

OCT 11

# DAGGER

## BEST 8 NEWSLETTER

Za naszą i waszą wolność



### COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

Family and Friends,

Team Dagger is on mission in Ghazni Afghanistan. After the many months of training back in Illinois, Camp Atterbury, and in Poland all the soldiers are in place and working very hard in their positions. The journey to Ghazni had its challenges but with team work we worked them and everyone arrived safely. We were greeted by BEST 7 when we arrived and they were able to brief us on current operations and the multitude of systems we will need to operate in our battle space. Most of the team was able to travel in our Area of Operations (AO) to see the way our units are operating and the environment in which they live. It was a great experience for all to understand the requirements and needs of the units we support in our AO.

By now most of family members have had contact with their soldier and they have told you about our base and living conditions. Our hours are long and the days to go by fast. Soon we will make preparations of Thanksgiving and the upcoming holidays. I know during this time it will be hard for us and for the families. Over here we will keep all of you in our thoughts. My hope is that support will be given to our families and communications will be available to share in the spirit of the season.

We did get a huge load of mail a while back and many of us walked away with multiple boxes and letters that have been waiting for us. It was really great to see so many on the team get the mail they were expecting.

The weather is getting colder here and the snow is on the mountain tops. Much of the time we are in the dark and we have a great view of the stars. Each night you can see falling stars. I do gaze at them often and take in the beauty of heavens above. I often say a prayer for the team and for our family members.

Thank you for all your support to your soldier and team. You are a big part of our success and I am very thankful for all of you.

Respectfully Yours,  
Thomas J. Purple, Jr.  
COL, CM  
Commanding



### SGM COMMENTS

Good Evening all from Ghazni, Afghanistan. All is well for Team Dagger and we are officially in the driver's seat. All the preparation and training has paid off as we are off to a good start. The days seem to go by quick for all of us, which is a good thing, as we stay busy providing stability, security, and hope for the people of Afghanistan.

Even though this is a Polish forward operation base there are many American Soldiers and contractors here. We all work hand in hand to ensure we complete our mission and come home safe.

I can't say thank you enough to the BEST A7 team. They provided a plethora of mentorship when we arrived and have set us up for success. Thank you COL Haerr and BEST A7!

We'll keep in touch the best we can as communications here can sometimes be limited.

Take care all and see you all again soon.



Stephen M. Donaldson  
SGM, USA  
TF White Eagle Senior Enlisted Leader  
JTF Ghazni CSM

### ADDRESS

First and Last Name  
Task Force White Eagle  
(BEST 8)  
FOB Ghazni  
APO AE 09364

Notes: Average  
shipping time for a  
package is about 3-4  
weeks



COL Purple and SGM Donaldson pass the flag during the transfer of authority ceremony as they take command of Task Force White Eagle

### BIRTHDAYS

- MSG Lewis – Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>
- MAJ Petersen: Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>
- CPT Keel: Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>
- CPT Roach and SGM Donaldson: Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>
- SSG Chavez: Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>

# FEATURED SOLDIERS

**Name:** Joe Kalisek  
**Years of service:** 25  
**Career Field:** Infantry- 4 years  
 1st Ranger BN,  
**Family:** Wife Ivy -CNA, 5 kids  
 Raymond 24, Dane 21, Justin 21,  
 Steven 10, Shannon 8



**Deployment Job description:** Deputy  
 Commander Battle Group Alpha  
**Hobbies:** gardening, fishing, hunting,  
 camping, hiking

**Favorites:** Self: Bears, Cubs Wife: Bears, White Sox  
**Favorite Quote** "We sleep safe in our beds because rough men  
 stand ready in the night to visit violence on those who would do  
 us harm."

**Civilian Career:** High School Special Education Teacher 16  
 years, US and World History



**Name:** Frank Bart  
**Years of service:** 25  
**Career Field:** Infantry  
**Family:** Wife Christine, Daughter  
 Antonette, Son Anthony  
**Hobbies:** Woodworking, furniture  
 building, home improvement projects  
**Favorites:** Chicago Bears, Chicago  
 Cubs, and Notre Dame  
 Football.Traveling with family  
**Deployment Job description:**  
 Deputy Commander of Task Force  
 Bravo and OIC of Forward Operating  
 Base Warrior.

**Favorite Quote:** Live life to the fullest and leave no regrets.  
 Carpe Diem

# TRAVELING

**Right:** SGM  
 Donaldson, CPT Roach,  
 CW2 Penley and LT  
 Bivins play some cards  
 while waiting for the  
 early morning flight



**Left:** SSG Stockton  
 and MAJ Petersen  
 getting a good  
 night's rest before  
 the flight

**Right:** CW2 Tuman gets  
 comfortable on the plane  
 ride.

**Below:** Team Dagger  
 during the transfer of  
 authority (TOA) ceremony.



# NEWS FROM YOUR UNIT FRG



Hello families of Team Dagger! We have successfully had our first FRG meeting. We had the opportunity to talk to Col Purple and it sounds like the team is doing very well. They are keeping very busy, which helps pass the time. We also had Shirley Dilworth from state give us resources for our young people, and Juliann Steinbeigle gave us information on how to deal with stress. We had a very informative and fun time. We are looking to do a video conference for our next meeting. There will be more information to follow on this and we hope everyone can participate. Remember there are resources for you on the internet: [WWW.militaryonesource.com](http://WWW.militaryonesource.com), [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org), [www.jointsrevicessupport.org](http://www.jointsrevicessupport.org) and [www.operations3g.org](http://www.operations3g.org). Also you may contact Annette Chapman at 217-622-7945 or Karla Lewis at 309-335-3011..

Karla Lewis FRG