



Lethal Warriors *Forward Deployed!*

The Lethal Ledger JULY 2018

2ND BATTALION — 12TH INFANTRY REGIMENT



The 2018 Ultimate Lethal Warrior Challenge participants in Chosen Company's ready room.



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Command Team Update – Lethal 6 & 7

The month of June has quite literally flown by - and you will know why when you read this edition of the Lethal Ledger - as the photos, images and captions contained herein illustrate a Battalion Task Force that is making the most of every day during this deployment. Some highlights from this past month include:

- Hosting the Deputy Commander of Operation Resolute Support at the BN and Chosen HQs
- Apache Company interacting with General Nicholson and CSM Clarke during a recent mission
- Hosting the BCT Chaplain for a Battalion Prayer Breakfast
- Hosting the Secretary of the Army for Physical Fitness Training
- Executing a 243rd Army Birthday PT Celebration, a huge event that displayed the best of this BN
- Conducting a full Mortar Training & Evaluation Program with HHC/2-12
- Executing four Company Changes of Command, and preparing for our fifth
- Witnessing Soldiers from Dagger train with their German counterparts, and earn the coveted German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge - a huge accomplishment for these Soldiers

These are just a few highlights from this past month, and are in addition to the daily mission preparation and execution that our Lethal squads and platoons execute each and every day. As you are all aware, this past month reflected the latest chapter in the rich history of Afghanistan - and your Lethal Warriors witnessed the significant and much celebrated cease fire agreement between the Taliban and the Government of Afghanistan from a front row seat. After 18 years of fighting and incredible sacrifice by U.S. Service members, our allies and our Afghan partners, the month of June gave us a glimpse of what is possible in Afghanistan - and we can only hope that our efforts during this deployment will contribute to a peaceful resolution to this conflict.

As you recall from last month, the theme of May's Lethal Ledger was "Farewell and Welcome." This month it is exactly the opposite, as we have welcomed numerous leaders to the task force - to include four new company commanders, and soon to be a fifth in July. While we welcome these great leaders to the formation, we pause to say thanks and goodbye to those departing our ranks. This edition of the Ledger is highlighted by welcome letters from our new commanders, as well as a farewell letter from CPT Shane Joyce.

Additionally, this past month Lethal Warriors from across the battalion were thrilled to participate in the "shout out" video production that was sent back to Fort Carson for this past month's FRG meeting. More importantly, we were thrilled to hear that our Families and loved ones enjoyed the video - and we will be sure to provide more in the months to come.

As we approach the second half of this deployment with focus, determination, energy and sense of good cheer, our Families and loved ones remain at the forefront of our minds. As these next several months progress, please know that your strength and energy back home will give us the resolve to do our best each and every day for the mission, for our great country, and for the people of Afghanistan.

Steadfast and Loyal, Warhorse, Led by Love of Country!

Lethal 6 and Lethal 7



Group Photo with the SecArmy after PT - in front of the mighty 4th ID symbol.
Steadfast and Loyal!

ULTIMATE LETHAL WARRIOR CHALLENGE

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – On the morning of June 14, the Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, gathered to celebrate the U.S. Army’s 243 birthday and to determine who is the Ultimate Lethal Warrior.

To earn the title of Ultimate Lethal Warrior the teams of 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment had to participate in a three part, physical fitness competition.

The competition began with a Ranger Physical Fitness Test, which includes push-ups, sit-ups, a five-mile run and chin-ups. Immediately following the fitness test, the participants conducted a circuit workout, totaling 243 reps, in honor of the Army’s birthday, and concluding the competition with another circuit workout.

“Challenging physical competitions like this one are not only great workouts, but also help increase morale and overall esprit de corps within an organization,” said 2nd Lt. Clay Stanley, 3rd Platoon Leader, Delta Company. “It’s not enough to be just strong or just fast; you have to be [both] strong and fast to win.” Stanley, a native of Louisville, Kentucky, and Spc. Kurtis Mancuso, a native of Tucson, Arizona, won the title of Ultimate Lethal Warrior for the battalion, making this the second victory for the duo after winning a previous battalion competition. Being able to win the competition for Dagger Company gives us bragging rights within the Battalion and pushes us to keep getting better for the next competition,” said Stanley.

