



Lethal Warriors *Forward Deployed!*

The Lethal Ledger **JUNE 2018**

2ND BATTALION—12TH INFANTRY REGIMENT



The 2018 Lethal Murph participants pose post competition in Chosen Company's ready room



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Command Team Update – Lethal 6 & 7

Wow! The first 90 days of this historic combat deployment have moved quickly. As we usher in the month of June and the summer of 2018, we take time in this newsletter to say farewell to several leaders who have meant so much to the Lethal Warrior family. As the CSM and I have stated to the formation in Afghanistan, the coming months prove to be incredibly exciting for Task Force Lethal – but at the same time, this summer represents a season of change in which we will say goodbye several leaders, but at the same time welcome others. Change is exciting, and is what keeps our Army strong and revitalized – and so it is with great pride and honor that we fill the pages of this edition of the Lethal Ledger with farewell letters from four Lethal Company Commanders.

As the Battalion Command Team, we have so much to be thankful for. To be sure, being a part of this great and historic organization is the most rewarding experience of our professional lives. Among the many things that we have been blessed with is great company command teams – and many of the accomplishments and accolades that Task Force Lethal has earned over the past year is in large part due to the efforts of our great Captains and First Sergeants. So in this newsletter, it is only appropriate that we publically thank Captains Mario Gutierrez, Austin Caroe, Matt Vandyck and Joe Atwell (Joe will remain in 2-12 IN as Dagger 6) for their service and sacrifice to the Lethal Warrior Battalion. More importantly, the pages of this newsletter are a venue for these fine leaders to express their gratitude to the Soldiers and Families of the companies that they led. All will be missed – and in each and every case, these commanders left behind organizations that are lethal, committed to the mission, and prepared to move to the sound of the guns.

Aside from these departing company commanders, the Lethal Battalion also said goodbye to Lethal 5 on May 31st. MAJ Jayson Williams epitomized the essence of being an “iron major” – always striving to make the organization better, coaching and mentoring staff and company leaders, and spending early mornings and late nights ensuring that our great Lethal Warriors had the resources they need to accomplish the mission. Jayson will be dearly missed, for he meant a great deal to the CSM and I personally – but more importantly, he made a lasting impression and impact on the Lethal Warrior Battalion. However, our loss is another unit’s gain – and I am thankful to say that Jayson won’t be going far. His next stop will be Task Force Stalwart, where he will serve as the Battalion Operations Officer. Our best wishes to you MAJ Williams as you continue your Field Grade Officer journey. We would be remiss if we did not also thank Mrs. Nicole Williams for her exceptional work and devotion on behalf of the families of 2-12 IN, and we were honored to present her with several gifts at the May Battalion SCM. Thanks Nicole!

In addition to saying farewell to several leaders, 2-12 IN was blessed to welcome new leaders to the formation. Of note, we welcome MAJ Mike Kovalsky as the new Battalion Operations Officer, CPT Ken Smith as the new HHC Commander, and CPT Michael Hauser who will assume the call sign “Baker 6” on 2 June. CPT Dave Buchan is no stranger to the Lethal Warrior Battalion, but I am pleased and honored to introduce him as “Apache 6” – as he will take the colors from CPT Gutierrez on 8 June. Last, and certainly not least, CSM Speichert and I would like to extend our heartfelt welcome to two of our newest NCO leaders – SFC Andrew Travis from B/2-12, and SFC Wesley Bradley from C/2-12. Both are off and running as Platoon Sergeants, and are leading our Soldiers with energy and distinction.

Another addition to the battalion leadership team that we are thrilled to announce is Mrs. Jess Atwell - who graciously accepted the position of 2-12 IN FRA this past month. Jess will be a tremendous asset to our families!

But it hasn't been all about change in the Month of May – no, far from it. The Battalion continues to serve at the tip of the spear, supporting operations all across Afghanistan. Of particular note, CSM Speichert organized and hosted a Memorial Day “Murph” competition in first-class fashion – and without question, it was an event that brought out the best of our great battalion. I hope you enjoy the the article and photos, which should give you some idea of the pain and suffering we endured as a team!

We also want to thank the Lethal Warrior families for their patience and flexibility as the battalion executes a change of mission for Apache Company. Rest assured, the forward command team along with CPT Jeremy Prater will do everything in its power to keep our families informed as the Task Force gets closer to sending the great Apache Warriors “Over the Horizon.”

