Lethal 06 Sends

LTC John Dawber

Warriors & Family Members,

The fall season is upon us and this edition of the battalion newsletter provides us one more milestone in our inevitable journey of being rejoined as this is the final edition to be published from Turkey. As the final months of this deployment come to a close I reflect on the great accomplishments of the battalion both in Turkey and at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Equally important is the care and support we have continued to receive from the “Lethal Strike” Family Members, Family Readiness Groups, Volunteers, and each other.

The Leaders and Soldiers have been extremely busy in ensuring the success of this mission. Since the last newsletter they have successfully planned and impressively executed weapons ranges, mask confidence chamber, numerous force protection exercises, operational readiness evaluations, air battle management certifications, maintenance, sustainment support, and a host of other training readiness requirements. As the crisis in Syria peaked following the chemical attacks in vicinity of Damascus on 21 August 2013, the Warriors of this battalion were poised and unquestionably prepared to execute orders in support of any potential response options decided. As the crisis arduously tested global diplomacy, the one thing that was never in doubt was the resolve of our Warriors and the sheer confidence they provide to our allies through credible presence; vigilant in duty and diligent in combat readiness.

This past quarter also witnessed the determination of the Rear Detachment’s Leaders and Soldiers. As we continue to face an uncertain world, these professionals continued to train hard knowing that they could be called upon to respond to any emergent global crisis requiring their attention. The Rear Detachment likewise prosecuted weapons ranges, mask confidence chamber, air battle training, deep maintenance, and many other training requirements ensuring war fighting, Soldier, and Family readiness. With approximately half of the battalion’s combat power remaining at home station, this has been far from traditional Rear Detachment operations and the understanding of this from
Family Members and Soldiers is to be commended. The Headquarters and Staff of the Rear Detachment have done a phenomenal job of planning and resourcing training and special events; many professionals have stepped up to the plate to fill vacant critical staff functions in order to make the Rear Detachment mission a success…much appreciation to them all for such care and commitment.

It has equally been great to hear of the many Family Readiness Group events that took place in partnership with unit Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers (BOSS) programs. Our Families and Soldiers continue to enhance quality of life and cohesion with such events as the Trunk-R-Treat, Zombie Run, Chili Cookoff, Haunted House, and various other fund raising events to name a few. In addition, this battalion is also blessed with many committed Volunteers who kindly give their time and efforts in assisting this unit with special events or reaching out to communities in need. Thank you all for your selfless service.

In closing, as the battalion continues preparation for redeployment there are three things that remain essential as we collectively move forward. First and foremost is to remain focused on the mission at hand. Until this battalion executes Transfer of Authority to the incoming unit the mission belongs to us; it is imperative that we finish it with the same level of tenacity that has ensured success to date. Secondly, Operational Security (OPSEC) remains crucial; it is important to understand that this battalion’s transition and movements are sensitive; disclosure of such information could likely put this formation and our allies at unnecessary risk. This includes avoiding open discussion and posting to Social Media. Lastly, flexibility and understanding will get us all through the redeployment and reintegration. There are a number of variables that will determine and even influence redeployment operations. This is usually a time of great angst for many but normal in just about every redeployment operation prosecuted. Remain flexible and understand that information will be provided to everyone in as timely a manner as possible. The many changes that will take place during this time are not the fault of any individual…it is primarily driven by circumstances well beyond the control of any individuals. Look forward to seeing all of you soon…LETHAL STRIKE; BATTLE READY!
Over the last quarter, the "Lethal Strike" Battalion has been operating at combat speed focusing on Air and Missile Defense, Warfighter Tasks, Core Competencies and Soldier and Family Readiness. In some organizations, achieving success in just one of these areas is a significant accomplishment and worthy of high praise. However, the dedicated Warriors of this battalion accomplished all of these objectives simultaneously, with a high degree of professionalism, and to a high standard, with the singular purpose of being better today than we were yesterday.

Since June, we have had two units Table VIII certified, 64 Operational Readiness Exercises conducted, four Soldiers graduate NCOES with honors, two Soldiers attend the Patriot Master Gunners Course, 13 Army Achievement Medals awarded for Distinguished Crew, 36 Certificates of Achievement awarded for Army Physical Fitness Test Excellence, 181 Soldiers Certified as Combat Lifesavers, 27 Soldiers promoted to Specialist, 17 Soldiers appear before the Sergeant Promotion Board, 12 Soldiers appear before the Staff Sergeant Promotion Board, four Soldiers selected as Warrant Officer Candidates, three selected for Sergeant First Class, and over 400 Soldiers qualified on their individual weapons...Lethal!

It is not by accident that we have accomplished so much in a relatively short amount of time. Engaged leaders, accountable Soldiers, and dependable team mates are the simple formula for success in our chosen profession. While most organizations have the benefit of being consolidated in one location to perform their mission, we are separated by time and distance. While most organizations have the luxury of external supporting agencies, we improvise, adapt, and overcome. Where most organizations see obstacles, we see opportunities. When given the choice of making excuses or making history, we choose the latter.

The momentum gained during these past few months must be sustained as we move closer towards an eventual Relief in Place and Redeployment. These accomplishments must not be overshadowed by even one single lapse in judgment or decision making. Our Soldiers, families, friends, and loved ones have made tremendous sacrifices over the course of this deployment and it is up to all of us to ensure everyone returns safely and with honor. I ask everyone to be vigilant and aware of your surroundings. We have proven that we can accomplish anything as a team and it is this mentality that will enable us to continue moving forward on the path we have chosen as Warriors and Professionals.

