



Lethal Warriors *Forward Deployed!*

The Lethal Ledger

AUGUST 2018



MSG Woods unveils the 12th Infantry Regiment Crest in front of the Lethal TOC



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Command Team Update – Lethal 6 & 7

Greetings friends, family members, and Veterans of the Lethal Warrior Battalion! Summer is a great time of year, with time for vacation and family – and while the Lethal Warriors in Afghanistan are unable to be with you during these summer months, we are with you in spirit. We all hope that the summer months at beautiful Fort Carson, or wherever you may be back home, is an enjoyable one for you and your family members.

We will reiterate what a truly phenomenal opportunity it is to be in Afghanistan in 2018, a landmark year in this country's history. As I'm sure you're aware, the recent ceasefire between the Afghan government in Kabul and the Taliban is a significant step toward a lasting peace. At the same time, the Afghan National Army is taking increasingly more responsibility in securing their country and stabilizing the region. It is truly an exciting time to be deployed as a Lethal Warrior and we are confident that upon our return to Fort Carson later this year, we will leave Afghanistan a better, more secure country than when we arrived.

In what is already an incredibly proud heritage and history, today's Lethal Warriors in Afghanistan are writing the latest chapter. Speaking of history, the centerpiece of this month's newsletter is the unveiling of the Lethal Warrior crest at Bagram Airfield. This massive, 900 pound symbol that is proudly displayed outside of the Battalion Headquarters is a representation of the pride that we all feel from being associated with Task Force Lethal, and the commitment that we have to each other and the mission in Afghanistan. We hope you enjoy the photos, both in this newsletter and on Facebook!

While the battalion has been busy with operations and with training, we did manage to find some time to have a little fun. As this newsletter will show, our Lethal Warriors recently celebrated the 4th of July with a dodgeball and volleyball tournament. The event was a wonderful time for the Soldiers to relax, compete in riveting tournaments, and deepen camaraderie across the battalion.

As we approach the remaining months of this combat deployment, your presence in our lives will be more important than ever. In this vein, the battalion chaplain, CPT Robert Holsinger, has included a brief survey at the end of this newsletter that we encourage you to fill out.

Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with all of you.

Steadfast and Loyal, Warhorse, Having been Led by Love of Country...

Lethal 6 & Lethal 7

4th of July Battalion Volleyball and Dodgeball Tournament

BAGRAM, Afghanistan—On July 7th, Lethal Warriors celebrated the Nation's Birthday with lively dodgeball and volleyball tournaments. Like warriors have done since the time of the Iliad, our Lethal Warriors developed deeper camaraderie through games.

The celebration began with a very large 4th of July cake after a sumptuous dinner of grilled hamburgers, hotdogs and wings. LTC Dennis gave a motivating and encouraging speech calling Lethal Warriors to remember the importance of our Nation's Independence Day. Lethal 6 also called Lethal Warriors to remain vigilant in this middle point of the deployment. "Today, Lethal Warriors, we must remember the sacrifice of those who have gone before. I would like to thank each and every one of you for all that you have done for our great nation. Your family and the country know your sacrifice and greatly appreciate everything that you have done. As we are at the halfway point, I ask each of you to remain vigilant, ready and do not let your guard down. Protect your brothers and sisters to your left and right and always remember what a privilege it is to serve the United States of America."

Lethal Warriors enjoyed a full day of dodgeball and volleyball tournaments, with intense competitions that kept everyone at the edge of their seats. Soldiers from across the battalion formed twenty teams and engaged in four rounds of fierce contest that displayed the highest level of sportsmanship. Dagger Company emerged as the winner for both tournaments, continuing their winning streak from June's competitions.

The event was a success, bringing Lethal Warriors together, allowing them to enjoy some much deserved relaxation and fun while celebrating the Nation's birthday.



Lethal Warriors pose for a photo during the battalion's 4th of July Celebration.



Dagger Company takes the trophy home. From left to right: CSM Scheichert, CPT Atwell, SPC Walker, 1SG Haynsworth, SPC Hollars, LTC Dennis



CSM Speichert and LTC Dennis cut the 4th of July cake.