Finally – a quick shout out to our great Veterans. In close consultation with Vets like Arnold Krause, George Bennett, Ed Northrop, Bill Comeau and Dennis Sheppard, the Lethal Warrior Battalion is in the process of re-constructing the famous totem pole that adorned the 12th Infantry Regiment Headquarters in years past. The Lethal Warrior Team will update the totem pole to portray and reflect the distinguished service of this great Regiment!

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

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



2018 Memorial Day "Murph"

The Lethal Battalion participated in the annual "Murph" challenge on the morning of 28 May, Memorial Day. LT. Michael Murphy posthumously received a Medal of Honor for his actions in the War in Afghanistan, specifically Operation Red Wings in 2005.

The Murph Challenge usually consists of 100 pullups, 200 pushups, and 300 squats with a mile before and after all while wearing body armor. The Lethal Murph Challenge was modified to make it a 7 Soldier team competition. The teams were challenged with a mile run, 400 pullups, 800 pushups, 1400 squats, and another mile run to finish. The Dagger Company Team won the competition, finishing the challenge in under 54 minutes.

Navy Seal LT. Michael P. Murphy



The Command and Staff Team are all smiles post "Murph" Challenge



Team Hazard does their best Ginyu Force impression



SGT Smith from Team Spartan makes pullups look easy



Team Chosen races towards the finish



CSM Speichert reminds the Battalion the importance of Memorial Day



Team Dagger prepares for the first mile run

THE MURPH CHALLENGE

2

CHOSEN

RANGER

HOZARD COMPANY

1 MILE*
400 PULL UPS
800 PUSH UPS
1400 SQUATS
1 MORE MILE*

One team member performing repetitions at a time

*with full body armor
(front/back plates mandatory)

28 May 2018 @ 0600 at Camp Chosen
(PT Shorts, Brown T-Shirt, Running Shoes, Eye Pro, Camel Back)



CSM Speichert is cheered on by 1LT Cleare



2LT Stanley crushes pullups for Team Dagger

APACHE 6 FAREWELL LETTER

Friends and families of Apache Company,

As I approach my last day in our organization, I remain in awe of the commitment, compassion, and strength that you have shown to the Soldiers and leaders on our team. On behalf of my family and I, thank you for your gratitude and unconditional support to Apache Company. Over the last 18 months, Apache Company has executed an accelerated training cycle with numerous tactical mobilization exercises in the Fort Carson training area, Grafenwohr, Germany, and Fort Polk, Louisiana, in preparation for our current combat deployment to Afghanistan. The leaders and Soldiers could not have capitalized on their accomplishments without your support. Please help me sustain Apache Company's exceptional Soldier and family readiness standards by welcoming my successor CPT David M. Buchan. I am certain that Dave is the right leader to add to this exceptional organization. My time as the Commander of Apache Company has been the most rewarding period of my military service, thanks again for letting my family and I be a part of this amazing team.

Sincerely,

MARIO A. GUTIERREZ
Commander, A/2-12IN

Apache



3rd Platoon conducts Battle Drill 6 training under limited visibility



1LT Jackson and 1LT Herron after completing an 81mm fire mission



SGT Lara and SPC Yoachum create a charge capable of breaching a steel door



SPC Kelbaugh trains with SOF units on the operation of the M3 RAAWS



1LT William Beaudoin, SSG Lyczewski, and SGT Rodriguez discussed artillery with an Afghan Artilleryman and his D30 weapon system during a Key Leader Engagement.



BAKER 6 FAREWELL LETTER

Dear Soldiers, Leaders, and Families of the Lethal Battalion,

On June 2nd, I will change command with CPT Michael Hauser. It is with great sadness that I leave the Lethal Battalion. Together, we conducted an emergency deployment readiness exercise to Germany, multiple field training events, a rotation at the Joint Readiness Training Center, and a deployment to Afghanistan. Through it all, I have been humbled by the loyalty, professional excellence, and dedication to duty demonstrated by our Soldiers. I have also learned a lot: new things, old things, and how much learning I still have to do. My teachers in these lessons have been numerous: superiors, peers, subordinates, family members, and Army civilians. These are the best teachers I have had in my life, and I cannot thank you all enough.