Although there was only one winning team, 2nd Lt. Daniel Leiner, 1st Platoon Leader, Chosen Company, said the competition was a fun event. “It not only tested cardio, but also strength, combat fitness, and mental toughness to [be able to] go all the way to the end,” he said. “It [also] gave the battalion a chance to come together, compete, and celebrate the birthday of the U.S. Army. Honestly, after looking at the exercises, I was not looking forward to it, but it turned out to be a grueling blast.”



(Left to right) CSM Speichert with the top three teams. MAJ Herrera and SGM Woods (3rd Place), CPL Mancuso and 2LT Stanley (1st Place), 2LT Leiner and SFC Bradley (2nd Place).

TF LETHAL PRESENTS:

An Army Birthday Tribute:



TIER 1: RPFT – Time Limit: 48 Minutes

- 49 Pushups (each member)
- 59 Sit Ups (each member)
- 5 Mile Run (started and finished together)
- 6 Chin Ups (each member)

TIER 2: 243 Reps

*Each team member completes while other team member planks

- *50x Pushups (each member)
- *50x Air Squats (each member)
- *50x Leg Raises (each member)
- *50x Reverse Lunges (each member)
- 43x Burpees (total per team)
- 1 Mile Kit/M4 Run (start and finish together)



10 Fastest Teams Go On

TIER 3: 17x 75x

- 17x Tire Flips (total per team)
- 17x Pull-ups Chest to Bar (each member)
- 17x Single Arm Dumbbell Snatches each Arm 40lbs (each member)
- 17x Toe to Bar (each member)
- 75x Barbell Overhead Presses 95lbs (total per team)



Only One Team Can Win the Title of: ULTIMATE LETHAL WARRIOR



CPT Garza and 1LT Oliver race towards the finish.



SGM Woods crushes pullups for his team.



LTC Dennis begins the Army's 243rd Birthday Celebration with opening remarks.



MAJ Herrera reps out the 1 arm snatch.



CPT Wright makes pullups look easy.

Secretary of the Army Visit

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – The Lethal Battalion had a special guest for PT on the morning of 23 June, when Secretary of the Army, Dr. Mark T. Esper, came to visit. Chosen Company conducted the Army Conduct Fitness Test (ACFT), the newly proposed successor to the APFT, with Dr. Esper. The ACFT consists of a 3 rep max deadlift, a medicine ball throw, the "Sprint, Drag, Carry", Leg Tucks, and a 1.5 mile run. In total, 20 x Lethal Warrior Soldiers participated in this incredibly unique experience with our Army's senior leader, and 5 x lethal Warriors earned challenge coins from the Secretary of the Army due to their performance on the job and during PT. Incredibly professional performance by SSG Susterka (C/2-12) and SSG Cruz (D/2-12) - who planned, organized and led the event!



Dr. Esper and SGT Pryor conduct the "carry" portion of the Sprint, Drag, Carry Event.



SSG Cruz briefs the standards for the ACFT



Secretary Esper enjoying tough PT with the Lethal Warriors



SPC Jordan awaits her chance to execute the "leg tuck" station of the ACFT



SPC Schalau executes the dead lift with Secretary Esper

DCOM RS Visit

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – The afternoon of 5 June was filled with excitement for the Lethal Battalion, as Resolute Support Deputy Commander Lt Gen Cripwell visited to receive a brief of the TRF's (Theater Reserve Force) capabilities, as well as to witness a rehearsal of the TRF reaction battle drill. Lt Gen Cripwell is a key leader for our forces in Afghanistan, and his insight and guidance was invaluable for Task Force Lethal Soldiers and Leaders.



