



# THE LETHAL WORD

3<sup>rd</sup> QTR, July 2013  
Volume 1, Issue 1

3-2 ADA BN  
Gaziantep, Turkey, and Fort Sill, Oklahoma

## Lethal 06 Sends

LTC John L. Dawber



*"What I do today is important  
because I am exchanging a  
day of my life for it."*

-Thomas Simmons

Warriors, Family Members, & Friends of the "Lethal Strike" Battalion:

I trust this first edition of the *LETHAL WORD* will find all of you in the best of spirits and circumstances. First and foremost, my family and I are proud to be a part of this command; as many of you know, we officially joined the team on 14 June 2013 as the battalion colors passed from LTC Charles Branson to me in Gaziantep, Turkey. On behalf of my family and I, we truly appreciate the gracious reception we received from the 31<sup>st</sup> ADA BDE team along with the Soldiers, family members, and Staff of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Air Defense Artillery. We wish LTC and Mrs. Branson all the best and God speed.

This month finds us passing the halfway point of this deployment. I couldn't be more proud of the resiliency and fortitude of the Soldiers and families of this command gutting out the first half of this mission. It has been a collective effort of commitment and sacrifice by all in answering the nation's call to respond to the real world threat that we stare down each day. It is a testament to the respect our foes have of us which is a direct result of the warfighting readiness of our formation; a credible presence that has effectively deterred regional escalation. This is not simply accomplished by deploying anywhere on the globe and sticking our

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colors in the soil; it is galvanized by the resolve of our Soldiers and the unwavering support of our Family Members. I thank all for your sacrifice and support; these are commitments that have proven time and again through history to strengthen in the face of any adversity. As we continue our journey forward, it remains crucial that we maintain focus, resolve, and support of one another.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the hard work and dedicated effort of the Battalion's Rear Detachment. The Rear Detachment bid a fond farewell to MAJ Ryan Schrock and his wife Christy; eternal gratitude to them both for service to the battalion and Fort Sill respectively. Filling this void, the battalion welcomes MAJ Matthew Walker, his wife Sue Ann, and their daughter Alisia. MAJ Walker deliberately assumed the duties of Rear Detachment Commander almost immediately upon his arrival; not missing a single beat during this transition, a credit to both he and MAJ Schrock. The Rear Detachment remains decisively engaged in generating additional combat readiness as they continue to march toward collective intermediate gunnery certifications (Table VIIIs) while persistently honing Soldier Skill tasks.

## Lethal 06 Sends (Continued)

In the midst of their myriad of responsibilities, the Rear Detachment also keeps our Family Readiness Groups informed and functioning. I remain extremely proud of all who are striving selflessly to ensure the success of the Rear Detachment's doctrinal mission and continued pursuit of excellence in operational core competencies...Soldiers, family members, and Volunteers alike.

In closing, my family and I are extremely blessed to have the honor to serve with the Warriors and families of this battalion. It remains essential to always remember that anything we have to do or face is never bigger or better than we are as a team. Warriors always find a way to win even when everything says they should lose; it is confidence underpinned with unequalled competence--perpetually feeding a distinct culture of winning...

MAKE A DIFFERENCE,  
MAKE IT HAPPEN,  
MAKE IT LAST...  
**LETHAL STRIKE!**



*LTC Dawber bids farewell to COL Suluk, 5<sup>th</sup> AR BDE, DCO*

## Let's Huddle

*CSM Perry McNeill*



***"Continuity gives us roots; change gives us branches, letting us stretch and grow and reach new heights."***

**- Pauline Kezer**

As your Battalion Command Sergeant Major, let me first say that it is an honor and privilege to serve in this phenomenal organization. As I conclude my first month, I have witnessed a steadfast dedication to duty and the mission at hand unsurpassed by any I've seen. As you know, being a Soldier or Family Member of a Soldier means that you are willing to make sacrifices for the welfare of the nation and our allies. Sometimes these sacrifices are inconceivable to those who truly do not understand who we are and what we do.

As we go forward, the foundation that has been established through your hard work and sacrifice will enable us to evolve, adapt, and grow to greater heights than we've already achieved. The potential for greatness exists as an opportunity ever present before us. Collectively, we will set and accomplish demanding yet attainable goals as a team and as a family.

