



Lethal Warriors *Forward Deployed!*



The Lethal Ledger

SEPTEMBER 2018

Our great Lethal Warriors celebrate their recent promotions with a group photo in front of the mighty Lethal Warrior Regimental Crest!



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

Friends, Families and Veterans of the Lethal Warrior Battalion -

Hello again, and greetings from Afghanistan! Another month has passed, and much like previous newsletters, we are happy to report that the Lethal Warrior Battalion remains as busy as ever. On top of ongoing operational priorities and missions, the month of August was marked by several other significant events - which are detailed in this edition of the Lethal Ledger. Of specific note, highlighted in this month's newsletter is the Pre-Deployment Site Survey (PDSS) of the 2nd BCT, 10th Mountain Division from Fort Drum, New York. From August 24th-28th, we were honored to host our counterparts from 2nd BCT and 4-31 IN (Task Force Polar Bear) during their deployment reconnaissance. Task Force Polar Bear, led by LTC Steve Wallace, along with COL Paul Larson and CSM Fortenberry, visited Task Force Lethal, and our leaders and Soldiers did an incredible job showcasing the Theater Reserve Force mission.

In this month's newsletter, you will see some of the incredible achievements of our Soldiers - and "Soldier Excellence" is the September edition's theme. We are both amazed at the energy, passion, drive and devotion that is on display each and every day in the Lethal Battalion - and it remains the single biggest factor in our battalion's success. From earning Commandant's honors at the Basic Leader Course, getting promoted in rank in the middle of a combat operation, being recognized by a senior leader for selfless service, and earning an award for honorable service our Nation, this edition of the Lethal Ledger highlights the greatest part of our organization - our Lethal Warrior Soldiers!

We hope you enjoy the newsletter. Rest assured, Task Force Lethal remains laser focused on the mission ahead, and the tasks that must still be accomplished - but at the same time our friends and families are in our hearts and minds each and every day.

Respectfully, Lethal 6
& Lethal 7

TF Lethal Soldiers Lead the Way!

During the month of September, Lethal Warriors across the Battalion were recognized at every level for their hard work. Junior NCOs and lower enlisted soldiers led the way during the month of September, showcasing the Battalion's trademark pursuit of excellence everywhere from the Basic Leaders Course to the halls of United States Forces - Afghanistan. SPC (P) Damyan Ruiz, a member of HHC's Medical Platoon, recently graduated with distinction from Basic Leader Course #18-07. This is an honor reserved for the top 20% of the class. SPC (P) Ruiz earned the coveted Commandant's List achievement by exceeding all course standards, gaining superior ratings in all evaluated areas, and maintaining a grade point average of 98.78%. SPC (P) Ruiz demonstrated an understanding of the duties of a leader on a level above that of his peers, placing him fourth overall in a class of 74. He will undoubtedly be an invaluable asset to the NCO Corps in the very near future. The Lethal Warriors to count him among their own.

CSM Hillig, War Horse 7, while on a trip to BAF, stopped by and visited the Lethal Warriors in the Battalion TOC. He visited with different staff sections, observing them hard at work, and then paid tribute to hand selected soldiers from the battalion who were deemed deserving of further recognition than the daily praise and compliments of their peers and coworkers. CSM Hillig bestowed coins upon SPCs Fletcher, Marin, Dwyer, Ventura, and Ferguson. All five of these outstanding young soldiers contribute to the daily successes of the staff, and were well deserving of praise from the CSM. The CSM closed his brief visit with an insistence that even though the end of the deployment nears it is of the utmost importance to remain focused on the mission at hand.

Lethal Warriors are more than just expert soldiers, as demonstrated by the painting skills of SGT Simonsen from Chosen Company. On a visit to Chosen Company's tent, MG Poppas noticed a flag mural of such high quality that he sent down a by name request to have SGT Simonsen help in the designing and painting of a mural located in USFOR-A's entryway. SGT Simonsen's work motivates all who enter into the USFOR-A building. The stirring image of a battle-ready Spartan with the words "*What More Would You Do Today If You Couldn't Leave Till It's Over*" emblazoned above helps bring the Lethal Warrior spirit to the halls of USFOR-A.



Above: SPC (P) Ruize with his certificate



WH7 stopped by to hand out coins to these Lethal Warriors who distinguished themselves through exceptional dedication to their work. (From left to right: SPC Fletcher, SPC Marin, SPC Dwyer, CSM Hillig, SPC Ferguson, SPC Ventura)



SGT Simonsen (4/C, first from left) helped complete a mural in the USFOR-AHQ. Here he's pictured with MG Poppas (second from left)



Above: The completed Mural located in USFOR-A



Above: SGT Simonsen receiving a coin from MG Poppas in appreciation of his hard work on the mural



Above: 2-12 congratulates its newly promotable 1LTs!