The Lethal Staff greets Lt Gen Cripwell as he arrives at Bagram.



Chosen Leaders, 1LT Wade & SSG Golder brief Lt Gen Cripwell on the Ready Platoon's reaction procedures.



Lt Gen Cripwell speaks to the Lethal Soldiers and hands out coins for a well-executed rehearsal. SPC Bradley (D/2-12) is seen here talking to the DCOM prior to receiving his coin. SGT Shellman looks on proudly...



Lethal 6 admiring the DCOM's coin with its recipient - CPL Taran Nystrom

Lethal Leader Award Ceremonies



LTC Dennis present MAJ Williams, CPT Van Dyke, and CPT Atwell their certificates as distinguished members of the 12th Infantry Regiment.





MAJ Williams and CPT Van Dyke are awarded the Order of St. Maurice Centurion Award by LTC Dennis.



1LT Turner gives a farewell gift to his outgoing commander, CPT Atwell.

Apache



1LT McNeal & SFC Lavigne conduct warmup exercises while competing in the Ultimate Lethal Warrior Competition at Bagram Airfield.



Ssg Strauss discusses the mission with the Commander of Operation Resolute Support - General John Nicholson



Apache Company conducts a change of command ceremony with the outgoing Commander, CPT Mario Gutierrez and incoming Commander, CPT David Buchan. SGT Roman proudly and professionally carries the colors.



Apache Company Soldiers work to complete as many pushups as possible in two minutes as part of the Army Physical Fitness Test.



Apache Company Soldiers ready to begin the 2 mile run portion of the APFT.



CSM Clarke, the Senior Enlisted Advisor for US Forces Afghanistan presents SGT Lopez & SPC McCaughey (along with members of 1st and 2nd Platoons, Apache Company) with Resolute Support CSM Coins - a huge accomplishment for these great Lethal Warriors!



Top: SPC Welker meets General Nicholson and CSM Clarke during the mission

Bottom: Two of our great Platoon Sergeants, SFC Lavigne and SFC Vasquez, discuss operations with CSM Clarke

APACHE 6 WELCOME LETTER

FRG Families and Friends,

I want to thank the Apache Families for their dedication to Apache Company during Captain Gutierrez's command. The commitment you and your Soldiers have displayed over the last year and a half has ensured the success of the company during multiple training events. I look forward to getting to know each family and every Soldier over the next several months. I am here to support you and your Soldier at all times. Lastly, I want to recognize Mario and his wife, Angelica, for their dedication and outstanding support for the organization during his command. He has left me very large boots to fill.

Sincerely,

David M. Buchan Captain,
Infantry Commanding
DBuchanFRG@gmail.com



Baker Company

Baker Update

BY CPT Michael Hauser

The last month has been a busy one for Baker Company Soldiers. At the beginning of the month, CPT Hauser and CPT Caroe completed their Change of Command Ceremony on Kandahar Airfield. Soon after, the company dove headfirst into property and equipment transfers to prepare for security force responsibilities on upcoming Expeditionary Advising Packages (EAPs). The purpose of the EAPs is to provide the Afghan Army with American advisors support to help them build their capabilities and strengthen their military in the fight against the Taliban.

Our Baker Company platoons will provide security to U.S. advisors as we push out to Afghan bases in the southern half of the country. In some instances, our Soldiers will be asked to spend several weeks away from KAF to support these missions. I ask that our families understand that there might be times when you don't hear from your Soldier for a significant period of time. Don't worry, we'll do everything we can to make sure they're cared for while on mission!

In addition to our EAP preparation and training, our Soldiers have been hard at work on team live fire exercises here on KAF. Both 2nd and 3rd Platoons have completed team live fire, and as I write, 3rd Platoon just started their execution.

