



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 2ND BATTALION, 12TH INFANTRY REGIMENT
2ND INFANTRY BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM, 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION
FORT CARSON, CO 80913



A Letter to the Veterans and Friends of 2-12 Infantry, Lethal Warriors

On behalf of CSM Tim Speichert, I would like to take the opportunity to write our great community of Lethal Warrior Veterans to update you on the state of the battalion. While it seems like yesterday, it was 8 months ago that I last wrote you from Germany with an update on the battalion's Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise (EDRE) to Grafenwoehr. The Lethal Warrior Battalion was selected to execute this high-level, FORSCOM-directed mission – and I can say with the utmost confidence that we completed this mission to the highest standard. Since the EDRE, the pace of operations has been relentless! Yet the battalion led the way for the Warhorse Brigade, and met every mission with energy, confidence, and passion.

As I write this update, the battalion stands prepared to execute yet another combat deployment to Afghanistan. 2-12's mission will be unique, and put us at the tip of the spear for our Nation. We will have elements stationed primarily out of Bagram and Kandahar Airfields, but Lethal Warriors will likely be stationed across the entire country of Afghanistan during our 9 month deployment. During this deployment, 2-12 Infantry will work for the 101st Airborne Division Headquarters "Screaming Eagles." Our Soldiers are excited and eager to execute this mission, and our training over the past year has prepared us to meet and defeat our enemies. A few highlights from the past 8 months since we returned from Germany...

- The battalion executed Echelonment of Fires training that focused on integrating mortar fires, snipers and M240B machine guns. This training was executed at the Platoon level, and instilled confidence in our Platoon Leaders, Platoon Sergeants and Weapons Squad leaders with respect to integrating direct and indirect fires into a maneuver plan;
- In August, 2-12 Infantry participated in the Brigade's planned and resourced Company Combined Arms Live Fire Exercises. This was an incredible training experience, as Company Commanders were tested in a variety of areas. This training event incorporated artillery, mortars and combat aviation forces. Of note, company commanders had to employ Sappers to blow an explosive breach on the objective, and our Soldiers used live hand grenades to destroy enemy bunkers. In addition to this live fire exercise, the battalion executed three situational training exercises (STXs). These STX events refined company-level SOPs and tactics that proved to be invaluable. All companies executed a defense, raid and search and attack STX training lane;

- In September, the battalion led the way for the Brigade during our capstone home station training event – Operation Warhorse Strike. 2-12 Infantry was the first battalion to execute air assault operations into enemy territory, and immediately occupied critical fighting positions – where Lethal Warrior Soldiers employed the Javelin Weapon System to great effect, and destroyed numerous enemy wheeled and armor vehicles;
- All of this outstanding training led us to the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, Louisiana in November. After a week-long period of Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration operations, the battalion embarked on a 14-day training exercise that included a battalion live fire exercise and force on force scenarios. Our Soldiers performed magnificently – and our 2017 training calendar ended on the highest of notes.

After a much deserved holiday break, our great Soldiers and Leaders embarked on the most aggressive pre-deployment training plan I have witnessed in 18 years of service. Whether it was marksmanship, heavy weapons gunnery, air assaults or combat lifesaver training, 2-12 Infantry was engaged in one event after another – all the while ensuring that we allowed Soldiers to take time off with families as much as possible. CSM Speichert and I are so proud of our Leaders and Soldiers for the efforts they have put forth. Without question, the Lethal Warriors of today would make our proud community of 2-12 Veterans proud!

A few other items that CSM Speichert and I would like to mention in this update:

- The Brigade's deployment and color casing ceremony will be held on February 13th at 1100 at the Fort Carson Special Events Center. If anyone is interested in attending, please contact LT Kevin Roake at kevin.b.roake.mil@mail.mil
- We are honored and grateful that LTC (R) Ed Northrop and SGM (R) Larry Walter have accepted and will extend their duties and responsibilities as the Honorary Colonel and Sergeant Major of the 12th Infantry Regiment. Ed and Larry will be at Fort Carson on February 13th, and will join the 1-12 IN and 2-12 IN BN Command Teams for breakfast prior to the color casing ceremony;
- The battalion is scheduled to return to Fort Carson in November, 2018. Two events that we will plan in the coming months are the 2-12 Infantry Battalion Ball and the 2-12 Infantry Gold Star Family Event. Stand by for the dates of these events – we will be sure to invite all 2-12 Friends and Veterans;

- Some new heraldry items are now proudly displayed in the 2-12 IN battalion headquarters. The first is the American Flag that flew over the 2-12 Headquarters in Vietnam when LTC Shep Phillips commanded the battalion. This flag was generously donated by Shep's wife, and now hangs proudly in our headquarters. The second is a framed photo of the 12th Infantry Regiment Monument at Fort Benning, Georgia. This handsome painting is a great addition to the headquarters, and highlights the great work done by our Veterans to commission and erect the 12th Infantry Regiment memorial. Finally, we recently placed a shadow box of Captain Florent Groberg's book 8 Seconds of Courage: A Soldier's Story from Immigrant to the Medal of Honor in our Headquarters. This book was signed by Captain Groberg with a message to the Lethal Warrior Battalion. We are always looking to adorn our headquarters with more history – and will gladly display any items that the 2-12 Infantry Veteran community can find and donate.
- While the battalion will be deployed during this year's Soui Tre Heritage Week, there will be a small gathering of veterans. For those of you who know Mr. Paige Lanier – I encourage you to touch base with him to get the specifics of the event.

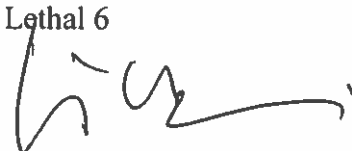
We hope that this update finds each of you well and in good health. The strongest aspect of this great battalion is our heritage and bond between Soldiers – both past and present. If there is anything the leaders of 2-12 Infantry can do for you, please do not hesitate to contact me, CSM Speichert of LT Roake.

Having Been Led by Love of Country! Lethal Warriors!

CSM Speichert
Lethal 7

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LTC Dennis
Lethal 6

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Dennis', written over a horizontal line.