Above: MAJ Herrera addresses the staff after a team building exercise of Flag Football

PDSS Vist from 2nd BDE, 10th Mountain "Commandos"



The Lethal Warriors had the pleasure of hosting the leadership of 2nd BDE, 10th Mountain Division out of Fort Drum for the start of their Pre-Deployment Site Survey. The PDSS is an important first step in the transition process for the incoming unit. A successful PDSS will identify what the new unit needs to be focused on as they begin to deploy and assume operational responsibilities from 2-12 IN later on. A successful PDSS will give the incoming unit plenty of context on what to work on prior to arriving in country, which is essential in ensuring a seamless transition.

LTC Wallace, the Battalion Commander of 4-31 IN, was here with his Brigade Commander and CSM, COL Paul Larson and CSM Fortenberry, and other members of the Brigade Staff. The Lethal Warriors had the opportunity to take them to all the key locations, including the Chosen NTM Tent and all the remarkable improvements that the Lethal Warriors have accomplished since the start of the deployment. The Polar Bears showed commitment and enthusiasm in face of the tremendous workload they will be facing as they begin arriving in the coming months. They will be worthy successors to the proud legacy the Lethal Warriors have established as the TRF!

APACHE UPDATE

FRG Families and Friends,

After a busy 15 days at FOB Thompson in Farah Province, Apache Company returned to KAF for a well-deserved and much needed re-fit. Over the last 15 days, Apache Company supported our Italian NATO partners, 4th BN, 1st SFAB, as well as special operations forces by providing force protection, fires planning, air traffic de-confliction, intelligence gathering and analysis, Quick Reaction Force (QRF), and overall base security. The Soldiers in Apache worked tirelessly to ensure the success of the operation, which was the priority for Resolute Support Commander GEN Nicholson. Over the next 7 days, Apache Company will focus on mission recovery and pack-out for future operations. Once the recovery is complete, Apache will continue with their marksmanship training with limited visibility Advanced Rifle marksmanship and Short Range Marksmanship

Sincerely,
CPT David M.
Buchan



Above: Lt Gen Cripwell – the Deputy Commander of Operation Resolute Support - presents coins to high performing Apache Warriors at FOB Thompson

Top Left: LTC Dennis greets our Italian Allies at FOB Thompson



Left: SSG Larocco briefs Major General Poppas on the achievements of some of his Apache Warriors during a coin presentation



Above: Apache Warriors joined by Brigadier General John Shanahan, Lethal 6 and Lethal 7 in Farah Province for an awards ceremony



Above: Mortarmen at work in support of a fire mission out of FOB Thompson



Above: SSG McMaster provides air traffic control at FOB Thompson

BAKER UPDATE



Above: Lethal 6 and Lethal 7 spent a few days visiting 3rd Platoon while on mission in southern Afghanistan.



Above: Baker Company Soldiers are recognized for their hard work and dedication to our important mission in Afghanistan



All: 2nd Platoon, led by 1LT Kraemer and SSG Hunt, conducts day and night validation exercises in preparation for their new responsibilities as the Aerial Reaction Force in Kandahar.





Above: Baker Company says goodbye to SPC Deacon, SPC Dumcum, and SPC Jones during a ceremony on August 20th. The Company also recognized SSG Tuttle upon his reenlistment.



Above: CPT Hauser recognized new arrivals like PVT Manansala to Baker Company during a deployment "patching" ceremony at KAF.

Below: Baker Company welcomed 2LT Porfirio Barcenas to the team as the new Baker 3-6!



Below: 3rd Platoon promoted PVT Bertagna to Private First Class last week at Baker Company.





Above: CPT Hauser reenlists SSG Tuttle at the Baker Company compound in KAF. SSG Tuttle is currently the weapons squad leader for 3rd Platoon. His wife Emma does a great job serving as the Company FRG leader.

Baker Friends and Family,

Hello once again from Kandahar, Afghanistan! I'm sure that by the time this letter is sent, those of you with children will already have sent them to their first day of school, the temperatures have started to cool off at night, and football season is already on the mind. It's hard to believe that we are already six months into the deployment, and before you know it, we'll be on flights back to Fort Carson!

