



To the Veterans of the 12th Infantry Regiment:

I would like to take a couple of minutes and express to you how proud CSM Handoe and I are of the Soldiers of the Lethal Warrior Battalion.

It is hard to believe that 45 days ago we got the official notification to conduct an Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise (EDRE) to Grafenwoehr, Germany. Since May 1st, the Battalion has accomplished many things, and the pace of operations has been relentless. Whether it was completing Squad-level Live Fires, packing all of our equipment and then moving it to Peterson AFB, or attending evening town hall meetings - our battalion demonstrated incredible commitment, dedication and professionalism in the lead up to this very important mission. Even though you know of the service and sacrifice our Soldiers and Families make each and every day, CSM Handoe and I want to tell you about all of the accomplishments of the Lethal Warrior Battalion during the EDRE.

Since we arrived, there was little rest. The Battalion hit the ground running, moving all of our home-station equipment from Nuremberg and Ramstein to Grafenwoehr. Additionally, the battalion immediately signed for additional equipment and supplies we needed to use to support training – which included 70 additional vehicles, over 75,000 rounds of ammunition, and multiple tons of food and fuel. As if this was not enough, our Soldiers attended some mandatory training, established our Tactical Operations Center (TOC), and set up an entire Dining Hall (DFAC). We accomplished all of this in four short days.

After moving to the field, Apache, Baker, and Chosen Company had six days to work on platoon tasks through the execution of Situational Training Exercises (STX). This training was in preparation for the two days that they would spend conducting day and night Platoon Live Fire Exercises (LFXs). Dagger Company, in the same time period, completed STX lanes, Section Day and Night LFX, Platoon Day and Night LFX, and then supported all other companies during their LFXs. Spartan Company had Soldiers all over the Grafenwoehr Training Area, to include the Scouts and Mortars who supported all LFXs, our battalion signal section who established and manned multiple communications nodes, and the Lethal Medics who supported STX and LFX training on a 24/7 basis. Hazard Company fed, fueled, maintained, and repaired the Battalion. It goes without saying that the battalion would not have been successful were it not for our great Forward Support Company and its dedicated Soldiers.

To put this in perspective, consider the following numbers: 577 mortar rounds, 6 Javelin rockets, 4 TOW missiles, 19,700 M4 carbine rounds, 33,400 M240 machine gun rounds, 12,400 M2 .50 cal rounds, 210 pounds of C4 explosives and 800 sniper rounds were used during training; 13 Platoons in the Battalion are certified at Platoon Level LFXs – and effort that was the result of 52 iterations of BFX and LFX evaluated training; over 50 sustainment missions were executed in the field over the course of the last 7 days – requiring Hazard FSC to operate 24 hours a day. I could go on and on, but hopefully this gives you an idea of the tremendous effort put forth by the Lethal Warriors.

Furthermore, the Battalion executed a battalion-level Air Assault mission. Baker Company conduct an Air Assault to Hohenfels, Germany to conduct a raid to capture a High Priority Target. We spent 72 hours planning this operation with the help of the 4th Infantry Division, 3-4 ABCT, and the 10th Combat Aviation Brigade out of Fort Drum, NY. It was a great opportunity for the Battalion to practice one of its wartime missions.

To summarize, the pace of operations was relentless, but the Lethal Warrior Battalion has exceeded every expectation and met every task along the way.

Finally, the battalion also hosted the Commander of U.S. Army Europe in the coming days. During his visit, LTG Hodges recognized the accomplishment of our Soldiers during an awards and re-enlistment ceremony. It was undoubtedly be a special event.

The Lethal Warrior Battalion has captured this incredible training event with hundreds of photos, and local Public Affairs sections have published numerous articles and interviews of our Soldiers in action. If you have not received this information, please contact the Battalion Family Readiness Liaison and check our Battalion Facebook page.

Again, I cannot overstate how proud we are of the Lethal Warriors. We have had many visitors over the last two weeks – and all of them have expressed their awe of the professionalism, work ethic, and motivation of the Soldiers in 2-12 IN. The Lethal Warriors have continued to build on our incredibly proud history and lineage, and this deployment will add to the battalion's long list of accomplishments. All of you should be proud to be a part of 2-12 IN – the best battalion in the Army!

CSM Handoe and I would like to thank all of the veterans of the 12th Infantry Regiment. Rest assured, today's Lethal Warriors are extending the proud legacy you created in years past.

Having Been Led by Love of Country!

LTC Kirby R Dennis

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