

## Lethal Warriors *Forward Deployed!*



## The Lethal Ledger OCTOBER 2018

2-12 IN Leadership stand with MG George, IVY6, as he visits the Lethal Battalion!



<https://www.facebook.com/lethalwarriors/>

## Friends, Families and Veterans of the Lethal Warrior Battalion –

Hello again from Afghanistan – we hope this newsletter finds you all happy and healthy! As we enter the fall season, we also begin the season of redeployment – and there is no doubt that families, friends and our great Veterans are at the forefront of our minds. At the same time however, we expect the month of October to be the busiest of the deployment – and our leaders and Soldiers remain laser focused on the mission. Rest assured, our leaders are doing the essential work to ensure that your Soldiers return home safely, while at the same time ensuring that our Lethal Warriors are prepared to support the mission. Please read on to stay abreast of key resources that will help you navigate the redeployment process of your Soldier.

This past month was a special one for the Lethal Battalion, as we were able to host the 4<sup>th</sup> ID Commanding General - Major General Randy George. General George and members of the 4<sup>th</sup> ID team came to Afghanistan to conduct their pre-deployment reconnaissance, and we were honored to host him. Additionally, we were honored to host Colonel Zinn and Command Sergeant Major Hillig, who made the trip to Bagram visit with Lethal Soldiers and to meet with all of our leaders from Spartan, Chosen, Dagger and Hazard. Their message of focus and readiness, as well as their insight into the mission was invaluable – and our Soldiers enjoyed the interaction immensely.

As all of you are aware, this deployment has been historic for the battalion, the BCT and for our great Nation. The month of October proves to be critical, as we will all be witness to historic parliamentary elections in Afghanistan. Task Force Lethal will do its part to support our Afghan military partners, rest assured – and we all sincerely hope for safe, fair and credible elections. As Lethal 7 and I get out and talk to Soldiers, it is evident that they feel pride in the work they have done thus far, and in their contribution to the mission. As we document the many accomplishments of the battalion in this last newsletter, our message is that you should feel the same pride in your Soldier as we do.

This deployment has also been marked by significant change when it comes to our people. In addition to several new platoon leaders (LTs Windom, Walters, Prestipitino, Barcenas, Bogart, Holderby, Stubbs, & Mueller) we also welcomed a great new Platoon Sergeant to the ranks – SSG(P) Mensink. Moreover, it is with great pleasure that we welcome the newest Lethal Commander to the formation – CPT Andrew Epps. Andrew and his great wife Katlyn will lead Hazard FSC to even newer heights, and we are blessed to be able to call them Lethal Warriors. At the same time, we say farewell to CPT Will Garza and his great wife Alyssa. Will and Alyssa meant so much to our great battalion, and they are off to the next adventure in their Army life. Thanks Will and Alyssa for your distinguished service, and for your sacrifice on behalf of our Soldiers.

Enjoy the newsletter! We look forward to seeing you at Fort Carson soon...

Respectfully,  
Lethal 6 & Lethal 7

## *Preparing to Come Home*

Over the next month and a half, the battalion will plan, prepare, and execute the redeployment of over 600 Soldiers and 20 containers full of equipment from Afghanistan back to Fort Carson, Colorado. This will be a challenge to execute, but the transition of our Soldiers from their life deployed back to their regular garrison lives will also be a challenge.

This transition can be difficult not only for the Soldiers currently deployed, but for families as well. In this issue of the Lethal Ledger, we want to highlight some specific resources that will help families prepare for their Soldier's return.

First and foremost, Company Family Readiness Groups (FRG) are an excellent resource to gain information about goings-on in your Soldier's company, as well as specific information when you can expect your Soldier back in Colorado. This information will not be released until a few days before their flight, but it still can be useful as communication with your Soldier might be hard in the final days before his/her return. You can ask your Soldier to give you the contact info for his/her Company FRG representative. Finally, we want to stress the importance of having a VFRG account. VFRG is the official manner in which we will disseminate re-deployment timelines for your Soldier. Please contact the BN FRL – LT Kevin Roake – should you have any questions regarding this tool.

Another great resource to stay up-to-date with useful reintegration information is the Battalion Facebook page. This page provides current events happening in the battalion and also information about the transition our Soldiers and their families will be going through soon. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/lethalwarriors/> to stay connected with the battalion.