Over the past month we've rotated our platoons into new mission sets, provided security for expeditionary advising packages throughout southern Afghanistan, and continued to stay ready for the variety of responsibilities we have in theater. We've also welcomed new leaders to our formation and said goodbye to others. 2LT Porifirio Barcenas has assumed responsibilities as Baker 3-6 from 1LT Peyton Talbott. A special welcome to Porifirio and his wife Veronica as they settle into life in Colorado. We wish 1LT Talbott the best of luck as he moves on to assessment and selection for the 75th Ranger Regiment in September.

Included in the Lethal Ledger are pictures of recent events, promotion ceremonies, reenlistments, and even a farewell to a few of our Baker Soldiers. This month we said goodbye to SPC Jones, SPC Deacon, and SPC Dumcum and awarded each with their end of tour Army Commendation Medals.

I want to extend a special congratulations to our newest future Sergeants, CPL Reyes and CPL Bridges. Both graduated from BLC in August, and we look forward to pinning on their new rank on in the coming months!

Thank you so much to all our families and friends back at Fort Carson. Your unwavering support to our Baker Company Soldiers is more important now than ever before, particularly as we start to approach the end of deployment. The support we receive from home is vital to allow us to stay mission focused and razor sharp. We greatly look forward to our return, but for now our aim to stay as sharp as ever, and fully prepared any and all missions we receive.

All the best and SEND BAKER!
CPT Hauser and 1SG Blow
Baker 6 and Baker 7

CHOSEN UPDATE



Above: Third Platoon Chosen Company Team Live Fire Exercise

Below: 1st Platoon Chosen working with our Czech Partners





Above: Chosen Company Combatives Graduation

Below: Chosen Company NVG Immersion Games, the Land Navigation Lane



Families and Friends,

The Soldiers of Chosen Company have done an incredible job increasing lethality and morale this past month! They have successfully balanced the demands of operations and training, all while making time for a Company BBQ and competitive game of dodgeball.

For operations, Chosen Company executed a number missions. The Headquarters section did an outstanding job supporting all of them. The Fire Support Team, Radio Transmission Operators, Mortars, and JTACs increased combat power and communications for each of our platoons. First Platoon flawlessly executed the recovery of a down CH-47. Second Platoon and Fourth Platoon supported British Special Operations. While third Platoon supported U.S. Special Operations. Each platoon did a phenomenal job responding to limited notice operations and executed them without issue. Moreover, each platoon planned and prepared for several Quick Reaction Force missions. The tempo was demanding on all Soldiers this past month. However, as you would expect, the Soldiers handled it with ease.

To supplement their outstanding work in the operational environment, all of our Platoons conducted a wide range of training. First Sergeant Collins and SSG Parson's spearheaded the first of many iterations of the Chosen Company Night Vision Goggle (NVG) Immersion Games. Fire Teams across the company competed against each other in tactical lanes while under limited visibility. The lanes consisted of assembly of weapon systems, assembly of various radios, medical testing, close quarters battle, and personnel recovery.

The outstanding work of our Chosen Soldiers did not stop there. Each platoon executed Squad Situational Training Exercises (STX) with the use of UH-60s and CH-47s. First platoon led several joint training exercises with the Czech Military. Second Platoon furthered the mobility capability of Chosen Company and conducted an extensive MAXXPLO driving course. Third platoon planned and executed a Team Live Fire Exercise that the other Platoons fell in on to certify their Chosen Soldiers. Fourth Platoon stressed their systems in responding to in-extremis scenarios across the theatre.

Lastly, Chosen Company graduated another 27 Soldiers as Combatives Level 1. Overall I am wildly impressed with the capabilities and endurance of our Chosen Soldiers. Each member of the company continues to strive for the next level of excellence in their profession. As we prepare to sprint past the finish line in the last few months of the deployment, I want to thank all of the friends and families for their continued support.

Sincerely,
CPT Jeramiah A. Solven

DAGGER UPDATE

Soldiers from Dagger Company have been busy this deployment and look to continue to maintain their tempo as we finish out these last few months. Dagger Company has been successfully executing multiple operations all while training hard and improving our footprint in preparation for future missions. We have conducted multiple ranges this month including a machine gun range in order to ensure that our Soldiers remain mission ready. We have also sent our Soldiers out on multiple missions to assist our coalition forces as well as our Marine counterparts. Our Soldiers represented our unit well while working with our sister servicemen receiving praise for their hard work ethic and individual Soldier discipline while completing tasks. We have been busy improving and building upon our footprint to ensure that we are operationally prepared for any mission that comes our way. The Soldiers of Dagger Company are in good spirits and remain focused as we near the end of our time here. We thank you for the support you have given us and for the continued support as we look to finish strong.