HHC Staff faces off against Dagger in the Battalion ORG Volleyball Tournament



Members of Dagger Company during the cake cutting ceremony.

General Nicholson's Visit

Farah, Afghanistan – The Lethal Battalion had a special guest this past month: Resolute Support Commander, General John Nicholson. He flew to Herat Province and met with Apache Company Soldiers at the helicopter landing zone in full “battle rattle.” His visit was an honor and highlights the critical role TF Lethal fills throughout Afghanistan.



GEN Nicholson meets Lethal Warriors from Apache Company at Kandahar Airfield.



CSM David Clark recognizing SPC Byrne for his contribution to Apache Company



1LT Kim has a brief opportunity to talk with GEN Nicholson.

Chosen 6 Change of Command Ceremony

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – On the morning of July 7th, CPT Shane Joyce passed the Chosen Company Guidon to CPT Jeremiah Solven. The ceremony marked the end of CPT Joyce's distinguished tenure and began CPT Solven's leadership of Chosen Company. This is a bitter sweet moment for the Lethal Battalion. We have lost a great leader but gained another, and we are confident that Chosen Company is in capable hands.

CPT Joyce joined the Lethal Battalion in Spring 2016. He deployed to Camp Dwyer as the AS3 and quickly distinguished himself throughout the battalion. In 2017, CPT Joyce assumed command of Chosen Company, and he led Chosen on the Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise to Germany, the deployment to the Joint Readiness Training Center in Louisiana, and forward-deployed to Afghanistan as the Theater Reserve Force. Chosen worked tirelessly to improve mission readiness and quickly became famous for its technical and tactical proficiency. Thanks for your service CPT Joyce, and welcome to the team CPT Solven!



From left to right: LTC Dennis, CPT Joyce, 1SG Collins, CPT Solven, CSM Speichert.



Above: 1LT Sostak speaking at the Chosen Change of Command ceremony.



CPT Joyce gives his fairwell speech

12th Infantry Crest Unveiling Ceremony

On July 6th, the Lethal Battalion unveiled the 12th Infantry Regiment Crest. It proudly stands to the west, facing Bagram Airfield for the entire post to see. Before the christening of the crest, SPC Hill of Chosen Company led a presentation of history of the 12th Infantry Regiment. His video, created with the help of Chosen Company Soldiers, is available for all to view [on YouTube](#). The battalion shared this momentous occasion with family, friends, and veterans of the 12th Infantry Regiment via Facebook.



The Visit of Brigadier General Shanahan (AUS)

The Lethal Battalion was honored to host Brigadier General John Shanahan in the brand new upper conference room on Camp Chosen. As the "Operations Officer" for Operation Resolute Support, General Shanahan has been a close friend and advocate of TF Lethal. We were honored to host him!



CPT Solven, 1LT Sostak and 1SG Collins explain Chosen Comapy's capabilities.



Above: The Team greets BG Shanahan – a great officer and friend of TF Lethal!

Apache



SFC Vasquez demonstrates how to fire from behind a barrier during the Apache Company Train the Trainer Range.



SPC Youchum, SPC Wisniewski, PFC Henderson, SPC Forbes, PFC Bearden, SSG Takashima receive impact AAMs for going above and beyond the expectation of a Lethal Warrior.



The Apache Company Squad Leaders and above conduct a Train the Trainer Range at Kandahar Airfield



SGT Hinzman teaches SPC Nolasco the EIB standard for disassembling and reassembling a M4 rifle



PVT Bell practices disassembling and reassembling a M240 Machine gun to the EIB standard.

APACHE UPDATE

FRG Families and Friends,

Over the last month the Lethal Warriors of Apache Company focused on training in preparation of our next mission. We started off our training progression with Short Range Marksmanship (SRM) drills which consisted of reflexive firing drills, close quarters marksmanship proficiency exercises, and a focus on rapid, accurate target engagement. We then transitioned our focus to Advanced Rifle Marksmanship utilizing the lessons learned during SRM. During advanced marksmanship, Soldiers refined their ability to fire off-hand, behind barriers in a variety of tactical positions, on their sides, and through a key holes in a wall.