One specific event that can help families with the reintegration of their Soldiers is the 2IBCT Reintegration Workshop. This will be held on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at The Elkhorn Conference Center on Fort Carson. More information can be found on our Facebook page linked above.

While we are still primarily focused on executing operations to the highest standard, we are excited to go back to Colorado to see all of our family and friends again!





### *Visit from MG George, IVY6*



Major General George, the Division Commander of 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, visited the Lethal Warriors in September to see the status of the Battalion. The battalion staff hosted him as he reviewed the capabilities of the Theater Reserve Force in preparation for his upcoming role as the Deputy Chief of Staff- Operations (DCOS OPS) of Resolute Support & CDR United States Forces – Afghanistan (USFOR-A). During his visit, General George was able to talk to each of the companies in the battalion, awarding several coins to outstanding Soldiers. The Lethal Battalion was honored to host him!



## **APACHE UPDATE**

Families of Apache Company and the Lethal Battalion,

As always thank you for your continued support for the team forward. As we approach the end of our tour in Kandahar let us share some of the team's achievements over the last month.

1st Platoon deployed to the Shorab Annex, Hahr-e Saraj District, for the majority of the month. There they supported Task Force – South West. The Platoon served as a critical component of the Shorab Annex's base defense plan by conducting both mounted and dismounted patrols within the Afghan portion of the base. Shorab is a small Camp inside of a much larger Afghan National Army base.

While 1st Platoon was working hard on mission, 2nd and 3rd Platoon were working just as hard. The platoons conducted air MEDEVAC 101 and 102 training with Task Force Panther's medical support team from 3-126 GSAB. This included preparing, packaging, and loading a patient for transport into a HH-60 helicopter. The two platoons also took time to conduct night Advanced and Short Range Marksmanship, which enhanced the Soldiers' ability to identify and engage enemy combatants in the dark of night. Additionally, the platoons worked on day marksmanship by executing the army standard marksmanship qualification at twice the standard distance.

The Kandahar team took advantage of an opportunity to visit 62nd ERS, who is responsible for Unmanned Aerial Surveillance (UAS) out of Kandahar. There they received training on the MQ-9 system as well as a capabilities orientation. This training allowed the Soldiers of Apache Company to develop a better understanding of the support this key asset provides them while they are conducting security operations in locations like FOB Thompson.

Sincerely,

CPT Buchan & 1SG Royalty



*Soldiers from Apache Company working hand in hand with 3-126 GSAB during MEDEVAC 102 training, ensuring the team is always ready to treat any casualty anywhere on the battlefield.*



*SGT Trapp conducts Preventative Maintenance on a QRF truck after a mounted patrol.*





*Lethal Apache Warriors conducting night Advanced Rifle Marksmanship*



*Ssg McMaster, SPC Castaneda, and SPC Carter  
conducting MEDEVAC 102 training with 3-126  
GSAB*



*SPC Bognar and SPC Avalos conducting Ranger  
physical training*



*Team Apache completing the Kandahar Airfield Army Ten Miler Shadow run*



*Ssg Lara, SPC Nolasco, and SPC Castenada practice long range marksmanship at Kandahar Airfield*



*Soldiers from 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon Apache Company rehearsing their room clearing battle drills at Kandahar Airfield.*



## **BAKER UPDATE**

Baker Friends and Family,

We are rapidly approaching the end of the deployment here in Kandahar. The gears are already set in motion for our return and we take care to balance our excitement for redeployment with the reality that we maintain a vitally important mission-set here in Afghanistan.

In September we've continued to rotate our platoons into new mission sets, provided security for expeditionary advising packages throughout southern Afghanistan, maintained readiness for the variety of responsibilities we have in theater. Included in the Lethal Ledger are pictures of recent missions here in southern Afghanistan, our newest members to the NCO Corps, Baker Company award recipients, and goodbyes extended to some of our faithful Baker Soldiers that are moving on from Army life.

I want to extend a special congratulations to our newest Sergeants and our soon-to-be NCOs. SGT Johnson and SGT Folkers were both promoted in September. CPL Fosberry and CPL Prins both graduated from BLC this month, and we look forward to pinning on their new rank soon!

Congratulations is also in order for SGT Santos and PFC Maniscalco. Both competed and won their respective NCO and Soldier of the Month competitions for the month September. We're very proud of their commitment to our unit as indicated by their recent success.