We all have a role to play in attaining these goals whether it be as a Maintainer, a Logistician, a Signaleer, a Health Care Specialist, an Air and Missile Defender or equally important, a Family Member. We will accomplish our objectives by being dedicated, focused, and engaged on every front. We need "all hands on deck" to become the premier organization in our Army.

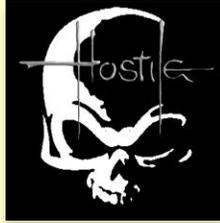
Our NATO Partners, USAFE, and USAREUR team mates have made an awesome contribution to the success of our mission thus far and it is through this team effort that we will continue to be successful.

So thank you for who you are and what you do. Together we stand!

## The HHB Quarterly

*1LT Heidi Luman and*

*1LT Matthew Cobia*



The end of June and the beginning of July proved to be both a challenge and an adventure for HHB Rear Detachment this year. With temperatures breaking 100 nearly every day, the Soldiers of HHB were in full support of both their own training, focusing on warrior tasks and supporting Alpha and Delta batteries in their Gunnery Certifications. HHB tackled a variety of tasks from land navigation to escalation of force training, to combatives for physical training. Our FRG's have also been in full swing with planning upcoming fundraisers and Family organizational days.

During the week long combined training exercise with Echo Company, HHB's resources were tapped with our medics teaching classes on prevention and treating heat injuries and how to splint open and closed fractures. This was a great opportunity for Soldiers to demonstrate their knowledge of performing buddy aid under the instruction and supervision of their peers.



*SPC Daniel Dumas instructs how to prevent/treat heat injuries*

All Soldiers in a Patriot Unit understand how frustrating it can be when there is nobody around who seems to know how to load a radio. S-6 took the lead on instruction to remedy this by organizing a condensed commo ring down, teaching Soldiers how to load and troubleshoot an RT-1523. By the end of this class, Soldiers were able to demonstrate how to successfully load communications into the radio, as well as proper radio etiquette during communications.

Despite being deployed in Gaziantep, Turkey, HHB said good bye to a well respected and successful Commander, LTC Charles E. Branson in the month of June. HHB then welcomed with great excitement our new Battalion Commander LTC John L. Dawber. Last Month, Hostile Battery was preparing for the intense summer with intensive Hot Weather Casualty Prevention Training and the beginning of Operation Drill Up designed to train the Hostile Battery to not only survive, but excel in any combat situation. Operation Drill Up refreshed Soldiers' basic Soldiers skills, such as movement under fire and proper communication on their radios.

In July, as Hostile Battery continued with Operation Drill Up, it simultaneously began small arms Preliminary Marksmanship Instruction (PMI) that consisted of in-depth instruction on the use of the M9, M16, and M249, thus preparing the Soldiers of the Hostile Battery for their small arms range at the end of July. The Battery is also looking forward to their first missile attack drill, as well as their first CBRN attack drill. The drills work in conjunction with the training previously conducted, instilling confidence and competency in the Soldiers of Hostile Battery.

## The Alpha Quarterly

*CPT Gregory Davis*



For the Soldiers of Alpha Battery, 3-2 ADA, the third quarter of fiscal year 2013 has been one of intense preparation and rapid movement for multiple events. The pace of operations and warrior attitude of the mighty Assassin Battery did not diminish. With the Battery heavily involved in Systems Validation, Change of Command inventories, and Table VIII Gunnery Certifications, the Soldiers and their leadership's desire to succeed was ever present day in and day out.

April began with the Army Directed "Operation Clean Sweep". Beginning with the preparation for Change of Command inventories, Alpha Battery was able to simultaneously utilize the inventory planning and also fulfill the requirements set forth for "Operation Clean Sweep". Platoon Leadership conducted its quarterly Hand Receipt layouts in order to validate all shortages and ultimately ensure a fluently executed transition of property book from CPT Leen to CPT Davis. The unit was also able to take a day out of their incredibly hectic schedule and conduct IED Lane Training at Fort Sill Home Station Training Lanes.