1LT Corey Spiller
Dagger 5



*Above: SPC Nathan Hollars (2nd PLT)
keeps a watchful eye from his guard
position*



*Above: SGT Dickerson led the Dagger Fire Support team during a
fire support training exercise.*



Above: SGT Casey Shellman (3PLT) participates in the Soldier Readiness Test, a key component of the NCO of the Month Board



Above" SPC Ethan Daum (2nd PLT, Left) and SPC Daniel Cruz (2nd PLT, Right) hone their skills during a Company Machine Gun Range

HAZARD UPDATE

Hazard Company is still going strong almost six months into the deployment. Our company has sent Soldiers on missions to 14 Forward Operating Bases in 10 different provinces, providing support from generator maintenance, to food service support, to welding and carpentry. Hazard Company has created an incredible reputation throughout the country with US forces, coalition forces, and local nationals alike. Our Soldiers have been enjoying playing "cornhole" in the motorpool after work to unwind and engage in some friendly competition. We have been conducting rigorous training, including gas mask training, Leader Professional Development (LPD) on a variety of topics like award writing and finances, and refreshing our Combat Life Saver (CLS) skills. Our Soldiers are incredibly motivated to finish the last few months of the deployment strong and continue to be depended on by many units in the country for critical support.

1LT Blaine Brown
Hazard 5



SSG Snyder, SGT Ruiz, SPC Brown, and PFC Goben load and secure two "swamp coolers" to be transported by plane to another location.



SPC Davis, SPC Call, and PFC Goben participate in Dagger Company's Breach Live Fire Range.



Hazard Company Soldiers compete against each other to practice magazine changes in preparation for the buddy team live fire.



SGT Ruiz, a prior Infantryman leads a dry fire iteration and block of training in preparation for the Buddy Team Live Fire.



Soldiers practice movement techniques, communication, and safety during the dry fire iteration in preparation for the Buddy Team Live Fire.



Storm clouds approach the Hazard Company Area

SPARTAN UPDATE

Spartan Families,

First, I hope this message finds you all well! It's certainly become the dog days of summer here in Afghanistan for our Soldiers supporting units across the country Afghanistan. Over the past month Soldiers from across the Company have tirelessly supported Task Forces and units in five different locations.

Our S2 Soldiers took part in two separate missions supporting biometric enrollment and intelligence collection in support of deliberate advisory operations. The S2 section has consistently been praised at the highest levels of command in Afghanistan and should make you all proud! Their efforts have been critical to the First Security Force Assistance Brigade's actions thus far in Afghanistan.

The mortar platoon has had the opportunity to execute their craft in combat situations on multiple operations. In support of Apache Company and the Security Force Assistance Brigade they fired multiple fire missions that were critical to the success of our mission.

Our medical Soldiers continue to support units across Afghanistan in their advisory efforts while simultaneously serving almost every unit on Bagram Air Field in the Lethal Aid station. Their support is critical to our daily success. Our medical Soldiers continue to support units across Afghanistan in their advisory efforts while simultaneously serving almost every unit on Bagram Air Field in the Lethal Aid station. Their support is critical to our daily success.

The Company absolutely could not do what we do without your love and support from home. Thank you for keeping our Soldiers motivated. I know they are all looking forward to seeing every one soon.

Sincerely,
CPT Ken Smith
Spartan 6



Above: Mortars with an Italian K9 team



Above: SPC Muniz Promoted by Brig Shanahan

Below: SSG Vine and SPC Muniz with Brig Shanahan





Above: HHC's Mortar teams firing in support of a mission along with our Italian Counterparts

Chaplain's Message— "Creating Cohesive Teams through Mutual Trust".

The first principle of mission command is Creating Cohesive Teams through Mutual Trust. I find this principle applies to all aspects of life, from the battlefield to personal relationships. Trust is essential within a team or relationship because it will give way or circumvent commitment to the organization/team or person/relationship. Trust is never given but is earned everyday by remaining true to the profession or your role in the relationship.

This month we have been using sports and a survey called Real Life Management to help provide understanding of the individual and how that correlates to making the team better. Enjoy the pictures of your Soldiers below as we play and learn together.



(We will notify Soldiers in September and post pictures in the OCT Newsletter of Soldiers whose names were drawn thanks to their family member by turning in the redeployment survey).