We can't say enough of how thankful we are to have the support back at home. While we only have a little over a month left here in country, we are working as hard as ever to stay focused on our missions in Afghanistan, while still preparing for reintegration back at home. As always, we ask our Baker families to be as resilient and flexible as possible as we near our return to Colorado. Arrival dates and times are subject to mission requirements, weather, flight schedules and variety of other factors, while we aim to provide you the most accurate information as possible with regard to our return, it is nearly impossible to predict with absolute certainty. Please understand that we will do our best to support families, our Soldiers and our mission as we prepare for return to Fort Carson.

Our families are some of the most resilient and tough around. We are so grateful for your fortitude and determination. Please know that your sacrifices don't go unnoticed, and for that reason, we can't say thank you enough.

All the best from all of us here and, as always, SEND BAKER!

CPT Hauser and 1SG Blow

Baker 6 and Baker 7





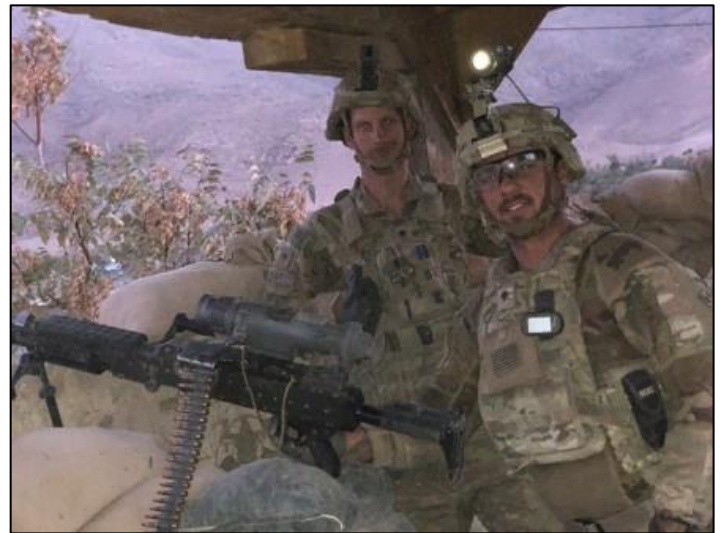
*CPT Hauser and 2LT Barcenas (3/Baker) on a recent mission in southern Afghanistan supporting our Security Force Assistance Brigade and Afghan National Army partners*



*1st Platoon posed for a photo prior to executing missions in support of Resolute Support and TAAC-S in southern Afghanistan.*



*3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon stopped for a photo with SFAB CAT 1230 prior to INFIL for an important mission here in southern Afghanistan.*



*SPC Neary and SPC Moran on guard shift in support of our ANA partners and SFAB counterparts.*



*PFC Henline (4<sup>th</sup> from left) and PFC Awai (4<sup>th</sup> from right) are recognized with Lethal coins from L6 and L7 while on mission in southern Afghanistan.*



*Baker Company says goodbye to SPC Burnett, SPC Foster, and SPC Vanwinkle during a ceremony at the beginning of September. We are so thankful for you and your family's service to our nation and we wish you all the best.*



*3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon's medic, SGT Folkers was recently promoted while on mission in southern Afghanistan. We're extremely proud of the work he put in to become an NCO. Congratulations SGT!*



*SGT Gonzales was promoted to E-5 during a ceremony here at KAF in early September. He's proven a valuable asset to the Engineer platoon and to Baker Company!*





*SGT Johnson from 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon received his sergeant stripes during a ceremony here in Kandahar. Great job SGT Johnson!*



*Pictured here under the 4ID crest is PFC Maniscalco from the Baker Engineer Platoon. He was recently recognized as the battalion Soldier of the Month for September during a competition at BAF. Congratulations!*



*Lethal Battalion and Baker Company mortars fire the 120 mm mortar while supporting the SFAB and Afghan National Army in southern Afghanistan.*



*SGT Santos, a recent addition to 2/Baker, has done a tremendous job already for Baker company. He recently won the TF Lethal NCO of the month competition at BAF. Congratulations!*



## **CHOSEN UPDATE**

Families and Friends,

The Soldiers of Chosen Company have continued to set unprecedented heights for this month! They continued to thrive in executing operations and training. All while making time to recognize a range of Chosen Soldiers for incredible performance.

Chosen Company kicked off the month by supporting a variety of limited notice missions. The Soldiers rapidly responded with ease and executed them all flawlessly. I am continuously impressed by their commitment and dedication to the mission.