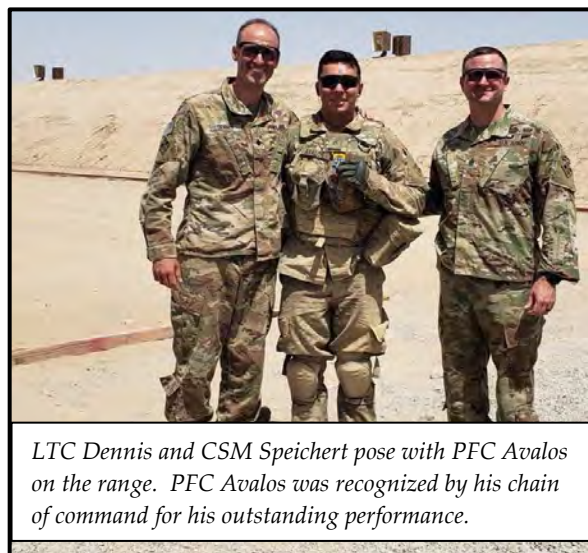
After two weeks of grueling marksmanship training, Apache Company transitioned to Buddy and Team Live Fire Exercises (LFX). First, we started with Buddy LFX, ensuring that every Soldier in Apache Company was proficient in his ability to fire and maneuver. This event consisted of two Soldiers working as one unit, moving forward to close with and defeat enemy training dummies. During this event, Soldiers refined their movement techniques, load and reload ability, and the art of communicating while engaging targets with their weapon system. After a strong showing by the entire company, we transitioned to Team LFX. Team LFX consists of a four man team working together to engage targets with their weapon system while maneuvering to close with and defeat the enemy. After three strong weeks of training, the Company transitioned its focus to mission preparation for its upcoming operation in support of Train, Advise, and Assist Command-West.

Additionally, this month we said goodbye to 1LT Jon McNeal. Over the last year Jon served as our Company Executive Officer. I can easily say that he was one of the best XOs I have ever worked with. He is now headed home to prepare for Special Forces Assessment and Selection (SFAS). We all wish Jon the best of luck as he goes through the challenging selection process.

As Jon leaves, we welcome 1LT Andrew Wiggins to the team. Andrew comes to us from 2nd Platoon, Chosen Company. We are grateful to have him on the team and I personally look forward to watching him develop into a fantastic Apache Executive Officer.

Apache Company also welcomed 2LT Nicholas Prestipino to the Lethal Warrior family. Nick is serving as the platoon leader for 3rd Platoon and already promises to be one of the best young platoon leaders in the Lethal Battalion. Last, but not least, 1LT Matthew Walker arrived in Apache Company and will be assuming the role of Fire Support Officer (FSO). 1LT Walker previously served as a PL in Korea, an executive officer in 2-77 FA BN, and as the Lethal Battalion's Assistant FSO. We are excited to see what Matt will do in his new position.

As we transition to the last third of the deployment I want to thank the families and friends for their continued support and we look forward to seeing you all soon. Thank you as always.



LTC Dennis and CSM Speichert pose with PFC Avalos on the range. PFC Avalos was recognized by his chain of command for his outstanding performance.

Sincerely,

CPT David M. Buchan

Baker Company



COL Zinn, CSM Hillig and our Baker Warriors pose with Old Glory during a mission. Baker Company was honored to host the BCT CDR and CSM during an awards ceremony in Zabul Province



WarHorse 6 - COL Zinn - shakes the hand of a Baker Warrior during an awards ceremony



COL Zinn pins the Combat Infantryman's Badge onto SSG Force during the CIB/CAB presentation ceremony.