1st Platoon, led by 1LT Baker and SFC Travis assumed responsibility of the Aerial Reaction Force (ARF) mission and they've settled in nicely to their arrangements and responsibilities on the north side of the airfield. Their barracks and workplace is about a 15 minute drive from the Baker Company main compound. As the ARF platoon, they are responsible to provide a quick reaction force to respond to any downed aircraft across the southern half of Afghanistan. 1st Platoon directly supports our aviation task force partners and they have already participated in multiple exercises with Task Forces Marauder and Panther over the last three weeks. At the beginning of June we also welcomed an engineer platoon, led by 1LT Tom Grady and SFC Mathew Smith, to our Baker Company family. We're happy to have them with us and we appreciate the new capability they provide to our formation.

In the past few weeks we've said goodbye to our illustrious XO, 1LT Jake Polo, who will PCS soon to take on new responsibilities with the Old Guard in Washington D.C. Thanks Jake for all your hard work! In his place we brought on our new XO, 1LT Chris Herron. Chris is already off and running in his new job and he's a valued contributor to the Baker Company team. We also said farewell to SPC Wade and SPC Carter and presented them with Army Commendation Medals for their service to the Company and TF Lethal Warrior. SPC Wade will ETS in the coming months and SPC Wade will PCS to Germany shortly after returning to Fort Carson.

The food is still good here in Kandahar and we can't complain about our living arrangements either! In the last month the daily high temperatures have hovered near 110 degrees, but we have air conditioning in the barracks and in our ready room, so it's not bad. A few of the platoons have taken to playing football on Friday nights as a stress reliever and to keep that competitive edge.



Baker Company shows the letters they received from Benjamin Franklin Middle School, Ridgewood, NJ.



Baker leadership bids farewell to Baker XO, 1LT Jake Polo, as he leaves to join the Old Guard.

BAKER 6 WELCOME LETTER

To the Soldiers and Families of Baker Company,

Hello again from Kandahar, Afghanistan! If you are part of the Baker Company Facebook page, or on the Family Readiness Group email distro, you've probably already heard from me on a few occasions. We'll continue posting pictures and keeping you informed of Baker Company happenings here at KAF. It's amazing to think that we are only a few weeks out from being halfway done with the deployment!

I've said it on a few occasions already, but I'm very grateful to both Austin and Diana Caroe for the tremendous job they did in caring for our Families and our Baker Company Soldiers. My hat is off to both of them and I wish them continued success as they PCS to Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

Baker Company has a tremendous reputation as being one of the best companies around. We have a great culture and climate and that goodness is a testament to the quality of our Soldiers and our Families. I believe that that sort of culture only happens when Soldiers and Families know that their leadership have their best interests at heart and that those leaders genuinely care for them. Each of our Families are being asked to sacrifice a TON for your country, just as we that are deployed, are asked to make significant sacrifices.

1SG Blow and I will continue to do everything possible to communicate effectively with families about upcoming events and keep you aware of what your loved ones are doing here in Afghanistan. It's truly an honor to serve with and for our Soldiers and Families. I look forward to working with our wider Baker Company family to ensure we accomplish our mission admirably and bring our Soldiers home safely.

God bless each of you and enjoy the Colorado mountains for all of us here!

SEND BAKER! -CPT Michael Hauser
Baker 6



Baker 1st Platoon conducts a training exercise with TF Panther.

Chosen Company



1st Platoon, Chosen Company conducts Buddy Team Live Fire Exercises on Bagram's Maholic Range.



3rd Platoon takes lead in training Chosen Company Soldiers on sling load operations during limited visibility.



1st Platoon, Chosen Company poses for a picture in "full kit" following an intense rehearsal of their Emergency Response Force mission.



A big thumbs up after 1LT Joe Wade administered the Oath of Reenlistment to SPC Decamp on board a UH-60 Helicopter. SPC Decamp is one of the Platoon's best Soldiers and we're proud he's continuing to serve!



2nd Platoon conducts a high intensity, challenging physical training event as part of their Combat Mobility training program.