The month of May proved to be a crucial turning point of the third quarter for Alpha Battery. As the unit transitioned its focus to the Change of Command Inventories, it never lost sight of its ultimate mission which was to conduct a successful system validation in a field environment as well as begin the train up and preparation for the Table IV Examinations for all battle rostered Soldiers. With a truncated timeline, Alpha was able to step up to the task and successfully execute the mission. As a pillar of the 31<sup>st</sup> ADA BDE's mission, Soldiers and Leadership within Alpha were able to take time to perform community outreach efforts by working diligently to collect donations of back packs and personal hygiene products to give to the children of the local foster care services in Lawton.



*Alpha Battery conducts the Change of Command*

June likewise proved to be a fast paced and event filled month for the Assassin Battery. After completion of the Change of Command hand receipt inventories and property book change over, the unit executed a flawless Change of Command Ceremony from CPT Leen to CPT Davis. With little time to celebrate, Alpha was set to deploy its equipment and personnel to the field to conduct Table VII Validation and train up for the Table VIII Certifications set for July.

Assassin Battery highlights for the quarter include the promotion of four Soldiers to Specialist; the successful course completion of the Advanced Leaders Course for SSG Shepherd, Warrior Leaders Course for SPC Correano and SPC Belanger; welcoming of the birth of SPC Van Eck's son; re-enlistment of SPC Ale. Lastly, Alpha Battery would like to wish the best of luck to CPT and Mrs. Leen and SPC Stobaugh in their future endeavors with their military career and community involvement.

## The Bravo Quarterly

*1LT Lenora Earley*



The last quarter has been very busy for the Soldiers of Blackjack Battery, who have been working hard as the unit has undergone changes in addition to conducting the mission. These changes have presented several new challenges that Bravo Soldiers have met and overcome successfully, and they fully intend to continue their high level of performance throughout the remainder of the deployment.

Since the unit settled in at the new barracks at the beginning of the quarter, Soldiers' living conditions have changed and improved rapidly. When 3-2 ADA first occupied the barracks at 'Site G', there was little established to help occupy Soldiers' free time. Since then, the barracks have undergone drastic improvements, from better hot meals to a fully equipped gym, and even places for Soldiers to watch TV and movies. Out at the Patriot tactical sites, "site improvement" is a continuous operation. New latrines were built to replace the slit trenches that were utilized when the first Soldiers arrived at Gaziantep, and many tents have been set up to meet the need for shelter and work spaces. SPC Rodriguez, a Bravo Battery communications specialist and talented carpenter, has built several shelves, tables, and chairs out of spare wood and pallets that have made conditions more comfortable and convenient for all who work at the tactical site. Overall, Soldiers agree that the quality of life has developed and changed for the better, and improvements continue to be made on a daily basis.

In April, Bravo Battery bid farewell to CPT Leslie Dembeck and welcomed CPT Tarik Jones as the new Blackjack Battery commander. CPT Dembeck embarked on the next step in her career as she went back to Fort Sill to attend the Captains Career Course. CPT Jones made a smooth transition into Battery command, and he has brought many new ideas to the Battery as he strives to improve the Unit each and every day.

In May, Bravo Soldiers were challenged with the

task of ensuring all areas of operations met unit standards as the Battalion conducted a Staff Assisted Visit (SAV) inspection of all commodity areas. Bravo Soldiers passed the SAV inspections with flying colors, and many areas even received commendable ratings, including TMDE, due to the efforts of SGT Sierra and SPC Gron, and Physical Security, due to the efforts of 1LT Cobb.

The quarter also saw the career progression of several Blackjack Soldiers. Over the quarter, SGT Weldon, SPC Edmondson, SPC Johnson, SPC Marasco, SPC Wilson, PFC Eakright, and PFC Swanson were all promoted. Many Soldiers also renewed their commitment to the Army, as SGT Andress, SGT Holley, SPC Bebee, SPC Bosheers, SPC Dusa, SPC Henry, SPC Deangelo Jones, SPC Memmel, and SPC Prince reenlisted. Congratulations to these outstanding Soldiers! The big events did not stop there as three Soldiers became first time fathers, and one Soldier welcomed the newest addition to his family. SPC Alarid and his wife Alexandria welcomed a son, Marco Lucas, on April 26. SGT Perez and his wife Christin welcomed a daughter, Emily Jane, on June 9. SPC Edmondson and his wife Stacey also welcomed a daughter, Kori Lynn, on June 12. 1LT Cobb and his wife Ashley celebrated the birth of their third child, daughter Leighton Danielle, on July 3. Big congratulations go out to these dads and their wives on their bundles of joy!