So thank you for who you are and what you do. Lethal!
The achievements and defining moments of the 3-2 ADA deployment are worth reflecting upon; remembering what we’ve done, and appreciating how far we’ve come is crucial to preparing for the next quarter and the final chapter of our deployment to Gaziantep, Turkey. Since July, the bulk of the focus at “Site G” has centered on military readiness and defensive operations, as well as the primary mission of protecting our asset: the city of Gaziantep. The change of command that took place in mid-June signaled a change in momentum for 3-2 ADA. The new command team’s objective was to drive Soldiers toward higher aspirations, while molding them into more competent and confident Soldiers in their basic soldiering skills, individual training, and improving the unit’s cohesiveness through hard work and preparation. Such objectives do not become a reality without the perseverance and dedication of true Soldiers. Throughout the quarter, every Soldier has contributed to the overall success of the mission, demonstrating the qualities befitting of a HHB/3-2 ADA Soldier.

Despite escalating tensions in the region, 3-2 ADA has maintained its composure, continuing the mission and preparing multiple responses for worst case scenarios. The Soldiers of 3-2 ADA conducted Chemical Missile Attack drills, simulating a retaliatory strike and responding by utilizing Combat Life Saver skills and decontamination training that occurred earlier in the quarter, where Soldiers were certified and prepared for potential future hazards. Repetitive training was used to mold the deployed Soldiers of 3-2 ADA into experts of Missile Attack protocol and reactive procedures. Preparing for a worst-case scenario, the Soldiers of 3-2 ADA made history by holding the first multinational gas chamber in Turkey. In just two days, 294 Soldiers cycled through a small Turkish building that was outfitted to serve as the gas chamber, refreshing their trust in the M40A1 gas mask. The gas chamber training coincided along with reports from Syria that the nerve agent sarin had been used against rebel forces, against which the M40A1 protective mask is rated to protect. The CBRN chamber was held to build the Soldiers’ confidence in their protective equipment.

As part of the unit’s drive toward developing better defenses, fortifications of the barracks and tactical sites underwent heavy modifications in an effort to mitigate potential risks. Concertina wire, sandbags, concrete barriers, and fighting positions were set up as a means of deterrence and protection. Up-armored LMTVs were outfitted to serve as fighting positions and tactically placed to provide 360 degree visibility and protection outside of the concertina wire. Concrete bunkers were erected to serve as shelters in the event of a missile strike to protect HHB Soldiers from shrapnel and the shockwave of explosions. In conjunction with Force Protection, 3-2 ADA conducted numerous Active Shooter and VBIED training exercises to simulate realistic scenarios. Familiarization and repetition ensured that the Soldiers of 3-2 ADA were prepared for any situation.

Professional development became emphasized heavily. Physical fitness tests, ranges,
promotion boards, and mandatory training were the norm, preparing Soldiers for the next stage of their professional careers, as well as developing their basic soldiering skills. Classes were held weekly in the DFAC after work hours, encompassing a variety of subjects such as weapons PMI, corrosion prevention training, and Personal Strengths: Positive Reinforcement classes. The previous few months have focused largely on conducting ranges to keep every Soldier’s weapon qualifications current, as well as to hone and sharpen their combat skills. Soldiers had the opportunity to take part in numerous ranges, from the M16, M249, M9, and M203 ranges. Soldiers cycled through the ranges during the daytime, qualified, and returned to work for the remainder of the day.

Over the last quarter, numerous VIPs visited our operational area to inspect our unit’s performance. A recent visit by the USAREUR Command Sergeant Major, Command Sergeant Major David Davenport, was readily received and ended with his inspecting HHB’s tactical site.

The past quarter has demonstrated the dexterity, vigor, fortitude, determination, and capacity of our Soldiers to do what is necessary to accomplish the mission.

Hostile Congratulations

Promotions: CW2 Brown, SSG Clark, SGT Chapin, SPC Garbisch, SPC Glover, SPC Nunan, SPC Spaulding, PFC Ellis

Reenlistments: SGT Jean Tippenhauer, SGT Zachary Collett, SGT Carlton Lyles, SGT Brian Fisher, SPC Claudia Quintero, SPC Ryan Cobb

Anniversaries:

August 2 – SPC David Vanderwyst’s first wedding anniversary
August 15 – CPT Newman’s 21-year wedding anniversary
September 7 – SGT Razay Dillard’s 7-year wedding anniversary
October 6 – SPC Kevin Huey’s third wedding anniversary
Oklahoma’s summer heat can’t keep HHB from training. While the comfort of air conditioning seems like a welcomed relief to most, the Soldiers of HHB would rather be out in the brisk, early morning air conducting rigorous, essential Army training. Midsummer brought the troops out of their offices for a change in environment and refresher courses in training that might not be conducted as often as others.

In July, HHB Hostile and Echo Enforcers teamed up in the early morning light with high motivation and rucks ready. The combined team stepped off to conduct a brutal 2.5 mile ruck march to the Engagement Skills Trainer (EST). The EST is used to simulate realistic marksmanship and combat scenario training. Encompassed in July’s training was NBC/night fire and “shoot-don’t-shoot” exercises.

When Soldiers were not engaged in firing, they were involved in added training consisting of First Aid given by SSG Moore and SPC Dumas. They touched on a range of useful subjects, the most helpful being how to treat heat casualties and splint open and closed fractures. Heat casualties can be imminent with Oklahoma’s fiery summers, making the training all that imperative.

Another invaluable class, conducted by SFC Mosley and SSG Nkoulou, was given on the Radio Transmitter 1523. The class taught Soldiers the functions and how to successfully load encryption codes onto the radio. A refresher course was also given on proper radio etiquette when speaking on the radio. With a full day of informative and helpful training, the day wouldn’t be complete without the valiant march back to where the day began.

The month of July brought on a heat wave as well as ample opportunities for outdoor training such as land navigation. Once again HHB Hostile and Echo Enforcers teamed up to train. Who doesn’t like a little competition? Before being thrown onto the course, Soldiers prepared with some in-classroom training. Later in the week, teams put their skills to the test at the Camp Eagle land navigation course. As a result of combined knowledge and skill, no one got lost.

Throughout the month of August, Warriors stayed busy completing copious amounts of mandatory training. What better way to celebrate the accomplishments than with a battery organizational day? HHB Soldiers and Families congregated at Lake Elmer Thomas Recreation Area for a day full of friendly competition and recognition. While there were friendly games of volleyball and football, a rock climbing wall and bounce house were on site for Soldiers and Family Members who weren’t participating. If that wasn’t enough to entertain, fishing and swimming were also offered.