2/Baker and SFAB Combat Advisor Team 1230 pose for a photo prior to the completion of a recent mission



LTC Dennis recognizes SPC Barnaby and SGT Duncan from 2/Baker and 4/Baker respectively for their excellence and hard work



COL David Zinn, WH6, speaks to Soldiers from 2nd PLT, Baker Company prior to pinning awards on the chests of our Baker Warriors

BAKER UPDATE

To the Soldiers and Families of Baker Company,

Hello again from Kandahar, Afghanistan! This past month has been busy as Baker Company's operational requirements increase with the Kandahar heat. Baker has also had a few important visits and accomplished some truly impressive training.

On 19 July the Brigade Commander and Command Sergeant Major flew to a remote Operating Base to recognize Baker Company Soldiers. WH6 and WH7 pinned 22 Combat Infantry Badges (CIB) and seven Combat Action Badges (CAB) on Soldiers that expertly performed their duties in a combat environment during an Expeditionary Advisory Mission. Baker Company was honored by the Brigade Command group's presence and inspiring words. 1SG Blow and I could not be more proud of our Soldiers and to know that all of our hard training has equipped them for their work. Having been tested in battle, I know that the Soldiers of Baker Company are ready for anything.

1SG Blow and I are committed to the continuation of challenging training for our Soldiers. The platoon leaders and sergeants of Baker are executing excellent training at all levels from live fire ranges to Expert Infantry Badge lanes. It is truly impressive to see what the company is accomplishing. We are thankful for the support of our family and friends and will continue to faithfully represent that Lethal Battalion and the U.S. Army.

SEND BAKER!

CPT Michael Hauser

Below: LTC Dennis stands SPC Barnaby and SGT Duncan after presenting them with a CDR's coin for excellence. Two great Warriors recognized by their chains of command for their outstanding performance!



Chosen Company



Above: The new Chosen command team, CPT Solven and 1SG Collins stands with LTC Dennis and CSM Speichert immediately following the Chosen 6 change of command ceremony.

Below: The incoming Chosen Company Commander, CPT Solven stands beside the outgoing commander, CPT Joyce.



Chosen Company's Combatives Program



Above: Chosen Company Combatives Graduation.

Below: Chosen Company Soldiers conduct combatives training.



This past month, 4th Platoon, Chosen Company, conducted security operation in Helmand Province. The platoon spent a month there assisting Marines with security, advising the Afghan National Army and conducting an M240 machine gun range, buddy team live fire and fire team live fire.



*Above: LTC Dennis and CSM Speichert visiting 4/C in Helmand.
Soldiers from left to right: SPC Mejia, PFC Oliver, SGT McClintock, SPC Vannes.*

Below: 1LT Wade secures advisers in the first ever Afghan National Army platoon live fire exercise.



CHOSEN UPDATE

On July 7, 2018, Chosen Company conducted a change of command saying goodbye to CPT Joyce and welcoming CPT Solven. Chosen Company had visits from BG Shanahan, CSM Sims, LTG(R) Whitcomb, and LTG(R) Bednarek during the month of July. BG Shanahan's visit focused on the capabilities of the TRF and improvements made to the Notice-to-Move tent. CSM Sims' recognized five Chosen Soldiers for their dedication to excellence in helping to construct the NTM facility, while maintaining peak readiness. LTG(R) Whitcomb and LTG(R) Bednarek's also toured the improvements to the NTM Tent and they discussed future projects to assist Chosen Company with training and readiness. Additionally, Chosen Company conducted a Basic Army Combatives Class where 21 Chosen Soldiers and 1 JTAC received certificates for completing the course.

Sincerely,

CPT Jeremiah Solven



Left: PFC Oliver searches an Afghan driver.

Above: SGT Simonsen leads his fire team in searching an Afghan truck.



Left: SGT Pedroza supervises SPC Decamp and SPC Jones during an recent M240 Range.

Below: 4th Platoon conduct buddy team live fire in Helmand as SPC Apolo moves to his next position.

Dagger Company



Dagger Soldiers won First Place in TF Lethal's Dodgeball Tournament.



Dagger Soldiers won the TF Lethal Organization Day's Volleyball Tournament.