As Bravo Soldiers work through the last half of the deployment, they have many upcoming challenges and events to meet until it is time to return home. Time will pass quickly, and the support from loved ones at home certainly motivates Soldiers every day to do their best. The Soldiers and leaders of Blackjack Battery want to thank their families, friends, and loved ones at home for all they do. Until next time!

## The Charlie Quarterly

*1LT Erin McTarnaghan*



The Charlie Battery War Machines have worked arduously this past quarter as many significant changes took place across the Battery and Battalion. This consisted of 100% inventory of all assigned equipment throughout May in preparation for the Battery Change of Command in June. Soldiers and leaders alike worked to ensure that the equipment they are responsible for was properly accounted for and documented correctly. On June 5<sup>th</sup>, the War Machines welcomed their new commander, CPT Andrew Simons and bid farewell to the outgoing commander, CPT Samuel Hoolihan, with a picturesque ceremony on the tactical site overlooking the city of Gaziantep. The Battery looked great and did a magnificent job of conducting a truly professional ceremony. The Battalion Change of Responsibility and Change of Command introduced a new Command Team on June 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> respectively, allowing Charlie Battery to continue to shine as they welcomed the new command team.

The Soldiers quickly adjusted to the increase in the operational tempo, conducting Combat Life Saver courses throughout the month of June while attending Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) classes. July kicked off with Battle Damage and Assessment Repair training, where Soldiers learned how to make expedient repairs on damaged equipment. A round robin of stations was set up so that Soldiers could assess a variety of faults and use alternative means to fix them. The Battery rolled right into Weapons Quarterly Services the first weekend of the month. Over 100 weapons were cleaned and checked for proper function. Leaders took this opportunity to conduct pre-marksanship training so the Soldiers remain familiar with their weapons and their capabilities.



*Charlie Battery Soldiers relax and enjoy a barbecue*

The Battery celebrated Independence Day with a barbecue on the 5<sup>th</sup>, and set up a projector on the side of the maintenance trailer to watch a movie. The success of the barbecue drove the decision to conduct one each month as a way to unwind and relax.

Soldiers that will be attending upcoming promotion boards go through a rigorous mock board every Thursday at the Charlie Battery Tactical Site. The Noncommissioned Officers in this Battery ensure that their Soldiers are prepared for the promotion board in order to successfully gain their promotable status. In addition, the Battery Noncommissioned Officer Development Program (NCODP) supports monthly mentorship meetings. July's topic is the 8 Step Training Model. Continually developing War Machine leaders ensures depth within the ranks, and strengthens Soldiers' potential career paths.



## The Delta Quarterly

*CPT James Davis*



The month of June proved to be a very challenging and rewarding time for the Diamondback Soldiers of Delta Battery. Throughout the month, the Battery focused on Air Defense training to prepare the unit for Table VIII certifications scheduled for the beginning of July.



*The sun sets on another day of Delta Battery Training*

In order to prepare the upcoming certification, the Battery improved their air battle proficiency through a Battery Level Patriot University, which utilized classroom-based training, reconfigurable table top trainers, and air battle training within the Engagement Control Station. This week long training event thoroughly helped crews to improve their air battle proficiency and knowledge base. Additionally, the Battery executed full mobility training from 17<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> of June as a part of their field training exercise and culminated with a Table VII evaluation. Upon completion of the 2 weeks of rigorous mobility training, the Battery was adequately prepared and trained for the upcoming Table VIII.



*Delta Soldiers conduct March Order and Emplacement Training*

Over the past month, Diamondback Soldiers have brought great recognition amongst themselves through a number of achievements. The Battery has seen SPC Sumpter awarded with the FCoE Soldier of the Quarter, SSG Garrett graduate from Patriot Master Gunner School, SGT Collett graduated from Warrior Leaders Course and SGT Williams began Warrior Leaders Course. Other highlights for the past month were the promotion of PFCs Graham, Wilkes and Skidgel to SPC, and the welcoming of SFC Holback, SSG Merlino and PFC Begay. In addition to welcoming new Soldiers, the Diamondback family welcomed a new member on June 14<sup>th</sup> with the birth of Asher Gillett to SPC Gillett and his wife, Chanie. In response, multiple soldiers voluntarily donated gifts to welcome the newest Diamondback.