A game of flag football kicked off the morning with the teams split equally. With the risk assessment low, no injuries were sustained apart from hurt pride. Following the flag football game Soldiers and Family Members competed in a more ambitious game of volleyball with the Commander. Though the teams were split fairly, try as they might, no one could stop SFC Mosley at the net.

Organizational day was a great way to end the week and the busy month of August. However, the following Monday came in full force with Army Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills. Soldiers donned full battle rattle to receive training in Land Navigation, Communications, First Aid, IED procedures, and weapons training. HHB medics delivered first aid training for the rest of the battalion. Following the iterations of round robin training given by representatives from each battery, STX lanes were conducted with much enthusiasm and motivation.

Each battery stepped off on a four mile ruck, not knowing that they would be required to react to
“direct fire.” Ambushed by another battery, Soldiers were driven into a simulated combat zone to check their experience and know-how acquired throughout the week. As a relieving way to cool off, each battery was provided water balloons to conduct their ambush while the unit being ambushed was directed to react and evade. Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills week was a good refresher for all.

During Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills, HHB’s Commander, 1LT Luman, and crew utilized the short time frame given to train for a RAL 11 certification that would take place at the end of the week. With some assistance and coordination with Alpha Battery, the crew brutally trained all day, every day for a week. SPC Wells, cross training for commo, proved her determination and dexterity from beginning to end of the certification process. The little time given to train proved effective as the van crew pulled off a GO at the end of the very stressful and hectic week.

With the year rapidly approaching the holiday season, a Battalion Safety Day was in order. Along with Alpha and Delta Batteries, HHB participated in a total of four stations with classes ranging from STD Awareness to Holiday and Home Safety. While many classes consisted of PowerPoint presentations as visual aids, instructors were open to group discussions as well as hands on visual aids.

Select HHB Soldiers were handpicked as instructors with SPC Dumas and SGT Adams to give a very informative class on STD Awareness and Prevention. SSG Nkoulou, the Battery SHARP Representative, gave a refresher SHARP course. While mandatory training is always changing and evolving, basic soldier tasks will continue to stay the same. In the month of September, HHB Soldiers were sent to the CBRN Chamber. While at the site, troops suited up in MOPP 4 gear to fulfill the annual requirement for four hours in MOPP gear. Soldiers rigorously trained on proper mask and suit donning procedures in the allotted amount of time before heading into the chamber to endure approximately three minutes of brutal, ruthless, and intense gas drills.

**Hostile Congratulations**

**Promotions:**
SPC Ellis and SPC Newarski

**Reenlistments:** SSG Nkoulou, SGT Semana, SPC Wells

1LT Heidi Luman reenlists SSG Randy Nkoulou, SGT Marvin Semana, and SPC Jerrin Wells.
The Assassin Quarterly

July, August, and September proved to be a rather busy and productive series of months for Alpha Battery. July kicked off with the battery’s Table VII evaluation. Upon the completion of the internal evaluation of the unit’s readiness to proceed onto the Table VIII Gunnery Certification, Battery Commander CPT Davis and 1SG Wasson ultimately decided that the crews were without doubt ready to be evaluated. Immediately after celebrating the July 4th holiday, Alpha Battery was back at it in the field preparing for their Table VIII Certifications. Led by the ECS Crew 1 Tactical Control Officer, 2LT Matthew Simeone, and supporting cast, Alpha Battery was able to successfully certify in one day. Upon the completion of the certification exercise, Alpha successfully conducted recovery operations of all equipment in the Battalion Motor Pool.

The months of July and August also witnessed two cadets from their respective ROTC programs temporarily joining Alpha Battery to gain valuable experience in leadership roles and learn the intricacies of a Patriot Battery. Alpha Battery provided Cadets Peter Schulcz (University of Dayton, OH) and April Ferry (Lockhaven University, PA) an avenue in which to receive some rather outstanding experiences as Platoon Leaders during the Battery’s Deep Maintenance and Range Operations executions. Cadet Schulcz led a convoy of battery vehicles and provided the convoy safety brief with the zeal of a seasoned Second Lieutenant. Cadet Ferry attended a battalion-led tactical seminar and was able to shadow both the Fire Control Platoon Leader, 2LT Simeone, before his departure forward, and the battery’s executive officer, 1LT Rohling, during his planning and preparation of the battery’s M249 qualification range in support of the Battalion Range Density week in August.

In September, the battery participated in the Army Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills training exercise. The event took Soldiers through the battle drills such as reacting to Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), Land Navigation, and providing First Aid and transportation of casualties. The week ended with Alpha Battery Soldiers receiving in depth blocks of instruction from Mr. John Clipp, an expert in the latest IED counter measures and enemy tactics, techniques and procedures assigned to Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

SSG Urban and PFC Joseph Blake work diligently to complete their drill during the unit’s Table VIII Gunnery Certification in July 2013.

Assassin Congratulations

Promotions: SSG Parks-McLean, SSG Pryor, SGT Adam Nelson, SPC Cavalier, SPC Forsberg, SPC Blake, SPC Hensley, SPC Burgoon

Reenlistments: SGT Woods, SPC Sullivan, SPC Blake
It has been a full and busy quarter for the Soldiers of Bravo Battery, who have worked tirelessly to achieve excellence in everything placed before them, from heightened force protection measures to Operational Readiness Exercises (ORE) and air battle certifications. Our Soldiers have met every challenge and continue to raise the bar every day. With summer behind us and fall just begun, Bravo looks forward to the next challenge of the deployment in Turkey: preparing for the return home to Fort Sill.

Since July, Bravo Battery Soldiers were always on the go as they sharpened their basic soldiering skills as well as refreshed and refined their air defense tactical skills. In August, Soldiers qualified on their assigned M16s, M249s, and M203s. Accomplishing this task was no small feat in the middle of our deployed operations. Despite the dusty range environment and wearing heavy protective gear, Bravo Soldiers safely and successfully qualified on their weapons. PFC Adam Swanson and PFC Shaylynn Sandoval both qualified expert on their M249s.