To complement their incredible performance in the operational environment, the Company conducted a wide range of training. The majority of the month was spent executing Platoon RIPs, and squad level training. Platoons executed Troop Leading Procedure Classes, Helicopter Assault Force training, Medical Training, and Joint Training with our Partner Forces.

At the end of the month Chosen Soldiers made history by constructing first ever UTM Shoot house. Friendly agencies that work with Chosen have all been widely impressed by your Soldiers commitment to improving our current footprint.

To close out the month, Chosen Company had the privilege of receiving a visit by senior leaders - Major General George, Colonel Zinn and CSM Hillig. A total of 17 Soldiers received coins for their hard work throughout the deployment. Following the DV engagement Chosen Company recognized 10x Czech Soldiers for their outstanding efforts while training with Aircraft Recovery Force.

The outstanding work of our Chosen Soldiers did not stop there. Chosen recognized an additional 27 Soldiers for earning their Combatives Level I Certification. This brings Chosen Company to a total of 57 total graduates!

I am thoroughly impressed with the drive for excellence that our Chosen Soldiers continue to portray. Each member of the formation continues to seek out the next level of their profession. As we prepare to sprint past the finish line of this deployment, we want to say thank you to all of the friends and families for their continued support!

Sincerely,

CPT Jeramiah Solven and 1SG Matthew Collins



*Chosen conducts Helicopter Assault Force training*



*Chosen Soldiers conduct training with the Czech military*





*LTC Dennis expresses his gratitude toward the Czech Military*



*Chosen Soldiers conduct training during their platoon RIP*



## **DAGGER UPDATE**

Dagger Families,

September has been a busy month for our Soldiers. We experience two leader transitions, 1LT David Hart (First Platoon) and 1LT Creighton Monson (FSO). Dagger will miss these leaders who have made an impact on the Company. First platoon is now led by 2LT Jacob Walters and 2LT John “Jack” Mueller has taken over as the Company FSO.

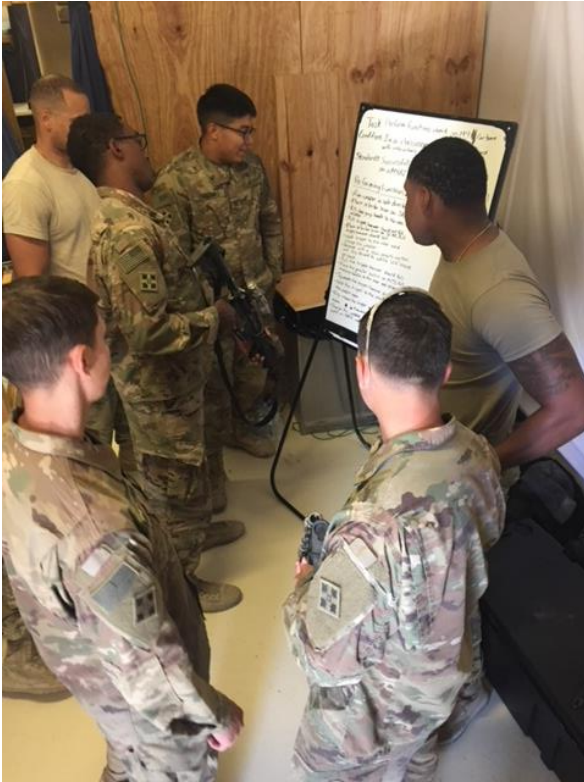
This month we have continued to support operations as the Security Force throughout Afghanistan. COL Zinn and CSM Hillig presented Combat Infantryman Badges and Combat Action Badges to 2nd Platoon for actions at Mehtar Lam in April. Everyone has been improving the Company’s area in an effort to increase Readiness. Each platoon now has a Ready Connex where they stage mission essential equipment and 3rd platoon is leading the effort to build a mission planning bay complete with electricity, internet, white boards, and a sand table.

Your Soldiers are leaving an impact on everyone they have worked with. Each unit has only had positive interactions with Dagger Soldiers and request to work with them again. While we have enjoyed making new acquaintances and friends, we look forward to joining everyone back in Colorado.