## The Echo Quarterly

*CPT Ricardo Rivera*



During the 3<sup>rd</sup> QTR 2013, team members of Echo Company were assigned the privilege to conduct funeral honors for our departed brothers and sisters in arms. The team traveled as far as six hours away from Fort Sill to cover regions in Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana and Oklahoma. The team earned superior grades on all eighteen funeral director's surveys. Soldiers from Echo Company were glad to participate on the team which is not an easy task. Funeral team members have to demonstrate compassion during some sensitive times for the fallen Soldiers family. The gracefulness and pride provided by the team honorably represents the US Army and the Lethal Strike Battalion.



*2LT Reed presents a flag to a family member of a deceased Soldier*

The Enforcers conducted an Assumption of Responsibilities for 1SG Michael E. Mitchell. 1SG Mitchell was charged with these responsibilities on 30 May and he has more than 25 years of service. He provides lots of experience in the maintenance field. He joined the Enforcers as the Senior Enlisted and primary advisor to CPT Rivera, the Company Commander. The new command team has been working diligently maintaining the Company and Battalion Lethal standards by executing support

missions while maintaining the morale and welfare of assigned Soldiers. 1SG Mitchell also participated in his first FRG during the month of May and witnessed SSG Christmas and 2LT Reed receiving a Certificate of Achievement for volunteers hours, signed by COL Morrissey, 31<sup>st</sup> ADA BDE Commander. Also family members and Soldiers were awarded achievements for educational accomplishments. Mrs. Carla Eden, Julia Bresyn and SGT Bresyn received an Enforcers family gift as a token reminding them the unit cares for them and to continue to encourage others to seek educational improvement.

Over the last quarter Echo Company's Leadership along with HHB conducted the Eight Step Training Model for a successful execution of a Combined Training Exercise starting the 25<sup>th</sup> through the 28<sup>th</sup> of June. The event allowed Soldiers to demonstrate their Warrior Ethos and war fighting skills learned during Basic Combat Training and Warrior Time Training. Additionally the training focused on the units building Combat Power for future wartime operations.

The units worked towards a common goal of supporting each other which demonstrated camaraderie in the Lethal Battalion. The combined events greatly enhanced the two Command Teams to use the mission command process across the formation which allowed the Enforcers and HHB to conduct successful training events. There were four major events: Battle Field First Aid, Close Quarter Marksmanship Training, Radio Operations, and Land Navigation. The units conducted combined physical readiness training (PRT) and a ruck march to the engagement skill trainer (EST) which built rapport amongst the Soldiers. Comradeship is a key factor in accomplishing a common goal and this exercise further validated the team's willingness to build an outstanding unit.

## The Chaplain Quarterly

*CH (CPT) Brian Hall*

The month of July 2013 is a significant one for those that practice Islam. Muslims around the world including those in our Army will celebrate Ramadan (the ninth month of the Islamic calendar). This holy celebration begins on July 9th and lasts until August 7th. This is time of holy focus for Muslims: they fast during daylight hours, abstain from all bad deeds and work to stay humble.

To me, this event serves as a great reminder for all of us, a time for refocus. The Army recognizes Spiritual Fitness as one of the five parts of comprehensive soldier fitness. This shows the importance of having a strong spirit in order to have a well-balanced and healthy life. So, I would encourage you all to take some time this month to focus on you and your family's spiritual fitness – your spiritual lives. If you have a tradition, take some time to renew it: read from your Scriptures or attend a worship service (especially if you haven't been to one in a while). If you aren't sure, talk to someone about it. Talk to a friend or family member that practices a religious tradition to find out why they practice what they do and why they may believe what they believe. You can also talk to a Chaplain. Part of the Chaplain's job is to ensure Soldiers can exercise their First Amendment rights – to practice the faith of their choosing. Although I am currently downrange, I would be happy to help anyone develop your own spiritual life, even if you don't believe the same things that I do. I look forward to getting to know those of you I haven't had the opportunity to meet, when I return from our deployment.