Bravo Battery also experienced the challenge of adjusting to a few leadership changes as Engagement Control Station (ECS) crew 1 Tactical Control Officer (TCO) 1LT Mary Jocelyn moved up in the chain to be a Tactical Director (TD) in the Information Coordination Central (ICC). Although she was missed by the battery, 1LT Jackson Cobb became the new Fire Control Platoon Leader, and Bravo gained a new TCO and platoon leader for Launcher Platoon, 1LT James Palsgrove, who joined our ranks from the Battalion S-3 shop.

In September, the battalion executed a successful CBRN chamber. Soldiers were required to enter a small building filled with CS gas and remove and re-don their protective gas masks as a test of confidence in their equipment. In order to exit the chamber after removing their masks a final time, Soldiers had to recite as much of the “Soldier’s Creed” as possible before rushing out the door. While many Soldiers dread this annual requirement, it became something of a fun competition to find out who could choke out the most words. Our very own SPC Greg Swietkoski was the chamber NCOIC who led all members of the battalion through the exercises to test their protective masks in the chamber. He was sure to snap a few pictures during his blocks of instruction.

The end of August and early September also brought a new focus to the battery and battalion. With the recent unfolding of events in Syria, the battalion took extra steps to harden its defenses and force protection measures in preparation for worst case scenarios. Bravo Battery and the battalion as a whole conducted several force protection drills, honing the skills and procedures of all Soldiers to react to various threats. Bravo Soldiers dutifully performed these tasks and proved that they are always ready and prepared for anything.

The battery again showed its commitment to excellence during an Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) conducted in mid-September. Bravo Soldiers worked for weeks and months to prove what they were made of at the PT test, building up competition and camaraderie amongst themselves. Nine Soldiers reached the ultimate goal of a perfect score of 300 points on the APFT. Bravo Soldiers yet
again demonstrated their dedication as the battery achieved an overall average score of 267 out of 300 points, which exceeds the battalion standard. This APFT proved to be a true test of gumption and tenacity.

Air defense specific training took off in September with missile reload and RAL 11 air battle certifications. Our BCP crews, hot crews, and ECS crews all rose to the challenge of meeting battalion goals to certify. Three of our four ECS crews successfully RAL 11 certified, and our newly established crew three RAL 5 certified. In October, our newest TCO, 1LT Palsgrove, successfully ORE certified, which allowed him to join the crew rotation for the mission. Our ECS crews are already on their way to accomplishing the next goal: RAL 17 certifications. RAL 17 is the hardest level of difficulty in air battles, but we know our Soldiers are up for the challenge.

With the beginning of a new quarter, Bravo Battery looks forward to redeploying to Fort Sill and being reunited with Family and Friends. The achievements and success of the past quarter only reinforce the Soldiers’ confidence that they will meet the challenges ahead with redeployment preparations and finish the deployment with pride.
The War Machine Quarterly

This past quarter has seen a lot of changes for the War Machines of Charlie Battery. Launcher Platoon saw multiple certifications with junior leaders stepping up into key leadership positions. Fire Control Platoon has changed two Engagement Control Station (ECS) crews and continued to provide coverage to Gaziantep, Turkey. Headquarters Platoon continued the current theme of change by saying goodbye to the battery motor sergeant but gaining a new platoon leader, 2LT Matthew Simeone, as this diverse platoon continued to do everything from mechanic support to providing early air defense warning to the battery. Each change brought with it a challenge of saying goodbye and welcoming the new members of Charlie Battery.

Launcher Platoon was put to the test this quarter. The first to face a test was SPC Nicholas Harrell as he moved up to squad leader and Hot Crew chief. He received a new Soldier, SPC Sierra Collett, and immediately put his new crew to work. On 24 July, the crew certified on the Guided Missile Transporter (GMT) reloads with a time of 43 minutes, the fastest crew in the battalion. SPC Collett’s potential was soon realized by the battalion and she was reassigned to a key position in Incirlik Air Base, requiring SPC Harrell to receive and train a new crew member. The following week, SPC Harrell and his reload crew again certified on the GMT, improving their overall time. SPC Harrell’s hard work and leadership was soon recognized as he was promoted to Corporal. The rest of the platoon was not to be outdone by this squad and only had to wait their turn to shine. Over a two day period, seven March Order and Emplacement crews completed their certifications on both the PAC-2 and PAC-3 launching station. CPL Harrell struck again though coming in with the fastest time.

With August came the beginning of Air Battle Management training for Fire Control Platoon. The ECS and Battery Command Post (BCP) crews ran through numerous air battles preparing for their RAL 11 certifications and the training paid off as all crews passed by the end of September. The training did not end there as each crew is preparing to conduct a RAL 17 air battle, the most challenging level for any ECS crew. The balance of training and conducting the real world mission has each crew confident that they will pass this final test. Fire Control also had to say goodbye to a very good ECS crew. CW2 John Hudson, SGT Tova Chapin, and SGT Randall Rose were recommended to become the next Battalion Information Coordination Central (ICC) crew, and they have only continued to excel as they certified within a week of their move to HHB. Their loss was hard but Fire Control warmly welcomed 2LT Matthew Simeone as the new Tactical Control Officer in September. 2LT Simeone came from Alpha Battery at Fort Sill and had success in the ECS by completing the Battery Table VIII certification and his RAL 11 air battle, so it was no surprise that within days of getting to Charlie Battery, he was able to certify with his new crew.

Headquarters platoon remained busy as always conducting their myriad of tasks, but they also had some significant turnover. The platoon lost a remarkable NCO, SGT Clifford Harrell, but gained SGT (P) Phillip Nichols, again from Alpha Battery, as the new motor sergeant. SPC Alexandra Villegas, the unit supply sergeant, underwent a vigorous inspection on her Command Supply Discipline Program and easily passed with flying colors. The
mechanics kept the battery moving and the system maintainers kept the system going, both at a remarkable 98% readiness rate.