First, I would like to thank all of the family members of Baker Company. The Soldiers of Baker Company were gone for roughly 6 out of the 15 months that I was in command. When we talk about the sacrifice that our families make in service to our nation, we too often miss the details of that sacrifice. The missed sports games, recitals, and family meals. The canceled family vacations, the late nights and early mornings, being gone for days or weeks for training, the limited paternity leave following the birth of a child, and numerous other small and large sacrifices that you make every day. I cannot thank you enough, and I will always remember you and all that you have given.

I would like to thank LTC Dennis and CSM Speichert, for their leadership and unwavering dedication to the Soldiers of the Lethal Battalion. Together they led the battalion through an incredibly intense training cycle and a deployment to Afghanistan. They also spent numerous hours listening to me rant about crazy ideas and the proper use of Army doctrine. I have grown so much as a result of their patience and maturity, and I cannot thank them enough.

Another person I would like to thank is my First Sergeant Brian Blow and my executive officer 1LT Jake Polo. First Sergeant Blow's no-nonsense approach to leadership and his diligence in keeping Baker Company on track have been invaluable to me as a commander. He lives the Ranger Creed every day and without him Baker Company would not have been nearly successful as we have been. 1LT Polo has been Baker Company's "Secret Sauce" throughout my entire command. He often worked late nights to ensure that the company was setup for success and when the stress reached astronomical levels, he remained calm, cool, and collected. He didn't just make sure that "the trains ran on time," he made sure the trains arrived 15 minutes early with a fresh coat of wax and polished wheels. He has been my confidant and right hand man and I can't thank him enough.

Most importantly I would like to thank my wife Diana. As the Baker FRG Leader she has done an extraordinary job ensuring that our families were always informed about what the company was doing and helping families connect to resources on post. She helped drive innovations such as migrating our FRG meetings to a Live Stream on Facebook, and planned numerous events like the company trunk-or-treat that brought the Baker family together. She has been my rock through the tough times, my inspiration through the good times, and without her I wouldn't be half the man I am today. Following command Diana and our son Arthur will move to Fort Sill, OK where I will be an instructor at the Fires Center of Excellence. We will miss the comradery, the outstanding leadership, and the incredible Soldiers of the Lethal Battalion. We wish you all the best and God's speed.

Baker 6, OUT.

Baker Company by CPT Austin Caroe

Baker Company is currently deployed to Kandahar Airfield in support of Operation Resolute Support and Operation Freedom's Sentinel. We have been in country for about three months now.

Things are going very well in Baker Company. We have had the opportunity to conduct some very unique training, including advanced medical training, and working with a variety of different helicopters.

When Soldiers are not training, they fill their time by going to the gym, playing cards, video games, and a lot of Soldiers are pursuing online degrees and

certificates. For example, our Fire Support Officer, LT Mitchell, is obtaining several certificates relating to athletic training.

We recently promoted two of our platoon leaders, Baker and Kraemer, from Second Lieutenant to First Lieutenant. Two of our Non-Commissioned Officers received Army Achievement Medals for their efforts in training Soldiers on individual marksmanship. We also said goodbye to one of our platoon sergeants, Staff Sergeant Dananhy, and welcomed Staff Sergeant Hunt to the Baker Company family.

On June 2nd, I will relinquish command of Baker Company to Captain Michael Hauser. I cannot thank the Soldiers, leaders, and families of Baker Company enough for their hardwork and dedication. I have learned so much in the last 15 months, and I will miss Baker Company and the Lethal Battalion. #SendBaker!



LT Mitchell giving the company a class on health and fitness



Soldiers conducting an emergency medical drill



SSG Danahy receives the Army Commendation Medal for his work as a platoon sergeant during the deployment



Nolan Baker is promoted from 2LT to 1LT



SSG Danahy receives a plaque from LTs Talbott and Kraemer as a thank you for his hard work in Baker Company



SGT Allen receives the Army Achievement Medal for his work as a marksmanship instructor