## The Retention Quarterly

*SFC Rudregus Davis*

Our economy is steadily recovering from our massive recession, jobs are slowly becoming available and our Department of Defense has been hit with massive budget and personnel cuts. Despite these conditions, Soldiers are transitioning; some without a plan. It is the duty of both leaders and Soldiers themselves to consider their plan of attack. While the military still has an alarming rate of unemployed veterans, Soldiers should consider their options to transition. Soldiers should ask themselves do they have six to nine months worth of living expenses saved and do they have the necessary educational credentials to succeed, if they decide to leave active duty. This gives him or her a realistic view of whether or not to proceed. Secondly, we as leaders should reaffirm our commitment to Soldiers by expressing the desire for them to stay on the team and be part of this great family. The Army is a noble profession that many of our forefathers have paid the ultimate sacrifice for. This is why it is critical to the strength of our Army and our nation that Soldiers continue to serve this wonderful and proud nation. Reenlistment bonuses are still available for the 14T MOS and the opportunity is there for additional skill identifiers such as Y7 (Sensor Management Operations) and Q4 (Joint Tactical Ground Station Operator). Soldiers must take advantage of these great opportunities and must be hungry and proactive to live some of the Army's core leader values.



**Meet the Soldiers***SPC Joseph Cantu, Bravo Battery*

SPC Joseph Cantu

Age: 22

Hometown: Zapata, TX

MOS: 14E (Patriot Fire Control Enhanced Operator/Maintainer)



SPC Cantu is a Tactical Control Assistant (TCA) for the Engagement Control Station (ECS). He is also on a mobility crew for the Radar. On a typical day, he completes various tasks at the Battery tactical site, conducts on-the-job training to other 14E Soldiers, and works in the ECS. When he's not working, he likes to work out in the gym, play video games, and stay in contact with family at home. SPC Cantu has a passion for learning and teaching, and he enjoys sharing his knowledge of the Patriot system with his fellow Soldiers, and even with his leaders. Not only is he known for his skills as a TCA, but he is also renowned throughout the Battalion for his jokes. A perpetuator of "bad joke Thursdays," His favorite one-liner: "I have the heart of a lion; coincidentally, I also have a lifetime ban from the zoo." SPC Cantu's personal and professional goals include earning a degree in medicine, and pursuing a position as a Patriot tactics instructor.

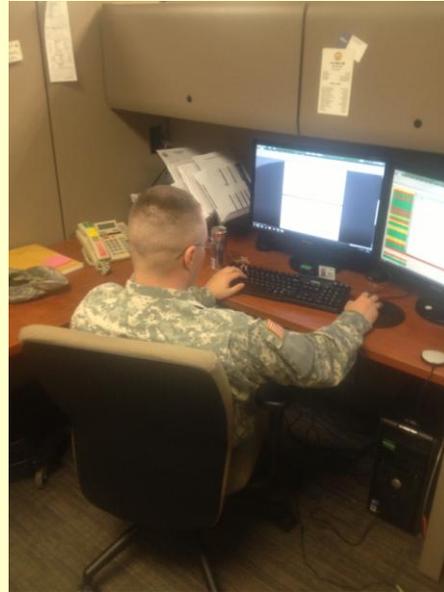
**Meet the Soldiers***SPC Andrew Kotrc, HHB Rear*

SPC Andrew Kotrc

Age: 31

Hometown: Spring, TX

MOS: 25F (Network Switching Systems Operator/Maintainer)



SPC Kotrc works as an Automations Specialist with the S-6 Section of 3-2 ADA BN Rear Detachment. On a daily basis, he helps various Soldiers with computer issues and in-processes new Soldiers into the Battalion S-6 Section. The most rewarding aspect of his duties is assisting Soldiers with his extensive knowledge of computers and automation networks. When he is not on duty, SPC Kotrc unwinds by cheering on his favorite team, the Denver Broncos, playing video games, playing with his seven year-old son, listening to rock music, watching the TV series "Fringe" and watching comedy movies.



# 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.

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