Even with all the that platoons have done separately, the battery has come together on some very big ticket items. Tennessee Senator Bob Corker came to visit the War Machine site and was impressed by the Soldiers’ positive attitudes. The M16, M9, and M203 ranges where completed by all War Machine Soldiers assigned to those weapons who qualified between shifts. Charlie Battery also ran the M249 Range and make-up M16 range over a three day period. Many Specialists stepped up to hold important roles during the execution of this range, making it a very successful battalion level event. All Soldiers attended the CBRN range to raise confidence in their chemical protective equipment. If all that was not enough, the air defense mission always continued and still remains the top priority, even as we look forward to handing it off and coming back home.

**War Machine Congratulations**

**Promotions:** SPC Davis, SPC Dyke, SPC Graham, CPL Harrell, SPC Johnson, SPC Jones, SPC Marchand, SPC Porter, SPC Riggleman, SPC Shaw, SPC Sheedy, SPC Shonrasin, SPC Villegas

**Births:**
SPC Jones welcomed his baby boy, Canton, on July 26
PFC Greenwell welcomed his baby girl, Charlotte, on August 12
PFC Karatsupa welcomed his baby girl, McKenna, on September 17

*CPT Andrew Simons, SPC Calvin Flagler, PFC Timothy Moss inside the CBRN Chamber conducted in August.*

*Charlie Battery at the Battery BBQ on 05 October at their tactical site*

*SFC Mandrill Demps, CPT Andrew Simons, and SPC Alexandra Villegas with Tennessee Senator Bob Corker at his visit to their tactical site in August.*
The Diamondback Quarterly

Over the past Quarter, Soldiers and Leaders from Delta Battery, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment have been working hard towards meeting all the unit’s goals while continuing to conduct effective and useful training. In addition to hard work, the Diamondback Battery has seen multiple Soldiers recognized through promotions and other personnel actions.

The Diamondbacks began the 4th Quarter of Fiscal Year 2013 by completing a Battery level Table VIII gunnery on July 12th. Upon return from the certification, the battery entered a Deep Maintenance phase which placed a strong emphasis on recovering all of the unit’s equipment from the rigorous back-to-back two-week field training exercises in June and July.

In the beginning of August, the battery began to return to focus on mandatory training, commodity area readiness and FRG events. On 9 August, the battery FRG co-hosted an organizational day with the Battery Leadership. The event consisted of a BBQ at Lake Elmer Thomas with guest speakers from ASAP and MFLC. In the last week of the month, the battalion executed Army Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills training for all of the units to ensure that all mandatory Soldier training was completed for the fiscal year. Additionally, the battery began preparations for a static display tasking in the following month.

During the first part of September, the battery began its early preparations for the Organizational Inspection Program (OIP) inspections due to occur in the last couple weeks of the fiscal year. While the battery was preparing for the OIP, a few hand selected Soldiers and Leaders executed the battery’s most highly visible tasking, which was a static display of a Launching Station at the United States Military Academy’s Branch Week at West Point, New York. This tasking provided the unit with the opportunity to display its technical prowess and demonstrate the proficiency of Diamondback Soldiers to future Officers and Leaders. To complete the Quarter, the Diamondback Battery completed its battery OIP inspection, where they received “Commendable” ratings in most of the unit’s commodity areas.

Mr. Eric Byer, SFC Matthew Garrett, SGT Phillip Saunier, SPC Alexander Graham, SPC Alissa Rios, and SPC Matthew Skidgel stand in front of a statue of GEN George Patton while on a detail at West Point.

Diamondback Congratulations

Promotions: SFC Holback, SSG McMillan, SGT Smidt, SGT Sumpter, SPC Skidgel, SPC Wilkes, PFC Chao, PFC English

Reenlistments: SFC Garrett, SGT Saunier

Births: SGT Ryan Winner and his wife, Rachel, welcomed their son, Julian, on July 30
1LT Wes Moeller and his wife, Morgan, welcomed their son, Boone, on August 17
During the months of July, August, and September, Echo Company field maintenance teams (FMT) and the Support Supply Activity warehouse (SSA) were mission ready to install and expedite any O2 priority parts needed for the Table VIII evaluation conducted during this quarter. Immediately after the 4th of July holiday celebration, the Echo FMT teams and SSA were back at it in the field supporting Table VIII Certifications. Upon the completion of the certification exercise, Echo Company successfully conducted recovery operations of all equipment in the Battalion Motor Pool.

September was full of Warrior training events. Echo Company Soldiers participated in a battalion-led exercise training event conducted to hone the combat skills of individual Soldiers, strengthening the battalion’s fighting effectiveness. Soldiers trained up on Army Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills and were tested on each event. Army individual tasks are an excellent tool in preparing our Soldiers to fight, and over the 4th quarter, Echo’s NCOs were hard at work teaching Soldiers about combat operations. Echo Company set this time aside exclusively for the NCO leadership to train their Soldiers (squads, sections, crews and teams) on Company Mission Essential Tasks related to realistic possible conditions. NCOs teach Soldiers basic skills that they can execute in combat with confidence. During this quarter, Echo Company Soldiers participated in diverse training to include land navigation, map reading, tactical radio operation, convoy operations and how to properly establish an Entry Control Point (ECP).

During the last month of Fiscal Year 13, 4th quarter additional training was conducted at the Virtual Combat Convoy Training Simulator (VCCOT) at Fort Sill. Soldiers were led through a combat scenario covering how to conduct voice communications, dismount vehicles, NBC 1 Reports, SITREPs, SALUTE Reports, and LACE reports.

Soldiers from Echo Company enjoyed fun in the sun and a bit of friendly competition at their company’s Organizational Day held at Lake Elmer Thomas Resort Area on July 19. Eager competitors from Echo Company and their Family Members battled it out in volleyball, a fishing tournament, horseshoes and boat race competitions with hopes of winning bragging rights. Echo’s younger Family Members also got in on the fun as children’s activities included a water slide, bounce houses and a playground.