Chosen 6 Farewell Letter

Friends and Families of Chosen Company,

July 7th will mark one year I have commanded Chosen Company and the day I hand the guidon to my successor. The past 12 months have been intense, filled with near constant training, and culminating with our deployment to Afghanistan. It has been incredible watching your Soldiers develop their skills and become true professionals - all of which would have been impossible without your enduring support. I am incredibly proud of their accomplishments, as I know you are as well, and I think it's important to highlight some of the outstanding things they've done over the past year. We spent a lot of time away from our Families in the field training - something I know it is always harder on our loved ones, but your Soldiers were identified by leaders within the Battalion, Brigade, and Division for executing the best iterations of many of these exercises. All of the credit goes to the Soldiers of Chosen - I was just blessed to serve in their Company.

I could not be happier with the man that will soon take my place as Chosen 6 and lead your Soldiers. CPT Jeramiah Solven comes to us from the 2nd Ranger Battalion and has the right experience, skill, and motivation to take this highly effective company to the next level. If you afford Jeramiah the same support you've provided my family and I, he will undoubtedly succeed.

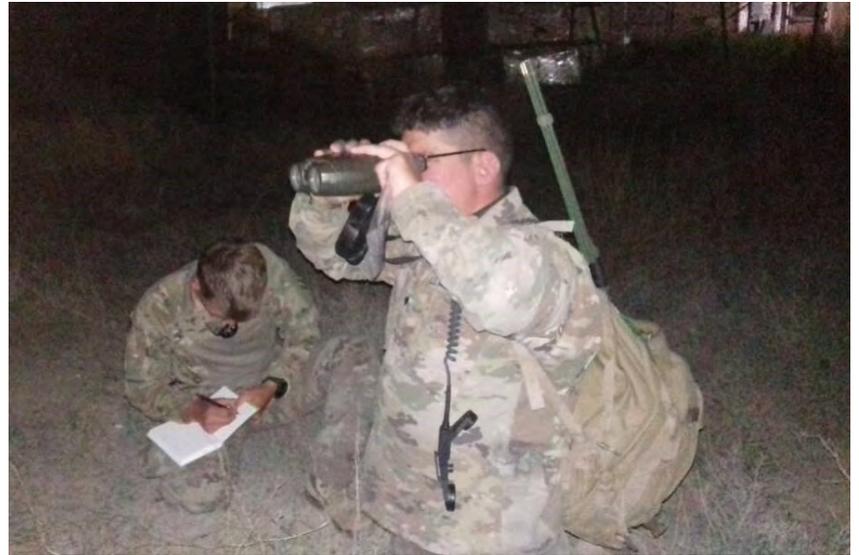
It has been an absolute privilege serving alongside your Soldiers. My wife Lauren and I truly appreciate everything you've done for us, and wish you the best of luck.

Sincerely,

CPT Shane Joyce



Dagger Company



The Dagger Company Mortar team conducting cross training on the 120mm Mortar Tube. SGT Wilson, PFC Leal and SPC Taylor are seen here firing HE during a night iteration.

SPC Draeger (1st PLT FO-RTO) is conducting a night time call for fire on a notional enemy OP, while SPC Stout (1st PLT FO) records notes for the AAR and individual team training.



LT Stanley and CPL Mancuso completing the 1-Mile kit run during the Ultimate Lethal Warrior Competition.



Dagger Soldiers earned their German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge at Camp Marmal, Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan.



SPC Valcin and SPC Sanchez compete during the Ultimate Lethal Warrior Competition.



SPC Ferguson engages a target during the Buddy Team Live Fire.

Dagger 6 Welcome Letter

Dagger Families,

My name is CPT Joe Atwell, the new commander of Dagger Company. My wife, Jess, and I have three kids: Robbie, Heidi, and Finn. We are excited to join the Dagger Family and look forward to getting to know all of you in the coming months. Dagger has been busy during June. Your Soldiers have continued to demonstrate their physical fitness by winning the Ultimate Lethal Warrior Competition. This is the third consecutive Battalion event Dagger Company has won.