DAGGER UPDATE

Dagger Company has been keeping busy during July. Our Soldiers continued their winning tradition at the TF Lethal Organization Day, walking away as the undisputed Volleyball and Dodgeball Champions. We have spent a significant time at the range and training at the Squad and Fire Team level. SGT Clere, Dagger's Senior Medic, organized medical training for the company. We are keeping busy, but look forward to getting back to Colorado and enjoying some good food with friends and family.

CPT Joe Atwell
Dagger 6



It's always a great day in the army when a good Soldier re-enlists. Above, SPC Sharkey poses with 2LT Stanley after taking the oath of enlistment.



Left: 3rd Platoon Soldiers conduct a Call for Fire mission during a "Best Fire Team" Competition.

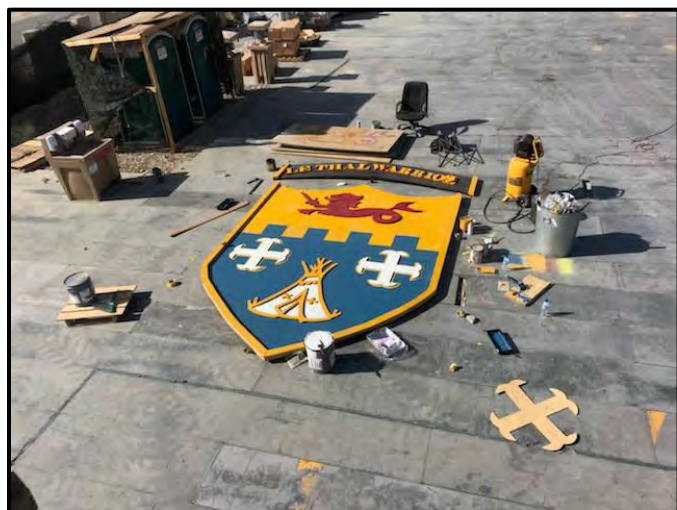


Right: SGTs Boyer, Castro, and Campos became members of the NCO Corps.

Hazard Company

Over the past month, your Soldiers have shown that Hazard Company is more dedicated to duty and proud of our heritage than any other company in the battalion. Most notably, your Hazard Soldiers created a 25 foot tall 12th Infantry Regiment crest, proudly being displayed on Bagram Airfield. The long hours and hard work from everyone in Hazard immeasurably raised the pride of the battalion in their heritage and what they have accomplished this deployment. Our company also broke ground on our future gym, located on the Hazard compound. This project will ensure our Soldiers remain physically fit and gives much needed relaxation to all. Lastly, our company has been integral to ensuring the success of Chosen Company and our Georgian partners by conducting the highest level of maintenance on MAXXPORs. You have a lot to be proud of – your Soldiers continue to uphold the highest standards.

CPT Will Garza
Hazard 6



Hazard Soldiers worked tirelessly to build the 12th Infantry Regimental Crest. They had to reach out to multiple different units and agencies across BAF to resource the proper materials for the sign.



LTC Dennis and CSM Speichert recognize excellence in Hazard Companies, pinning SGT Kamerman, PFC Moreno, SPC Qian, PFC Hernandez, and PFC Goben with Army Achievement Medals.



2-12 Lethal Warriors gathered to witness the manifestation of Hazard Company's hard work – the Lethal Crest!



LTC Dennis and CSM Speichert recognized Hazard Soldiers at Jalalabad Airfield for their support of Special Operations Task Force Afghanistan with coins from Major General James Linder – the NSOCC-A Commander



SGT Sarenana helps a Special Forces ODA Team create a close quarters combat training facility out of shipping containers using a plasma cutter.



CPT Garza and SFC Padilla pose with two of Hazard Company's newest Basic Leader's Course (BLC) graduates, SPC Destiny Ellis and SPC Joel Baeza

Spartan Company

Spartan Families,

The month of July has been busy for everyone in Spartan Company. The Mortar Platoon conducted training on individual Soldier skills, as well as multiple mortar specific training events, in preparation for any mission. The Medical Platoon has continued advanced clinical training, which will prepare them for their clinical certifications and enhances their ability to care for Soldier's health while on mission. We were even able to get the members of the staff out to an advanced rifle marksmanship range. Over the next few weeks, expect the Soldiers of Spartan to be even busier, as we support the rest of the Battalion in their mission.