Respectfully,  
CPT Joe Atwell & 1SG Haynsworth  
Dagger 6 & 7



*2/D with Warhorse 6 and 7  
after receiving their  
CIBs/CABs.*



*Team Leaders critiquing a peer's class*



*1st, 2nd, 3rd, and HQs are utilizing the ready connexes they designed and built.*



*SPC Bone applies a tourniquet during medical training*



## **HAZARD UPDATE**

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

I would like to introduce myself as the new Hazard Company Commander. On 21 September, I replaced CPT William Garza in a wonderful ceremony in which the Soldiers of Hazard looked amazing. My wife, Kaitlyn, and our two daughters are very happy to be members of this outstanding company and battalion. We look forward to interacting with every member and continuing to support this organization!

I was previously assigned to 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment for the last year and a half, so I am no stranger to the Brigade. I will pick up where CPT Garza left off and continue to push this company to new heights and achievements. I am truly in awe of what the Soldiers of Hazard Company have and continue to accomplish during their time here in Afghanistan.

I invite all members of the Hazard organization to reach out to Kaitlyn or myself with any questions or concerns. Again, it is an honor to be a member of this organization and I am truly excited to see what the future holds for us!

Hazard 6, signing on!

CPT Andrew E. Epps  
Hazard 6



*Hazard Company gathers for a picture during the Change of Command Ceremony. CPT Garza completed his time as Hazards Commanding Officer and relinquished command to CPT Epps.*





*Soldiers from Hazard watch a demonstration on how to lock in and out of a container while using the RTCH*



*ISG Padilla assists SSG Snyder in learning how to correctly operate RTCH*



*CPT Epps receives the Company Guidon from LTC Dennis signifying his assumption of command. He then passes it to ISG Padilla entrusting him with the safe keeping of the colors.*

## **SPARTAN UPDATE**

Spartan Families,

Your Soldiers continue to do incredible things on a daily basis all across Afghanistan. While I know that you are consistently at the forefront of their hearts and minds, they remain steadfast and mission focused as we close on our return to you at Fort Carson. Know that your Soldiers are absolutely making a difference here and could not operate at such a high level without your love and support.

The Soldiers on the staff continue to provide in depth and critical intelligence updates, operational plans and support to units all across Afghanistan. Soldiers in S2 and S6 are supporting Baker Company and the Security Force Assistance Brigade on critical advisory operations throughout the month of September. We've additionally supported units in the northern and eastern portion of Afghanistan throughout the month of September.

The mortar platoon continues to provide indirect fire support on a daily basis. Their efforts have been critical to mission success in multiple regions of Afghanistan. While their continued support has been critical, they have found time in their busy schedule to completely renovate the HHC living space, including constructing a new conference that will serve the Theater Reserve Force for years to come.

The medical platoon continues to support over one thousand personnel from across Bagram with daily medical care. In addition to their daily duties SSG Delgado, SGT McMahon, SPC Ruiz and PVT Goldstein took part in the grueling medical Olympics this month. The competition involved teams from the United States, Poland and the Czech Republic. Our medics efforts resulted in fourth place overall!

Thank you again for all the love and support you provide our Soldiers on a daily basis!

Sincerely,  
CPT KenSmith & 1SG Bessette  
Spartan 6 & 7



*Left: SSG Sanders (medical platoon) receives a coin from MG George.*





*Images above, from left to right:  
Members of the staff receive coins from WH6  
Members of the mortar platoon receive certificates of appreciation and AAMs from WH6  
Members of the mortar platoon on mission*



*Soldiers from the medical platoon conducting training with TF Panther flight medics on mission*



## **Chaplain's Message—"Create Shared Understanding"**

The second principal of mission command is to create shared understanding. FM 6-0 gives us two words to help achieve success in reaching it: 1) Collaboration and 2) Dialogue. In relationships both at home and in the work environment the more effective we are at communicating and receiving communication the better our product. If we collaborate well it means we working together and not against each other. We value the strengths of each team member or partner versus being frustrated solely at what they do not bring to the team or relationship. Dialoging to effectiveness means there is a give and take relationship where two or more individuals are having a conversation and not a monologue. The decision does not rest on what one person thinks but through collective wisdom the answer is found. This may take longer and more energy but majority of the time the end result is better than what one person could come up with. My hope and prayer is that you are creating shared understanding with your Soldier and I look forward to offering many different venues through Strong Bonds Training, Family Dinners and coaching to help the process along.



*SSG Pedersen from HHC selects an autographed Aaron Rodgers picture.*

*SGT Clere from Dagger Company selects an authentic NFL football.*