We have continued to train on our Gunnery Skills in order to maintain our proficiency as the Lethal Battalion's only source of mobile firepower. Your Soldiers have also conducted a Buddy Team Live Fire range and are getting ready for more ranges in July. Dagger is an excellent Company, I am honored to serve with your Soldiers.

Sincerely,

CPT Joe Atwell
Dagger 6

Hazard Company



Hazard Soldiers hard at work laying the foundations for the new gym. Everyone has put in an incredible amount of work into improving our motorpool and work areas. The gym will provide a place to work out and a place to relax out of the heat.



Hazard Soldiers fabricating motorpool bays to provide a place to work and shelter from the sun.



The 2-12 IN Battalion Commander, LTC Dennis, speaks to Hazard Soldiers out on mission.



SPC Garzon and SPC Brown (center) being recognized by Battalion leadership for their efforts.



1LT Oliver and SGT Pryor after their first successful recovery in Afghanistan - nice hair and suntans gentlemen



WO1 Mohr and SGT Pryor participating in the Most Lethal Warrior Competition to celebrate the Army's Birthday.

HHC Spartan Company



The Mortar Platoon practices entering and clearing a room.



1SG Bessette petting a “morale dog” named Alex. PFC Oberthaler from the Medical Platoon arranged for Alex’s visit.



Mortars practice setting up a hasty urban firing point.



1LT Turner and SGT Park from the Mortar Platoon during the Ultimate Lethal Warrior Competition. .



Spartan Company Picture



PFC Hill receives a coin from LTC Dennis for his outstanding performance on multiple missions and during the mortar live fire exercise.

Spartan Families,

It has been a fast, furious first month of command! First, I want to thank everyone for the warm welcome to the Lethal Warrior Battalion! It is an honor and privilege to lead your Soldiers. Your Soldiers were certainly doing incredible things before I arrived, and they continue to do incredible things on a daily basis. My wife, Melissa, and I look forward to the opportunity to serve Spartan Company and the Lethal Warriors over the coming months.

In the short month that I've been in command of Spartan Company, the Soldiers have had many opportunities to distinguish themselves. From physical training with the Secretary of the Army to mortar live fire exercises, the Soldiers of Spartan consistently shine as the best in the Battalion. The Soldier of the Month for May came from the Spartan Medical Platoon, six of our Soldiers have graduated from the Basic Leader Course, and Soldiers from across the Company represented us in the inaugural "Ultimate Lethal Warrior Competition". I absolutely could not have asked for a better Company to lead and I look forward to meeting all of you when we come home!

Sincerely,

CPT Ken Smith
Spartan 6

Chaplain's Message— "Happy Independence Day!"

by Chaplain (CPT) Benjamin Ahn

Happy 243rd Army Birthday from Afghanistan! Psalm 33:12 says, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people He chose for His inheritance." As we are celebrating our nation's 243rd Birthday, I pray that the LORD bless our country so that justice and righteousness flow like a river in every street and corner, every city and state. I also pray that the LORD bless our nation so that America continue to be the beacon of hope, freedom and equality in the world. Now let me share some pictures of Religious Support Team's Ministry last month.



CSM Speichert gives a welcome remark during Lethal Prayer Breakfast.



LTC Dennis introduces CH (MAJ) Devine, the keynote speaker.



CPT Atwell, Dagger CDR, reads the Scripture.



LT Wade offers a prayer during Lethal Prayer Breakfast.



CH (MAJ) Devine delivers a message with the title "Being All In" challenging the participants to give all in what they do now and where they are now.



The participants enjoy breakfast and fellowship with one another.



Soldiers from 2 PLT Dagger play flag football during Chaplain Fitness Training.



Soldiers from 2PLT Dagger play soccer during Chaplain Fitness Training.



Moral Leadership Training after sports events during Chaplain Fitness Training.