Echo Company also conducted a Financial Training Class to Soldiers and Family Members during the month of August to provide instruction and guidance on budget and debt managing. During the month of September the Enforcers participated on a FRG Bowling night where more than 25 Soldiers and their Families strengthen relations amongst each other.

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**Enforcer Congratulations**

Promotions: PFC Cooke, PFC Flaurr, PFC Gomes, PFC Sanger, PFC West, PFC Wheelington
Lethal Families

This quarter, the Lethal Strike Battalion was proud to recognize an outstanding Family for their service and volunteerism. SFC and Mrs. Garrett of Delta Battery were named the winners of the Lethal Family Recognition Program for Fiscal Year 13. Deserving Families were nominated from each battery in the battalion. Nominees were selected based on their dedication to volunteer service and improving the unit, the Army, and their community well-being throughout Fiscal Year 13. Congratulations to SFC and Mrs. Garrett for being awarded the Family Volunteer Award!

SFC Matthew Garrett is a Platoon Sergeant in Delta Battery. He has been stationed at Fort Sill, OK, with his family since January 2013. He does volunteer work with several organizations both on and off the Installation, including Boy Scouts of America. He is an excellent role model to young Soldiers, participates in and sponsors the unit’s Family Readiness Group, and shows excellent commitment to volunteerism through participating in all unit events.

Janice Garrett is a volunteer at Sheridan Elementary School where she averages 15 hours a week of volunteer time. While serving as the Vice President for the Parent Teacher Association, she has helped to plan multiple school fundraisers and often provides assistance to both teachers and staff at the school as often as she is able. In addition, she serves as the FRG co-leader where she volunteers weekly to help organize unit fund raisers and coordination of resources to ensure training for families is provided. She also serves as one of the unit’s Key Callers and volunteers to communicate with spouses and family members to make sure they are informed of upcoming events and advises new spouses of deploying Soldiers on personal issues and concerns.

Their daughter is nine years old and a fourth grader at Sheridan Elementary School. She is following in her parents’ footsteps by seeking to run for Student Council Vice President where she hopes to help to improve and assist with issues at her school and communicate and represent the concerns of her fellow classmates. Additionally, she also volunteers to look after some of the smaller children while attending the unit’s FRG meeting with her parents. This helps the parents of the children to focus on the meeting and gives them the opportunity to have a small break to enjoy the FRG events.
Winter is coming. Whether or not you are a Lawtonian winter veteran, there are some things you need to do in order for you and your family to maximize your safety in the coming season. As the adage goes, “Hope for the best, plan for the worst.”

- Take your car to a mechanic for a winter check-up or do the following yourself: battery, antifreeze level, thermostat, heater, brakes, and defroster. Many local auto shops in Lawton will do this for a small fee.
- Check that your tires have enough tread. If not, now is a good time to replace them.
- Make a visual inspection of all vehicle lights. Make sure the front and rear lights are operational, especially the car’s flashing hazard lights.
- Purchase winter-specific wiper blades to cut through snow and ice instead of using the regular wipers. During winter months, the windshield wiper fluid may freeze, so use fluid made especially to spray in freezing conditions.
- Check the spray nozzles of your windshield-washer system. Sometimes, they get blocked by wax or debris. Use a needle to clear blocked nozzles.
- Road salt commonly used during winter can damage your car’s paint. Rinsing it off every once in a while can help, but a good wash and coat of fresh wax will go a long way in preventing corrosion and keep your vehicle looking like new.
- Keep the gas tank at least half full throughout the winter. This will reduce condensation, making your vehicle easier to start on cold mornings.

- If you have a cell phone, make sure it’s charged and bring it with you. A car charger for the phone is also a smart device to keep in the car.
- Always store a snow/ice scraper and a shovel in your vehicle. A first aid kit is another must-have item to keep on hand. It should include all the usual items plus winter extras like a flashlight with a fresh supply of batteries or a crank-charged flashlight, blankets, matches, extra warm clothes, bottled water, and non-perishable snacks. Peanuts and granola bars are good protein- and carbohydrate-rich foods that will keep.
- For rear-wheel drive vehicles, you might want to keep a small bag of sand in your trunk to create traction under the tires if you get stuck. The bulk of a vehicle’s weight is the engine, in the front of the car. If the car is driven by its rear wheels instead of its front wheels, the heavy front end and light back end makes the car prone to slide around an ice- or snow-covered road.
- Clear off your car each time you go out for maximum visibility. Don’t forget the hood, roof, and your head and tail lights. Sure it takes a few extra moments, but it’s better than dealing with an accident due to poor outward visibility. Also, leftover ice chunks from the roof or hood of the vehicle may become hazardous to yourself and those on the road around you while driving.
Chaplain’s Message  
CH (CPT) Brian Hall

The last three months of 2013 are eventful ones in the lives of many Americans. Most of faith traditions have a significant holiday or two during this time period. Muslims celebrate Hajj (the pilgrimage to Mecca) and Eid al Adha (honors Abraham’s sacrifice), Jews celebrate Hanukkah (marks the recapture of the Temple), and Christians celebrate Christmas (day of Jesus’ birth). Non-Abrahamic traditions also have significant holidays during this time. Hindus celebrate Diwali (celebrates the end of the Hindu year), Buddhists have a week in December to celebrate Buddha’s enlightenment, and Wiccans celebrate Yule (the beginning of many Pagan Calendars).

As religiously and ethnically diverse as we are as a country and an Army, there is one holiday happening during this time frame that we can all celebrate together: Thanksgiving. The act of gratitude is something common to all major traditions, which suggests there is something about being thankful that is common to our shared human experience, regardless of religious affiliation or lack thereof.