Sincerely,

CPT Ken Smith
Spartan 6



SFC Juarez provides guidance to PFC Muniz at the recent staff Advanced Rifle Marksmanship range..



SFC Rodriguez prepares to spike a volleyball for the HHC volleyball team during the Battalion org. day.

Left: The medic's dodgeball team during the battalion organization day.

Right: SSG Parsons instructs a call for fire class.





Corporal Kearns reads the history of the 12th Infantry Regiment Crest during the unveiling ceremony.

Chaplain's Message — "Happy Independence Day!"

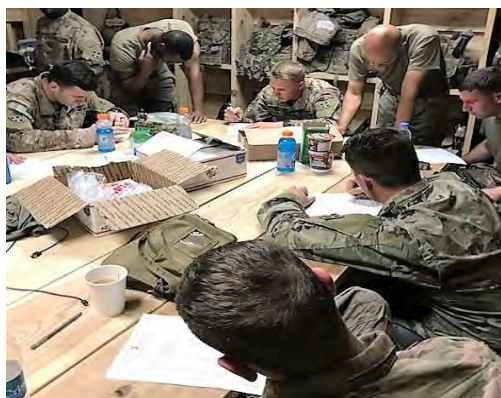
by Chaplain (CPT) Robert Holsinger

I am back with TF Lethal after serving as the Rear D Chaplain while completing my adoption. Your Soldiers are genuinely impressing me each and every day with their ingenuity and resilience as they tackle each day here in Afghanistan. As we keep focus on what is in front of us we also want to look ahead to make sure we provide the best possible reintegration with you and your loved one/family member. With this in mind please consider filling out the attached survey to help us shape our reintegration training. Your input is extremely valuable and can also earn your TF Lethal Soldier some awesome prizes (see below for some of the prizes). Please email **robert.m.holsinger.mil@mail.mil** (surveys will be tallied and then destroyed) with a filled out survey (see below) and your Soldier will be entered into a raffle. Winners will be drawn at the end of August and announced in the next newsletter.



Above: The following NFL gear is available as prizes for this month's raffle.

Below: Chosen Company Soldiers participate in Real Life Management Training.



DEPLOYMENT #:_____

RELATIONSHIP STATUS TO SERVICE MEMBER: MARRIED/DATING/ENGAGED/PARENT/SIBLING/RELATIVE

CHILDREN:

0-1 _____ 2-4 _____ 5-12 _____ 13+ _____

WHAT TYPE OF REINTERGRATION TRAINING WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO RECEIVE? (RANK THEM 1 MOST 5 LEAST)

COMMUNICATION

FINANCE

ANGER MANAGEMENT

REINTERGRATING CHILDREN WITH THE SERVICE MEMBER

OTHER:_____

WHAT TYPE OF REINTERGRATION TRAINING WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR SERVICE MEMBER TO RECEIVE? (RANK THEM 1 MOST 5 LEAST)

COMMUNICATION

FINANCE

CHANGES TO YOUR SERVICE MEMBER

REINTERGRATING CHILDREN WITH THE SERVICE MEMBER

OTHER:_____

HOW WOULD YOU BEST RECEIVE THE INFORMATION/TRAINING (RANK THEM: 1 MOST 5 LEAST).

WEBSITES

FACEBOOK

PAPER COPIES

IN PERSON

OTHER:_____

MARRIED COUPLES ONLY: FOR EXTENDED REDEPLOYMENT TRAINING WHAT WOULD YOU MOST LIKELY ATTEND: (RANK THEM: 1 MOST 5 LEAST).

HALF DAY TRAINING/OFF BASE (FOOD AND CHILDCARE INCLUDED)

FULL DAY TRAINING/OFF BASE (FOOD AND CHILDCARE INCLUDED)

THREE DAYS/TWO NIGHTS/OFF BASE (HOTEL/FOOD AND CHILDCARE INCLUDED)

DINNER (FOOD AND CHILDCARE INCLUDED)

OTHER:_____