</sup>, we're literally just skipping the last week, including graduation.

I definitely bought some pictures, like the ones at school, except I bought tons more. I tried to call you, but the first pay phone I used had a dead mic, so when you answered, you couldn't hear me. When I tried to call back, you kept ignoring the calls! I wish they would make it easy and just give us our cell phones back. :(

We qualified with our weapons on Tues/ Weds, (the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>) and I? Got all the way up to sharpshooter, 33/ 40. I sent Meagan a picture/ drawing of the targets and I was wondering if and when you qualified if it was the same? Anyway, yeah only 3 away from expert.

This Friday was the most interesting though. We had a class (with some trained medics) on how to give an I.V./ saline drip. First he did a demonstration on one of the other private, they we all practiced on some dummy arms. The scary part was after that, we had to do it on our partners. I'm okay with needles, but not untrained privates! Unfortunately, I had to be the victim first and I was already really antsy. Then, after they messed up on my left arm, they moved on to my right. Don't worry, the medic didn't let Pvt. Davis mess me up too bad. The second time, he lost blood control and the blood flowed from the catheter in my arm to the mat and on the floor! I wasn't looking of course, but the guy in the next group was all freaking out. After that, it was my turn and after my arms regained feeling, I got to do it. Basically, it looks kinda like a needle with a little straw around it. You have to find a vein and stick it in, not even an 8<sup>th</sup> of an inch. Basically, until the beginning of the straw is under the skin. Then, you lay the needle down on their skin & slide the straw straight along, inside the vein. Then you have to apply pressure above where you stuck them before you pull the needle out of the straw('cause you'll bleed on the floor if you don't). Then you put this lock thing on and you're done. After they worked on both my arms, I got to go on my partner and I got it done the first time with no mistakes.

Since then, we've been doing combat rifle drills like reflexive fire and using the buddy system when firing from a position.

Other than that, it's been fun. All of us here have been playing "Don't get destroyed by a hurricane" but it didn't reach in that far to reach us. We got some nice cool breezes and some rain, but

nothing too bad.

Anyway, I've been meaning to write everyone, but it gets hard sometimes, 'cause we only have like an hour of free time in which we have to take a shower. Then half of it gets wasted waiting for the DS to come in and get the count. What's been bothering me though, is even though I write Jessi and Meagan, Jessi has only sent me 2 letters. :( I hope she is doing okay in school. It sucks not being there for her.

Anyways, sorry for not writing and I still love and miss you guys.

-Kyle