The American holiday of Thanksgiving traces its history back to some of the first colonists to land in the New World and this early day of celebration continues to shape and influence us today. It provides us an opportunity to share time with family and friends, to enjoy a meal and maybe some football with each other. More importantly, though, it gives us the opportunity to set aside time to intentionally express gratitude, a wonderful exercise to cultivate and practice throughout the year. Gratitude is so powerful. It helps us in many ways and the more we take time to be grateful, the more it helps us to see the good that is present in all of our lives.

So let us spend some time being thankful during these next few months, both on Thanksgiving and beyond.

Blessings to you and yours
- Chaplain Hall

Earlier in the year, CH Hall had the opportunity to minister to the Soldiers at Site K, Turkey (above). CH Hall conducts weekly religious services to the Soldiers of 3-2 (below).
Our Soldiers are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel with the deployment coming to an end. Soldiers are taking a deep breath and exhaling to a sigh of relief, that the mission is almost accomplished. Soldiers are ready to leave the deployment and head home and be with their loved ones. For some this will be a capstone to a wonderful Army Career and for others this will be just a stepping stone for future endeavors. No matter what the cause is, Soldiers are seeing that the Army has treated them well, and has help provide sustainment for them and their families. This is why some choose to reenlist and go that extra mile in the Army, because they want to be part of something bigger than themselves and obtain leadership skills that can be applied no matter where they go. We as leaders should welcome the challenge of leading Soldiers and asking the right ones to stay on the team. Retention in 3-2 has been on the rise, and we are moving forward and keeping the best and brightest Soldiers in boots. Some of our recent additions to the team are SSG Shumiloff and SGT Gwinn of HHB, who reenlisted in Incirlik Airbase in front of a C5 Galaxy cargo plane. Our battery line unit reenlistments are looking stronger than ever, as noted by the recent reenlistments of SGT Warren and SPC Eakright of Bravo battery. Soldiers are taking advantage of the privilege to reenlist, and we highly advise in doing so because of the draw down and the proposed Retention Control Point changes coming 1 January 2014. Using this opportunity as a stepping stone to a brighter future for their careers, Soldiers will excel and leave a legacy for others to emulate. This is what keeps an all-volunteer force solid and respectable for years to come.

"Stay Lethal Strike!"

"Battle Ready!"

“The Soldier is the Army. No army is better than its Soldiers. The Soldier is also a citizen. In fact, the highest obligation and privilege of citizenship is that of bearing arms for one’s country”— George S. Patton Jr.
Lethal Soldiers

HBB FWD

SPC Alan Reynolds
Hometown: Shawnee, OK
MOS: 92Y (Unit Supply Specialist)

SPC Reynolds has made a notable contribution to the mission; his job is critical to the success of the mission, and his talents have positively affected the morale of the deployed soldiers of 3-2 ADA. He deals with a variety of different tasks on a daily basis meant to keep the unit’s organizational readiness as efficient and orderly as possible. A typical day for SPC Reynolds includes managing HHB’s property books, dealing with hand receipt holders, and communicating with the Support Supply Activity (SSA) to ensure that the correct parts are on order and that order statuses are properly received. SPC Reynolds directly briefs updates to the commander and occasionally takes direct action depending on distribution situations. Every Tuesday and Friday, as an additional duty, SPC Reynolds oversees the laundry operations as well. With such a large workload and maintaining oversight over millions of dollars of equipment, it is easy to see how dedicated a Soldier in his position would need to be in order to smoothly operate. When it comes to his job, SPC Reynolds says, “It’s supply or die,” a metaphorical statement that bears truth. His professional goals are to keep the property books straight and ensuring efficiency when dealing with matters concerning supply. His personal goals include pursuing his ambition as an artist: sketching, designing t-shirts, and maintaining his web page, http://www.redbubble.com/people/alkapone26, where he sells his finished products. When asked about his artistic talent, he said, “A quality about me that a lot of people don’t notice is my creativity.”

HBB Rear

SPC Jerrin Wells
Hometown: Hancock, MI
MOS: 14T (Patriot Launching Station Enhanced Operator/Maintainer)

SPC Wells currently works in the HHB training room. While updating training trackers and organizing the entirety of the battery’s training certificates she still finds time to keep up with her PT on her personal time and watch Sons of Anarchy and Breaking Bad. She also finds time to keep up with her five month old daughter. SPC Wells does all that she can to be the best mom and wife. She plans on working to finish her Bachelor’s Degree in Pre Medicine, and attend Medical school after her time in the Army. She also hopes to go to the promotion board, make points, and get promoted to the ranks of the Non Commissioned Officers. Since her recent RAL 11 certification, she plans to rigorously train in preparation for the upcoming RAL 17 certification with her crew. SPC
THE LETHAL WORD

Wells proved her ingenuity during the RAL 11. When asked what drove her to cross train as commo so successfully, she responded with, “It was great career progression and it was fun to get out of the office and learn new things. Having that responsibility rest on my shoulders at work made me feel like a part of something bigger.”

Alpha Battery

PFC Eduardo Silva
Hometown: Leavenworth, KS
MOS: 14H (Air Defense Early Warning System Operator)

PFC Silva was hand selected among two fellow 14Hs by his Chain of Command to initially run all orderly room operations for the unit and assist in the oversight of all administrative actions, training requirements and disseminated suspenses from the battalion. PFC Silva was able to quickly to grasp the concept of the Army Digital Training Management System (DTMS) and assist Alpha Battery’s Executive Officer, 1LT Lawrence A. Rohling, with ensuring that all personnel were effectively being tracked and completing all mandatory online and classroom based training.

When it comes to his prescribed MOS, PFC Silva continually strives to improve and ensure that he is at the top of his game. PFC Silva and his Battery Command Post (BCP) crew partner, SPC Slowan, executed a near flawless performance during their portion of Alpha Battery’s Table VIII Gunnery Certification in July and scored a total of ninety eight percent.

As a former college football defensive back, PFC Silva takes a great deal of pride to ensuring that his physical fitness is at peak performance at all times. In doing so, PFC Silva has been able to obtain a perfect three hundred score on his Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) on three consecutive testing dates. On a daily basis PFC Silva can be found at Goldner Gym located on Fort Sill during his lunch break either lifting weights or running those few extra miles.