Chosen Company

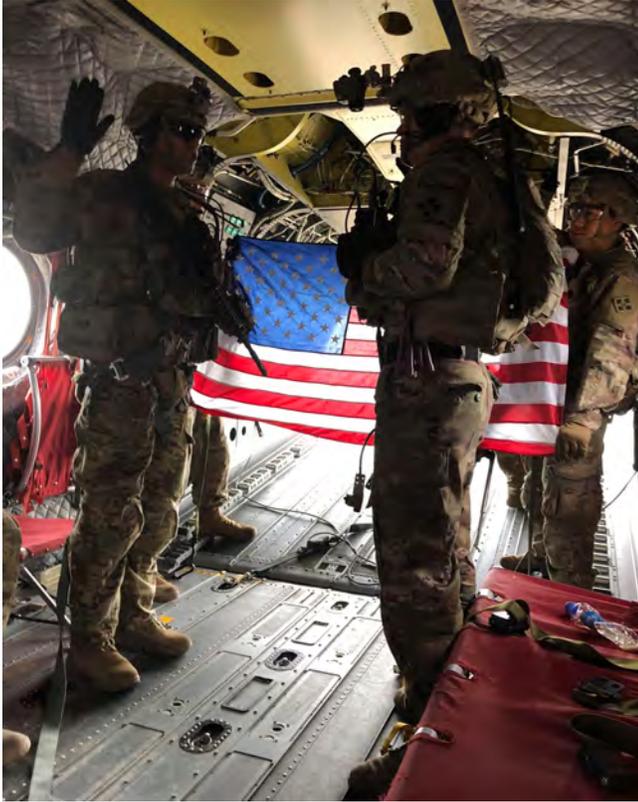


Chosen Company's polished conference room built from scratch

Chosen Company conducts sling load training on Bagram Airfield



Chosen Company's Notice-to-Move tent is still under construction but is already the envy of the battalion



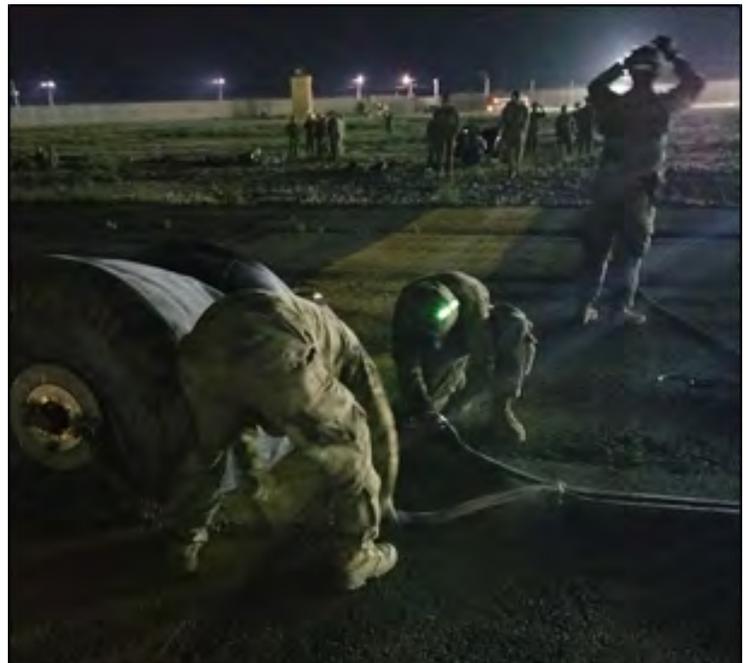
1LT Sheffield reenlisted SPC Burke and SPC Coymomani in a helicopter while flying



2nd Platoon, Chosen Company, conducts test fires on all belt-fed weapon systems



2nd Platoon, Chosen Company's SPC Guerrero displays his expertise on the M240L, completing an EIB task to standard blindfolded



2nd Platoon, Chosen Company, conducts slingload operations

DAGGER 6 FAREWELL LETTER

Family and Friends of Dagger Company,

I would like to express how honored and deeply appreciative I am for the having the opportunity to serve with and lead your Soldiers the last 16 months. In the coming weeks, I will be leaving Dagger for a new position in Japan as an aide de camp and CPT Joe Atwell will assume command of Dagger company. I could not have picked a better leader to take over as the next company commander.

I thank you for the strength, patience, and resilience you have provided your Soldier over the many early mornings and late nights in Fort Carson, several training deployments to Nevada, Germany, and Louisiana and finally our current combat deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Resolute Support. There is a saying in the Army that, “the strength of our Army is our Soldiers and the strength of our Soldiers is their families,” this could not be more true than in the case of Dagger families, friends, and Soldiers. Without your support, we could not be successful in all that we do.

The current Family Readiness Group leadership will remain in place and will continue to provide information on a regular basis over the remainder of the deployment.