PFC Silva will be moving over to systems maintenance to assist with all matters pertaining to the BCP as well as maintain his duties as the Battery DTMS Master Operator.

Bravo Battery

SPC Asya Bailey
Hometown: Detroit, MI
MOS: 14T (Patriot Launching Station Enhanced Operator/Maintainer)

SPC Bailey is one of the most versatile Soldiers in Bravo Battery. She joined Bravo Battery on the deployment to Turkey as a launcher crew member and served on a primary reload crew. She also certified on PAC-2 and PAC-3 March Order and Emplacement (MO&E). For the first few months of the battery’s operations in Gaziantep, she served as a member of a hot crew, but due to an ankle injury, she moved to the orderly room. Since then, she has worked as a clerk and supply assistant and has made a huge impact on battery operations. She processes awards and administrative data as the orderly room clerk and assists the battery executive officer in maintaining all administrative trackers. She manages troop movements from Gaziantep and sets up trips to Incirlik Airbase. She also helps run laundry operations by ensuring that Soldiers have the proper materials to secure and turn in their laundry. After work, she likes to go to the gym and work out to unwind. In her free time, she relaxes by...
listening to music and talking to her family at home. So far during the deployment, she has completed one online class with Central Texas College. An avid shopper, she looks forward to going shopping when she gets home. Her personal and professional goals are to earn an associate’s degree within the next three years, excel at the promotion board in November and become a Non Commissioned Officer, and one day become an Army recruiter.

Charlie Battery

SGT Phillip Nichols
Hometown: El Paso, TX
MOS: 91B (Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic)

Sergeant Nichols has served in a variety of leadership positions to include Hazmat NCOIC, Inspection Section NCOIC, Squad Leader, Shop Foreman, Motor Sergeant, and Platoon Sergeant. Sergeant Nichols came to Echo Company 3-2 Air Defense Artillery from Fox Company 6/52 Air Defense Artillery Suwon Air Base Korea. He is now deployed to Gaziantep, Turkey with Charlie Battery and serves as the Battery Motor Sergeant. He came to the battery just in time for redeployment operations. Sergeant Nichols’ main focus is to ensure all conventional equipment is kept to a 10/20 level standard and that all services are completed on time in order to redeploy with fully mission capable equipment. Daily, Sergeant Nichols inspects paperwork and tracks parts to verify orders were placed correctly for the right fault. With the high operational tempo, he is continuously employing his Field Maintenance Team to fix faults that arise. He has quickly adapted to the operational battle rhythm and the battery welcomes him to the War Machine team.

Delta Battery

SPC Rogelio Cruz
Hometown: Los Angeles, CA
MOS: 14T (Patriot Launching Station Enhanced Operator/Maintainer)

SPC (P) Cruz is a Launching Station crew chief in the Diamondback Battery’s Launcher platoon. He also served as a tag line operator on Launcher Reload Crew 1. Over the past quarter, SPC (P) Cruz has graduated from Warrior Leader’s Course at Fort Sill. On a typical day, he completes various tasks as an assistant squad leader for his platoon, conducts on the job training for newer 14Ts within the battery, and works on ensuring that all the equipment he is responsible for is properly maintained and running. When not at work, he enjoys watching his favorite football team, the San Diego Chargers, and working on cars. Currently, SPC (P) Cruz’s spouse, Angel Cruz, is attending 74D Advanced Individual Training at Fort Leonardwood, MO, where she will soon be joining the “Lethal Strike” Battalion after being inspired by her husband’s work in the military. SPC (P) Cruz’s personal and professional goals include earning his Bachelor’s degree in Business Management and pursuing a career in the Army with a goal to become a Battery First Sergeant.
SPC Anthony Merchant  
Hometown: Oklahoma City, OK  
MOS: 91B (Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic)  

SPC Merchant’s military career began six years ago with the Marine Corps. Upon completion of his contract, SPC Merchant decided to join the United States Army with hopes of finding new challenges. SPC Merchant is currently holding a squad leader position, excelling at every task given to him and his Soldiers. 2LT Reed, the Platoon Leader for Echo Company said, “SPC Merchant is an NCO already. He just needs to go get his stripes. SPC Merchant not only accomplishes the mission, he needs little direction to get the desired result.” SPC Merchant ran his first full marathon this past April and has scored 300 on his past two APFT events. SPC Merchant is currently seeking a criminal justice degree and clearly has a bright future ahead of him.
Charlie Battery holds a formation to promote SPC Graham, SPC Shaw, SPC Shonrasin and SPC Villegas, and award SPC Flaherty the Good Conduct Medal.

BG Donald Fryc throws a football with SFC Matthew Garrett of Delta Battery during down time while at Branch Week at the United States Military Academy.

SPC Maura Kilbane of Echo Company executes classroom land navigation training with a map and protractor.

Bravo Battery Soldier PFC Tyler Baum (left) watches as SGT Zackary Perez, also of Bravo Battery, paints the ADA insignia and 31st BDE crest on the wall of the barracks at Gaziantep, Turkey.

Mr. John Clipp (left) provides training oversight while SGT Thomas Kerfoot (middle) of Alpha Battery conducts combat medical care for SPC Jonathan Sullivan (right) during the unit’s patrols during the IED Lane Training on Home Station Training Lanes at Fort Sill, OK.
3-2 ADA BN COMMAND DIGITAL "HOTLINE"

- A tool for all Soldiers and Family Members of 3-2 ADA.

- A digital “open door” to LTC Dawber and CSM McNeill to voice legitimate concerns, issues, or recommendations needing the attention of the senior leadership.

- Does not replace preference to see BN CDR or CSM in person on Open Door Policy (BN Policy Letter #1).

- This is to be considered an official medium of communication and all rules and regulations apply.

- All Soldiers and Family members are expected to be professional and mature in using this medium.

lethal.cmdteam@gmail.com