Sincerely,
Captain Matthew Van Dyck
Daggers!

Dagger Company



1st Platoon Soldiers preparing for the promotion board. (L to R: SPC Mooseman, SPC Thatcher, SSG Allen, SGT Adjumal, SPC Bond)



2nd Platoon rehearsing security of a helicopter landing zone with Task Force Brawler



LT David Hart, 1st Platoon Leader, orients leaders from the company on a terrain model for an upcoming mission.



3rd Platoon Soldiers rehearsing medical evacuation procedures with flight medics from the aviation task force.

Hazard Company



Hazard mechanics have been busy helping many groups across BAF with vehicle maintenance, diagnosing faults and completing services. Pictured are 3 MAXXPROs that Hazard has been working on.



CPT Garza stands with SPC Gassett, SPC Brown and SPC Garzon who were recognized for their work to build a functioning fueling point with the 165th CSSB.



CPT Garza congratulates SSG Jackson on his last re-enlistment now that he is an E6.



1LT Brown: "I love the smell of coffee in the morning, it smells like...Bagram."



1LT Oliver and SGT Pryor stand with COL Anwar (ANA) who expressed his thanks for the maintenance support that Hazard provided while on mission.

SPARTAN 6 FAREWELL LETTER

Spartan Families,

It has been my pleasure to serve as Spartan Company's Commander. The last 11 months have been very busy with Company STX, Warhorse Strike, JRTC, and deploying to Afghanistan. Your Soldiers made a name for HHC, 2-12 IN and set a standard for excellence. I am grateful for the opportunity to have worked with your Soldiers during this time and thankful for you supporting them along the way.

I got to witness the Staff grow exponentially with their field craft throughout these exercises to the point where during JRTC they were even digging fighting positions. "Witch Doctor", the Medical Platoon, achieved a 98% casualty survival rate at JRTC and were the best the OC/Ts had seen in almost two years at Fort Polk. "Mayhem", the Mortar Platoon, was recognized by COL Zinn at Company STX/ Company LFX as the best in the brigade. Last, "Reaper", the Scouts, were recognized by MG George and CSM Metheney at JRTC as the best in the 4th Infantry Division. Your Soldiers have made impressive accomplishments since July, and they deserve all of the credit.

I have enjoyed getting to know the Soldiers and Families within the company and am sad to leave. I ask that you welcome CPT Kenneth Smith and Mrs. Melissa Smith as warmly as you welcomed me and my Family.

Having been led by love of country,

CPT Joe Atwell
Spartan 6

HHC Spartan Company



SPC Galvan receives his Medic Combat Badge for his actions in Afghanistan on the 2016 deployment



Lethal S1 section receives Army Achievement Medals for leading the brigade in HR metrics



Lethal Mortar Platoon Soldiers doing what they do best



Soldiers from Mortar Platoon pose for a photo after a hard day of training

Chaplain's Message— "Happy Father's Day"

by Chaplain (CPT) Benjamin Ahn

Happy Father's Day from Afghanistan! God's Word in Psalm 103:13 says, "As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him." Shout out to all fathers who amply display the quality of love, compassion, integrity and discipline to their children! May the Lord abundantly bless all fathers in Lethal Family! Now let me share some pictures of Religious Support Team's Ministry last month.



Soldiers from HHC take a pose before Flag Football.



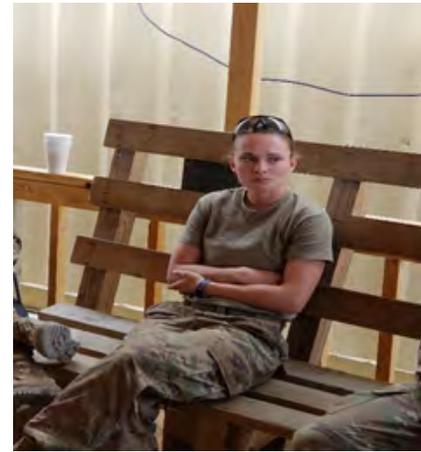
Hike!



HHC Group photo



During a marriage enrichment training, Soldiers from HCO watch a video lecture "Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage."



SPC Call pays attention to the lecture.



During a Field Service, Soldiers from HCO listen to a message shared by CH Ahn.



CPL Kamerman joins in prayer.